CONSERVATION EFFORTS TO SAVE WILD ELEPHANTS IN MYANMAR P-8-9 (OPINION)

NATIONAL
Democratic Transition in Myanmar: Challenges and the Way Forward
PAGE-4,5,6

NATIONAL
Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information
PAGE-10

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State Counsellor meets with Singaporean leaders, gives lecture at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with Singaporean President Mrs. Halimah Yacob, Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong and Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Teo Chee Hean in Singapore yesterday.

Following the meetings, she gave a lecture at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (L) holds talks with Singapore President Mrs. Halimah Yacob at Istana Presidential Palace while on a working visit in Singapore on 21 August 2018. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor meets S'pore's President

At 11 am local time, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with President Mrs. Halimah Yacob at the Istana Presidential Palace.

At the meeting, they discussed promoting bilateral relations between Myanmar and Singapore, and development of home-based traditional handicraft industries and exchanged views on educational affairs.

State Counsellor, S'pore's PM hold broad ranging discussion

Afterwards, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong at the Istana Presidential Palace.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to promoting bilateral relations and cooperation, promoting trade and investment, and creating job opportunities, constructive support from Singapore for solving the Rakhine issue and further cooperation between the two countries in ASEAN and international arenas.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor and delegation attended a luncheon hosted by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the Clarke Quay.

In the afternoon, the State Counsellor met with Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Teo Chee Hean at the Grand Hyatt Hotel.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed and exchanged views on matters related to democratic transition and peace and national reconciliation in Myanmar, matters related to economic and investment issues and cooperation between the two countries in the ASEAN framework.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister of the Office of the Union Government U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister from the Office the President U Min Thu, Ambassador of Singapore to Myanmar U Htay Aung and officials concerned.

Afterwards, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with Foreign Minister of Singapore Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, members of the Board of Directors of the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute Professor Wang Gungwu, President of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies Board of Trustees, and Mr. Choi Sing Kwok, Director of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.

"Democratic Transition in Myanmar: Challenges and the Way Forward"

Afterwards, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi gave a lecture titled "Democratic Transition in Myanmar: Challenges and the Way Forward".

The ceremony was opened with the address by Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Teo Chee Hean.

SEE PAGE-3

INSIDE TODAY

PARLIAMENT
Second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session holds eleventh-day meeting
PAGE-2

PARLIAMENT
Second Amyotha Hluttaw's ninth regular session holds eleventh-day meeting
PAGE-2

NATIONAL
Electricity supply system at Hluttaw buildings to be maintained
PAGE-7

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session holds eleventh-day meeting

THE Second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session held its eleventh-day meeting at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning where asterisk-marked questions were answered by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw and Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo, a bill tabled and a motion discussed.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. **PHOTO: MNA**

Q&A Session

Replying to a question raised by Dr. Tin Htay Aung of Yesagyo constituency on plans to expand and assign more ward/village land record personnels in the Settlement and Land Records Department, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said Settlement and Land Records Department was renamed and reformed starting from 1 June 2015 under the permission of Union Government Office so that duties and responsibilities assigned according to the 2012 Farmland Law and Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law could be performed. Once the new organisation set-up with 20,702 personnel is approved, more personnel can be assigned and the department's works can be implemented more quickly than now, explained the Deputy Minister.

Next, U Zaw Min Thein of Laymyethna constituency asked when the Hlinethaya-Hinthada railway line can be restarted with systematic management to benefit the people and the state. Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo said the railway line runs parallel to a road that can be driven anytime and took only about three and half hours of travel time. Travellers from downtown Yangon need to take about an hour and twenty minutes of travel by car to reach the Hlinethaya car gate and some more time to reach Hlinethaya station. The train from Hlinethaya station finally reaches Hinthada at 8 pm, and due to this there wasn't much people using the train service.

The Hlinethaya-Hinthada railway line was implemented under the instruction of higher authorities and proper feasibility study was not conducted and as the railway track was laid over land retaining much water, the train can travel only up to a speed of 15 miles per hour, making it inefficient, compared to road travel by cars. Income did not match the expenditures for operating it, and the Hlinethaya-Hinthada railway line ceased to operate since 10 June 2016.

If people really need a safe, speedy, timely and comfortable railway travel along this route, under the systematic management to benefit the people and state, depending upon availability of fund, a higher speed electric railway line that starts from Yangon through Hlinethaya to Hinthada will be constructed after proper projects are drawn up and implemented, but at the moment, there is no plan to repair and reconstruct the Hlinethaya-Hinthada railway line and restart the railway operation, said the Deputy Minister.

SEE PAGE 7

Second Amyotha Hluttaw's ninth regular session holds eleventh-day meeting

AT the eleventh-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's ninth regular session held yesterday morning at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall, asterisk-marked questions were raised and answered, two reports read, Major Bridge bill tabled and a motion debated.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. **PHOTO: MNA**

Asterisk-marked questions

In the asterisk-marked questions asked, Dr. Khin Maung Win of Taninthayi Region constituency 11 first posed a question on plans to construct a Thai-Myanmar trade bridge over Pachan River in Taninthayi Region, Kawthoung Township. Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin replied that there was no agreement between Myanmar and Thailand to construct a bridge over Pachan River yet, and thus at the moment, there is no plan to do so.

Dr. Khun Win Thaung of Kachin State constituency 11 then said 22-wheel heavy trucks from a neighboring country was carrying bananas on the Bhamo-Myitkyina-Kanpaikti route in Kachin State, reducing the strengths of roads and bridges along the route and asked if there is any plan to prevent damages to the roads and bridges. Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin answered that discussions had been conducted with Kachin State government to ban 10-wheel and above heavy trucks on this route during the rainy season. In this rainy season, notices will be posted banning 10-wheel and above heavy trucks on this route and overload prevention groups are systematically formed to prevent violation of the ban, said the Deputy Minister.

Finally, replying to a question raised by U Myo Htat @ Salai Myo Htike of Chin State constituency 12 on a plan to construct a motorcar road in Chin State, Paletwa Township, Sami town ward 3-Pi Wa- Ah Lon Bway-Phaung Pike Kone-Ta Lon Kone-Tat Chaung villages, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin said funds to construct an earth road and to widen the road width on 6-mile Sami-Pi Wa section and 8 miles 3 furlongs Par Htan-Tat Chaung section will be submitted to Chin State government in fiscal year 2019-2020 and work will be done depending upon fund allocation.

Chin State government is to submit to the Union Government office for Ministry of Construction to take over the 5-mile 5-furlong Pi Wa-Ah Lon Bway-Par Htan road section and once permission is granted, it will be included in the list of roads under the Department of Rural Road Development and fund requested according to procedure, said the Deputy Minister.

Myanmar Travel Bill

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than obtained the decision of the Hluttaw on the Myanmar Travel Bill approved by Amyotha Hluttaw being returned by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments. Hluttaw decided to approve the amendment of the Pyithu Hluttaw and an announcement was made, accordingly.

Second Bill amending the Myanma Pearl Law

Afterwards, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Sai Tun Aung read and explained the bill committee report on the 2nd Bill amending the Myanma Pearl Law approved and sent with amendments by the Pyithu Hluttaw. Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker then obtained the decision of the Hluttaw and approved the bill.

Major Bridge Bill

Following this, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin submitted the Major Bridge Bill to the Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Brig-Gen Tint Lwin read and explained the bill committee report on the bill. Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker then announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the bill to enroll their names.

Discussion on a motion tabled by U Myo Win of Mon State constituency 8

Later, a motion tabled by U Myo Win of Mon State constituency 8, urging the government to control and manage the management committee, development committee and farmland management committee to ensure that there is no corruption, because plots were formed on many farms and plantation lands and sold off illegally, causing losses of farms and plantation lands and lands set aside for expansion of towns and villages were also lost in a similar manner, was discussed by Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency 11, Daw Myat Thida Tun of Mon State constituency 5, U Min Oo of Bago Region constituency 6, U Hla Myint @ U Hla Myint Than of Mon State constituency 11, Daw Ei Ei Pyone of Ayeyawady Region constituency 8 and U Aye Bo of Yangon Region constituency 11.

The twelfth-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 23 August, it is learnt.— Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor meets with Singaporean leaders, gives lecture at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Singapore Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong at Istana Presidential Palace during a working visit in Singapore. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Mr.Teo Chee Hean during a working visit in Singapore on 21 August 2018. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-1

In her lecture, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi talked about Myanmar's transition processes, five goals and three pillars of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, which could also be seen as a roadmap for the country's transition, efforts of the Myanmar government for resolving the Rakhine issue and cooperation with UN agencies, reforms and relaxation of rules for the economic sector and investment in Myanmar, situation of the education and health sectors in Myanmar and cooperation between Myanmar and Singapore.

The State Counsellor and officials concerned also replied questions raised by the attendees there.

ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute is a Singaporean statutory board and research institution established by an Act of Parliament in 1968.

Previously known as the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies-ISEAS, the organization was renamed as the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in August 2015, in honour of Singapore's first President.

The institute is conducting research programmes under the titles Regional Economic Studies, Regional Strategic and Political Studies and Regional Social and Cultural Studies.

The country-focused programmes are meant to complement the institute's three basic disciplinary programmes, with the cross-affiliation of researchers between the two sets of programmes helping to encourage research projects which are more comparative in nature and are conceptually bolder.

The five country-specific programmes are Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

ISEAS books and journals are distributed to over 100 countries worldwide and are available in both electronic and print versions, via the bookshop located within the institute and its website.

In the evening, the delegation led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived at the Myanmar Embassy and met with staff of the embassy.

Following the meeting, the delegation attended a dinner hosted by Myanmar Ambassador U Htay Aung.

After the dinner, the State Counsellor and party visited the Gardens by the Bay.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Flood, landmine victims in Taninthai Region provided with cash assistance

UNION MINISTER for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye presented cash assistance the landmine victims in Dawei District and Myeik Township in Taninthayi Township yesterday.

