

## NATIONAL

Government of Myanmar and United Nations agencies initial MoU for assistance to the repatriation process of displaced persons from Rakhine State

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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 46, 3<sup>rd</sup> Waning of Nayon 1380 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Friday, 1 June 2018



President U Win Myint, centre, poses with the chairman and members of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## President U Win Myint meets Drug Abuse Control Committee

More effort needs to be put forth toward drug abuse control works as a national duty

President U Win Myint met with the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Chairman Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and committee members at the Presidential Palace yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the President said drug abuse was increasing and ruining the lives of youths. Therefore, more efforts are needed to be put forth toward the committee's drug abuse control works as a national duty. Work needs to be conducted according to the UN Convention and must be done in cooperation with UN member coun-

tries, international organisations, regional organisations, local and international non-governmental organisations and the people.

The dangers of drugs needs to be communicated widely to the public, and treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts needs to be conducted. In addition, effective punishment must be made for planting, producing, possessing, transporting, distributing and selling drugs.

Regional drug control and eradication groups that include regional departmental authorities, civil society organisations and inter-

ested persons needed to be formed in townships, districts, states and regions. These groups need to be managed as necessary and cash rewards should be awarded. In addition, Drug Abuse Control and Eradication Special Groups need to be formed and directly managed by the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, said the President.

Present at the meeting together with the President were Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Chairman Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe,

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### Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the President Announcement 3/2018

2<sup>nd</sup> Waning of Nayon 1380 ME  
31 May 2018

### Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will establish an Independent Commission of Enquiry

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has decided to establish an Independent Commission of Enquiry as part of its national initiative to address reconciliation, peace, stability and development in Rakhine. This decision has also taken into consideration the Interim Recommendations of the Advisory Board for the Committee for the Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State. The Independent Commission will investigate the violation of human rights and related issues following the terrorist attacks by ARSA.

The Commission will consist of three members including an international personality. It will be assisted by national and international legal and technical experts.

## Returnees from Bangladesh resettled in accordance with bilateral agreement

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and Rakhine State Minister U Aung Kyaw Zan supervised works for resettlement of the displaced people who returned from Bangladesh voluntarily earlier this week at the Hla Pho Khaung Transit Centre in Maungdaw Township yesterday.

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## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

# Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Bill Amending the Union Budget Law, agrees appointment of new Union Minister for Planning and Finance

THE second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's eighth regular session held its sixth-day meeting yesterday morning at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall, Nay Pyi Taw, where the Hluttaw announced its approval for a Bill Amending the Union Budget Law, sent by the Union government.

At the meeting, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker announced the Hluttaw's agreement to the appointment of U Soe Win as the Union Minister for Planning and Finance, proposed by the President, because there was no objection.

Next, the Hluttaw announced putting on record the appointment of Maj-Gen Aung Thu as deputy minister for home affairs, proposed by the President.

## Bill committee report read

Later, Joint Bill Committee Vice Chairman (1) U Zaw Min read the committee's report on the Science, Technology and Innovation Bill, over which the two Hluttaws were in disagreement. The Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the bill were then asked to enrol their names.

## Importance of systematic management, coordination of development programmes

Following this, the Coordination Committee's work report on the Hluttaw Development 2016-2017 was read by committee Vice Chairman U Aung Kyi Nyunt.

The report said the committee was formed to coordinate with partner organisations for the Hluttaw's development. The committee is systematical-



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

ly managing and coordinating the development programmes proposed by the partner organisations to meet the requirements of the Hluttaw. There are requirements and challenges, and the committee is continuously coordinating and discussing these with partner organisations. The Myanmar Hluttaw Strategic Plan 2015-2018 is being drawn up with the assistance of the UNDP/IPU, and the importance of systematic management and coordination of the development programmes, provided by the partner organisations, was observed, said the report. An announcement was made for the Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the report to enrol their names.

## Explanation on Ks641.029 billion loan from CBM

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win and the Central Bank of Myanmar Deputy Governor U Bo Bo

Nge then explained the matter of the Ks641.029-billion loan provided by the Central Bank of Myanmar to cover the fiscal deficit for the six-month transitional period from April to September, sent by the President.

The Central Bank of Myanmar Deputy Governor U Bo Bo Nge explained that auctioning more government treasury bonds would reduce the requirement of the government to take a loan from the Central Bank of Myanmar, resulting in reduced inflationary pressure.

The deficit had been reduced year by year, as the loan from the Central Bank of Myanmar has a monetary impact, which causes the inflation to rise. Reducing the deficit is called fiscal contraction shock, and the Central Bank and the Ministry of Planning and Finance is handling this matter with care to prevent the sudden decline in the country's economy. The local loan from Central Bank was

reduced to 20 per cent in the 2018 April to September six-month period and can be said to be a distinct and smooth financial system reform. The Central Bank will maintain this reform by continuing to coordinate with the Ministry of Planning and Finance, said the deputy governor.

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win also provided similar explanation.

The Hluttaw announced its approval for the matter after the majority of the Hluttaw approved it.

## Explanation on project works conducted with foreign loan

Later, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy and the Central Bank of Myanmar explained the status of the project-wise utilisation of foreign loans, approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw up to 31 March 2017.

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing explained that of the 20 foreign loans for various projects, the ministry was implementing 14 projects while two projects are being implemented jointly with other ministries. The loan agreements are yet to be signed for four projects.

The loans included 108.850 billion Japanese yen from JICA, US\$16.408 million from the China Development Bank, \$450 million from the World Bank, \$140 million from Asian Development Bank, \$100 million from the EXIM Bank of Korea and 23.883 million euro from Germany. With the JICA loan, the maintenance of power stations, sub-stations and power lines in Yangon, the

national grid development project phase 1 and the national grid development project phase 2 were conducted. The loan was not taken for the four remaining projects.

The Athoke-Pathein power line 30.25 miles and two sub-stations were constructed with the China Development Bank loan and the World Bank loan was used for the 118.9-MW Thaton natural gas and waste heat power plant, which is undergoing a test-run and is expected to be completed in June.

The development of power distribution in the Yangon, Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions, upgrading of the 66-KV and 33-KV sub-stations in Yangon, Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway towns, replacing of wooden poles with concrete poles, replacing ACRS and ABC lines and expanding the Switch Bay works were conducted with the ADB loan. Some 117 miles of 500-KV Taungoo-Kamanat (Phayagyi) power line construction will be conducted with the EXIM Bank of Korea loan, and tenders have been announced through state-owned media, said the deputy minister.

The World Bank loan was used for 2,946 steel poles, 500 transformers and 9,800 concrete poles, and these are being sent to project sites. The loan from Germany was used to provide electricity in southern Shan State Taunggyi, Loilem and Langkho districts. A consultant tender was called to make an assessment and preparations are being made to call for work tenders, he said.

