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Wednesday, 8 August 2018

President U Win Myint sends message on occasion of 51st Anniversary of founding of ASEAN

"Resilience and Innovative ASEAN", a theme for this year, strengthens our efforts to meet future challenges: President

(8 August 2018)

Esteemed Citizens,

Today marks the fifty-first anniversary of the founding of ASEAN -- a regional grouping of ten countries that strives to offer a greater sense of hope, expectation, confidence and togetherness to more than six hundred million people in the Southeast Asian region. On this special occasion, I have the pleasure to extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to the people of

Myanmar as well as to the peoples of the Member States of ASEAN.

ASEAN Member States share a long-standing tradition of cultural and historical linkages. These affiliations though diverse, bind them together, bridge their differences and make ASEAN more united in dealing with the emerging challenges.

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President U Win Myint receives Ambassador of Denmark to Myanmar



President U Win Myint meets with outgoing Denmark Ambassador Mr. Peter Lysholt Hansen at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.
PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

U WIN MYINT, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received H.E. Mr. Peter Lysholt Hansen, outgoing Ambassador of Denmark to Myanmar, at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Increasing bilateral relations, cooperation discussed

During the meeting, matters relating to increasing bilateral relations and cooperation, democracy, human rights, rule of law, stability and development of Rakhine State were discussed.

Present at the meeting were Deputy Minister for the Office of the President U Min Thu and responsible officials.
— Myanmar News Agency ■

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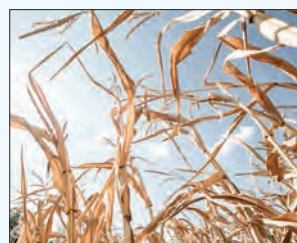
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Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 9th regular session holds 6th-day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin,
Aye Aye Thant

THE sixth-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's ninth regular session was held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning where Union Accord Part II was explained and approved, reorganizing of towns, village tracts and villages in Mandalay Region and Chin State put on record, discussions of Hluttaw representatives on six-month work report of Union Legal Supporting Group clarified, and discussion on member fee to become member of Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries (ANRPC) conducted.

Union Accord Part II

In his explanation to the Hluttaw, on behalf of the union government, about Union Accord Part II sent by the President, Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) member Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo said the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was signed between the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and ethnic armed organisations on 15 October 2015 and the agreement was approved by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 8 December.

According to the NCA, UPDJC was reformed under the new government as per Office of the President Notification No. 48/2016. The State Counselor was the chairperson while 48 members were from three groups – the government, Hluttaw and Tatmadaw group, ethnic armed organisations group and political parties group. Based



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

on guidelines set in UPDJC and in accord with discussion titles and work guidelines, collection of comments obtained from national-level political discussions were submitted to the third session of the Union Peace Conference — 21st Century Panglong, held from 11 to 16 July 2018, as basic principle proposals.

Group-wise and sector-wise discussions held on the proposals and agreements were reached as part of the Union Accord. In the Union Accord Part II, there were four agreements in political sector basic principle, one agreement in economic sector basic principle, seven agreements in social sector basic principle and two agreements in land & environment sector basic principle, totaling fourteen.

Union Accord Part II was signed by heads of groups in the presence of witnesses on 16 July 2018 at the third session of the Union Peace Conference — 21st Century Panglong. According to the NCA and political dialogue framework, the Union Accord

Part II signed at the third session of the Union Peace Conference — 21st Century Panglong is being submitted to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for approval, explained the Union Attorney General.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat then announced the Hluttaw's approval of Union Accord Part II after Hluttaw's decision was obtained.

Re-organising of towns, village tracts and villages in Mandalay Region and Chin State

Next, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker submitted to the Hluttaw the expansion, reorganizing, removal and restructuring the areas of towns, village tracts and villages in Mandalay Region and Chin State, sent by President's Office, and announced the Hluttaw putting the matter on record.

Six-month work report of Union Legal Supporting Group

Discussion of the Hluttaw representatives on the six-month work report of Union Legal Sup-

porting Group was then clarified by Group Chairman U Nyan Win and Union Supreme Court Judge U Tha Htay.

Afterwards, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw putting on record the six-month work report of Union Legal Supporting Group, discussion of the Hluttaw representatives, Group Chairman and Union Supreme Court Judge.

Annual membership fee for Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries (ANRPC)

Following this, U Myo Win of Mon State constituency 8, U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency, U Zaw Thein of Wakema constituency, U Kyaw Thau of Sagaing Region constituency 1, U Khin Zaw of Kawthoung constituency, U Nay Kyaw of Dagon Myothit (East) constituency, U Kin Shein of Taninthayi Region constituency 9, U Aung Kyi Thein of Chaungzon constituency, Dr. Win Myint of Bago Region constituency 11, U Aung Thike of

Seikphyu constituency, Daw Nwe Nwe Aung of Mon State constituency 2, U Zarni Min of Shwegu constituency, U Naing Thiha of Mon State constituency 7, U Myint Lwin of Tawantay constituency, Naw Chris Tun of Kayin State constituency 7, U Thet Naing Oo of Yebyu constituency and Daw Myat Thida Tun of Mon State constituency 5 discussed the matter of annual membership fee for Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries (ANRPC), sent by the President.

In his discussion, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said ANRPC is an association where only governments can become a member. Becoming a member of ANRPC will provide development opportunities in Myanmar rubber production and will especially benefit small-scale rubber plantation owners in acquiring technology knowhow, market and job opportunities. Comments and permission for annual membership fee had been submitted and obtained from Ministry of Planning and Finance, Union Attorney General office, Ministry of International Cooperation, Office of the President, Union government, and Union government meeting 10/2018 had agreed to become a member of ANRPC. As such, the Hluttaw's approval is being requested, explained the Deputy Minister.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker then obtained the decision of the Hluttaw and announced the Hluttaw's agreement and approval. The seventh-day of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will continue on 9 August, it is learnt. ■

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee discusses controversial land management bill

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting yesterday to discuss the bill amending the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law (2017), which is creating controversy between Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw.

The meeting was attended by U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

and Chairman of the Joint Bill Committee, vice chairmen, secretary, joint secretary and members of the committee, members of the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, the Union Attorney-General Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Tun Tun Hein delivers a speech at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee meeting. PHOTO: MNA

President U Win Myint sends message on occasion of 51st Anniversary of founding of ASEAN

FROM PAGE-1

When ASEAN was established on 8 August 1967, there were skepticism about the continued existence of the Association as countries in the region were unique in its diversity and faced with a myriad of challenges. Nevertheless, it is the spirit of ASEAN as well as shared aspirations and strong commitments which have made ASEAN more united, vibrant and stronger than ever. The spirit of mutual respect, trust and cooperation which Member States have forged since 1967 has been the basis for a consensus-based approach that contributed to regional peace and stability we have greatly enjoyed today.

As we celebrate today's achievements, we should not forget the vision of the Founding Fathers of ASEAN who signed Bangkok Declaration that paved the way for a promising regional organization since 1967. We

should applaud their wisdom, vision and courage, and use them as a source of ASEAN's future inspirations.

Esteemed Citizens,

ASEAN has common desire and strong commitments to enhancing peace, security and stability in the region, building vibrant, sustainable and highly integrated economies and uplifting the living standards of its people.

ASEAN, 51 years after its inception, has successfully transformed from a loose regional grouping into a rules-based organization with its own Charter and legal personality. ASEAN has been moving forward progressively to a politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible, and truly people-oriented, people-centered and rules-based ASEAN Community.

ASEAN has been growing steadily and emerging as one

of the world's fastest-growing markets. It is the sixth largest economy in the world and aiming at becoming the fourth largest single market by 2030. Furthermore, ASEAN has the world's third largest labour forces which provide a greater opportunity for trade, investment and regional prosperity.

ASEAN is now forging together towards realization of ASEAN Community through ASEAN way, which is based on equality and mutual respect, shared commitments and responsibility, consultation and consensus and peaceful settlement of disputes. ASEAN also underlines the importance of complementarities between ASEAN Community Vision 2025, which was endorsed by ASEAN Leaders in 2015, and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to uplift the living standards of the peoples of ASEAN.

Despite attaining many

tangible achievements in community building efforts, ASEAN today is facing with emerging challenges of traditional and non-traditional issues. In addressing the issues of common concern such as trans-national crimes, terrorism, cyber security, climate change and environmental degradation, food and energy security, ASEAN has been able to demonstrate the collective strength and resilience that lie at our core and more united in the face of these challenges. In this regard, it is most timely and relevant that Singapore, Chair of ASEAN has selected "Resilience and Innovative ASEAN" as a theme for this year which strengthens our efforts to meet future challenges.

Esteemed Citizens,

With a view to realizing an inclusive, united, resilient and innovative ASEAN Community, ASEAN is working together in improving the quality of lives of

its people including through the implementation of various cooperative activities in education, health, human resource development, environmental protection, disaster management and sustainability of natural resources. ASEAN is also placing high priority in the promotion of cultural cooperation and people-to-people engagements in order to forge a stronger sense of identity towards ASEAN.

Myanmar, as a responsible member of ASEAN, has been in full cooperation with other Member States in the implementation of ASEAN Community Blueprints, regional integration and community building. On this auspicious occasion, I would like to encourage all our citizens to redouble our efforts in promoting socio-economic development and actively participating in the ASEAN Community building process that will contribute peace, stability and prosperity of our region and beyond.



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receiving Israel Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Daniel Zonshine in Nay Pyi Taw.

PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives Israel Ambassador

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received Israel Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Daniel Zonshine at Amyotha Hluttaw guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. The ambassador has completed his tour of duty to Myanmar.

During the meeting, increasing Myanmar-Israel co-

operation in agriculture, education and health sectors and increasing relations between the parliaments of the two countries were discussed.

Present at the meeting were Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and officials from Amyotha Hluttaw office. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman receives German Ambassador

ANTI-CORRUPTION Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi received German Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mrs. Dorothee Janetzke-Wenzel and party at the Anti-Corruption Commission office guest hall, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting matters relating to preventing corruption, work done on corruption awareness, future work processes and witness/informer protection were discussed, it is learnt. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi receiving German Ambassador to Myanmar Mrs. Dorothee Janetzke-Wenzel. PHOTO: MNA

Discussion held on Scaling Up Nutrition Movement in Nay Pyi Taw

UNDER the leadership of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Ministry of Health and Sports, UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) and WHO (World Health Organization) jointly organized a discussion on Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement at Hluttaw compound Thabin hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The event was attended by

Ministry of Health and Sports Deputy Minister Dr. Mya Lay Sein and officials, Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw joint committee on Inter-Parliamentary Union Dr. Than Win and secretary U Bo Bo Oo, UNICEF Nutrition Specialist Dr. Kyaw Win Sein, WHO National Professional Officer Dr. Myo Paing, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw representatives and

Hluttaw (office) personnel.

Officials from Ministry of Health and Sports led the discussion under the titles, "Nutrition and sports," "Nutrition and development" and "Nutrition status in Myanmar." Afterwards, questions raised by Hluttaw representatives were explained and answered by officials, it is learnt. — Myanmar News Agency ■

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Myanmar Making Access Possible findings discussed in Yangon

By May Thet Hnin

FINANCIAL sector stakeholders, representing Myanmar government, private sector, and development partners, held a meeting in Yangon on 6 August to discuss the findings of a nationwide financial sector diagnostic, Making Access Possible (MAP).

The nationwide MAP research operation was jointly implemented by the DaNa Facility, funded by UK government's Department of International Development, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) Myanmar and Financial Regulatory Department, under the Ministry of Planning and Finance. The 2018 diagnostic found a significant increase in financial inclusion growth from

the MAP 2013 findings, based on a comprehensive survey of 5,500 rural and urban households.

The workshop participants planned on a proposed multi-focused strategy for the 2018 to 2022 national financial inclusion roadmap, aiming at empowering poor to low-income individuals by improving their access to appropriate and affordable financial services.

At the workshop, U Zaw Naing, Director General of the Financial Regulatory Department of the Ministry of Planning and Finance, highlighted the need for inclusive, impactful, and equitable financial services through the nation: "While financial sector growth is encouraging, it is of little value unless it makes a meaningful and lasting difference at the personal level

nationwide." Adults with access to at least one formal financial product increased from 30 per cent in 2013 to 48 per cent in 2018. Moreover, informal financial service access fell by 30 per cent from 10 million to about 7 million adults, over the past five years. Consequently, the nation's formal financial sector has broadened due to increased private bank depositors, as well as on strong growth in the microfinance and cooperative sectors.

The workshop was organized and led by the Myanmar government's Financial Regulatory Department and supported by UNCDF and the DaNa Facility. The Central Bank of Myanmar played a key role in the forum, while the private sector was represented by the

Myanmar Bankers Association, the Myanmar Micro-Finance Association, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, mobile network operators, digital payment providers, and other contributors to financial inclusion within the marketplace.

The MAP meeting was also held in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 June. After the Yangon MAP meeting, another MAP meeting will be held in Mandalay.

"MAP 2018 findings are scheduled for final release later this year with a companion Financial Inclusion Roadmap framework to guide Myanmar's financial sector development in the coming years, said Paul Luchtenburg, country coordinator of UNCDF. ■



A temple in Bagan, one of the most famous tourist attractions in Myanmar. PHOTO: KHINE SET WAI

Archaeology Dept studying ancient Bagan rural dwellers from over 800 years ago

THE Archaeology Department of Mandalay University is studying the lifestyle of rural dwellers who lived more than 800 years ago in Bagan region, Mandalay, said Dr. Pyae Phyo Kyaw, a lecturer at the Department of Archaeology, Mandalay University, Myanmar.

The department is studying the lifestyle of Bagan rural dwellers, because the lifestyles of elite groups, such as the royals, commanders and the rich of that period are known only.

The research will be conducted for five years between 2017 and 2023.

"When we study the culture of ancient Bagan, we only found

the record of the lifestyle of elite groups. Therefore, we will now study the life of rural dwellers that supported the urban elite of that period. The five-year project will research how they lived, where they obtained water for agriculture, what they ate, etc."

The five-year research project is being conducted with the assistance of the officials and local staff of the Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department under the Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs. As per the archaeology practice, the researches were conducted based on ancient evidences.

"We don't expect much output from this five-year project

within a year, and the public wouldn't be interested in it. However, we will be able to find out the basics about Bagan and its system," he added.

The project expects to uncover the socio-economic and customs of the people living in Bagan region 800-900 years ago. Research results presently in hand were based on literature and stone inscriptions, so the evidences and proofs would be a bit weak. The research will conduct two field trips a year and the research findings will be published once a year. The 2017 research findings were already issued, it is learnt. — Khine Set Wai ■

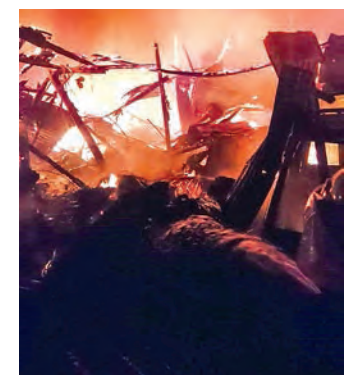
Overheated electric fan causes fire in Thingangyun

A FIRE broke out at a car workshop at Thumana-4 Street, 16/1 Ward, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region, around 2:40 am on 7 August.

Initial investigation disclosed the fire was caused by an overheated electric fan which was fixed on the ceiling of the car workshop, owned by U Zin Win (alias) U Kyaw Myint.

Property losses were estimated at Ks 4,820,000. No one was injured in the accident. The fire was put down within 22 minutes by fire staff using 32 fire engines. The fire services department set it as level 2 fire.

Charges have been filed against the workshop owner, U Zin Win, at the Thingangyun police station. — Ye Min Tun (IPRD)



Union Minister U Ohn Win receives NEWRI Exec Dir, Danish Ambassador, separately

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win received the Executive Director of the Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute (NEWRI), Nanyang Technological University, Prof. Shane Allen Snyder and his delegation at the guest hall of the ministry at 10am yesterday.

During the meeting, they openly discussed NEWRI's research and development, education and training, ongoing processes, drinking water purification projects conducted around the world, purifying waste water, and NEWRI's completed, ongoing and future processes and projects in Myanmar.

Similarly, the Union Minister received Danish Ambassador Mr. Peter Lysholt Hansen



Union Minister U Ohn Win meets with Danish Ambassador Mr. Peter Lysholt Hansen on 6 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

at 5pm on 6 August.

At the meeting, they discussed the implementation process for projects coping with climate change implemented in Rakhine State and Taninthayi Region, as part of the Denmark-Myanmar collaboration agreement, replanting and conserving Rakhine's mangrove forests,

elevating the social status of the region, projects for raising awareness on adapting to climate change, raising awareness on poaching and legal action taken towards it, and steps to be taken in acquiring a verification document to import Myanmar's timber products to the European market.—MNA ■

Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung meets DMA personnel for IMO Audit

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung met with personnel from Department of Marine Administration (DMA) for IMO (International Maritime Organization) Audit in DMA head office meeting room at Theinbyu Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, the Union Minister delivered an opening speech and DMA Director General U Thaung Kyaing, relevant directors and officials explained about the Corrective Action Plan drawn up, according to the Interim Report sent by IMO. Meeting attendees then joined in the discussion and the Un-

ion Minister provided necessary guidelines.

Present at the meeting were Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, DMA Director General U Thaung Kyaing, deputy directors general, directors and officials from Myanmar Port Authority, it is learnt. —GNLM ■

Dr. Win Myat Aye separately receives UN Habitat Country Manager, US Ambassador



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye shakes hands with US Ambassador Mr. Scot Marciel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye separately received UN Habitat Country Programme Manager Mr. Bijay Karmacharya and a group led by US Ambassa-

dor to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Scot Marciel at the Ministry office Maykhala hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting with UN Habitat Country Programme

Manager in the morning, matters relating to technical support provided by signing memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Disaster Management Department and advice and technical support of UN Habitat on resettling of returnees in Rakhine State were discussed. During the meeting with the US Ambassador in the afternoon, matters relating to a technical work group visiting Rakhine State to effectively implement the MoU signed between Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, UNHCR and UNDP, establishing Kyauktaw Township as a model township for social parity in Rakhine State, setting up of national level strategy to systematically close down temporary relief camps and US providing necessary support for the local populace to meet and deliberate were discussed, it is learnt. —MNA ■

Political talks held to mark 30th anniversary of 8888 Uprising

DAY-2 of the political talks continued at the Yangon University yesterday, celebrating the 30th anniversary of the 8888 Uprising.

Those who took part in the 1988 nationwide strikes participated in the talk titled, "Myanmar's Politics and Dictatorship".

Politicians discussed Myanmar's democracy movement under the title "30-year journey of democracy movement" and "Equal rights for ethnic people and a federal union" on Monday.