At the ceremony to provide cash assistance to the victims held in Myeik, Taninthayi Region, the Union Minister handed over K9.4 million for 47 landmine victims through a representative.

Afterwards, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye proceeded to Taninthayi and attended a ceremony to provide cash assistance to flood victims and landmine victims.

At the ceremony, the Union Minister presented K7.8 million for 39 landmine victims and over K30 million for flood victims through officials.

Following the meeting, the Union minister and party inspected the flood situation in Taninthayi and visited shelters and presented aid to flood victims staying there.

In the evening, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye met with departmental officials at the Myeik District General Administration Department and discussed with them over aid and rehabilitation of flood victims. Over 560 people from 107 households from low-lying areas and villages in Taninthayi Region have been evacuated to safer places as the overflow waters from the Taninthayi River inundated the areas on Monday.

The Taninthayi River reached its danger level on Monday, the third rise in this rainy season.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister U Win Khaing visits PRC SGCC, hydropower station

Three Gorges hydropower station near Yichang Town. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Win Khaing visits State Grid Control Center (SGCC) in Beijing. **PHOTO: MNA**

A MYANMAR delegation led by Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing arrived to State Grid Control Center (SGCC) in Beijing, People's Republic of China (PRC) yesterday morning where SGCC President Mr. Kou Wei and officials explained about the work of SGCC distributing and controlling 677,780 MW out of 1,428,000 MW installed capacity from the entire country to 78 per cent of the population of PRC and then toured the SGCC.

Later in the afternoon, the Union Minister and party accompanied by Mr. Li Fanrong of National Energy Administration went to Three Gorges hydropower station near Yichang Town and observed the ship lift work conducted for ease of waterway transport on the Yangtze River. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Democratic Transition in Myanmar: Challenges and the Way Forward

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered the 43rd Singapore Lecture titled "Democratic Transition in Myanmar: Challenges and the Way Forward" at Grand Hyatt Hotel yesterday. Following is the full text of her lecture.

Your Excellency Mr. Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security of Singapore,

Professor Wang Gungwu, Chairman, ISEAS Board of Trustees,

Honorable Director of ISEAS Mr. Choi Shing Kwok,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by congratulating the Institute of South East Asian Studies on its golden anniversary and by thanking the Director of the Institute for inviting me to deliver the Singapore Lecture.

I particularly appreciate the opportunity to speak here today on the challenges and objectives of our democratic transition as Singapore is the Chair of ASEAN this year. Our ASEAN friends have been generous with necessary help and support as we negotiate the passage of an intricate transition. They have demonstrated the value of regional solidarity based on shared experiences and aspirations. The premise that what helps one part helps the whole underpins the consensual, cooperative approach that has played a vital part in making ASEAN one of the most successful regional organizations in the world, despite development gaps between its members.

A transition is, put very simply, the process of going across from one point to another. The distance that must be covered, and the nature of the terrain that must be travelled define the scope and complexity of the challenges that have to be faced and overcome. Myanmar is crossing over from a long established, authoritarian system to one we label "democracy." Our people's perception, or rather, perceptions of democracy, varied, incoherent and inconsistent as they may be, impact on the transition that our country is undergoing today.

> The danger of terrorist activities, which was the initial cause of events leading to the humanitarian crisis in Rakhine, remains real and present today.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers her address at the 43rd Singapore Lecture in Singapore on 21 August 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

During the last three quarters of a century, Myanmar has undergone three major transitions: from colonial rule to independence in 1948, from parliamentary democracy to military dictatorship in 1962, and still in progress today since 1988, still incomplete, is the transition from dictatorship to democracy.

The first transition was a straight forward culmination of a hard and costly struggle: a clean-cut change from the status of colonial subject country to that of sovereign independent nation.

The second transition too was sharp and clearly placed in time: tanks on the streets of the capital one morning, a crisp declaration on the radio.

Our present transition is the most complex, the most challenging, of all. The very beginning was amorphous. There was nothing so definite as the lowering of one flag and the raising of another, no brief, staccato announcement, to mark the completion of one phase and the beginning of another, in the life of our country. Several incidents, each in itself seemingly, at the time, of minor importance, fused together to become the force that launched a nationwide uprising for democracy. The uprising was put down quickly but nevertheless, it opened the gates to the rocky, protean, transit path that we continue to tread today.

Democracy in 1988 meant for our people the opposite of all that they had associated with the Burmese Way to Socialism. A passion to slough off the oppressiveness of a one party system with undertones of military despotism seized the whole country. The people cried out for an end to declining standards, to drabness, to the erosion of individual freedom. In response, direct military rule was speedily instituted and individual freedom further curtailed, but political parties were allowed to sprout, although their activities were severely curtailed, and faltering steps taken towards an open market economy. From such an unpromising beginning, and after many obstacles and setbacks, including a General Election in 1990 that fanned a brief flickering of hope, we reached the landmark elections of 2015. The National League for Democracy managed to win a majority large enough for us to form a government, within the constraints of the Constitution adopted through a questionable referendum in 2008.

When I speak of our democratic transition, I mean a democratic way towards a democratic goal, following a path laid down in accordance with the wishes of the people and maintained with their consent and cooperation.

Our people yearn for peace and security, for an end to unrest and strife, for material and emotional security, for a chance to contemplate the future of their children with tranquility. It was from a desire to see these wishes fulfilled that they accepted the principles of non-violence and national reconciliation on which the NLD was founded in 1988 and, nearly three decades on, voted for the goals set by our party: rule of law, peace, development, amendments to the Constitution. The degree of progress of our transition has to be measured by the extent to which we are able, together with our people, to realize our aspirations.

The Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, which could also be seen as a roadmap for our transition, identifies five goals, supported by three pillars. Goal 1 is Peace, National Reconciliation, Security and Good Governance and Goal 2 is Economic Stability & Strengthened Macroeconomic Management. These rest on the pillar of Peace & Security. Goal 3 is Job Creation & Private Sector-led Growth, held up by the pillar of Prosperity & Partnership. The third pillar, People and Planet, supports Goal 4, Human Resources & Social Development for 21st Century Society and Goal 5, Natural Resources & the Environment for Prosperity of the Nation.

Goals 1 and 2 are interdependent and impossible to sustain without a solid pillar of peace and stability. Building this pillar we saw as the first task we had to address as we embarked on the path of transition. At the very commencement of our new administration on 30 March 2016, we took steps to implement our plans for taking forward the peace process that had been initiated by the previous government.

The Twenty-first Century Panglong Conference seeks to put an end to the armed strife that has ravaged Myanmar since its birth as an independent nation, and to construct a strong democratic federal union founded on a lasting unity created out of diversity. We had learnt from the experiences of other countries that the path of peace processes seldom run smooth and unimpeded. As ours was of unparalleled intricacy, involving more than the common number of players, we were prepared for difficulties and disappointments, setbacks and even breakdowns.

But we are determined to persevere because without peace, our transition could not blossom and bear fruit. There have been difficulties and disappointments as anticipated but incessant negotiations, endless patience, the goodwill of participants and the encouragement and help of our people and our friends have enabled us to keep moving forward. In each of the three Panglong meetings held over the last two years, we made valuable progress: in the First Union Peace Conference, a seven-step roadmap for peace and national reconciliation was achieved. In the Second Conference, 37 principles were adopted. Before the Third Conference, two more ethnic armed groups signed the ceasefire agreement and during the Conference itself, 14 more principles were adopted. Serious challenges remain and armed conflicts continue to break out between the Tatmadaw and the EAOs, as well as between the EAOs themselves. We are constantly alert to the challenges and we aim to resolve them through dialogue and negotiation, by persevering in the endeavor to build mutual trust and understanding.

A sound base for peace and stability has to be broad and comprehensive. Addressing destabilizing issues in Rakhine State was a fundamental part of building our Pillar 1. Within two months of taking on the responsibilities of government, we established the Central Committee for Rule of Law and Development in Rakhine and soon after, we approached Dr. Kofi Annan, former Secretary General of the United Nations, to head an Advisory Commission that would help us to find lasting solutions to the problems that were jeopardizing peace and progress in a region so bountifully blessed by nature.

Please allow me, at this point, to pay tribute to Dr. Kofi Annan. His qualities and achievements were myriad but here it is only fitting that I should focus on what he meant to us as we negotiated the path of democratic transition. He agreed to take on the responsibility of advising us on how we might resolve deep rooted problems in the Rakhine because his nature was cast in a generous, positive mould.

Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security Mr Teo Chee Hean delivers the opening speech at the the 43rd Singapore Lecture in Singapore. **PHOTO: MNA**

He wanted us to succeed, to reach our goals of peace, prosperity, security and progress for our country. Dr. Annan abided by his decision to help us, even after events in the Rakhine brought down severe criticism on Myanmar. His compassion, his integrity and his courage shone through his acts and the recommendations of his Commission reflected his wisdom and his wide experience of the challenges of our times. His approach was constructive and caring. Despite the many demands on his duties, he made time to speak to me on the telephone occasionally, to ask how he might help, to listen, to encourage. One of the last public events he organized was a workshop earlier this year on 'lessons learnt' in Rakhine. His life is a lesson we could learn to our profit. It exemplified the principles and values on which the United Nations was founded, the principles and values that allowed us to hope peace and prosperity might be possible for all in our world.

The recommendations of Dr. Kofi Annan's Commission, 88 in all, of which we have to date implemented 81, aim at the establishment of lasting peace and stability in Rakhine. But the challenges there are multi-faceted and require multi-tasking. Resettlement of displaced persons now in Bangladesh has to be effected through the implementation of the Agreement signed between Myanmar and Bangladesh last November.