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# Thura U Shwe Mann separately receives UN's electoral officer, US security advisor

Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by Ms. Svetlana Galkina of the United Nations (UN) Electoral Assistance Office at the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed legal issues, improving the voting system and cooperation matters.

Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann also received a delegation led

by National Security Advisor for House Majority Leader Mr. Luke Murry at the same place yesterday afternoon. During their meeting, they exchanged views on peace and development processes along with issues on democracy transformation.—MNA ■



Thura U Shwe Mann meets with Ms. Svetlana Galkina, UN Electoral Officer, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



I would firstly like to address the three branches of the sovereign power of the State, who have been entrusted with power according to the Constitution, to exercise mutual respect, understanding, and trust as they collaborate for the good of the people. Additionally, I wish to urge the media sector, which serve as the ears and eyes of the public, to understand the seriousness of their duties and to hold in high regard the public sector that they serve.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018)

We have many opportunities to learn in order to overcome and eliminate the evil legacies of the past and to fulfill the aspirations for the future of the nation. We know how much loving kindness, truth and bravery are needed; how greed, anger and ignorance can impact negatively. We have learnt the importance of having good friends. The most important lesson we learned is the value of understanding and unqualified support of our people.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of NLD Government on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018)

Government of the Republic of the  
Union of Myanmar  
Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor  
Press Release

2<sup>nd</sup> Waning of Nayon 1380 ME  
31 May 2018

Government of Myanmar and United Nations  
Agencies initial MoU on assistance for the  
repatriation process of displaced persons  
from Rakhine State

On 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2018, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population (MoLIP) of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) initialed the Memorandum of Understanding to assist the government of Myanmar in implementing the “Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State”, signed between the Governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh on 23 November 2017. The UN Agencies will cooperate with the Government for the repatriation of the displaced persons, who have been duly verified so that they can return voluntarily in safety and in dignity.

The UNDP and UNHCR have been invited to take part in various stages of return and resettlement, and to support access to livelihoods through the design and implementation of community based intervention.

The Government of Myanmar had been discussing the MoU with UNDP and UNHCR since February 2018. The discussions have resulted in the MoU which will be signed soon.

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Bill Amending the Union Budget Law, ...

### FROM PAGE-2

In cooperation with other ministries, the JICA loan was used for the Regional Development Project for Poverty Reduction Phase 1 and the installation of 128 diesel generators, as well as the construction of 127.29 miles of a 400-Volt ABC line, that were conducted and completed in five states and six regions. Further, the 33-KV Thanlyin-Thilawa power line, sub-station and Thakayta-Thilawa gas pipeline laying projects were all completed.

The ministry is imple-

menting 14 loan projects in the electricity sector and is jointly implementing two projects with other ministries to ensure that works are conducted according to the regulations and wastage is prevented, said the deputy minister. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker requested the Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the explanation on foreign loans to enrol their names. The second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's eighth regular session's seventh-day meeting will be held on 5 June.—Myo Myint, Myo Thu Hein ■

## President U Win Myint meets Drug Abuse Control Committee

### FROM PAGE-1

Vice Chairman Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, commission members Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw, Deputy Minister

for Education U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung, Ministry of Information Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, Ministry of Health and Sports Permanent Secretary Dr. Thet Khaing Win, Political and Security Department Director General U Naing Swe Oo from the Office of the President, Union Government Office Director General

U Zaw Than Thin, Brig-Gen Ko Ko Oo of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Lt-Col Zaw Lin Tun of Chief of Military Affairs Security Office, Committee Secretary Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Aung Win Oo and Committee Joint Secretary and Chief of Anti-Narcotic Task Force Acting Police Brig-Gen Myint Aung.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye greets returnees during granting National Verification Cards (NVC) to them at the Hla Pho Khaung Transit Centre in Maungta Township yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

## Returnees from Bangladesh resettled in accordance with bilateral agreement

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The authorities are making arrangements for resettlement of the returnees at or near their original places of residence.

At the transit centre, the Union Minister and party inspected the works for issuing the National Verification card to returnees, and for receiving citizenship scrutiny in accordance with the law being carried out by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population. The National Verification

Card is the first step in applying for citizenship.

Meanwhile, officials of the Social Welfare Department are collecting data from the returnees to bring back their relatives in Bangladesh through diplomatic channels. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has provided Family Kits to the returnees containing a week's worth of dry rations.

Out of 62 returnees who have been staying at the Hla Pho

Khaung Transit Centre in accordance with bilateral agreement, 10 left for their original places of residence while the authorities are making arrangements for sending all returnees to their original places, according to the authorities. The remaining 52 returnees were systematically handed over to the administrators of their respective villagers and the process was documented by the authorities.—Myanmar News Agency ■



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**ACTING CHIEF EDITOR**Aye Min Soe,  
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR**Mark Angeles,  
markrangeles@gmail.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.mmm@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.comPrinted and published at the Global New  
Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at  
No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan  
Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light  
of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No.  
00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnlmdaily@gmail.com  
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that do not exceed 500 words. Should  
you submit a text longer than 500 words  
please be aware that your letter will be  
edited.

# Elephant treatment programme still facing challenges

BY May Thet Hnin

THE elephant treatment programme, which was started to provide free treatment through mobile elephant clinics (MECs) to elephants owned by the Myanma Timber Enterprise (MTE), private enterprises and wildlife elephants since 2016, is still facing many challenges.

The MTE is providing free treatment through two MECs to over 3,000 elephants owned by it and other wildlife elephants, and providing treatment through one MEC to elephants owned by private enterprises. The mobile elephant clinic team includes 20 veterinary surgeons and 32 elephant veterinary training students. The team is providing services such as vaccinations, deworming, removing of old abscess and surgeries, treatments, and footcare management processes.

"One of the big challenges for the team is looking for private elephant owners. Next, the team lacks experienced veterinary surgeons. We also need sustainable funding for the mobile elephant clinics. We have only one vehicle for private enterprise elephants. In this case, when we are providing treatment in the southern part of Myanmar, we cannot go to the northern part of My-



An Elephant gets medical free treatment from mobile elephant clinic team. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

anmar if there is an emergency case," said MTE elephant veterinary professor U Zaw Min Oo.

Moreover, the MTE set up a free elephant hospital in 2014 at 13 miles entry from Oakdwin-Pauk Khaung road. However, most of the private enterprise elephant owners do not access the treatment, said U Moe Myint, Deputy General Manager of MTE.

"The private elephant owners do not want their elephants to be treated at the elephant hospital. They also do not want our team conducting a medical check-up on their elephant, as they are only concerned with their business. We provide medicine and doctors free of charge,"

he added.

Most elephants are suffering from heterosis and abscess disease. Some elephants die of weakness after being afflicted with parasites. An elephant aged below 12 years died after contracting the herpes virus.