The talks attracted Mem-

bers of the Parliaments, former students who took part in the uprising in 1988, students and the people.

In memory of the 1988 Uprising, documentary photos on political situation before 1988, democracy movement during the 1988 Uprising, news releases, flags and paraphernalia that were used in the Uprising are also displayed to the public at the Recreation Centre of the university.

The 30th anniversary of the 8888 Uprising will be held on a grand scale today.—Zaw Gyi (Panita) ■



Political talks held to mark the 30th anniversary of the 8888 Uprising at Yangon University in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**

CBM selling US dollars to private banks in the country since 27 July

TO stabilize the US dollar and Myanmar Kyat exchange rate, the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has been selling US dollars to private banks in the country since 27 July, the according to CBM Foreign Exchange Management Department Director General Daw May Toe Win.

Starting from 27 July, CBM had been selling about 100,000 dollars daily to private banks, and to date had sold 800,000 dollars. CBM plans to increase the sale, it is learnt.

Despite these sales, the

exchange rate continued to rise and on 6 August, the exchange rate was between Ks 1,457 and Ks1,464 to a dollar.

CBM is regularly monitoring the foreign currency market in order to prevent price manipulation that could destabilize the exchange rate. Furthermore, the reference exchange rate of CBM is mainly based on interbank market and CBM is striving toward making it nearest to the market exchange rate, said Director General Daw May Toe Win. —Khin Maung Htwe ■



Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
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10th Waning of Second Waso, 1380 ME
(6 August 2018)

Additional statistical bulletin on 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** 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 29 July to 4 August 2018 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

No	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal action taken
1	Information received of selling illegal drugs from several compounds near the lake in Kyaysargone Village (North), Minchaung Village-tract, Nyaungshwe Tsp, and entered the motorboat of Aung Kyaw Lay (a) Kyaw Lay, 26, from Nwardama (South) Village, Minchaung Village-tract. There they arrested him and Win Pe, 30, from Kyaysargone Village (North), in possession of WY psychotropic tablets and a CHANGGHAI wooden boat with a China made 25-HP engine. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Nyaungshwe) MaYa(Pa) 7/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.	
2	Information received of illegal drugs flowing into Htigyaing and Katha Tsps and neighboring villages in Sagaing Region from Shwe Li, Kyaekaung and Muse on China’s side.	On 1-8-2018, local police staked out the Ayeyawady bridge (Htigyaing) and stopped and searched an unlicensed motorcycle driven by Win Kyaw, 48, from Pinlebu Tsp, Kyipwetalin Village. Police arrested him after finding heroin (white/yellow powder) and WY psychotropic tablets in his possession. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Htigyaing) MaYa(Pa) 22/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of Ko Nyo Lone, who lives in both Naw Mon and Mae Han villages, Lashio Tsp, Shan State, selling illegal drugs. He sends illegal drugs from Lashio to Meiktila, Thazi either with an unlicensed car or by express bus.	On 3-8-2018, local police entered the house of Ko Nyo Lone (a) Naing Oo, 28, in Naw Mon Village, Lashio Tsp, and searched his Mark-2 car (1D/9156) but no evidence of illegal drugs was found. Police escorted Ko Nyo Lone to his mother-in-law Daw Khin Aye’s, 56, house in Mae Han Village and discovered a metal case hidden in the ground under her bed containing WY psychotropic drugs. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Lashio) MaYa(Pa) 142/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of U Chit Ko selling illegal drugs from Chan Chan beauty salon near the fire station in Pylonenaing Ward, Kyaukse Tsp, Mandalay Region. The drugs are reportedly hidden in pipes behind the saloon mirror.	On 29-7-2018, local police entered Chan Chan beauty salon near the fire station in Pylonenaing Ward, Kyaukse Tsp, and discovered the hidden cache of “88/1” psychotropic tablets behind the salon mirror. U Chit Ko, 57, has been arrested and a case opened against him with MaMaSa (Kyaukse) MaYa(Pa) 16/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of Ismanin (a) Soe Win trading illegal drugs from his house behind Yaung Ni Tun photostat service shop, located in the street opposite of Phyo motorcycle parts shop in Myeik Tsp, Taninthayi Region.	On 30-7-2018, local police entered house No.25 on Pale Street, Myitnge Ward, Myeik Tsp, and arrested Ismanin (a) Soe Win, 36, together with a stash of powder speciosa (kratom) hidden in the kitchen floorboard. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Myeik) MaYa(Pa) 144/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of illegal drug sales in the vicinity of Thinpaungkyin Village, Nyaungzin Village-tract, Kanbalu Tsp, Sagaing Region.	On 2-8-2018, local police staked out near Boyone Village on the YeU-Karbo-Mubaung road, five miles north of YeU Township, and stopped and searched a motorcycle ridden by Chit Myo Zaw, 20. Police found heroin (white/yellow powder) in his possession and arrested him. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (YeU) MaYa(Pa) 3/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7	Information received of Sai Pyae Aung (a) Aung Pyae selling illegal drugs from his home located opposite the BOC oil pump store at the 9-mile access road on the Hsipaw-Nantlan Road, Hsipaw Tsp, Shan State.	On 30-7-2018, local police entered the house of Sai Pyae Aung (a) Aung Pyae, 31, in Kolone Village, Hsipaw Tsp, and arrested him and Maung Soe, 21, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Hsipaw) MaYa(Pa) 19/2018 under Section 16-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further inspection led to the arrest of Thein Tun Naing, 38, in Sutlan Village, Hsipaw Tsp, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Hsipaw) MaYa(Pa) 20/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8	Information received of groups of people selling illegal drugs daily on the hilltop in Group 10, Ward 4, Kutkai Tsp, Shan State (North).	The 30-7-2018 announcement reported that seven men were arrested together with heroin and psychotropic tablets and 6 cases have been opened against them. Investigations into related cases led to a stakeout near Yaychaung in Group 3, Ward 6, Kutkai Tsp on 30-7-2018. Police arrested Li Chain Haw, 42, from Ward 6, together with heroin and WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kutkai) MaYa(Pa) 72/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Another stakeout conducted on 31-7-2018 in Ward 4, Kutkai Tsp led to the arrest of Aik Hla (a) Kun Sai, 45, from Kotin Village, together with “88/1” psychotropic tablets and heroin (white/yellow powder). A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kutkai) MaYa(Pa) 73/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. A stakeout conducted on 1-8-2018 in Ward 8, Kutkai Tsp, led to the arrest of Makhar, 27, from Zutkaungkalaing Village, together with WY psychotropic tablets and heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kutkai) MaYa(Pa) 74/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further investigation led to the arrest of Ma Zaungnar, 30, in Ward 5, Kutkai Tsp, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Kutkai) MaYa(Pa) 75/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. A stakeout conducted on 3-8-2018 along the road leading to the cemetery in Ward 4, Kutkai Tsp, led to arrest of Aik Nyoe, 19, from Huikot Village, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kutkai) MaYa(Pa) 76/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Another stakeout conducted on 4-8-2018 near the cemetery in Ward 4, Kutkai Tsp, led to the arrest of Wu Zay Yan, 36, from Banlone Village, Kutkai Tsp, together with heroin and WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kutkai) MaYa(Pa) 78/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

9	Information received of Ko Htet Paing of Aungban Tsp, Shan State (South) selling illegal drugs along roads leading into Pindaya, Loikaw, Myinmahti, Tikyit, Lamaing, among others.	On 4-8-2018, local police entered the house of Htet Paing Htut (a) Htet Paing in No.24, Theikpan Street, Ward 1, Aungban Tsp, and arrested him together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Aungban) MaYa(Pa) 11/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
10	Information received of Pileik and his wife Daw Par Lone selling illegal drugs in Wamkan Ward, Kehsi Tsp, Shan State. A large proportion of the local youth are also victims of drug abuse.	On 30-7-2018, local police entered the house of Pileik,44, and his wife Daw Par Lone, 47, in Wamkan Ward, Kehsi Tsp, and arrested them together with WY psychotropic tablets and heroin. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Kehsi) MaYa(Pa) 3/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
11	Information received of Ko Win Hlaing selling illegal drugs in Ward 1, Hlaing Kwet Thit area, Kawkareik Tsp.	On 31-7-2018, local police entered the house of Win Hlaing, 48, on Chuangtaung Kwet Thit Street 5, in Ward 1, Kawkareik Tsp, and arrested him and his son Chit Phoo Hlaing, 20, together with WY psychotropic tablets, one M-16 rifle, 159 bullets, 4 cartridges, and a black strap. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Kawkareik) MaYa(Pa) 18/2018 under Section 19-A/22-B/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
12	Information received of U Pauk Kyaing selling illegal drugs on B.E.PS (1) School Street, Ward 3, Kunhing Tsp, Shan State (South).	On 29-7-2018, local police entered the house of U Pauk Kyaing, 40, on B.E.PS (1) School Street, Ward 3, Kunhing Tsp, and arrested him together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kunhing) MaYa(Pa) 3/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
13	Information received of large-scale sales of illegal drugs in the vicinity of the basic education high school in Ward 1, Kawzar Town, Ye Tsp, Mon State.	On 31-7-2018, police conducted a stakeout near the road downhill from Wamwi bridge near the basic education high school in Ward 1, Kawzar Town. Police stopped and searched passing vehicles and arrested Saik Cham, 28, and Maung Htoo, 23, together with WY psychotropic tablets, and Win Naing, 36, and Maung Lin, 33, also with WY psychotropic tablets in their possession. Police traced the tablets to a rubber farm owned by Maung U Naing in Ward 1. A case has been opened against all five perpetrators with MaMaSa(Kawzar) MaYa(Pa) 9/2018 under Section 16-C/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Police also searched the rubber farm of Maung U Naing, 33, and seized WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kawzar) MaYa(Pa) 10/2018 under Section 16-C/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
14	Information received of Daw Haung Say and her son Lin Aung Say selling illegal drugs from their home in Natpyi Hmwae Street, Sayarsan Ward (South), Tatkon Tsp, Nay Pyi Taw Council Territory.	On 30-7-2018, local police entered the house of Daw Haung Say, 52, at No.1052 in Sayarsan Ward, Tatkon Tsp, and arrested her and her son Lin Aung Say, 26, together with “88/1” psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Tatkon) MaYa(Pa) 12/2018 under Section 16-C/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
15	Information received of Ma Elni selling illegal drugs in Kittar Street, Zayawadi Ward, Aunglan Tsp, Magway Region.	On 30-7-2018, local police entered the house of Ma Elni, 30, at No. (Za/77) on Kittar Street, Zayawadi Ward, Aunglan Tsp, and arrested her together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Aunglan) MaYa(Pa) 6/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
16	Information received of U Tin Hlaing and his daughter Ma Aye Than from Payargone Ward, 10-Mile Ywarthit Village, Mohnyin Tsp, Kachin State, selling illegal drugs in the eastern part of Shwelin Forest along the Mandalay-Myitkyina Road.	On 1-8-2018, local police entered the dwelling of U Tin Hlaing, 61, located two miles east of the Mandalay-Myitkyina Road (locally known as Shwelin Forest), Mawhan Village-tract, Mohnyin Tsp, and arrested him together with raw opium. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Mohnyin) MaYa(Pa) 115/2018 under Section 16-C/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Police also searched the dwelling of Ma Aye (a) Ma Than Than Aye, 37, located in the vicinity of her father’s dwelling and arrested her, Maung Lay, 25, from 10-Mile Village, Myint Lin, 35, from Theininn Ward, Mohnyin Tsp, together with opium blocks, saplings, and opium tinctures. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Mohnyin) MaYa(Pa) 116/2018 under Section 16-C/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