The Government of Myanmar also signed with the UNDP and the UNHCR an MOU that aims at assisting speedy and efficient resettlement and rehabilitation. We have already mapped out potential sites for the resettlement of returnees. UN officials have been granted access to 23 villages in 13 village tracts, selected as part of a pilot assessment programme and an additional five villages have also been marked out for the resettlement of IDPs residing near the borderline.

Involved at various fronts and levels is the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine. It is an enterprise that brings together peoples and organizations from all parts of the country to work with the government to bring Rakhine into the orbit of our national plan for sustainable development.

The Advisory Board for the Implementation of the recommendations of Dr. Annan's Commission, chaired by Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, former Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, submitted its final report last week. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the members of the Board for a balanced and viable report.

On their recommendation, an Independent Commission of Enquiry, led by Ambassador Rosario Manalo, an eminent diplomat from ASEAN, has been established. The Commission met for the first time in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 August and will be commencing their work next week.

We share deep sympathy and concern for all displaced persons, especially women and children. There are around four million Myanmar migrant workers and displaced persons at present in Thailand. Our two countries have succeeded in working together to resolve the issue amicably, in the spirit of good neighbourliness. Today, the majority of our workers have been legally registered and both employers and employees have benefitted from the improved arrangements. The return of displaced persons to our country is also working smoothly as a result of close consultation and cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand.

Similarly, we hope to work with Bangladesh to effect the voluntary, safe and dignified return of displaced persons from northern Rakhine. We have reached out to Bangladesh by sending Ministerial delegations to Dhaka and last week, the Bangladeshi Foreign Minister was invited to Myanmar to see at first hand preparations we have made for the resettlement of returnees. During his visit, both sides agreed, inter alia, to deliver on commitments made, to speed up implementation of bilateral agreements on repatriation, and to set up a hotline between the two countries at the ministerial level.

We also recognise the crucial role of the United Nations in addressing an issue of this nature. We facilitated the visits of the Permanent Representatives of the UN Security Council members together with representatives of neighbouring countries and the ASEAN Chair, Singapore.

We welcome the appointment of Ambassador Christine Burgener as Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General. She has already opened her Office in Nay Pyi Taw. We believe that our engagement with Ambassador Burgener will be positive and fruitful.

The danger of terrorist activities, which was the initial cause of events leading to the humanitarian crisis in Rakhine, remains real and present today. Unless this security challenge is addressed, the risk of inter-communal violence will remain.

SEE PAGE-6

Audience question to State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi during the 43rd Singapore Lecture in Singapore on 21 August 2018. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Democratic Transition in Myanmar: Challenges and the Way Forward

FROM PAGE-5

It is a threat that could have grave consequences not just for Myanmar but also for other countries in our region and beyond. Terrorism should not be condoned in any form for any reason.

We thank all our friends near and far who are helping us in different ways to resolve the challenges in Rakhine and thus helping our nascent transition to succeed. At this critical time, members of ASEAN and other friends can play a role by helping Myanmar in the implementation of Dr. Annan's recommendations in such areas as strengthening rule of law and strengthening educational and health infrastructures to help promote social harmony and peaceful coexistence.

We who are living through the transition in Myanmar view it differently from those who observe it from the outside and who will remain untouched by its outcome.

For us, it is the broad, all-encompassing map of the future of our country as well as the small details of our everyday life. Our approach has to be holistic and inclusive. We necessarily have to prioritize, but we cannot afford to neglect even low priority issues. The outside world can choose the issues on which they wish to focus and, after Rakhine, the one that is attracting most interest today is foreign direct investment.

We place high importance on investment but within the context of our wider needs. We want Myanmar to be business friendly, an environment where investors can be comfortable and secure and where their interests can merge harmoniously with our development aims. Our new investment and company laws have been carefully crafted to promote best business practices as well as good governance. Procedures have been streamlined to remove bottlenecks and accelerate the implementation process. The new chair of the Myanmar Investment Commission is here with us today and he is ready to assure those who are interested that he is willing and able to facilitate business ventures. I shall not usurp his prerogatives. However, there are certain things he would like me to tell you.

ASEAN economic integration, coupled with innovation, free trade, people to people contacts and regional connectivity, presents us with immense opportunities. Myanmar's recent economic surge is attributable to trade and investment from ASEAN and other East Asian economies.

Myanmar and Singapore, strategically located at the crossroads of this economically vibrant region, have a pivotal role to play in ensuring the continued economic growth and prosperity of ASEAN countries. We can combine our comparative advantages to our mutual benefit and to the benefit of the region.

Myanmar is the largest country on mainland Southeast Asia and is endowed with both arable land and natural resources, from forest products and minerals to natural gas. It also has a sizeable population and a youthful work force.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi answers questions from audience during the 43rd Singapore Lecture in Singapore on 21 August.
PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Singapore on the other hand, is one of the world's most reputable financial and trading centres as well as a transportation hub. It is well-equipped with world-class infrastructure that includes sea and air links and telecommunications. It is not only located in the heart of one of the fastest growing regions in the world, it has a skilled workforce and technical know-how that makes it a leading investment partner in the region.

Foreign investment in Myanmar reached US$ 8 billion last year and more than half of it came from Singapore. The future remains bright as Myanmar and Singapore work to promote trade through a bilateral investment treaty.

> "Our ASEAN friends will be with us as we continue on our journey."

The investment that is paramount for our transition is investment in our human resources. It is also fundamental to our sustainable development plan. One economist observed that all of Myanmar's critical economic indicators at this moment are either favourable, or stable, or moving in the right direction. But which is the right direction? The right direction, for us, is the one that will lead to an improvement in the quality of life for our people.

Among the fundamental infrastructure requirements identified by our new administration in 2016 were roads and electrification, not only because these are among the basic requirements of potential investors but because they are also essential to our investment in human resources. Better roads mean better access to health and education facilities, and lighting provides new opportunities for our people to achieve their potential.

Over the last two years, nearly 3,000 miles of roads have been constructed or upgraded, with priority given to least developed regions such as Chin and Rakhine, and government spending on health and education has increased by 1.2 and 2 percent respectively. Some of the steps we have taken which may not seem significant to observers make a great difference to the lives of our people. For example, the number of midwives appointed by the Health Ministry has increased from two digits to four. In our villages the services of midwives are not limited to childbirth, they provide basic health care. By producing more midwives, and by using modern technology to raise their capacity, we achieve a significant improvement in the health of our rural population. And our rural population makes up 70 per cent of our total population.

On the education front, the recently published report of the Myanmar Living Conditions Survey 2017, the first of its kind, undertaken by the Ministry of Planning and Finance in conjunction with the UNDP and other international agencies, found that literacy has risen across generations, gender gaps in literacy have closed at the national level (the rise in average literacy was predominantly driven by women) and school enrollment rates have been rising steadily. The survey covers population and demographics, energy and electricity, assets and housing materials, water and sanitation, technology (mobile phone, computer and internet), education and labour. In its own words "the report documents some stark overtime changes in lighting, education, goods ownership and technology usage – but … progress still needs to be made in some parts of the country where outcomes are lagging."

The Myanmar Living Conditions Report deals with measurables. There are also unmeasureables, which are not just indicators of present conditions but also of future prospects. As the time has almost come for me to conclude the lecture, I will just mention one of the most important indicators: the potential of our young people.

Over recent weeks I have had the opportunity to meet informally with schoolchildren, ranging from primary to upper secondary school level. Physically, they were not as well grown as they should have been, reflecting the problem of malnutrition, an issue that the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Welfare are addressing as a priority. But how delightful they were! Bright, polite but not shy, eager to show off what they knew but with an awareness that there was still much they did not know. Willing to learn, immensely teachable. What glittering prizes might such children not win for our country? Let us take a look: The First Global Challenge Robotic Competition held in Washington DC in July 2017. 163 entrants from 157 countries competed and the team of engineering students from Myanmar came out sixth, first among the Asian countries. It was a triumph of innovation and teamwork. It was an indicator of our potential, of how we shall find the resources to overcome the challenges of our transition.

The greatest strength of a democratic transition, the involvement of the people, is also its greatest challenge. To weld together the will and purpose of millions into a whole that allows the wonderful diversity of our country to shine through is a formidable undertaking. I believe that our people have the capacity to meet this challenge and to carry the transition to a successful conclusion which will be the starting point of a new, better era for our nation. And I believe that our ASEAN friends will be with us as we continue on our journey.

We have mentioned among the challenges that we face, I've mentioned earlier, amendments to the constitution was one of the goals of our government and this is something we need to mention here because the completion of a democratic transition must necessarily involve the completion of a truly democratic constitution. This we have not achieved but we aim to achieve it through negotiations and through evolution.

Thank you.

Signing Memorandum Cooperation in environment field and joint workshop on waste management

MINISTRY of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and Japan's Ministry of Environment signed the of Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in environment field and a workshop on waste management on 20 August in Park Royal Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the event, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win and Japan's Environment State Minister H.E. Tadahiko Ito delivered speeches and signed the MoC.

Next, a bilateral meeting of senior officials led by the two ministers on cooperation in environment field was conducted followed by a joint workshop on waste management.

In the bilateral meeting matters relating to waste management sector, work process on assessing environmental impact, reducing carbon emission and joint crediting mechanism, work on plastic pollution in ocean to be undertaken under the ASEAN-Japan cooperation program, controlling air pollution, controlling water quality, climate change, protecting and maintaining the Ozone layer, development of nature based tourism, maintaining bio-diversity, waste management, providing environmental information and knowledge to the public and cooperation in assessing effect on the environment were discussed.

In the workshop, works conducted on policy in one of Japan's waste management system the recycle work and good practice in 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) were discussed.—MNA

Union Minister U Ohn Win and Japan's Environment State Minister Mr.Tadahiko Ito sign the Memorandum of Cooperation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Electricity supply system at Hluttaw buildings to be maintained

Speaker U T Khun Myat and Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than chair the work coordination meeting on maintaining the electric supply system at Hluttaw buildings. **PHOTO: MNA**

The central committee on holding Hluttaw meetings and working committees concerned held their 2nd work coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to maintain the electric supply system at the parliamentary buildings.