The MTE is providing treatment with mobile elephant clinics, in cooperation with SPANA. The MTE is also conducting other elephant conservation programmes, in cooperation with the international elephant foundation, the University of Sheffield, Four Paws and EAI. It is also conducting a case-by-case study, in cooperation with the Asian Elephant Foundation, Smithsonian, Asian Elephant

Support and the World Wildlife Fund. In the 2016-2017 financial year, the MTE officially suspended its logging operations. As for Bago Yoma, the timber extraction was suspended for a 10-year period because Bago Yoma has experienced the worst deforestation in Myanmar. The enterprise has so far opened 18 elephant camps across the country with some 205 elephants.

The MTE is planning to develop elephant conservation-based tourism in time for the September tourist season, in cooperation with tour agencies.

There are over 6,500 elephants in Myanmar, including 3,078 belonging to the MTE. ■

## Fire loss over one month in Sagaing Region totals Ks1.7 billion last FY

THE losses incurred in fire-related incidents in the Sagaing Region last financial year were worth Ks1.7 billion, according to a report of the region government.

The data showed that in the 2017-18 FY, the region saw some 238 fire incidents, including 74 fires due to the negligence of people, 57 electrical fires, 45 kitchen fires and six forest fires. The total loss as a result of damage to property caused by fires was Ks1.786 billion.

The Sagaing Region Fire Services Department is accelerating its fire prevention tasks in factories, workshops, and fuel stations to reduce fire accidents in the state and protect people and properties. It is urging people to follow suggestions provided by the department to reduce accidental fires.

Thousands of firefighters from the department are offering fire services to the region through 621 fire engines in the Sagaing Region.—Win Oo (Zeyataing)■



House engulfed in flames with local people working to extinguish a fire. PHOTO: WIN OO (ZEYATAING)



## Thai brands expo to be held on 7 June at Tatmadaw Hall

A FOUR-DAY Top Thai Brands 2018 expo will be held from 7 to 10 June at the Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall, according to a press conference held yesterday at Chatrium Royal Lake Hotel.

This exhibition will showcase quality Thai products, featuring 117 stalls of 98 items, including food and beverages, healthcare and beauty products, pharmaceutical products, packaging machines, home decorations, and fashion, lifestyle and other quality products.

Additionally, the fair will include other events, such as Thai cookery shows, a fruit decoration workshop, a make-up tutorial class, Thai massages, and screening of Thai films, including "From Bangkok to Mandalay." Further, Thai food found at the night market will also be sold.

"The expo will help Thai businessmen introduce their products to the domestic businessmen, as well as consumers. We have a wide range of varieties to choose from. We will get access to foreign trad-

ers. We can showcase and promote our products in overseas expos," said Naw Mutakapaw, deputy director-general of Trade Promotion Department, operating under the Ministry of Commerce.

The expo aims to raise awareness about the important role of small- and medium-sized enterprises, promote Thai products and build ties between Thailand and Myanmar businessmen.

The Top Thai Brands expo is being held for the third time in Myanmar. —Nyein Nyein ■

## Capital goods imports by private sector decrease in current FY

THE value of capital goods imports by the private sector in the current six-month transitional fiscal year reached US\$739.252 million, a slight decrease of \$8.6 million against the same period last year, according to the commerce ministry.

This time last year, the private sector imports of capital goods were valued at \$747.8 million.

From 1 April to 18 May this year, the total value of imported capital goods reached \$984.5 million through both public and private sectors, an increase of \$190.8 million in value compared to last year, when the country bought the same products for \$793.7 million.

Despite a decrease in the value of capital goods imported by the private sector, their imports by the public sector during the same period reached \$245.2

million, increasing by \$199.4 million compared to last year.

Over the first 48 days of this financial year, the country exported agriculture products worth \$394.2 million, animal products worth \$31.3 million, marine products worth \$95.9 million, minerals worth \$157.9 million, manufactured goods worth \$23.8 million, manufactured goods worth \$767.8 million and miscellaneous items worth \$64.1 million.

Myanmar conducts trade with Asian countries, ASEAN member states, island nations, Middle East countries, European and African states, and some other western countries mainly through shipping routes. It is seeking new trade opportunities to boost the country's production of valued-added products to penetrate global markets.—Shwe Khine ■



Woman selling dried fish at the market. PHOTO: AUNG WIN (PYAPON)

## Prices of dried saltwater fish rise in domestic market this monsoon

THE prices of dried saltwater fish are rising in the domestic market, especially in Pyapon Township in the Ayeyawady Region, owing to low production, said local wholesalers.

Ko Thaw Zin Oo, a retailer at the Pyapon market, said, "The town saw an increase in the prices of dried saltwater fish this monsoon, because it is difficult to make dry fish in the rainy season. In the mar-

ket, retailers are selling the previously produced dried fish at a higher price.

The surging prices of dried fish are expected to decrease in the post-monsoon season."

When compared to the same period last year, the township saw a decline in the natural production of saltwater fish.

Depending on their qual-

ity, size and variety, saltwater dried fish was sold for Ks9,000-Ks15,000 per viss (3.6 lbs) on 31 May. The current prices increased by Ks1,500 per viss compared to the pre-monsoon period, according to retailers.

Marketable saltwater dried fish is usually exported to China, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, Bangladesh and other countries.—Aung Win (Pyapon) ■

## Myanmar-Spain trade reaches record high of \$190m in FY2017-18

TRADE between Myanmar and Spain reached a record high of US\$190 million in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, an increase by \$81.075 million over the 2016-2017 FY, according to the latest report of the Ministry of Commerce.

The total bilateral imports of the two countries in the 2017-2018 FY were valued at \$21.261 million, which decreased slightly by \$5.5 million compared to the 2016-2017 FY, whereas Myanmar's imports from European member state reached \$169 million, increasing by \$86.579 million.

Myanmar's exports to Spain have always been greater than its imports.

According to the ministry's statistics, the Myanmar-Spain trade value was \$22.132 million

in the 2011-12 FY, \$22.775 million in the 2012-13 FY, \$41.584 million in the 2013-14 FY, \$44.260 million in the 2014-15 FY, \$48.924 million in the 2015-16 FY and \$109.264 million in the 2016-17 FY.

Myanmar exports aquaculture products, garments, coffee, tea leaves and agricultural products to European countries. Its imports include cosmetics, food and beverages, transport equipment, machinery and consumer goods.

Investments from EU member states mainly enter the country's petroleum and natural gas enterprises, hotels and tourism firms, manufacturing and transport sectors, and livestock businesses, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.—Swe Nyein ■

## Trade Mark Ads

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# UEC, ministries hold work coordination meeting on Nov-3 by-elections

THE Union Election Commission held a work coordination meeting with the ministries concerned in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, seeking their cooperation to hold the November-3 by-elections freely and fairly.

In his opening remarks at the meeting, U Hla Thein, chairman of the Union Election Commission, urged the ministries concerned to cooperate with the UEC in holding the by-elections for 13 vacant seats on 3 November, in accordance with the law.

Altogether, some 92 political parties will compete in the by-elections.