17	Information received of U Tint Zaw selling illegal drugs in Helo Village (Inlay), Taungto Village-tract, Nyaungshwe Tsp, Shan State (South).	On 2-8-2018, local police entered the house of Tint Zaw, 41, in Helo Village, Nyaungshwe Tsp, and arrested him and Pyae Phyo Aung, 25, from Paungpaing Village, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Nanban) MaYa(Pa) 10/2018 under Section 19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
18	Information received of Ain Natkar (a) Ai-U selling illegal drugs in Hopan Street, Ward 1, Lashio Tsp, Shan State (North), as well as using illegal drugs with youths in his home daily.	On 2-8-2018, local police entered the house of Aik Natkar (a) Ai-U (a) Aiknat, 30, at No.15, Ward 1, Lashio Tsp, and arrested him, Aik Liz, 45, from Ward 5, and Nyi Mon, 37, from Ward 5, together with poppy saplings, poppy seeds, marijuana seeds, opium tinctures, opium residue, a marijuana plant and its picked leaves. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Lashio) MaYa(Pa) 139/2018 under Section 16-A/16-C/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
19	Information received of U Ngwe Ya and Aung Lin of Tema Village, Phaungpyin Tsp, Sagaing Region selling illegal drugs.	On 2-8-2018, local police entered the house of U Ngwe Ya, 56, in Tema Village, Phuangpyin Tsp, and arrested him together with heroin (white/yellow powder). A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Phaungpyin) MaYa(Pa) 54/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further investigation led to the arrest of Aung Lin, 44, and Thein Soe, 25, together with WY psychotropic tablets and heroin (white/yellow powder) in Tema Village on 3-8-2018. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Phaungpyin) MaYa(Pa) 55/2018 under Section 19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
20	Information received of Ko Kyaw Oo and Nga Htet conducting large-scale distribution of illegal drugs in Thebopin Village, KhinU Tsp, Sagaing Region.	On 4-8-2018, local police entered the house of Kyaw Oo (a) Aung Kyaw Oo in Thebopin Village, KhinU Tsp, and arrested him together with WY psychotropic tablets found inside his house and in the garden. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (KhinU) MaYa(Pa) 4/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further investigation led to the arrest of Nga Htet (a) Maung Htet from the same village together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (KhinU) MaYa(Pa) 5/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
21	Information received of Ashay Gyi and U Poe Wa selling illegal drugs in Mangyipin Village, Mongmit Tsp, Shan State (South).	On 2-8-2018, local police entered the house of Kyaw Myo Lwin (a) Ashay Gyi, 29, in Paddamyar Ward, Mangyipin Ward, Mongmit Tsp, and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Mongmit) MaYa(Pa) 61/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further investigation led to the arrest of Poe Wa (a) Nyunt Hlaing, 58, of the same ward, together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Mongmit) MaYa(Pa) 62/2018 under Section 16-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far 109 cases have been opened as of 4-8-2018, and 142 men and 24 women have been arrested with seizures of 1,739.35 g of heroin, 0.55 g of ICE, 30 g of black opium, 31,336 g of raw opium, 14.00 g of low-quality opium, 27.50 g of opium residue, 1,502 g of powder opium, 3,266 g of speciosa, 43,246 stimulant tablets, 1,758.08 g of marijuana, 0.10 litres of opium tincture, 5.90 g of opium blocks, and 60 g of poppy seeds. 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 acting upon given information, resulting in 272 cases being opened between 29-7-2018 and 4-8-2018, and 348 men and 53 women have been arrested. Seizures of 1,749.59 g of heroin, 0.91 g of ICE, 5,330.81 g of raw opium, 74.00 g of low-quality opium, 255.00 g of powder opium, 262,916 stimulant tablets, 2,519.78 g of marijuana, 0.07 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 2.95 litres of liquid heroin, 3,064.10 of opium blocks, and 79 tablets of buprenorphine tablets.
5. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs 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

Need to improve feeding programme in schools

Our students in schools are not eating the right or nutritious food. Children who lack nutritious food often struggle in class. They find it harder to concentrate on their work when they're thinking about when and what they'll eat next. Too often, they tune out, act out and drop out.

In Myanmar, there are over nine million children at 47,000 schools nationwide during this 2018-2019 Academic Year.

But, only a few per cent of children received a school feeding program, thanks to the ministries, donors and international organizations, said Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi in his opening remarks at the National School Feeding Lesson Learned and Way Forward Workshop in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 August.

During this school year, Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Education and World Food Program will work together to launch a national-level school feeding program.

We all accept the fact that making investment in feeding children is very important for sustainable development of future human resources. The national-level school feeding program on a nationwide scale would benefit not only children but also the country.

On the part of the authorities, there is a need to employ an effective mechanism for monitoring nutritional status. As yet, it is difficult for teachers to coordinate and take care of fresh feeding items for a large number of students.

Agricultural diversification is seen as another dimension for improvement of nutrition and better health among school children.

The most important issue is that we should not delay in finding out strong points of the current national-level feeding and school lunch projects and to prepare for tackling challenges of the national-level feeding program.

By Dr. Aung Aung Min

WITH advancements in technology, many countries around the globe have seen remarkable educational expansion and fields of study in the 21st century. Young adults need to pursue their studies from their primary education to university-level learning in order to get a decent education.

Generally speaking, it is true that education indeed increases the chances and potential in finding better and more satisfying jobs, resulting in better income and being successful in life. Learning can enhance the understanding of the world, provide us with more and better opportunities and improve our quality of life.

A young man cannot stand on his own feet without proper education or any relevant profession of his own. Education is the prime capital which the whole world values. One can go far in their life only if they resort to their diligence and industry, based on the combination of working experience, thereby, they can expand their boundary of knowledge and wisdom. The more knowledge we get, the easier we can enter the sphere of education. Learning from text books is one thing and no amount of learning in classroom can substitute the practical experience. It is no doubt that experience is the best teacher in our real life. Moreover, reading can broaden the outlook of our life.

Activity versus intellect

Education is the process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, value and habits. Activity and intellect play important roles in this knowledge age. Another thing to note is that education is commonly divided into such stages as preschool, secondary school and then college, university, or apprenticeship. Intelligence is therefore an internal force that governs our capacities and limitations in acquiring skills in different areas.

Youths' talent and philosophy

Charles Darwin is often credited with coining the phrase — "The survival of the fittest". However, such attribution is proved to be wrong in this age. In Darwinian terms, the phrase is best understood as, "Survival of this form will leave the most copies of itself in successive generations." In our 21st century, no one can deny the fact that knowledge is better than pure, brute physical strength. Over the next decade and beyond, if we are to produce outstanding young adults in our country, they can contribute more to the interests of the country. Although the majority of the young adults know how to dream big, they are weak in fulfilling their dreams. Only those who have a burning desire, including indulgence and thirst for knowledge, can materialize their

big dreams in reality. In the 21st century, anthropologists regard Generation Y (born during the 1980s and early 1990s) as distinct, possessing different ideas and attitudes from those of their parents. Generation Y grew up with technology, and they rely on it to perform their jobs better. They like to communicate through email, text messaging, and whatever new social media platform (i.e., Twitter; Instagram, etc.) their peers and colleagues are using. This is a generation that can't even imagine a world without the internet or cell phones.