The meeting was attended by Patrons of the Central Committee on holding Hluttaw meetings Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat and Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than, and Vice Chairman of the central committee Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Thar Aung, Deputy Minister for Electric and Energy Dr. Tun Naing, officials of the Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Transport and Communications and departmental officials.

The meeting was opened with address by the patrons of the central committee.

At the meeting, Deputy Minister Dr. Tun Naing discussed findings from the check to the power supply system and made suggestions.

Officials of the work committees concerned took part in the discussion and the meeting ended with concluding remarks by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Speaker.——Myanmar News Agency

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session holds eleventh-day meeting

FROM PAGE 2

Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo also replied to a question raised by Dr. San Shwe Win of Yekyi constituency about plans to provide convenient and cheap internet access for e-learning, in order to obtain knowledge, technology and reference for research works. In his reply made after consulting with Ministry of Education, the Deputy Minister said that under the Ministry of Education there are 123 universities and colleges with internet access while 10 still do not have it. There were 55 schools with e-library, 53 that do not have it and 25 under the process of having an e-library. Depending upon the number of students, government funds are requested and depending upon funds made available, internet access is being provided, said the Deputy Minister.

Myanma Posts and Telecommunications is conducting Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) together with relevant departments and in education sector, it is providing internet data access through fiber, ADSL and mobile system. Directorate of Telecommunications is also conducting CSRs by urging and pressing the relevant companies to provide internet access cheaply said the Deputy Minister.

Questions raised by U Ohn Lwin of Nyaungdon constituency, U Sai Kyaw Moe of Mongpan constituency and U Aung Hlaing Win of Mingaladon constituency were also answered by Deputy Ministers U Hla Kyaw and U Kyaw Myo.

Tabling and report read on 2018 Gambling Bill

After the Q&A session, Pyithu Hluttaw Public Affairs Management Committee tabled the 2018 Gambling Bill and Bill Committee member U Pa Htan read and explained a report on it. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat then announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to submit an amendment motion to enroll their names.

Discussing and approving a motion to increase Myanmar fruit production

A motion tabled by U Sai Ngaung Hsai Hein of Maukmai constituency to implement in states and regions projects that support and increase Myanmar fruit production was then discussed by U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Papun constituency, U Thein Tun of Kyaunggon constituency, U Aung Kyi Thein of Chaungzon constituency, U Khin Maung Myint of Yaksawk constituency, U Nan Mon Htin of Machanbaw constituency, U Kham Khant Htan of Tongzang constituency, U Sai Tun Sein of Mongpyin constituency, U Yan Lin of Kyaiklat constituency and Daw Wint War Tun of Shadaw constituency.

In his discussion in support of the motion, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said the ministry's plantations and private plantations are producing and distributing seeds and saplings and permission to import seeds and species are being granted after inspection under the seed law. Information and education on good agricultural practice (GAP) system is being provided continuously, added the Deputy Minister.

Furthermore, in the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's eighth regular session, a motion by U Hla San of Amyotha Hluttaw representative urging the union government to implement the GAP system was approved and the department had conducted trainings and courses (on GAP) and questions on agricultural matters are being answered in a timely manner at call center 067-410139 and 01-2399555.

Emergency rehabilitation program project jointly conducted with World Bank mainly includes providing seeds and saplings to fruit farms, establishing model sapling farms and providing cold storages in Bago and Sagaing regions, said the Deputy Minister in his discussion in support of the motion.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then announced the Hluttaw approving the motion after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw.

The twelfth-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session is scheduled for 23 August.
— Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

22 AUGUST 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Flood action plan welcome

AS a result of global warming, unusually heavy downpours hit Myanmar alarming that the country will see flooding every year. Still, climate change is expected to increase the incidence of extreme weather, including flooding. So there is no time like the present to prepare for what awaits.

All the State can do is take steps to minimise urban and rural damage by implementing short-term and long term plans.

Torrential rains and high-tide caused flooding in Bago Region, Mon State, Magway Region and Sagaing Region recently leaving traffic chaos.

The National Level Water Management Committee reviewed the recent flood situations at its meeting on 20 August in Nay Pyi Taw and suggested that some rivers and creeks in Kawlin, Bago, Bilin and Hpa-an should be dredged and conserved.

For example, Daungmyu Creek on the Yangon-Mandalay Railroad in Kawlin township; the Bago River which mainly causes traffic chaos on the Yangon-Mandalay Railroad and motor road in Bago; and the Bilin River which causes serious flooding on the Yangon-Mawlamyine Railroad and motor road submerging rice fields.

> The incumbent Government carried out maintenance of rivers at 498 places to prevent erosion and proper flowing of the rivers nationwide last year.

The three areas would be given priorities for overcoming traffic chaos and for reducing floods in the future, according to the National Level Water Management Committee.

The incumbent Government carried out maintenance of rivers at 498 places to prevent erosion and proper flowing of the rivers nationwide last year.

To reduce the risk of flooding in the prioritized areas, the Union Government decided to draw short-term and long-term plans for three years and the ministries concerned will work together with region and state governments to form committees and to fight the disaster with collective efforts.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation identified 17 short-term plans and seven long-term plans to reduce the risk of flooding in the future.

The National Level Water Management Committee's short-term and long term plans stand to increase the regional governments' and people's ability to cope with future flooding, both in terms of prevention of damage and responding to disasters that do occur.

To make the flood risk areas stronger and more resilient, we have to rethink, re-imagine and rebuild with the future in mind. We have to be better prepared for torrential rains and overflowing of river waters in the years to come.

In the spirit of cooperation between the authorities and the people, we believe that the recent flood-hit areas will come back stronger, safer and more resilient than ever.

Conservation efforts to save wild elephants in Myanmar

By Win Naing Thaw

World Elephant Day is an international annual event held on August 12, dedicated to the preservation and protection of the world's elephants. Everyone, including industry players, has a role in protecting wildlife and their habitat. The goal of the World Elephant Day is to create awareness of the urgent plight of endangered elephants, and to share knowledge as well as positive solutions for the better care and management of captive and wild elephants. The Asian or Asiatic elephant (Elephas maximus) has been widely distributed in Myanmar for millions of years, and fossilized ancient elephant bones have been found in the central and upper parts of Myanmar.

Intelligent animal

Myanmar is a globally-recognized biodiversity hotspot, because it supports a very high number of species, many of which are unique to the region and of global importance. Myanmar's wildlife includes a mix of species from north, south and Southeast Asia, which find shelter in a wide range of habitats throughout the country. The country abounds in a wide range of biodiversity of ecosystem and forests.

Elephants are the largest mammals, belonging to the family Elephantidae. They are divided into two kinds: the African elephant and the Asian elephant. They also have the largest brain among all the land animals. Also, they are regarded as one of the intelligent animals and humankind's best friends because of their social and intelligent behaviour. They are also known for showing emotions like joy and sorrow, and they have several distinctive features. The proboscis greatly assists them in breathing, lifting water and grasping objects. Elephants are known to have unforgettable memories. The African elephants are known for their larger ears while Asian elephants for smaller ears and convex or level backs.

Asian and African elephants

There are many different species of elephants in the world, and among them the most usual ones that we can find at present are the African Elephant (Loxodonta African) and the Asian Elephant (Elephas maximus). The remaining types of elephants are facing negative effects of drastic depletion of both females and males around the world. It's high time for authorities concerned to conserve the wild elephant species as a top priority. Once common throughout Africa and Asia, elephant numbers have been severely depleted, largely due to the poaching and massive ivory trade. While some populations are now stable and growing, poaching, conflicts and habitat destructions continue to threaten the species.

African elephants are one of the largest land mammals on earth. They are distinguished by their massive body, large ears and a long trunk, for which they have many uses, ranging from using it as a hand to pick up objects, as a horn to trumpet warnings, as an arm raised in greeting or as a hose for drinking water or bathing.

Asian elephants differ in several ways from their African relatives. They are much smaller in size and their ears are straight at the bottom, unlike the large fan-shape ears of the African species. Only some Asian male elephants have tusks, although all African elephants, including females, have them. Elephants are either left or right-tusked and the one they use more is usually smaller because of wear and tear. Asian elephants have four toes on the hind foot and five on the forefoot, while the African elephants have three on the hind foot and five on the forefoot.

As for these two species of elephants, they are in need of extensive land to survive and as they consume hundreds of pounds of plant matter in a single day, both the species require extensive amounts of food, water and space. As a result, these large mammals place great demands on the environment and often come into conflict with people in competition for resources.

War elephants and white elephants

Since the ancient times of the Myanmar kings, elephants have been domesticated and they played an important part in battles. War elephants had been thoroughly trained and guided by soldiers for combat. Their main use was to charge the enemies, breaking their ranks and instilling terror.

A white elephant is very rare and their skin is normally a soft reddish-brown, turning into a light pink when wet. They have fair eyelashes and toenails. According to tradition, white elephants are nominally white and regarded as symbols of power and good fortune in Myanmar. The battle for the elephant's survival is vital for the future of the species in Myanmar.

Logging elephants

Myanmar has been using elephants on a large scale in the timber industry, an activity that is a crucial part of the country's economy. Logging is mostly carried out with the help of elephants in the country. The use of elephants allows a policy of selective logging, to extract valuable timber that can be fulfilled using elephant labour. The main work of the elephants is to drag felled timber from the lumbering area to roads or rivers from where it can be transported out of the jungle. Logging work is exceptionally hard, but strict regulations are designed to maintain the health of the elephants. There are many elephant experts who can conduct the elephant management, veterinary care and mahout skills. Myanmar used to possess approximately some 10,000 elephants in former times. The current population is estimated to be around 2000, according to experts. Elephants are being killed recklessly for their ivory, and their skins have been stripped from their bodies.