The UEC has been preparing the voters' lists since 19 April,

and it will make the list available to the public.

The UEC chairman has also urged the voters to check the lists, to demand and reject them when the lists are made public.

The Union Election Commission has conducted training programmes related to the elections. At the meeting, Director-General of the Union Election Commission Office U Khin Maung Oo reported on the arrangements made for holding the by-elections, and the participants in the meeting took part in the discussion.

The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks made by the UEC chairman.— Myanmar News Agency ■



UEC Chairman U Hla Thein delivers the opening speech at the work coordination meeting with the ministries concerned in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Armoured Training School in Kyaukse. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Armoured Training School

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited Kyaukse cantonment, Armoured Training School, yesterday afternoon, and met with trainers, trainees, officers and other ranks.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said Tatmadaw is part of the state and if all in the state do their best, the state will develop.

Each and every Tatmadaw personnel should do their best for the Tatmadaw to support the state. Thus, every Tatmadaw personnel needs to be loyal to the state and the Tatmadaw.

Next, the Senior General presented books and journals for the training school, which were accepted by the head of the school.

Later, the Senior General and party inspected the training school and had lunch together with the trainees.

Later, at the school meeting hall, the head of the training school explained the courses conducted at the school and the Senior General provided the necessary advice, it is learnt.— Myanmar News Agency ■

## Monsoon moderate over Andaman Sea, Bay of Bengal

The monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, according to the Myanmar Daily weather report issued by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology yesterday.

The forecast for Nay Pyi

Taw, Mandalay and the neighbouring areas for today is isolated rain or thundershowers, and the degree of certainty is 100 per cent, whereas for Yangon and the neighbouring area it is one or two rain or thundershowers,

and the degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

Seas will be moderate in Myanmar's waters. The wave height will be some 4-8 feet off and along the Myanmar coast.— GNLM ■

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Notification 76/2018

2<sup>nd</sup> Waning of Nayon 1380 ME  
31 May 2018

#### Notification on Form (15) issuing and submitting dates from/to embassies for overseas voters and date to publish Form (10) Hluttaw representatives candidate list

The Union Election Commission had announced that a by-election to elect Hluttaw representatives for vacant constituencies will be held on 3 November 2018 (Saturday). As per the Hluttaw Election Rule 57 (b), by-law 35 and by-law 72, announcement for following dates is made.

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| (1) Date on which Form (15) will be issued for overseas voters at the respective embassies<br>[Form (15) can be downloaded from Union Election Commission website, MOFA website and the respective embassy website] | 1-6-2018               |
| (2) Dates on which overseas voters can submit Form (15) to the respective embassy   | 18-6-2018 to 9-7-2018  |
| (3) Date on which Hluttaw representative candidates list Form (10) will be announced  | 6-8-2018               |
| (4) Date on which elected Hluttaw representatives list will be announced  | 4-11-2018 to 6-11-2018 |

Sd/- Hla Thein  
Chairman  
Union Election Commission  
(Unofficial translation)



# UCSB, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Office of the Union Attorney-General hold press conference on 2nd year performance

By Han Mhwae, Lin Naing  
(Myanmar News Agency)

A press conference was held by the Union Civil Service Board, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of International Cooperation, and the Union Attorney General's Office on their second one-year performance.

## Union Civil Service Board

U Saw Valentine, a member of the UCSB, said they held entrance exams for 868 vacant government official positions across 20 ministries and government organisations. A total of 6,424 candidates took the examinations, and the UCSB then interviewed 984 from them and selected 751 for the positions.

The UCSB has interviewed and selected 1,180 candidates for the positions of assistant doctors and dentists for the Ministry of Health and Sports. UCSB helped with interviewing 2,664 candidates for gazetted officers for five classified ads, and 2,168 candidates for positions in four external organisations.

Civil Service Academies (CSA) was opened in each Central Institute of Civil Service across Myanmar by 2 January 2017.

The CSAs offer basic civil service courses, and Post Graduate Diploma in Civil Service Management (PGDPA). A total of 764 individuals graduated with PGDPA as part of the implementation of Public-Private Partnership (PPP). About 7,313 students attended ten different courses in Central Institute of Civil Service between April 2017 and March 2018.

The UCSB promoted 68 men and 30 women from Deputy Director to Director; 27 men and 8 women from Director to Deputy Director-General in ministries and government organisations during the second-year period.

The UCSB amended the Civil Service Law with 29 bylaws and four forms and released a combined statement (35/2017) on 9 June 2017. The UCSB is working under directions from the Office of the President to allow civil servants who have reached 60 to continue for one extended year of service. On 25 August 2017 a second bylaw was passed amending the Civil Service Law to allow staff members to fill in the position of another staff member preparing for pension during



Member of the UCSB U Saw Valentine talks to media at the press conference in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

their pension processing period.

## Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of International Cooperation

U Myint Thu, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) Permanent Secretary, was the spokesperson for both MOFA and the Ministry of International Cooperation (MOIC).

He said that there was notable progress in the first-year performance, but misunderstandings and pressure from the international community arose after the ARSA terrorist attacks on 9 October 2016 and 27 August 2017.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry has organised diplomatic missions and state visits between Myanmar and other countries which contributed to raising awareness of the democratic transition, peace and national reconciliation, and development progress in Myanmar.

Both MOFA and MOIC have participated in regional development programmes such as the ASEAN, BIMSTEC, Greater Mekong Subregion Cooperation Program, Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Strategy, Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Program, Mekong-Japan Cooperation, Mekong-Korea Cooperation Plan, and the Lower Mekong Initiative.

At present, Myanmar has established diplomatic relations with 121 countries out of 193 countries. Currently there are 35 Myanmar embassies, 5 Myanmar Offices, 6 Consulates, and 13 Honorary Consulates across the globe, including newly established diplomatic relations with Malta, Ecuador, the Marshall Islands, Liberia, Guinea, Seychelles and the Holy See.

For the implementation of Dr. Kofi Annan's Advisory Commission on Rakhine, MOFA has also cooperated and coordinated with the Implementation Advisory Committee, which was formed and headed by Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai.

The Foreign Ministry and Myanmar Embassies, Missions and Consulates are practicing the approach called "people-centred diplomacy", which serves to protect the interests of Myanmar nationals and former Myanmar citizens living abroad. In order for Myanmar nationals to participate and assist in socio-economic developments, necessary help was given, including assistance to facilitate entry into the country. Visa requirements for social visits were relaxed to facilitate re-entry of former Myanmar citizens living abroad.

The embassies are conducting negotiations on cooperating with the corresponding host country regarding benefits of Myanmar's migrant workers and for illegal migrants to get permission to work legally in the respective countries.

MOFA helped in negotiations with India to plant nine border posts in Kabaw Valley and will soon hold an India-Myanmar Joint Boundary Working Group.