Youths, ethics and discipline

It is found that the majority of young adults, who were born after 1988, have high aims and a sense of commitment, but they are weak in keeping their conduct, ethics and discipline. Though they tend to obey their elders and parents, they don't like being controlled by others. Moreover, they possess a nature of free will, passing bold decisions. But they need to love and appreciate the value of truth. As for the parents, they should leave a legacy of knowledge and wisdom for their new generation. It is of crucial importance for the young adults to abide by ethics and be disciplined, so that they

Contemporary youths and their pursuit of 21st century education



training schools across the country, aiming to focus on developing the creativity of young adults. Authorities concerned should be supportive of innovation and entrepreneurship demonstrated by youths, so that they would not only come to study in the respective colleges and universities but would stay to enrich these institutions with their talent and industry.

Thanks to globalization and information technology (IT), many rapid advances have been made to meet the requirements of human activities. Yet, there are still many challenges in the path to educational changes. Young adults should take up their respective professions relating to information technology, language proficiency skills and soft skills. Soft skills, on the other hand, are interpersonal skills, which include communication skills, listening skills, creative thinking, work ethics, teamwork, networking, decision-making, pos-



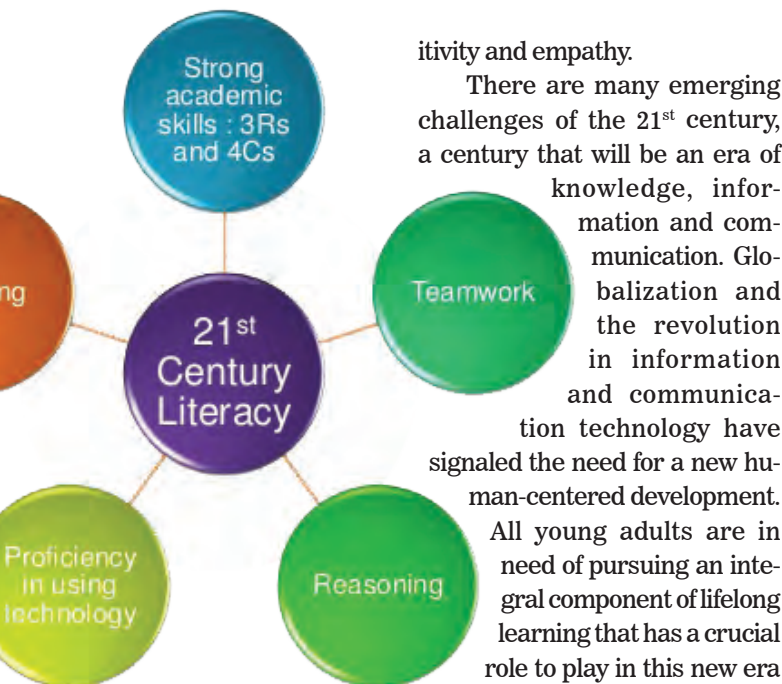
21st Century Literacy

can make a thorough decision on what is right and wrong.

Young professionals

We should empower young adults to the right of ownership of their own learning. In order to keep abreast with the times, they manage to attend computer training courses, IT courses, business classes, foreign language classes, and so on. They should possess the right career that matches up with their hobbies and talents so as to increase their chance of mastering it. Moreover, they should be fully aware that they are masters of their own destiny, and their success solely depends upon their determination to seize the opportunities that are presented to them.

As for the authorities concerned, efforts should be made to create opportunities for this generation by conducting vocational training classes, assembling material resources for teachers, and locating employment



opportunities with affordable salaries. Young adults tend to upgrade their professional level of vocational education due to the increasing demand by employers in various fields.

Youths of today and 21st century education

With the support of government entities, efforts are being made to open many vocational

ity and empathy.

There are many emerging challenges of the 21st century, a century that will be an era of knowledge, information and communication. Globalization and the revolution in information and communication technology have signaled the need for a new human-centered development. All young adults are in need of pursuing an integral component of lifelong learning that has a crucial role to play in this new era as an effective tool to enhance their living standard.

As for authorities concerned, it is time to improve investment in education and its related vocation training centres, where we can create enabling environment for youths to prosper, fulfill their potential and engage as responsible social actors.

Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung

State Counsellor's peace talk in Pakokku to broadcast live

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is conducting a peace talk with local people in Chaukkan Village, Pakokku Township, on 9 August morning.

The peace talk of the State Counsellor with the local people will be broadcast live by Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV), Myanmar International TV (MITV), mntv, Skynet Up to Date, Skynet ethnic, Myanmar Radio, MIR (Radio), MOI Web Portal Myanmar Facebook, MRTV Facebook, Myanmar Digital News Facebook, President's Office Facebook, Myanmar State Counsellor's Office Facebook and Information Committee's Facebook.—Myanmar News Agency



POEM

Eulogy to Youths

(Dedicated to all youths who had sacrificed their lives in 8.8.88 Revolution)

Innocent as a lamb,
Yet brave as a lion!
Never bow, but fight and sacrifice
for the sake of Truth.

Fragile like a new green sprout,
Yet persistently, defiantly resilient
like the double-bladed leaves of grass
Dashing through the cracks of concrete,
There they grow up, once again, high up to the sun.

These youths, comrades of Truth, had brought
the Winds of Change
for the invincible Spirit of Truth
can never be suppressed or uprooted.

Zaw Tun

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

School textbook printing and distribution committee meeting (1/2018) held

SCHOOL textbook printing and distribution committee meeting (1/2018) was held at the Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, school textbook printing and distribution committee chairman Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint said more progress had been achieved in the Ministry of Information work of printing school textbooks ordered by the Ministry of Education and efforts should be made towards providing good quality school textbooks in time.

Next, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said school textbooks for academic year 2018-2019 were distributed in time one week ahead

of the opening of the schools and based on past experience, all are urged to suggest and discuss to achieve better result this year.

Afterwards, school textbook printing sub-committee chairman Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, school textbook distribution sub-committee chairman Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun explained about the organisation, duties and future work processes of the sub-committees, while school textbook printing and distribution committee deputy chairman Ministry of Information Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung explained about forming of sub-committees, type of papers used, size of books,



School textbook printing and distribution committee meeting taking place in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

printing and distribution of school textbooks by Printing and Publishing Enterprise of Ministry of Information, plan to call tender for printing, tender policy and rules and action taken

against printing businesses last year that failed to follow procedures and rules.

Meeting attendees then discussed, suggested and agreed on the 2019-2020 academic year

school textbook printing and publishing work process.

The meeting came to a close after Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint delivered a concluding speech. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Deputy Attorney-General receives Indonesia KPK Deputy Chairperson

DEPUTY Attorney-General U Win Myint received Indonesia Corruption Eradication Commission (Komisi Pemberantasan Korupsi – KPK) Deputy Chairperson Mr. Laode Muhammad Syarif at the Union Attorney General office guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, matters relating to Union Attorney General office's role in anti-corruption work, status of cooperation between relat-

ed departments in corruption cases, mutual support and assistance between the two countries in investigating and taking action against cross-border corruption cases and challenges in anti-corruption work were discussed.

Present at the meeting were Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin and Directors General U Min Swe and Dr. Thida Oo. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint holds talks with Komisi Pemberantasan Korupsi (KPK) Deputy Chairperson Mr. Laode Muhammad Syarif in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Group monitoring implementation of human trafficking eradication 5Y plan holds second meeting

THE second meeting of a group monitoring the 5-Year Plan (2017-2021) to eradicate human trafficking in Myanmar, led by Ministry of Home Affairs Permanent Secretary, was held at Nay Pyi Taw Thingaha hotel.

The meeting was attended, by monitoring group members, led by group chairman Permanent Secretary U Tin Myint, UN-ACT (Myanmar) project coordinator Daw Yin Yin Han and regional monitoring and assessment officer Ms. Ubonwan Boonrattanasamai, IOM (Myanmar) chief project coordinator Daw ShweYinmar Saw and IOM

(Myanmar) Programme Manager Ms. Sophie Nuon, totaling 18 persons.

At the meeting, monitoring group chairman Permanent Secretary U Tin Myint delivered an opening speech. An attendee explained the establishment of M&E Framework and Ms. Ubonwan Boonrattanasamai of UN-ACT regional office explained about draft M&E Framework. Meeting attendees then joined in the discussions and monitoring group chairman coordinated on the explanations and discussions.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar hosts 6th BIMT air traffic management coord group meeting

THE Department of Civil Aviation, under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, is facilitating the 6th Air Traffic Management (ATM) Coordination Group Meeting (BIMT/6), held yesterday and continuing today, at the Novotel Yangon Max Hotel.

U Min Lwin, Director-General of the Civil Aviation Department, spoke at the opening ceremony about the motive behind the meeting on air traffic management between Bangladesh, India, Myanmar and Thailand.

Participants of the meeting took a documentary photo

together before commencing the meeting.

Attending the meeting were officials and representatives of civil aviation authorities from the participating countries, officials from the International Air Transport Association, experts,

and invited guests, totaling 35 participants.

The ATM meeting between the four countries is held with guidance from the International Civil Aviation Organization to better manage the flow of air traffic between the countries. —MNA ■



Russia's sole aircraft carrier to be upgraded to carry generation 4+ + fighter jets

MOSCOW — Russia's sole aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov will be upgraded to carry deck-based generation 4+ + MiG-29K/MiG-29KUB fighter jets, Head of the Nevskoye Design Bureau (the developer of the warship's modernization project) Sergei Orlov told TASS on Monday.

"MiG-29K/MiG-29KUB, Su-33 planes and some types of helicopters will be based on the warship. Some adjustments will be made precisely to accommodate MiG-29K/MiG-29KUB aircraft. Pilots want something new, something better and more reliable. Actually, the entire aircraft and technical compound of shipborne systems will be modernized," he said.