According to a statement from the Department of Forestry, 35 wild elephants were poached in 2015, 26 in 2016, and 59 in 2017. The Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan (MECAP) has been laid out to focus on elephant conservation strategies in the long run, with the aim of securing viable and ecologically functional elephant populations in Myanmar.

The ministry has launched an action plan, aiming to support the long-term survival of Myanmar's elephants, in collaboration with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), World Wide Fund (WWF) for Nature and Friends of Wildlife, governmental departments, agencies, international and local organizations. Moreover, the action plan is focused on the protection of the country's wild elephants and their habitat, mitigation of human and elephant conflict, combating illegal trade in elephants and their body parts, and management of captive elephants and captive-wild elephant interactions.

Translated by
Win Ko Ko Aung

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Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 14:00 hrs MST on 21-8-2018)

Flood condition of Sittoung River

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River has exceeded by about (2½) feet at Madauk above its danger level. It may fall about (½) foot during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition of Thanlwin River

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

Advisory

IIt is especially advised that people who have settled near the river banks and low lying area in Hpa-an Township, to avert due to the rise of water level and Madauk, to take precautionary measures.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 21 August, 2018)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 22 AUGUST 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing and Magway regions and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Taninthayi regions and Shan State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Rakhine states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5- 8) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 AUGUST 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 AUGUST 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22 AUGUST 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release No. 11/2018
9th Waxing of Wagaung, 1380 ME
(20 August 2018)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, 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 drug-related offenses up to 18 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 illegal drug sales in Nanmhaw Village, Mohnyin Twp, Kachin State.	On 12-8-2018, local police staked out a mining quarry in Nanmhaw Village, Hpakant Twp, and arrested Mar Yaw, 44, from Ward 3, Sapot Village, after discovering "88/1" psychotropic tablets in her possession. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Hpakhnt) MaYa (Pa) 135/2018 under Section 19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of Maung Pein selling illegal drugs in Shwe Pyi Myit Village, located on the bank opposite Sezin Village, Hpakant Twp, Kachin State.	On 12-8-2018, police performing undercover investigation in Ward 5, Sezin Village, Hpakant Twp, discovered Maung Pein (a) Myint Aung, 35, with heroin in his pants pocket. He has been arrested and a case opened with NaMaSa (Sezin) MaYa(Pa) 12/2018 under Section 16-C/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of groups of people selling illegal drugs daily on the hilltop in Group 10, Ward 4, Kutkai Twp, Shan State (North).	Police have opened 17 cases and arrested 17 men and one woman together with heroin and psychotropic tablets in the past three weeks. On 14-8-2018, investigations into related cases led to a stake out in Ward 4 of Kutkai Twp. Police arrested Jone Zel (male), 21, after discovering "88/1" psychotropic tablets in his bag as he walked by. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Kutkai) MaYa(Pa) 91/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of Ko Aung Than selling illegal drugs near Salin Monastery on Kyaittan Street, Kyimyindine Twp, Yangon Region.	On 17-8-2018, local police entered the house of Aung Than, 55, located behind the Waynayya Tukha Yaychansin, in front of Salin monastery on Kyaittan Street, Magyidan North Ward, Kyimyindine Twp, and arrested him and Aung Kyaw Kyaw, 38, after discovering heroin in their possession. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Kyimyindine) MaYa(Pa) 18/2018 under Section 16-C/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of Ko Pu selling illegal drugs from his home in room 6, building no. 315, corner of Maydarwi Street and Danyawadi Street, Ward 19, Hlinethaya Twp, Yangon Region.	On 15-8-2018, local police searched the house of Ko Pu (a) Sein Kalar, 52, in room 6, building no. 315, corner of Maydarwi Street and Danyawadi Street, Ward 19, Hlinethaya Twp, and arrested him together with WY psychotropic tablets in his possession. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Hlinethaya) MaYa(Pa) 51/2018 under Section 16-C/20-A/22-B/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of Myo Min Tun (a) Poe Htaung in Aung Chantar Ward, YeU Twp, Sagaing Region, and Thiha Zaw from the tractor workshop located opposite the hospital in Nyaungpingyisu Village, selling illegal drugs and operating a counterfeit currency business.	On 14-8-2018, local police entered the house/motorcycle workshop of Poe Htaung (a) Myo Min Tun, 33, in Aung Chantar Ward, YeU Twp, and arrested him, Aung Naing (a) Aung Naing Htay, 39, and Zaw Ye Aung, 24, after discovering "88/1" psychotropic tablets, heroin and fifty fake Ks10,000 notes in their possession. Police also discovered the drugs were obtained from Thiha Zaw, 27, in Nyaungpingyisu Village, KhinU Twp, but a search of his house did not reveal any items related to illegal drugs. The four suspects have been arrested and a case opened with MaMaSa (Yay-U) MaYa(Pa) 5/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. A case has also been opened against Poe Htaung, for possession counterfeit money, with MaSaSa (YeU) (Pa) 198/2018 under Section 105/106 of the Central Bank of Myanmar Law.
7	Information received of illegal drugs sold in a gold mine owned by Pantaung Co. in Wahphyutaung Village-tract, Yamethin Twp, Mandalay Region.	On 10-8-2018, local police investigating the Pantaung Co. gold mine in Yamethin Twp inspected the hut of Daw Nyo, 48, on the upper stalls of the gold mine, and arrested her and Rakhine (a) Maung Maung (a) Maung Oo San, 37, together with "88/1" psychotropic tablets. Police discovered the drugs were bought from Ma Htwe Nyo in Warphyutaung Lower Village. A case has been opened against all three suspects with MaMaSa (Yamethin) MaYa(Pa) 12/2018 under Section 16-C/20-A/21/22-B of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. On 12-8-2018, police entered the house of Ma Htwe Nyo, 35, in Warphyutaung Lower Village in Yamethin Twp and arrested her together with "88/1" psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Yamethin) MaYa(Pa) 13/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8	Information received of Daw Kyi Htay selling illegal drugs from her home located in front of the EPC grounds in Area 4, Wunzin Ward, Meiktila Twp, Mandalay Region.	On 17-8-2018, local police entered the house of Daw Kyi Htay, 57, in front of the EPC grounds in Area 4, Wunzin Ward, Meiktila Twp, and arrested her together with "88/1" psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (2) (Meiktila) MaYa(Pa) 18/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
9	Information received of Ko Win Naing selling illegal drugs and using them from his house in No. (11), Malarmyaing Street 6, Hlinethaya Twp, Yangon Region.	On 17-8-2018, local police entered the house of Win Naing (a) Min Win Naing, 48, in No. (11), Malarmyaing Street 6, Hlinethaya Twp, and arrested him together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Hlaing) (Meiktila) MaYa(Pa) 17/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

10	Information received of Ko Tun Win selling illegal drugs near the fire station in Zawgyi Ward, Yaksawk Twp, Shan State (South).	On 13-8-2018, local police searched the house of Tun Win (a) Kyaw Lwin Htoo, 37, in Zawgyi Ward, Yaksawk Twp, and a hut beside the corn field adjacent to his house. Police arrested Tun Win, Kun Zaw, 20, from Ngapyawganaing Village, Yaw Ko (a) Yaw Ko Ko Aung, 24, from Myo-U Ward, Lin Lin (a) Nga Lin, 31, from Ngapyawganaing Village, and Ma Aye Cho, 19, from Hue Village, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against all five suspects with MaMaSa (Yaksawk) MaYa(Pa) 37/2018 under Section 19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
11	Information received of illegal drug use by Ma Aye living in the house of the deceased Ko Aye Ko and his wife Daw Tin Gyi, in Yaylekyun Ward, Mohnyin Twp, Kachin State.	On 11-8-2018, police entered the house of the deceased Ko Aye Ko and his wife Daw Tin Gyi, in No. 59/C in Yaylekyun Ward, Mohnyin Twp, and arrested Ma Aye (a) Ma Aye Aye Myint, 45, and her son Thiha Naing (a) Li Phyin, 25, together with heroin. A case has been opened against all five suspects with MaMaSa (Mohnyin) MaYa(Pa) 132/2018 under Section 16-C/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
12	Information received of Ma Thuzar selling illegal drugs by night at 'Aung Gabar' betel nut vendor on the side of Pyidaungsu Road, Nantpote Village, Nantpote Village-tract, Mohnyin Twp, Kachin State.	On 11-8-2018, local police entered the house/ 'Aung Gabar' betel nut vendor of Ma Thuzar, 40, on the side of Pyidaungsu Road, Nantpote Village, Mohnyin Twp, and arrested her together with "88/1" psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Mohnyin) MaYa(Pa) 133/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
13	Information received of Ko Tar Tee selling illegal drugs from his house in the second ring of houses behind 'Aungtapyay' tea shop, Lewe Twp, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.	On 18-8-2018, entered the house of Ko Tar Tee (a) Naing Win Thu, 32, in the second ring of houses behind 'Aungtapyay' tea shop in Ward 6, Lewe Twp, and arrested him together with "88/1" psychotropic tablets and a gas gun. Police discovered the drugs were bought from Soe Nge, 33, in Myawady Ward, Tatkon Twp, and Aung Soe, 37, from Bogone Village, Yamethin Twp. Police arrested the two drug dealers and opened a case against all three suspects with MaMaSa (Lewe) MaYa(Pa) 4/2018 under Section 16-C/20-A/21/22-B of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far 153 cases have been opened as of 18-8-2018, and 195 men and 41 women have been arrested with seizures of 1,846.44 g of heroin, 0.55 g of ICE, 230 g of black opium, 31,381 g of raw opium, 17.50 g of low-quality opium, 27.50 g of opium residue, 1,502 g of powder opium, 3,266 g of speciosa, 83,296 stimulant tablets, 1,766.08 g of marijuana, 0.10 liters of opium tincture, 213.40 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, and a gas gun. 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.
In Shan State, a man was arrested in Lawar Village in Mabein Twp together with 3,561 g of heroin and 58,4974 psychotropic tablets; 2,200 g of heroin and 824,000 psychotropic tablets were seizing near Kyauklongyi Village; 1,210 g of heroin, 318,000 psychotropic tablets and 16,000 psychotropic tablets destroyed by moisture were seized in Layinkwin Road in Sipain Village-tract.
In Maungtaw Twp in Rakhine State, four arrests were made of one man and three women and a seizure of 2,766,412 psychotropic tablets and 160 g of marijuana; eight arrests involving firearms were made of fifteen men and one woman and a seizure of 7,622 psychotropic tablets, 10 different firearms, 171 different bullets, 3 hand grenades, 80 sinkers, 550 g of gunpowder, 1 fuse line and 1 detonator.
Two arrests were made in Yangon International Airport resulting in the arrest of two men and two women and a seizure of 28,784 psychotropic tablets.
There have been 357 cases being opened between 12-8-2018 and 18-8-2018, and 428 men and 81 women have been arrested. Seizures of 12,829.71 g of heroin, 322.05 g of ICE, 6,972.59 g of raw opium, 12 g of low-quality opium, 27,635.05 g of powder opium, 14,080.50 g of speciosa, 5,389,242 stimulant tablets, 8,324.18 g of marijuana, 1 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.9 g of opium blocks, 0.05 liter of opium tincture, 3 buprenorphine tablets, 9,600 liters of hydrochloric acid, 0.006 liters of diazepine, 1 g of ketamine, 3,050 kilos of sodium cyanide, 10 different firearms, 170 different bullets, 3 hand grenades, 1 detonator, 80 sinkers, 550 g of gunpowder, and 1 fuse line.