A protocol was signed on 23 November 2017 in reference to the agreement in 1998 to demarcate land on the northern part of the Naf River. The appendix to the 2007 Myanmar-Bangladesh-Naf River Border Agreement was also signed on that date. There are also ongoing negotiations for demarcating the Myanmar-China boundary for the third time since the 1993-1994 ground control point survey.

## Office of the Union Attorney-General

Office of the Union Attorney-General Daw Nu Nu Yin said the Office of the Union Attorney-General has been implementing its strategic plan 2015-2019 to further strengthen the polices related with the rule of law and to gain respect from the people.

The second one-year period saw 91 times than the previous year in scrutinizing bills, rules, procedures, orders and instructions.

The Legislative Vetting and Advising Department also takes the role of negotiator in discussing regional agreements to be signed by Myanmar. The office also mostly scrutinized 15 kinds of contracts related with businesses including mining and construction of road and bridge infrastructure. Besides, the department also has to advise issues related with taking actions against service personnel under the Civil Service Law, international contracts, departmental contracts and local and foreign companies, seeing over 790 times than the previous year.

The pacts scrutinized by the office includes Myanmar-EU bilateral investment boosting and protection agreement, Myanmar-Singapore investment boosting and protection agreement, the regional multi-economic development agreement, ASEAN trade in services agreement and model ASEAN extradition treaty.

Office of the Attorney General and all levels of Law Offices represent the State in all criminal cases and civil cases in conviction and trial works where the State is the prosecutor. It participates in certiorari cases

in Union Supreme Court, Constitutional Tribunal of Myanmar and Union Election Commission. The main works of Law Officers are to provide legal advice before prosecution, participating in cases, withdrawing cases, closing cases and representing the State in civil cases. Compared to the first one year period 3,167 more cases were handled in the second one year period.

As part of efforts for anti-malpractices, instructions, guidelines and complaint phone numbers, notices notices and advertisements were made public in law offices. Complaints against law officers were handled in accordance to public servant law and rules. More effective actions like reducing in rank, temporary suspension from work and permanently discharged from being a public servant were conducted increasingly in the second one year period.

Law translation commission led by Union Attorney General had translated 81 laws from English into Myanmar.

Assessment of application for advocate and commenting on violation of the code of ethic of advocate were conducted by 11 member team led by Union Attorney General as chairman and member fee for court advocate council were adjusted to be in accord with the time.

As the State is giving priority to rule of law, a group to coordinate the rule of law and justice works was formed with the consent of the State Counsellor. During the second one year period, three meetings of the group was held, sub-work groups were formed in each states and regions, rule of law and justice works congress held and strategy drawn up based on the outcome of the congress.

Code of ethic for law officers were drawn with the support of UNDP and assistance of local and international experts. During the second one year period, the code of ethic was published, workshops held to explain about it, instructions issued to comply with it and managed.

In the norm for fair administration of justice book, international norm and local case judgments were included. By studying and practicing as described in the book, law officers can effectively protect and assure the rights of the public in accordance to the law. ■



## Systematic arrangements made for returnees in safety and in dignity

THE government is making systematic arrangements for the resettlement of the 62 displaced people who returned from Bangladesh voluntarily earlier this week, with their security considered important.

This is a part of the commitment of the Union Government to the repatriation of the displaced persons, who have been duly verified so that they can return voluntarily in safety and in dignity.

We will carry out the repatriation and resettlement of the returnees in accordance with the law and bilateral agreement with Bangladesh and will invite the media to show the world that our works will ensure transparency.

When the local authorities carry out resettlement efforts for the recently displaced persons who returned voluntarily, they also pledged to bring back to Myanmar their relatives who

are in Bangladesh through diplomatic channels. Meanwhile, the authorities will have discussions with the returnees individually so that they can clearly understand the resettlement plan and measures for their livelihood.

We are ready for repatriation in accordance with the bilateral agreement and by working together to create a conducive environment to restoring peace and stability, harmony and sustained socio-economic development for all people in Rakhine State.

Currently, safety and security for the returnees is being given priority, and the authorities are making more efforts for border security.

Efforts at restoration of peace and stability have been carried out in Rakhine State since the terrorist attacks on 25 August 2017. The Rakhine State government is not only

performing repatriation and resettlement of returnees, but also planning for the long-term socio-economic development in collaboration with the Union Government.

On 31 May, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population (MoLIP) of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) initialed the Memorandum of Understanding to assist the government of Myanmar in implementing the "Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State", signed between the Governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh on 23 November 2017.

The UNDP and UNHCR have been invited to take part in various stages of return and resettlement, and to support access to livelihoods through the design and implementation of community-based intervention.

Myanmar welcomes the cooperation of the UN agencies in the repatriation of the displaced peoples, who have been duly verified so that they can return voluntarily in safety and in dignity.

Myanmar also welcomes constructive cooperation from the international community. ■

By Dr Aung Tun

WORLD No Tobacco Day was first observed in 1987, after a cabinet of the World Health Assembly(WHA) passed a motion supported by the World Health Organization (WHO), with guidelines to manage and curb tobacco consumption. The objective of observing World No Tobacco Day is to reduce tobacco consumption which can lead to deadly diseases like cancer and early death. Individuals, non-profit organizations and public health organizations actively participate in making this day a success by distributing placards and displaying posters with the latest information on the ill-effects of consuming tobacco and smoking. To propel its cause and appeal globally, WHA selects a fresh theme every year. The focus of World No Tobacco Day 2018 is "Tobacco and Heart Disease".

**World No Tobacco Day 2018 aims to:**

- Highlight the links between the use of tobacco products and heart and other cardiovascular diseases.
- Increase awareness within the broader public of the impact tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke have on cardiovascular health.
- Provide opportunities for the public, governments and others to make commitments to promote heart health by protecting people from use of tobacco products.
- Encourage countries to strengthen implementation of the proven MPOWER tobacco control measures contained in the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC).

**Tobacco and Cardiovascular Diseases(CVD)**

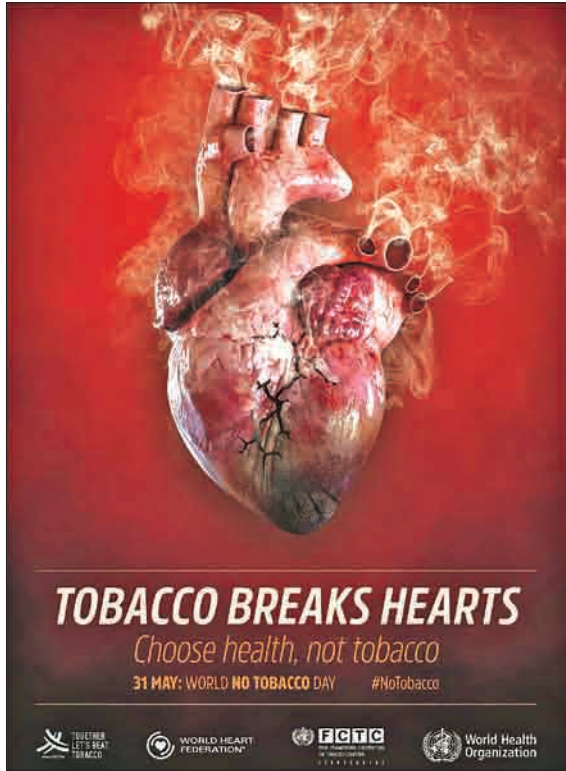
According to WHO, CVD is the leading cause of death worldwide and 12% of all heart disease deaths are contributed by active and passive smoking. Smoking is also the second leading cause of CVD, after blood pressure. Tobacco use is a principle contributor to the development of the following cardiovascular diseases.