The Project 11435 heavy aircraft-carrying cruiser Admiral of the Fleet of the Soviet Union Kuznetsov entered service in 1991. It displaces about 59,000 tonnes and has a length of 306 metres. The aircraft carrier develops a speed of up to 30 knots.

Apart from the air task force of 24-26 fighter



MiG-29K/MiG-29KUB, Su-33 planes and some types of helicopters will be based on the warship. **PHOTO: TASS**

jets and 12 helicopters, the Admiral Kuznetsov is armed with anti-ship and air defence missile systems, artillery guns and carries anti-submarine warfare weapons. It has a crew of 1,300 while the air group's personnel numbers 660 men.

The aircraft carrier is designed to gain superiority at sea and in the air in the areas of the fleet's operation to ensure the fleet's combat sustainability, deliver air strikes against enemy targets and support troops' landing operations. The trials of new generation 4+ + MiG-29K/MiG-29KUB fighter

jets aboard the Admiral Kuznetsov began in the summer of 2016. These planes were part of the warship's air group during its voyage to Syria in 2016-2017.

In April 2018, a contract was signed for the aircraft carrier's repairs and upgrade. The Nevskoye Design Bureau is Russia's sole institute designing aircraft-carrying and amphibious assault ships of various classes. The repairs and upgrade of the aircraft carrier will last two years and a half, Head of the Nevskoye Design Bureau Orlov said.

After that, the carrier's delivery/acceptance is planned, which envisages "an impressive set of trials likely to last seven months," he said.

Russian Navy Deputy Commander-in-Chief Viktor Bursuk earlier said that repairs on Russia's sole aircraft carrier had started in May this year and the Fleet expected to get the upgraded warship back in 2021.

During its upgrade, the aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov is expected to be armed with the latest seaborne Pantsyr air defense missile systems. **Tass ■**

Tanker truck explodes sending deadly fireball across Italy motorway

ROME — At least one person was killed and more than 60 others injured on Monday when a tanker truck crashed into a lorry and exploded, sending a fireball across a busy motorway in the northern Italian city of Bologna.

The blast, which occurred in the early afternoon in the Borgo Panigale area, close to Bologna airport, caused a partial collapse of the flyover, where the explosion took place, onto another road below, filling the scene with flames and black smoke.

A video released by the police shows the moment the tanker ploughed into the back of the lorry, immediately catching fire as another lorry crashed into the back of the blazing tanker, and oncoming traffic screeched to a halt.

The three vehicles, covered by the blanketing smoke, were reduced to little more than ash by a massive explosion that swept across the motor-

way and could be heard throughout the city.

"I was here (at a nearby restaurant) for work... at a certain point we heard a violent blast, I thought it was a terrorist attack," Marco Rosadini, whose car is trapped under the flyover, told the daily *La Repubblica*.

"After the explosion the roof of the restaurant started to collapse. I looked outside and I felt like I was looking at a wall of fire."

It took firefighters nearly two hours to extinguish the fireball, which spread to vehicles parked in a nearby lot of a car dealership.

Then rescuers began the delicate task of looking through the burned out debris to find any victims.

Italian media quoted the Bologna prefecture as saying that two people had been killed, but when asked for confirmation by AFP, a spokeswoman said that the official toll remained one dead, with 68 injured.—AFP ■

No special metro for neo-Nazis rallying in Washington

WASHINGTON — Washington's metro service will not provide separate trains or cars for far-right demonstrators heading to a rally in the nation's capital on Sunday, after plans had been floated to separate them from counter-protesters.

"There will be no special cars, no special trains for anyone next Sunday or, for that matter, at any time," Metro Board chairman Jack Evans told the local ABC affiliate.

"We are a public transportation organization. We are open for whoever wants to get on and ride Metro."

The subway service's largest union, ATU Local 689, said in a statement last week it had learned that a far-right group as-

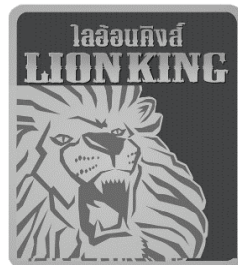
sociated with the Ku Klux Klan was going to be allocated three private Metro rail cars and a police escort for the 'Unite the Right' rally.

According to rally organizers, the marchers will gather at a suburban metro station and ride the underground to the Foggy Bottom station in the downtown area and then walk the short distance to the White House between 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm.

The rally is to take place exactly a year to the day after a 'Unite the Right' rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, in which a far-right sympathizer plowed his car into a crowd of anti-fascist demonstrators, killing one woman and injuring a dozen other people.—AFP ■

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Singapore cyber attack may be state-linked: minister

SINGAPORE — The biggest ever cyber attack to hit Singapore was carried out by highly sophisticated hackers typically linked to foreign governments, a cabinet minister said on Monday, but did not give names.

Hackers broke into a government database and stole the health records of 1.5 million Singaporeans, including Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong who was specifically targeted in the “unprecedented” hack, the government has said.

“We have done a detailed analysis of this attack and have determined that it is the work of an advanced persistent threat (APT) group,” Minister for Communications and In-

formation S. Iswaran said Monday.

“This refers to a class of sophisticated cyber attackers typically state-linked who conduct extended, carefully planned cyber campaigns to steal information or disrupt operations,” he told parliament, which discussed the issue.

Iswaran said the APT group “was persistent in its efforts to penetrate and anchor itself on the network, bypass the security measures and illegally access and exfiltrate data”.

While the attack fitted the profile of “certain known APT groups”, Iswaran said he would not publicly give any names for reasons of national security.



Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong speaks during the opening ceremony of the 51st Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ministerial Meeting in Singapore on 2 August, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Hackers used a computer infected with malware to gain access to the database between June 27 and July 4 before administrators spotted “unusual

activity”, authorities have said.

The compromised data includes personal information and medication dispensed to patients, but

medical records and clinical notes have not been affected, according to the authorities.

Security experts had also earlier pointed to state-actors as the likely culprit, citing the scale and sophistication of the hack.

Healthcare data is of particular interest to hackers because it can be used to blackmail people in positions of power, Jeff Middleton, chief executive of cybersecurity consultancy Lantium, told AFP last month. Medical information, like personal data, can also be easily monetised on criminal forums, said Sanjay Aurora, Asia Pacific managing director of Darktrace, a cyber security firm.

Iswaran, who is also

the minister in charge of cyber security, has convened a committee of inquiry to look into the hack.

“We will do our utmost to strengthen our cyber security. But it is impossible to completely eliminate the risk of another cyber attack,” he said.

“This is an ongoing battle with potential cyber attackers who are constantly developing their capabilities and seeking out new vulnerabilities.”

Iswaran said the attack will not derail the affluent and highly-wired city-state's ambitions to become a “smart nation” through the extensive use of technology in daily activities and transactions.—AFP ■

Two Koreas agree on list of family reunion participants

SEOUL (South Korea) — The two Koreas have finalised a list of families separated by the Korean War whose members will be briefly reunited this month after decades of separation, Seoul said Monday.

The two nations agreed in June to resume the reunions of families torn apart by the 1950-53 war, after a landmark meeting between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and the South's President Moon Jae-in in April.

A total of 93 people from the South will travel to the North's Mount Kumgang resort to meet their relatives, while 88 citizens of the North will meet their southern kin in a separate reunion at the resort, Seoul's unification ministry said.

The reunions will be held from August 20-26, with those in their 80s accounting for more than half of the participants, according to the ministry. It will be the first such reunion for three years.

Millions of people were separated from family members during

the conflict that sealed the division of the two Koreas, which technically remain at war.

Most died without the chance to see or hear from their relatives on the other side of the border, across which all civilian communication is banned.

Officials from both countries last month exchanged a preliminary list of those hoping to see their family members, before carrying out checks to see whether relatives across the border were still alive.

There are only about 57,000 people still alive who are registered with the South Korean Red Cross to meet their separated relatives. Many of those yearning for a reunion die before succeeding.

For the lucky few chosen to take part, the experience is often hugely emotional. They have just three days to make up for decades apart, followed by another separation -- in all likelihood a permanent one.

The reunion programme began in ear-

nest after a historic inter-Korean summit in 2000 and the reunions were initially held annually, but strained cross-border relations

have made them rare.

However a rapprochement on the Korean peninsula was triggered earlier this year when Kim decided

to send athletes, cheerleaders and his sister as an envoy to the Winter Olympics in the South in February.

Diplomatic efforts

have gathered pace since then, leading to a summit between Kim and US President Donald Trump in Singapore in June.—AFP ■

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Engagement Announcement

Both parents are pleased to announce the engagement of

Dr. Paing Phyo Ko (M.B, B.S),

The eldest son of
U Mya Than & Daw Aye Aye Mon,
Ahtaung Town, Kyon Pyaw Township,
Ayeayawaddy Division

To

Dr. Hnin Hay Mar (M.B, B.S, MRCP(UK)),

Daughter of U Swan Eitt &
Daw Htay Ye Ye @ Daw Mya Mya Thet,
No. 1206, Building (A),
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Pyay Road, Yangon Division

in the presence of both parents,
relatives and elders on Thursday,
the 2nd August, 2018.