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 via following contact numbers:

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

Dawei SEZ Management Committee meeting 3/2018 held in Nay Pyi Taw

DAWEI Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Management Committee held the meeting 3/2018 at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy meeting hall yesterday morning.

Dawei SEZ Management Committee (DSEZ MC) Chairman Dr. Tun Naing said guidelines set in DSEZ MC meeting 1/2018 held on 2 August will be discussed and approved in this meeting and Management Committee group will also discuss and approve the six notes submitted.

Meeting attendees then discussed status of works conducted by SEZ Management Committee office, studies, visits and meetings made to/in DSEZ, status of discussion with Italian-Thai Company on preparing initial project land lease agreement, status of hiring legal advisors and payment of legal advice service fee and acquisition of annual fee. Next, financial statement of DSEZ MC Co. Ltd. was read and approved and meeting attendees discussed ways and means to quickly implement initial projects.

Furthermore, status and development of acquiring loan to construct a 2-lane DSEZ-Htiki on the border of Thailand and status of assistance and support provided by DSEZ MC was also discussed. Present at the meeting were DSEZ MC Chairman Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing, Vice Chairman (1) Taninthayi Region minister for planning and finance U Phyo Win Tun, Vice Chairman (2) Dr. Myint San, Secretary Dr. Tin Htoo Naing and members and directors from Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) Myanmar.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Dawei SEZ Management Committee Chairman Dr. Tun Naing attends the meeting of Dawei Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Management Committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR
Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT
Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORS
Zaw Min,
zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com
Win Ko Ko Aung,
kowink2aung@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR
Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

LOCAL NEWS EDITORS
Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com

TRANSLATORS
Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun

REPORTER
May Thet Hnin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
mayreporter.mm@gmail.com

PHOTOGRAPHER
Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAM
Tun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,
Nyi Zaw Moe, Hnin Pwint,
Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin

EDITORIAL SECTION
(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114

ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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gnlmdaily@gmail.com
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Australian PM urges unity after surviving leadership challenge

SYDNEY (Australia) — Embattled Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull pleaded for unity on Tuesday after narrowly surviving a leadership challenge as discontent with his rule boiled over less than a year before national elections.

Turnbull, considered a moderate, declared his position vacant at a Liberal party meeting to force the issue after rampant speculation that the more hardline Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton wanted his job, with the government trailing the Labor opposition in opinion polls.

The disunity came to a head on Monday when Turnbull was forced to shelve plans to embed carbon emissions targets in law after a revolt by fellow Liberal politicians.

Turnbull won the ballot 48-35, but the episode seriously undermined his position.

"It is really important that we put these differences behind us and get on with our job of looking after the 25 million Australians who have put us here," he said afterwards.

"We know that disunity undermines the ability of any government to get its job done, and unity is absolutely critical."

There was also an election for deputy leader. The incumbent, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, was the only one who threw her hat in the ring and she held onto the role. Dutton, a former police officer who ran a powerful department that oversees the country's domestic spy service, border force and national police, quit the cabinet and moved to the backbench.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. **PHOTO: AFP**

Treasurer Scott Morrison will assume his job until a replacement is appointed.

John Hewson, a former leader of the Liberal party who is now with the Australian National University's school of public policy, said Turnbull was wounded and another challenge was likely within weeks.

"This was a trial run and I expect them (Dutton and supporters) to do it again in September," he told AFP, adding that it was all about "revenge and ego".

He pinpointed former prime minister Tony Abbott, who Turnbull ousted in a 2015 party room coup, as a key player behind the move.

"Abbott wants to get even and Turnbull is now in the tightest of positions. He must stand up for his key polices in the national interest and get out there and argue the case."

Vocal critic

Dutton refused to rule out another tilt at the top job, saying he made his move in the belief that he had the best chance of steering the party to an election victory.

"What is my next step, what is my job from here? My job is to make sure I can prosecute the sort of messages I spoke about and that is the only thing I am focussed on," he said.

It is the latest chapter in a turbulent period for Australian politics. Labor Prime Minister Kevin Rudd was ousted by his deputy Julia Gillard in 2010. He later returned the favour and stormed back to power in 2013 shortly before losing the election to Abbott's Liberal/National coalition. Abbott was then unseated by Turnbull and is now a vocal backbencher and critic of his successor. Abbott was in charge when Canberra agreed to cut emissions by 26 per cent by 2030 as part of the so-called Paris Agreement.

But he has since railed against the commitment he made. He argued it should not be enshrined in law as part of the government's new energy policy, known as the National Energy Guarantee, with consumers facing soaring electricity prices.

Several right-wingers allied to Abbott had threatened to vote with the opposition to block the NEG, and with the government only having a wafer-thin parliamentary majority, it was doomed in its current form. Turnbull caved in, triggering the leadership ballot.

Disquiet with Turnbull had been building for some time, with the government trailing Labour in 38 consecutive opinion polls. The latest on Monday showed it lagging even further behind — 45 to 55 per cent on a two-party basis — with national elections due by the middle of next year.— AFP ■

Japanese firms in Thailand eye wage hikes thanks to economic recovery

BANGKOK — Japanese firms operating in Thailand intend to carry out wage hikes this year, thanks to a brighter economic outlook in the Southeast Asian country.

According to a survey by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Bangkok, member manufacturers and non-manufacturers plan to raise wages by 4.8 per cent and 4.9 per cent on a median figure basis, up 0.2 and 0.3 percentage points from the previous year, respectively.

Japanese subsidiaries and affiliates in Thailand's manufacturing sector will implement higher salary increases for two years in a row, while those in the non-manufacturing sector, including representative offices, will do so for the first time in three years, the survey found.

Bangkok city night view with the Maha Nakhon skyscraper (c). **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Japanese firms in Thailand as a whole are raising wages every year, although average monthly salaries in the country have not grown since the onset of military government in 2014, said Kazuma Takago, first secretary at the Japanese Embassy in Bangkok.

The survey results are based on data collected from 568 companies among the chamber membership in April. — Kyodo News ■

Flushed contact lenses are big source of microplastic pollution

WASHINGTON — Contact lenses that are flushed down the toilet or dropped in sink drains contribute vastly to microplastic pollution in the oceans, researchers warned on Monday.

The amount of plastic waste created by lenses and their packaging in the United States alone is equal to 400 million toothbrushes each year, said researchers at Arizona State University who described their findings at the National Meeting and Exposition of the American Chemical Society in Boston.

"These are significant pollutants," researcher Rolf Halden of ASU's Biodesign Institute's Center for Environmental Health Engineering told reporters.

"There are billions of lenses ending up in US wastewater every year. They contribute a load of at least 20,000 kilograms (44,000 pounds) per year of contact lenses."

Halden, who has worn contacts most of his adult life and began the research after wondering what happened to all those discarded plastic lenses, calculated that packaging adds about 29 million pounds (13 million kilograms) of polypropylene to the waste from contacts.

Roughly 45 million people in the United States alone wear contact lenses, amounting to at least 13 billion lenses worn each year.

A survey of US contact lens wearers "found that 15 to 20 per cent of contact wearers are flushing the lenses down the sink or toilet," said researcher Charlie Rolsky, a PhD student at ASU.

And what happens to those lenses?

Researchers tracked them to waste water treatment plants, where they discovered the lenses fall apart but do not degrade.

The plastic particles either flow out into the ocean, or become part of sewage sludge, which is often applied to land as fertilizer. Runoff then brings these contaminants back to the oceans.

Tiny fish and plankton can mistake microplastics for food.

These indigestible plastics then make their way up the food chain, and into the human food supply.