- Ischemic Heart Disease
- Myocardial Infarction
- Heart failure and sudden death
- Arrhythmias
- Stroke
- Subarachnoid Haemorrhage
- Peripheral Vascular disease
- Malignant Hypertension
- Corpulmonale
- Abnormal Aortic Aneurism

The general mechanisms by which smoking results in cardiovascular events include development of atherosclerotic changes with narrowing of the vascular lumen and induction of a hypercoagulable state, which create risk of acute thrombosis. The rapid decline in risk of a recurrent myocardial infarction after smoking cessation supports the role of smoking in thrombosis. In addition, abundant evidence demonstrates that smoking contributes to development of atherosclerotic plaque.

**The Consequences of Tobacco use and Second-Hand Smoke**

Tobacco use harms nearly every organ of the body and affects a person's overall health. There are more than 7000 chemicals in tobacco smoke, of which more than 70 are known to cause cancer. There is no safe level of exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke. In adults, Tobacco use and second-hand smoke causes serious cardiovascular and respiratory diseases,



including coronary heart disease and lung cancer. In infants, it causes sudden death. In pregnant women, it causes low birth weight, premature baby and abortion. Almost half of children regularly breathe air polluted by tobacco smoke in public places.

The tobacco epidemic is one of the biggest public health threats the world has ever faced, killing more than 7 million people a year. More than 6 million of those deaths are the result of direct tobacco use while around 890 000 are the result of non-smokers being exposed to secondhand smoke. Around 80% of the 1.1 billion smokers worldwide live in low- and middle-income countries, where the burden of tobacco-related illness and death is heaviest. Tobacco users who die prematurely deprive their families of income, raise the cost of health care and hinder economic development.

**Trends in Smoking and Smokeless Tobacco Consumption in Myanmar**

Myanmar has one of the highest rates of tobacco use (Smoking and Smokeless) among men and women compared to other countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region. More than two in five men and nearly one in ten women smoke, which puts the health and wellbeing of themselves and their families at risk. Smokeless tobacco use is a problem where more than half of men and a quarter of women use this type of tobacco.

Findings from Myanmar Global Youth Tobacco Survey (2016) showed that 14% of students (26% boys and 4% girls) used tobacco (smoked and/or smokeless) while 8.3% (17% boys and 1.5% girls) were current cigarette smokers.5.7% (11% boys and 1.5% girls) were current smokeless tobacco users. Seven in one current cigarette smokers bought cigarettes from a store, shop or street vendors while 63% of cigarette buyers below the permitted age were sold tobacco products.1 in 3 students are exposed to tobacco products at home while 3 in 10 students are exposed to tobacco smoke inside closed public places. 7 in 10 current smokers tried to stop smoking in the past 12 months.

According to the Myanmar Demographic and Health Survey(MDHS) 2015-2016, it was found that two percent each of women smoke cigarettes and pipes or cheroots. By contrast, 32% of men age 15-49

smoke cigarettes and 14% smoke pipes or cheroots. 18% of women and 59% of men age 15-49 chew betel quid (contains betel leaf, areca nut, and slaked lime, and may contain tobacco).

**Key Milestones on Tobacco Control in Myanmar**

Tobacco control is one of the priority programmes of Ministry of Health and Sports. In July 1998 when WHO reorganized efforts within a new structure, the Tobacco Free Initiative (TFI), this movement greatly enhanced the momentum of the anti-tobacco activities in Myanmar. The National Programme on Tobacco Control was officially launched in January 2000 with the drafting and approval of the National Policy on Tobacco Control and Plan of action. The National Tobacco Control Committee was formed in March 2002. Myanmar proudly hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Inter-country Consultation Meeting of Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in August 2002, where the countries of South-East Asia Region issued the "Yangon Declaration". The Control of Smoking and Consumption of Tobacco Product Law was adopted on 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2006.

In accordance with new administrative structure, the National Tobacco Control Committee was reformed in January 2011,headed by the Minister for Health and included heads of related departments and chairpersons of several national NGOs as members. In 2013, Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS) singed a MOU with International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) to strengthen tobacco control program in Myanmar. Several achievements were made between 2013 and early 2016. These includes adoption of a 100% smoke-free notification, adoption of a 75% pictorial health warning and establishment of a tobacco control cell at MOH as well as at State and Region Public Health Office. During the period, Myanmar has also signed Illicit Trade Protocol which will be endorsed in near future of 2016. Myanmar hosted a SEARO and Asia Pacific meeting on Illicit trade protocol in 2015.

Recently Ministry of Health and Sports established a tobacco Control Unit under the NonCommunication Disease (NCD) Division with dedicated human resource. Tobacco Control has been identified as one of the key interventions to combat with NCDs and other infectious diseases in National Health Plan 2016 to 2020 .NCD Division has already developed National Strategic plan for Prevention and Control of NCDs (2017-2021). Tobacco Control is one of the main interventions within the plan.

Ministry of Health and Sports works with Attorney General and parliament health committee for legislation development. It works with Ministry of Finance for taxation and establishment of health fund for tobacco control. MOHS works closely with Ministry of Manpower, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Trade for their support to make effective enforcement of law and legislation. The collaboration will be further strengthened.

Ministry of Health and Sports has identified subnational government's role is very crucial to implement the tobacco control program as well as countering tobacco industry interferences at the local. Thus, MOHS plans to establish a subnational government alliance to accelerate their consolidated efforts for making tobacco control possible at each level. Working with subnational leaders would further

expand the people's participation in tobacco control movement. It also works with non-government sector such as World Health Organization, International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, People's Health Foundation, Universities, and media for policy advocacy and technical assistance.

**The Launch of FCTC 2030 Project in Myanmar**

Myanmar has been selected as one of 15 countries worldwide to receive dedicated international support from the United Nations through the "FCTC 2030 Project" to stop country's smoking scourge. The launching ceremony of FCTC 2030 project was held in Nay Pyi Taw on May 8, 2018. The FCTC project will run for five years until 2021 and will bring international support to Myanmar from the United Nations, including the Secretariat of the WHO FCTC, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and WHO. The support includes expert advice, technical assistance and peer support to strengthen the Government of Myanmar's programme of work on tobacco control. The Governments of the United Kingdom and Australia have generously provided funds for the FCTC 2030 project. The UN system looks forward to providing Myanmar with enhanced support to implement the WHO FCTC as part of its sustainable development plan.