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Earth risks tipping into ‘hothouse’ state

TAMPA (United States) — The planet urgently needs to transition to a green economy because fossil fuel pollution risks pushing the Earth into a lasting and dangerous “hothouse” state, researchers warned on Monday. If polar ice continues to melt, forests are slashed and greenhouse gases rise to new highs — as they currently do each year — the Earth will pass a tipping point. Crossing that threshold “guarantees a climate 4-5 °Celsius (7-9 °Fahrenheit) higher than pre-industrial times, and sea levels that are 10 to 60 metres (30-200 feet) higher than today,” cautioned scientists in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

And that “could be only decades ahead,” they said.

What is ‘Hothouse Earth’?

“Hothouse Earth is likely to be uncontrollable

and dangerous to many,” said the article by scientists at University of Copenhagen, Australian National University and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany. Rivers would flood, storms would wreak havoc on coastal communities, and coral reefs would be eliminated — all by century’s end or even earlier.

Global average temperatures would exceed those of any interglacial period — meaning warmer eras that come in between Ice Ages — of the past 1.2 million years.

Melting polar ice caps would lead to dramatically higher sea levels, flooding coastal land that is home to hundreds of millions of people. “Places on Earth will become uninhabitable if ‘Hothouse Earth’ becomes the reality,” said co-author Johan Rockstrom, executive director of the Stock-

holm Resilience Centre.

Where is the tipping point?

Researchers suggest the tipping point could come once the Earth warms to 3.6 °Fahrenheit (2 °Celsius) over pre-industrial times. The planet has already warmed 1 °C over pre-industrial times, and is heating up at a rate of 0.17 °C per decade. “A 2 °C warming could activate important tipping elements, raising the temperature further to activate other tipping elements in a domino-like cascade that could take the Earth System to even higher temperatures,” said the report. This cascade “may tip the entire Earth system into a new mode of operation,” said co-author Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.

Experts also worry about phenomena like wild-

fires, which will spread as the planet gets hotter and drier and have the potential to accelerate carbon dioxide buildup and global warming.

How they calculated this

The “Perspective” article is based on previously published studies on tipping points for the Earth.

The scientists also examined conditions the Earth has seen in the distant past, such as the Pliocene period five million years ago, when CO₂ was at 400 ppm like today.

During the Cretaceous period, the era of the dinosaurs some 100 million years ago, CO₂ levels were even higher at 1,000 ppm, largely due to volcanic activity. To state that 2 °C is a no-return threshold “is new,” said Martin Siebert, co-director of the Grantham Institute at Imperial College London, who was



A dried corn field is pictured on August 6, 2018 in Mitschdorf, eastern France, as a heatwave sweeps across Europe. **PHOTO: AFP**

not involved in the study.

The study authors “collated previously published ideas and theories to present a narrative on how the threshold change would work,” he said.

“It’s rather selective, but not outlandish.”

How to stop it

People must immediately change their lifestyle to be better stewards of the Earth, the researchers said. Fossil fuels must be replaced with low or zero emissions energy sources, and there should be more strategies for absorbing carbon emissions such as ending deforestation and planting trees to absorb carbon dioxide. Soil management, better farming practices, land and coastal conservation and carbon capture technologies are also on the list of actions.—AFP ■

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Robert Redford — shown here in 2017 at the Venice premiere of the movie “Our Souls at Night” — won an Oscar for best director for “Ordinary People” but has never won the golden statuette for acting.

PHOTO: AFP

Robert Redford retiring from acting at 81

LOS ANGELES (United States) — Robert Redford, the screen legend and Oscar winner, has announced that he’s retiring from acting at the grand old age of 81, with upcoming movie “The Old Man & The Gun” his last gig in front of the camera.

The actor, director and founder of the Sundance Institute and its film festival began his career on stage 60 years ago, before moving into TV and film, and eventually into directing.

“Never say never, but I pretty well concluded that this would be it for me in terms of acting,” he told *Entertainment Weekly*. “(I’ll) move towards retirement after this ‘cause I’ve been doing it since I was 21,” he said.

“I thought, well, that’s

enough. And why not go out with something that’s very upbeat and positive?”

His publicist Cindi Berger confirmed the article was accurate.

When asked if his prospective retirement would extend to directing, Redford was tight-lipped and his agent did not elaborate.

“We’ll see about that,” Redford told *Entertainment Weekly*.

In “The Old Man & The Gun,” directed by David Lowery, the California native plays Forrest Tucker, the real-life career criminal whose bank robbing spree and multiple escapes from prison lasted more than 60 years.

“To me, that was a wonderful character to play at this point in my life,” Redford told

Entertainment Weekly.

The film, set for release in the United States on September 28, also stars Oscar winners Sissy Spacek and Casey Affleck.

Lowery told *Empire* magazine that he felt the “weight” of directing Redford in his final screen role.

“He mentioned that right before we started production,” Lowery told *Empire*.

“I think the movie is as much about (Redford) as it is about this character. It’s about someone in the twilight of their life, doing something they love,” he added.

“There’s an inevitability to the character that is impossible to separate from Mr Redford himself, and an inherently bittersweet quality.”—AFP ■

Pink cancels Sydney shows after being hospitalized

SYDNEY — American pop star Pink has been forced to cancel several Sydney shows on her Australia tour after being hospitalized with a virus and dehydration.

The singer of ‘Just Give Me a Reason’ and ‘Get the Party Started’ cancelled a performance on Friday due to illness but battled through a Saturday show before her trip to the emergency room the next day.

“Pink was admitted to hospital in Sydney on Sunday night, suffering from dehydration. She was treated and discharged. She was readmitted to hospital (Monday) and diagnosed with a gastric virus,” her promoter Live Nation said.

“Pink will remain in hospital overnight, continuing her treatment and recovery.”

The statement gave no indication of when the singer would return to the stage.

Monday and Tuesday concerts were “postponed” but tickets for the next concert slated for Thursday are still on sale, according to the Live Nation website.

While some fans were disappointed, most sent their well-wishes.

“Get well soon Miss Pink! I have tickets for Sunday’s concert and want you to know we’ll totally

understand if it’s postponed — you’ve got to look after yourself!” one fan said to Pink’s tour Facebook page.

The pop sensation took to social media on Friday to defend that night’s cancellation after she was snapped by photographers relaxing on an Australian beach with her family.

“I scheduled this tour meticulously, trying to do what was best for my children, while also putting on the best and most physically demanding and beautiful show of my life,” she said in an Instagram post.

Pink said her children had also both been ill, and that “parasite paparazzi” had failed to capture her multiple visits to the doctor.

“You can think whatever you want, it’s your right, but I have never taken advantage of any one in my entire life,” she said, defending the Friday postponement while she was at the beach.

It prompted fellow star Justin Timberlake to come to her defence.

“I’m here to tell you that you won’t find a harder working, more authentically talented, and more thankful for her place on that stage and her fans than that woman,” he said on Instagram.—AFP ■



The American pop star cancelled a performance last Friday due to illness but battled through a Saturday show before being admitted to hospital on Sunday. PHOTO: AFP

Japanese casino tycoon arrested in Hong Kong: ex-firm

TOKYO (Japan) — Controversial Japanese casino tycoon Kazuo Okada has been arrested in Hong Kong over alleged and unspecified “corruption-related” offences, his former company in Tokyo said on Monday.

Universal Entertainment Corporation said the Hong

Kong Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) had arrested Okada and released him on bail.

Contacted by AFP, the ICAC was not able to confirm the information immediately, citing a policy on not commenting on individual incidents.

“Upon receipt of a corruption complaint and should there be sufficient information to pursue, the ICAC will follow up on it in accordance with the law and established procedures,” the organisation said in a statement.

Okada was sacked from running Universal Entertain-

ment in 2017 after the firm accused him of a series of “fraudulent acts ... for his own personal benefit.”

The firm and its former boss are now embroiled in lawsuits and Universal Entertainment stressed in its statement that Okada “has no further con-

nection with us whatsoever.”

Universal Entertainment pledged to assist ICAC with its investigation.

According to Forbes, Okada is the 16th richest person in Japan, with a net worth that currently stands at \$2.1 billion.—AFP ■

Women more likely to die of heart attack if doctor is male

TAMPA (United States) — Women suffering heart attacks in hospital emergency rooms in the United States are more likely to die if their doctor is a man than a woman, warned a study on Monday.

The study was based on more than 500,000 patients admitted to hospital emergency departments for acute myocardial infarction — a medical term for heart attack — in Florida between 1991 and 2010.

Researchers at Harvard University found a “stark” difference in survival according to whether the patient’s and doctor’s gender matched. Namely, when women

were treated by female doctors, “there was a significant and positive effect” on survival, said the study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Almost 12 percent of patients die when rushed for emergency treatment for a heart attack.

Matching female doctors to female patients “reduced the probability of death by 5.4 percent, relative to this baseline,” it said.

By another way of looking at the data, “female patients treated by male physicians were 1.52 percent less likely to survive than male patients treated by female physicians.”

Previous studies have shown that women are more likely than men to die of heart attacks. But why? Some experts have suggested it may be because women’s symptoms are different than men’s, or that they tend to delay treatment more often than men.

This study offers a new explanation for why gender inequality in heart attack mortality persists.

“Most physicians are male, and male physicians appear to have trouble treating female patients,” said the report. Researchers found that the more women a male doctor treated in his life, the less likely his female patients were to die.

However, this presented a “catch-22” because it suggests a certain number of women must die so that the doctor could learn from his mistakes.

“This decrease may come at the expense of earlier female patients,” said the report.