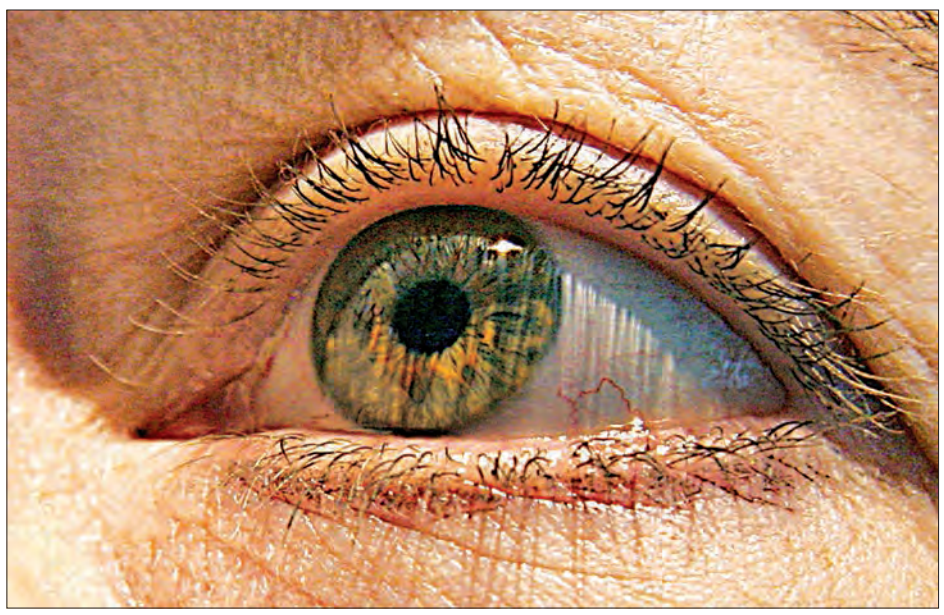
Researchers said they hope their study will sound a warning to manufacturers of contact lenses, and encourage users to dispose of them properly with other solid waste.

Halden said many people do not realize that flushing contact lenses is dangerous to the environment.

The scientific team found only one contact lens manufacturer whose packaging advised people how to dispose of them properly.

"Don't put those lenses into wastewater. Put them into solid waste or recycle them," Halden said.—AFP ■

A woman tries on the contact lenses before buying at a shopping complex in Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur on 18 October, 2003. **PHOTO: AFP**



The amount of plastic waste created by lenses and their packaging in the United States alone is equal to 400 million toothbrushes each year. **PHOTO: AFP**

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (012N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (012N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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A NOTE OF THANK YOU

We would like to express our "heartfelt thanks" to the following personnel who helped in search of Mr. Nyein Chan Oo in Bangkok, Thailand and took care of him while he was getting treatment at the Nopparat Rajathanee Hospital, Bangkok. Mr. Nyein Chan Oo is able to reunite with his family because of the love and unending compassion of his Majesty King of Thailand to the people regardless of one's race and nationality and the warmth of Thai people.

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Pol.Col.Archayon Kraithong
Pol.Col. Kuakamol Duangprateep
Pol.Lt.Col.Pooritat Boonchuay
Pol.Lt.Col. Natiwit Thanasitnitikul
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Pol.Sen.Sgt.Maj.Pradit Chamnanya
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Pol.Col.Termpao Siripuban
Pol.Lt.Col.Phopkit Plianpheng
Pol.Lt.Col.Sathaporn Trakulsoontornchai
Pol.Lt.Chairat Sreelubkla
Pol.Snr.Sgt.Maj.Wichit Kaewbut
Pol.Snr.Sgt.Maj.Kumpanat Karr -pugdee
Pol.L/Cpl.Rungruang Suwanpracha
Pol.Lt.Atthawit Pethdee
Tourist Police Bureau
Pol.Maj.Gen.Surachate Hakparn
Pol.Col.Archayon Kraithong
Pol.Col. Kuakamol Duangprateep
Pol.Lt.Col.Pooritat Boonchuay
Pol.Lt.Col. Natiwit Thanasitnitikul
Pol.Maj. Samach Bamrungchat
Pol.Capt.Suparat Meeprecha
Pol.Lt.Jade Yutthayothin
Pol.Sgt.Maj. Chayapon Wongpun
HuaMark Police Station
Pol.Lt.Attgawit Petgdee
Pol.Lt.Col.Nopporn Srisuchat
Pol.Lt.Col.Somjet Pollao
Nopparat Rajathanee Hospital Doctors and Nurses
The Royal Thai Embassy, Yangon, Myanmar
Police Attaché Pol.Colonel Khemmarin Hassiri
The Embassy of Myanmar in Bangkok, Thailand
The Honourable Ambassador, Myo Myint Than and embassy staff
Family's Friends
1.Assistant Defense Attaché Major Arkar Aye Maung
2. Mr. Zaw Moe Win, Thailand
3. All our relatives and friends who expressed their concerns and rendered support during the difficult period. Thank you so much.
From the family of Mr. Nyein Chan Oo.

Jennifer Garner honoured with Hollywood star

LOS ANGELES — Jennifer Garner received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Monday to honour a glittering career that has included roles in acclaimed movies from "Juno" to "Dallas Buyers Club."

The Texas-born actress has appeared in more than 30 films over two decades but is just as famous for a television career that has seen her garlanded with some of the industry's top awards.

"Today for me is a moment to mark 24 years really joyfully lived, in a job that I love so much. And to get to share with my family and friends is pretty amazing and special," the 46-year-old star told AFP.

Actors Steve Carell and Bryan Cranston — who starred with Garner respectively in the 2014 comedy "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day" and 2016's "Wakefield" — paid glowing tribute.

Also on hand to celebrate was Judy Greer, who appeared alongside Garner in 2004 fantasy comedy-romance "13 Going on 30" and 2014 comedy-drama "Men, Women and Children" before directing her in the 2017 comedy, "A Happening of Monumental Proportions."

Born on 17 April, 1972, in Houston, Garner and her family moved to Charleston, West Virginia, when she was three.

She enjoyed amateur musical theater and joined the Charleston Light Opera Guild, taking piano, singing and ballet lessons and playing saxophone in the George Washington High School marching band.

She graduated from Ohio's Denison University in 1994 and made her television debut in "Danielle Steel's Zoya," a 1995 NBC miniseries about Russia in 1917.

In 2001, Garner got the role that catapulted her onto the A-list, as CIA agent Sydney Bristow in ABC series "Alias," which ran for five seasons.

Garner received Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild awards for the part, as well as four outstanding lead actress nominations at the Emmys.

It was during this period that she turned seriously to movie acting, and her 35 big screen roles have included acclaimed turns in "Juno" (2007), "Dallas Buyers Club" (2013) and "Love, Simon" (2018).

In 2005, Garner married Oscar winner Ben Affleck, her co-star in "Pearl Harbor" and "Daredevil." The couple had two daughters and a son together but announced on 30 June, 2015, one day after their ten-year anniversary, that they were divorcing.

In "Peppermint," due for US release on 7 September, Garner portrays a woman who becomes a vigilante after her husband and daughter are killed in a drive-by shooting by members of a cartel.

"This is a career that you can take some credit for, but not much. Luck plays a big part," she told AFP. —AFP ■

Actress Jennifer Garner has appeared in more than 30 films over two decades but is just as famous for a television career that has seen her garlanded with some of the industry's top awards. **PHOTO: AFP**

Pregnant New Zealand minister cycles to delivery ward

WELLINGTON — New Zealand's Minister for Women Julie Anne Genter has taken the cycle of life to a whole new level, biking her way to hospital for the birth of her first child.

Genter, a Green MP and keen cyclist, chose pedal power for Sunday's one kilometre (0.6 mile) journey from her home to Auckland City Hospital for the delivery.

"My partner and I cycled because there wasn't enough room in the car for the support crew... but it also put me in the best possible mood!" she posted on social media alongside a picture of her with her bike.

Genter is 42 weeks pregnant, and said in the post that she was going in to hospital for an induction.

She is not only Women's Minister but Associate Transport Minister in New Zealand's centre-left government, advocating for sustainable travel.

Her Green Party colleagues tweeted that the bicycle trip to the delivery ward was "the most #onbrand thing ever".

A party spokeswoman said the baby had still not arrived by late afternoon on Monday.

The impending birth comes just weeks after New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern returned to work after having her first child, daughter Neve, in June.

Ardern, who was elected last year, became only the second world leader to give birth while in office after Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto in 1990. —AFP ■

New Zealand's Minister for Women Julie Anne Genter cycled to hospital for the birth of her first child in Auckland. **PHOTO: AFP**

Paris Jackson sorry for *Harper's Bazaar* Singapore cover

SINGAPORE — Paris Jackson has apologised for appearing on the front cover of *Harper's Bazaar* magazine in Singapore, which has laws against homosexuality, after the bisexual actress came under fire for hypocrisy.

She sparked a storm of criticism after posting an Instagram picture of the cover of the September issue, with an editorial on website Gay Star News saying that the "hypocrisy is absurd".

While Singapore boasts a modern and vibrant culture, attitudes towards homosexuality remain conservative.

Sex between men remains technically illegal under a law dating back to British colonial rule. Although the statute is rarely enforced, in 2014, Singapore's Court of Appeal dismissed a constitutional challenge to the law.

The daughter of the late pop superstar Michael Jackson apologised on Twitter at the weekend, and removed the post of the women's fashion magazine cover from Instagram.

"(I) don't want to be hypocritical or hurt anyone, and my support for my fellow LGBTQ+ community comes first before my love for fashion and gratitude for this opportunity," the 20-year-old wrote.

Before her apology, Gay Star News entertainment editor Jamie Tabberer wrote that "as a member of the (LGBT) community, her decision is all the more disappointing.

"She may be a very young woman with a lot to learn, but she's also, definitely, an adult."

Jackson, who also works as a model, revealed in July during a question and answer session on Instagram with fans that she is bisexual.

While challenges remain for Singapore's homosexual community, support for gay rights has been growing in recent years.