The WHO FCTC is the world's treaty dedicated to ending the global tobacco epidemic and is comprehensive blue print for governments to stop tobacco use in their countries. Myanmar become one of the world's first countries to ratify the WHO FCTC, which today counts 180 countries and the European Union as Parties.

Myanmar is committed to the WHO FCTC and is looking forward to this new support to strengthen tobacco control policies and discourage tobacco use.

**Choose Health, not Tobacco**

Tobacco use causes health consequences as well as many social, economic and environmental problems which impede national development.

**If we choose to, we can end the tobacco epidemic in Myanmar.** But it's going to take all of us-parents, teachers, health care providers, communities, schools and policy makers supporting policies, programmes, and media campaigns that prevent tobacco use by youth and children. You can help your children healthy choices about tobacco use by **Telling them:** Key facts about tobacco including betel quid; You do not want any one-including them-to use tobacco in your house or car.

**-Helping them:** Refuse tobacco; Cope with their problems; Quit if they are current users.

**-Making sure:** Never give tobacco to children or teens; Set a good example by not using tobacco yourself; Know what they are doing and who their friends are; Network with other parents who can help you encourage children and teens to refuse tobacco.

**Ref:**

- Word No Tobacco Day Tool Kit, WHO, 2018 -FCTC 2030 Strategy: Myanmar, WHO FCTC Secretariat, 2018
- The Tobacco Atlas, 6th Edition, American Cancer Society, 2018
- The Health Consequences of Smoking-50 years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General, US CDC, 2014.
- Global Atlas on CVD prevention and Control, WHO, 2011 ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Office of the President  
Order 29/2018

2<sup>nd</sup> Waning of Nayon, 1380 ME  
(31 May 2018)

## Appointment of Union Minister

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 232, article 235 (d) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 12 of Union Government Law, U Soe Win has been appointed as Union Minister for Planning and Finance.

Sd/ Win Myint  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

## U Aung Lynn Presents Credentials to President of Panama

U Aung Lynn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Panama, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Juan Carlos Varela Rodriguez, President of the Republic of Panama on 22 May 2018 in Panama.—Myanmar News Agency

## Complaints can be made on human rights violations

THE Myanmar National Human Rights Commission is receiving complaints on violation of the human rights of Union nationals. Upon receipt, it assesses, coordinates and resolves the complaints and informs and coordinates with relevant departments to resolve the matter.

If the fundamental rights accorded by the Constitution, rights accorded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in international human rights agreements in which the State had signed are violated, the violated person(s) or another person on behalf of the violated person(s) can complain via registered letter to the Chairman, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, No. (27) Pyay Road, Hline Township, Yangon or in person at the commission office.

Human rights violations include violation of children rights and women rights. For such violation, the violated person(s) or a duty conscious person(s) who knows of the violation can complain to the commission.

When a complaint is made, the following particulars should be included.

1. Name, address and contact numbers of the person who made the complaint (include phone, mobile phone, fax and email if available).
2. Details about the violation and supporting evidence and proofs.
3. Signed assertion that the statement is true and correct.
4. A copy of the national registration card of the person submitting the complaint.

**Note:** In assessing the complaint, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission may call the person making the complaint for an interview if required.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission ■





Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat meets with Israeli Ambassador Mr. Daniel Zonshine in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Israeli Ambassador

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Daniel Zonshine at the Pyithu Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed friendship and cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries, cooperation in the education sector, health sector, water re-

sources conservation and management sector and agriculture sector, along with providing aid in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and the natural disaster management sector.

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

## World No-Tobacco Day 2018 ceremony held in Nay Pyi Taw

A ceremony for World No-Tobacco Day 2018 was held at the office of the Ministry of Health and Sports in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe delivered an opening speech at the ceremony, at which he noted the importance of the day's message.

"World No-Tobacco Day is celebrated every year on May 31, and the day has been held since 1989 around the world. As the motto goes, 'Tobacco Breaks Hearts: Choose health, not tobacco', the ceremony is being observed to draw attention to the people of the harms of tobacco and its related diseases. Tobacco use causes at least 16 different cancers of the body, including lung cancer, cancers of the mouth, larynx, pharynx, esophagus, bladder, kidney, pancre-

as, liver, cervix, stomach, colon and rectum," he said.

"Although Myanmar has tried her best to reduce tobacco use for many years, it is found that the number of smokers and smoke-related diseases are on the increase, and we are reviewing the situation."

It is learnt that exposure to second-hand smoke can cause many of the same diseases as active smoking. For non-smokers, it is important to be aware of the dangers of cancer. According to the research, it is learnt that the non-smokers who are exposed to secondhand smoke at home or at work increase their risk of developing lung cancer by 30 per cent. In pregnant women, it causes premature births, low birth weight, childhood learning deficiencies, and sudden infant deaths.

Dr. Myint Htwe noted that the producers and sellers of tobacco are also part of the problem.

"They should know that they are selling health hazards to the public. Smoking can affect the standard of public health and health sector, thus it can be regarded as a main enemy of the public", he said. A representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) read out the message of the Director of WHO South-East Asia Region and presented a video about the commemoration of World No-Tobacco Day, and then presented prizes to those who have made the greatest progress toward a tobacco-free campus among the universities.

Afterwards, Dr. Myint Htwe and guests toured the booths displayed for World No-Tobacco Day.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe honours those who have made greatest progress toward a tobacco-free campus at universities. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Japanese investment in Myanmar soars to all-time high in FY 2017

Japanese investment in Myanmar reached an all-time high of about \$1.48 billion in fiscal 2017 since the nation's transition from military to civilian rule in 2011, boosted by large-scale commercial complex and steel manufacturing projects.

According to Myanmar's Ministry of Planning and Finance, Japanese investment in fiscal 2017 through March this year more than quintupled from a year earlier, topping the previous record of \$1.02 billion in

fiscal 2014.

Japan became the fourth biggest foreign investor in fiscal 2017 after Singapore, China and the Netherlands, the Japan Desk at the ministry's Directorate of Investment & Company Administration said.

The Japanese investments consisted of those from Japan or via third countries such as Singapore, endorsed or approved by the ministry or Myanmar's Special Economic Zone authorities.

Those through third coun-

tries accounted for nearly two-thirds of the total.

The sharp increase was attributable to a \$333 million real estate project in Yangon, the nation's commercial capital, by construction firm Fujita Corp. and its Japanese and Myanmar partners and a \$400 public-private partnership project led by major general contractor Kajima Corp.

The Myanmar data also show that JFE Steel Corp. and its partners such as local steel maker Meranti Myanmar Co.

started construction of a factory in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone to manufacture hot-dip galvanized and colored flat steel products.