One problem is that most doctors are male, so matching female doctors to female patients just isn’t possible much of the time.—AFP ■



Almost 12 per cent of patients die when rushed for emergency treatment for a heart attack. PHOTO: AFP

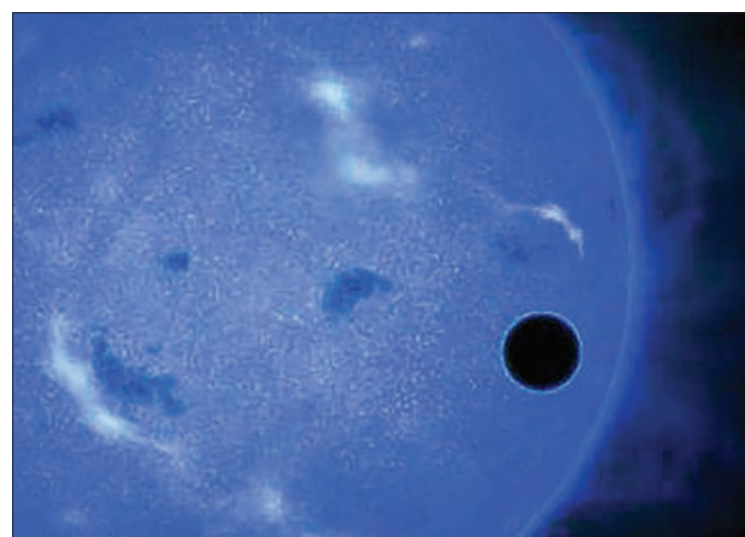


PHOTO: XINHUA

Chinese astronomers discover giant star rich in lithium

BEIJING — Chinese astronomers have discovered the most lithium-rich giant star ever known and it could shed new light on the evolution of the universe.

With 3,000 times more lithium than a normal star, it was found in the direction of Ophiuchus, on the north side of the galactic disk, at a distance of 4,500 light years from Earth.

A research team, led by as-

tronomers from National Astronomical Observatories of China (NAOC) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, made the discovery with the Large Sky Area Multi-Object Fiber Spectroscopic Telescope (LAMOST) located in NAOC’s Xinglong Observatory, in north China’s Hebei Province.

The results of the study were published in the latest issue of *Nature Astronomy*.

—Xinhua ■

China to establish national commission for quantum computing standards

JINAN — A Chinese national technological commission for quantum computing and measurement is under construction to promote industrialization of quantum technology.

The commission will be built by Jinan Institute of Quantum Technology, and Shandong Bureau of Quality and Technical Supervision. Preparation for the commission is estimated to take six months.

Quantum computing, measurement, and telecommunication have developed fast in recent years. Despite this, the quantum industries still lack official standards.

Quantum communication uses quantum entanglement of photons to make sure nobody taps into the line, which can corrupt the signal and potentially allow sensitive information to be leaked.

Jinan, capital of Shandong

Province, has established a quantum telecom network, providing a secure connection for communication between the Communist Party and government bodies.

The city unveiled a plan to build a quantum valley in May this year. By 2025, it aims to have an industry cluster worth over tens of billions of dollars.

A 2,000 km quantum communication line in China known as the Jing-Hu (Beijing-Shanghai) Trunk Line, connects Beijing, Jinan, Hefei, and Shanghai. The line is the world’s first trunk line for secure quantum telecommunications.

It is connected to the world’s first quantum satellite, which was launched by China in August 2016. The satellite is nicknamed “Micius,” after a fifth century B.C. Chinese philosopher and scientist who has been credited as the first person to conduct optical experiments.—Xinhua ■

“Paving the Future with Technology - Innovation Beyond Gender and Generations”

TOKYO (Japan) — Technology is a tool that helps us to create. It is available to us today to ensure that we can build a better world in the future.

As we strive for a society where men and women have true equality, we can see that the critical area of computer education remains a male-dominated field in many countries.

The problem was examined in a 2017 report by Britain’s Royal Society, which found that “computing in the UK is a male-dominated subject and actions need to be taken to improve the gender balance.” [1] The report found that the gender imbalance remained even after the U.K. made computer programming a compulsory area of study for all students in 2014. The report found that after completing their compulsory education, the ratio of young women seeking to pursue university or college studies in

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) was just 39%, and only 20% sought to go into computing. These numbers were far lower than the 49%-50% who chose mathematics, physics or chemistry.

This disparity exists even though girls proved themselves to be superior students in computing classes, proportionally outscoring boys in the top three grading levels of A*, A and B.

At the same time, the report said that girls appeared to be more confident about studying computing and computer science when not competing directly with boys. It found that 12.3% of students at girls’ schools chose to study computing, much higher than the 3.4% ratio at mixed schools. It stressed that government and industry-funded IT support programs for teachers must prioritize changing the gender balance in computing.

History Shows A Way Forward

Looking at history, it is clear that there is no practical reason for this male dominance, with women making some of the landmark achievements in computing. Computer scientist Margaret Hamilton led the MIT team that developed on-board flight software for NASA’s Apollo Space Programme. More than 100 years earlier, it was another woman, English mathematician Ada Lovelace, who created the first algorithm to be carried out by a machine, becoming what is seen today as the world’s first computer programmer. “I was kind of nerdy and so I got into computers,” says Haiyan Zhang, Innovation Director at Microsoft Research Cambridge in the UK. Her work includes developing technology for the medical and educational fields, as well as for disabled people. She notes that during her time in high school, very few female students took computer classes.—AFP ■

Courtois absent from Chelsea training amid Real speculation

LONDON (United Kingdom)— Chelsea goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois did not report to training with the Premier League side on Monday, casting further doubt over his future after being linked with a move to Real Madrid. The 26-year-old Belgium international was granted an extended rest after his country finished third at the World Cup, but he was scheduled to return to training following Chelsea's 2-0 loss to Manchester City in the Community Shield.

Courtois joined Chelsea from Belgian side Genk in 2011 and spent the next three seasons on loan at Atletico Madrid before dislodging Petr Cech as first choice at Stamford Bridge. He has repeatedly stated his desire to move closer to his two children in the Spanish capital, and with just a year remaining on his contract Chelsea risk losing him for a reduced fee in January or for free next summer.

Eden Hazard, whose deal expires in 2020, has also long been the subject of speculation over a move to Real, but the forward was present at the club's Cobham



Thibaut Courtois is keen to return to Spain to be closer to his two children. PHOTO: AFP

training base on Monday. Chelsea boss Maurizio Sarri, who replaced Antonio Conte last month, admitted on Friday he was unsure whether Courtois would stay.

"At the moment Courtois is the goalkeeper of the club, of Chelsea," Sarri said. "I don't know in the future. It depends on the club. It depends especially on him, I

think.

"But, I hope that Courtois will be our goalkeeper. It's very important for us to keep the top players."—AFP ■

Former heavyweight champ Parker in school visit row

WELLINGTON (New Zealand)—Former heavyweight boxing champion Joseph Parker's latest fight has him embroiled in a row involving sexism and racism with a New Zealand school.

A high school in the North Island city of Whanganui had marketed an upcoming visit by Parker as a "closed motivational session" for boys of indigenous Maori or Pacific island descent and their fathers.

But the 26-year-old New Zealand boxer said on Tuesday that if the session

was not made all inclusive, he would not be there.

The school claimed it was the Parker camp that requested a restricted audience with board member Piri Cribb saying it was an opportunity to work with a section of students who were less engaged.

"It's not a separatist movement and it's not an elite strategy," she said.

"It is simply an opportunity to capitalise on the cultural similarities that this man has with our young men."

But Parker insisted he wanted all pupils to have the chance to hear him and was disappointed in how the event had been planned.

"I'm even more disappointed the school would claim that they had done this at my request — when that is clearly untrue," he said.

"If we go down to see the kids we'd like to see everyone," Parker added in Auckland at his first media conference since losing to Dillian Whyte in London 10 days ago.

Parker's promoter David Higgins said the boxer was unlikely to attend if changes were not made.

"I think it's unfair to exclude say females or other races as Joseph might only visit that region once in five or 10 years," Higgins said.

"For that reason I think it should probably be inclusive, and we probably wouldn't support that particular visit if it's not inclusive and if changes aren't made."

Parker won the World Boxing Organisation heavyweight crown in December 2016 and defended it twice before losing on points to England's Anthony Joshua in March this year.

He subsequently lost to Whyte on points but has said he will continue to fight for another five years.—AFP ■



Former heavyweight boxing champion Joseph Parker. PHOTO: AFP

Man City's fast start a pleasant surprise for Gundogan

LONDON—Manchester City midfielder Ilkay Gundogan was pleasantly surprised by how quickly the English champions settled back into their stride by beating Chelsea 2-0 to win the Community Shield in an ominous performance for the rest of the Premier League.

Pep Guardiola's men begin their title defence at Arsenal on Sunday, looking to back-up a record-breaking campaign that saw them amass 100 points to win the league by a 19-point margin from Manchester United. "I was curious the way we would start the game and how it would go," German international Gundogan told the club's website. "I wouldn't say that it was necessary to give us confidence, but the first weeks when the season starts, the important games start, you never really know what to expect. You don't really know 100 percent on which level you are. "It was a great test for us, a last test before the Premier League season. At the end we feel ready right now and we can't wait for the season to start."

Guardiola could even afford the luxury of leaving Kevin De Bruyne, David Silva and Raheem Sterling out of his matchday squad at Wembley after their World Cup exertions. However, Sergio Aguero showed no hangover from Argentina's early exit in Russia by scoring twice to take his tally for the club to 201. "We feel very lucky to have Sergio in our team, a striker like him," added Gundogan. "On top of that even Gabriel (Jesus) with his ability and his quality. We have two great strikers and feel very, very happy."—AFP ■