Last month, huge crowds attended the 10th anniversary of the city-state's annual Pink Dot gay rights rally. —AFP ■

Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated patrol along border

A 15-member troop led by Police deputy-Superintendent Aung Kyaw Kyaw of No-1 Border Guard Police in Region-2 of the Maungtaw Township and a 15-member troop of Bangladeshi Border Guard Police led by Officer Naib Subedar Md. Shahidul Islam of No. 34 Border Guard Police Force conducted a coordinated patrol along the border on 20 August.

They conducted the patrol from Mile Post No. 41/2 to 42, according to the Information Department of the Myanmar Police Force. — MNA ■

Myanmar border guard police force patrolling along the border. **PHOTO: POLICE INFORMATION DEPT**

"The American Food Experience" US Fair 2018 was held at marketplace by City Mart Golden Valley in Yangon yesterday. The fair was organized by US Embassy and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).– GNLM

American scientists develop gene therapy for blinding disease

WASHINGTON — American scientists have developed a gene therapy in treating a form of eye disease that progressively robs people of their sight and peripheral vision before blindness develops.

A study published on Monday in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences described the therapy that effectively eliminated the abnormal copy of rhodopsin, a light-sensing molecule, and then restored it with a healthy copy of the protein.

The knockdown and replacement approach preserved the retina's light-sensing photoreceptor cells in affected dogs, which could develop a very similar disease to affected humans, according to the study.

The researchers from the University of Pennsylvania and University of Florida also managed to use a single viral vector to co-deliver the genetic material needed to achieve both the knockdown and replacement.

Though more than 150 different mutations in rhodopsin have been identified to cause retinitis pigmentosa, this approach is intended to work regardless of the mutation or the mechanism by which rod photoreceptor cells, those responsible for vision in dim light, die.

Therefore, a large percentage of patients with rhodopsin autosomal dominant retinitis pigmentosa are expected to benefit if the therapy is found to be safe and effective in people.

"It's a one treatment fits all," said William A. Beltran, professor of ophthalmology and director of the Division of Experimental Retinal Therapies at Penn and co-lead author of the study.

"The treatment targets a region of the rhodopsin gene that is homologous in humans and dogs and is separate from where the mutations are located. That gives us great hope about making this a translational treatment."

The team restored roughly 30 per cent of the normal level of rhodopsin, enough to prevent deterioration of rod cells in the retina.

Tracking the treatment effect more than eight months after delivery of the gene therapy, the researchers found the effect seemed stable and lasting.

The team is currently working to move the findings into clinical trials.—Xinhua ■

Researchers develop multi-purpose silicon chip for quantum information processing

LONDON — An international team led by UK and Chinese researchers have demonstrated a new multi-functional quantum processor which can be used as a scientific tool to perform a wide array of quantum information experiments, according to a study released on Monday by the University of Bristol.

The team has been using silicon photonic chips as a way to try to build quantum computing components on a large scale and the latest result demonstrates it is possible to fully control two qubits of information within a single integrated chip. This means any task that can be achieved with two qubits, can be programmed and realized with the device.

In traditional computers, bits take the form of either being a "1" or a "0", while quantum computers are instead based on "qubits" that can be in a superposition of the "0" and "1" states. Multiple qubits can also be linked in a special way called quantum entanglement. These two quantum physical properties provide the power to quantum computers.

With the newly-developed processor, researchers can not only perform quantum information experiments, but show the way to how fully functional quantum computers might be engineered from large scale fabrication processes.

This is really important. Because one of the challenges of bringing quantum computing technology into real life is how to make a quantum computer in a way that its many parts can be made with very high quality and ultimately at low cost.

"It's a very primitive processor, because it only works on two qubits, which means there is still a long way before we can do useful computations with this technology," said Lead author, Dr Xiaogang Qiang, who undertook the work whilst studying for a PhD at the University of Bristol, and now works in China's National University of Defence Technology.

"But what is exciting is that the different properties of silicon photonics that can be used for making a quantum computer have been combined together in one device," Qiang also said.

The integrated photonics effort started in 2008 and was an answer to the growing concern that individual mirrors and optical elements are just too big and unstable to realize the large complex circuits that a quantum computer will be built.

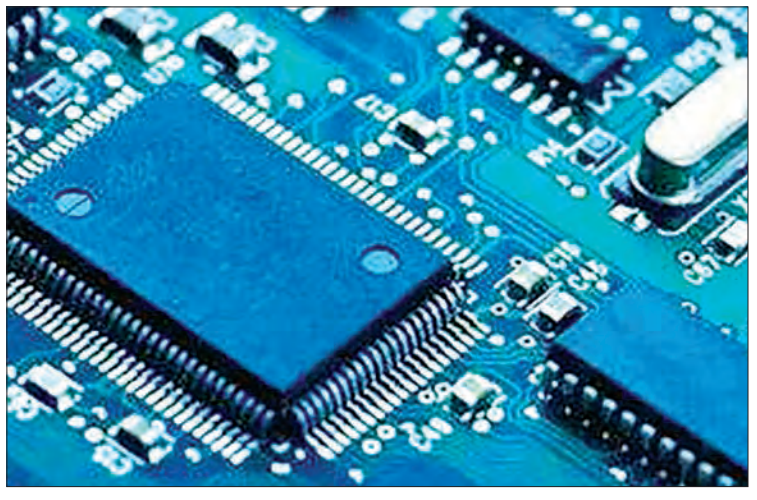

PHOTO: XINHUA

"We need to be looking at how to make quantum computers out of technology that is scalable, which includes technology that we know can be built incredibly precisely on a tremendous scale," and the team think silicon is a promising material to do this, said Dr Jonathan Matthews, a member of the research team based at the Quantum Engineering Technology Labs at the University of Bristol. The study has been published in the journal *Nature Photonics*.—Xinhua ■

Man City lose Bravo to Achilles injury

LONDON — Manchester City could be without reserve goalkeeper Claudio Bravo for the rest of the season after the Chilean ruptured an Achilles tendon, the Premier League champions confirmed on Monday.

"Bravo has sustained an Achilles tendon injury in today's training session," City said in a statement.

"He will fly out to Barcelona for further tests on Thursday where the extent of the injury will be examined."

Bravo won two La Liga titles with Barcelona before moving to City in 2016, but an error-strewn first season provoked City to sign Brazilian Ederson from Benfica last year to take over as first-choice 'keeper.

Manchester City goalkeeper Claudio Bravo ruptured an Achilles tendon on Monday. **PHOTO: AFP**

"No matter what happens, or how bad it looks today, life will go on, and tomorrow will certainly be better," Bravo tweeted.

However, Bravo played all six ties as City won the League Cup last season and his absence leaves City short on back-up for Ederson.

Daniel Grimshaw, 20, is the only other keeper in the first-team squad but he has not yet made a senior appearance.

Former City and England number one Joe Hart recently joined Burnley on a permanent deal after spending the past two seasons out on loan while England Under-21s goalkeeper Angus Gunn was sold to Southampton earlier this summer.

The transfer deadline for Premier League clubs has already passed, meaning City can't go into the transfer market for a replacement until January. —AFP ■

Balotelli's excellent form has seen him recalled to the Italy squad by Roberto Mancini. **PHOTO: AFP**

Balotelli opts to stay at Nice, say French club

PARIS — Balotelli's excellent form has seen him recalled to the Italy squad by Roberto Mancini.

Mario Balotelli has signed a new deal to stay at Nice despite strong interest from French rivals Marseille, the Ligue 1 club announced on Monday. The striker, whose strong form in the last two seasons at the Allianz Riviera has seen him return to the Italy team, has scored 43 goals for the club. Nice have got off to a slow start this year under new coach Patrick Vieira, with the former Arsenal and France midfielder seeing his charges lose at home to Reims and draw at Caen. But the decision of the 28-year-old Balotelli to stay will be a massive boost to Vieira and his team.

"After careful consideration, Mario Balotelli has decided to stay at OGC Nice," the club said in a statement.

"The Italian international expressed his wishes to the directors. There will be a third season for the forward. The agreement was signed by all parties on Monday evening."

Balotelli had also been linked with a possible move to Serie A, with Roma and Napoli reportedly interested, but it was Marseille and the Stade Velodrome where he was expected to arrive before the end of the month.

Nice were quick to poke fun at their near neighbours' failure to land the enigmatic former Manchester City, Inter Milan, Liverpool and AC Milan forward.

"Made slightly complicated at the start of the summer by another club from the south of France, the situation is now back to normal," said Nice.

"Simple, clear. Like one of SuperMario's strikes." —AFP ■

World No 1 Halep withdraws from Connecticut Open

NEW HAVEN (Connecticut) — World number one Simona Halep withdrew from the WTA Connecticut Open on Monday with a leg injury, the day after losing the Cincinnati final to Kiki Bertens.

The Romanian, who cited soreness in her right Achilles, said she still plans to take part in the upcoming US Open.

"I need to recover in time for the US Open," she said.

This would have been Halep's third tournament in as many weeks. She won the WTA Montreal event before being runner-up in Cincinnati, losing in three sets to Dutchwoman Bertens on Sunday.

"I really wanted to play it (Connecticut) and I saw that many fans bought tickets to see me here, but I feel very sore with my Achilles, and I need some rest," she added.

"I had so many matches in the last two weeks, so it's tough. See you next year, and all the best."

The 26-year-old Halep will be replaced in the draw by lucky loser Belinda Bencic of Switzerland.

American CoCo Vandeweghe also pulled out of the hard-court tournament in New Haven on Sunday with a sore right ankle.

In Monday action, two-time Wimbledon winner Petra Kvitova overpowered 2016 champion Agnieszka Radwanska 6-1, 7-6 (7/3) and fourth-seeded Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic was knocked out by Russian Ekaterina Makarova 6-1, 6-3. —AFP ■

World No. 1 Simona Halep lost in the Cincinnati final to Kiki Bertens on Sunday. **PHOTO: AFP**