Japanese investment in Myanmar totaled \$252 million in fiscal 2012, \$55 million in fiscal 2013, \$1.02 billion in fiscal 2014, \$590 million in fiscal 2015 and \$280 million in fiscal 2016.

In fiscal 2017, concerns over the current administration's policy implementation and the Rohingya refugee crisis appar-

ently eased among Japanese investors, said Takahide Tahara, an adviser at the Japan Desk on loan from the Japanese government-backed Japan External Trade Organization.

Despite a tough investment climate exemplified by protracted infrastructure development, Tahara said, Japanese investment in Myanmar is becoming stable as Myanmar is implementing deregulation measures and speeding up procedural steps.—Kyodo News ■



# Japan whale hunt killed 122 pregnant minke

TOKYO—Japan killed 122 pregnant minke whales during a highly controversial annual whaling expedition that Tokyo defends as scientific research but conservationists call “gruesome and unnecessary”.

The four-month expedition in the Antarctic ended in March after the fleet killed 333 minke whales, according to a report submitted by Japanese authorities to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) last month.

Of those, 122 were pregnant, according to the Japanese report, with dozens more immature whales among those killed.

Humane Society International, a conservationist group, called the figures “a shocking statistic and sad indictment on the cruelty of Japan’s whale hunt”.

“It is further demonstration, if needed, of the truly gruesome and unnecessary nature of whaling operations, especially when non-lethal surveys have been shown to be sufficient for scientific needs,” said the group’s senior program manager, Alexia



Japan’s four-month expedition in the Antarctic ended in March after the fleet killed 333 minke whales, according to a report submitted by Japanese authorities to the International Whaling Commission last month. **PHOTO: AFP**

Wellbelove.

Japan is a signatory to the International Whaling Commission, which has maintained a moratorium on hunting whales

since 1986.

But Tokyo exploits a loophole allowing whales to be killed for “scientific research” and claims it is trying to prove the

population is large enough to sustain a return to commercial hunting.

It makes no secret of the fact that meat from the expeditions

ends up on dinner tables.

Japan’s Fisheries Agency defended the hunt, saying it was not targeting pregnant whales.

“We catch whales totally at random,” said Yuki Morita, an official in charge of whaling at the agency.

“The IWC scientific committee recognises the number of whales we hunt is at the level that is necessary for research, but not above the level that would hurt the conservation of the stock,” he added.

“We’d like to stress here that the high ratio of pregnant females is noteworthy.

This shows there are many mature females, suggesting we can expect growth in resources stock,” he told AFP.

Japan has hunted whales for centuries, and their meat was a key source of protein in the immediate post-World War II years when the country was desperately poor.

But consumption has declined significantly in recent decades, with much of the population saying they rarely or never eat whale meat.—AFP ■

## Amazon blocks Australia from global sites over tax

SYDNEY— US internet giant Amazon will block Australian shoppers from its international websites to counter new tax laws on online purchases, it announced Thursday.

New rules require internet retailers like the American behemoth to collect a 10 per cent goods and services tax on everything bought from overseas sites from 1 July, including under the current tax-free threshold of Aus\$1,000 (US\$760).

As a result, Amazon said Australian shoppers wanting to use its global platforms will instead be directed to its smaller Australian site, which offers much less for sale.

Amazon reportedly balked at the massive administrative burden of tracking GST from all overseas transactions.

“While we regret any inconvenience this may cause customers, we have had to assess the workability of the legislation as a global business with multiple international sites,” it said in a



Amazon said Australian shoppers wanting to use its global platforms will instead be directed to its smaller Australian site, which offers much less for sale. **PHOTO: AFP**

statement. The retailer said it would compensate by opening a “global store” for Australians, adding an extra four million items previously available only on its American website.

“This will allow us to provide our customers with continued access to (our) international selection and remain compliant with the law,” it said.

But even with the changes,

the number of products available will be a fraction of what’s on sale globally.

The new tax rules were brought in after years of lobbying by struggling local retailers, which have to apply GST to all online and store sales,

Low consumer confidence and tepid wage growth have also hit traditional brick and mortar retail operations.—AFP ■

## British scientists create human corneas using 3D printer

LONDON — Human corneas have successfully been 3D printed for the first time by scientists at Newcastle University in England.

By mixing stem cells from a healthy donor cornea with alginate, a gel derived from seaweed, and collagen, researchers managed to create a “bio-ink” solution that can be printed.

This bio-ink then would be successfully expelled out of the printer in concentric circles in the shape of a cornea in less than 10 minutes, according to a paper published in Experimental Eye Research.

“Our unique bio-gel -- a combination of alginate and collagen -- keeps the stem cells alive while producing a material which is stiff enough to hold its shape but soft enough to be squeezed out the nozzle of a 3D printer,” said lead researcher Che Canon in a press release.

Canon’s team also showed it is possible to create a cornea that matches a patient’s unique specifications.

By taking the dimensions of the patient’s actual cornea with scans, scientists can use the data to print a cornea that matches its size and shape.

The 3D printed corneas will now have to undergo further testing but it is hoped the technique could be in regular use within five years.

Professor Canon said the research could help with the worldwide shortage of corneas for transplant.

Currently around 10 million people worldwide each year require surgery to prevent corneal blindness, and another five million already suffer total blindness from corneal scarring caused by burns, lacerations, abrasion or disease. —Xinhua ■



# The other Kim summit: Trump keeps up Kardashian at White House meet

WASHINGTON — Days away from a historic summit with North Korea's mercurial leader, US President Donald Trump held a White House meeting Wednesday with another famous Kim — reality TV star Kardashian — to discuss prison reform and sentencing.

The reality star entered the grounds of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue wearing a black suit and canary yellow stilettos, an AFP photographer witnessed.

Kardashian was expected to meet aide Jared Kushner, who has spearheaded stuttering White House efforts at criminal justice reform.

In the end, she met



Kim Kardashian entered the grounds of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue wearing a black suit and canary yellow stilettos. **PHOTO: AFP**

with fellow TV personality, President Donald Trump — formerly of “The Ap-

prentice” and New York tabloid fame.

“Great meeting with

@KimKardashian today, talked about prison reform and sentencing,” the

president said in a tweet, accompanied by a photograph of the pair in the Oval Office, with Trump flashing a broad grin.

Kardashian, 37, is known for her socialite TV persona, but has also called for the release of Alice Marie Johnson, a 62-year-old who has been in prison for more than two decades for a nonviolent drug offense.

Fixing tough sentencing laws had been a priority of president Barack Obama's administration, but he failed to win Congressional support, prompting a stream of presidential pardons and clemency actions.

Trump has so far taken a more hardline

approach, advocating a “lock-em-up-and-throw-away-the-key” approach to criminal justice.

During his first year and half in office he has pardoned disgraced Arizona sheriff Joe Arpaio, a Trump supporter who was convicted of violating a court order to halt traffic patrols targeting immigrants.

He also pardoned vice president Dick Cheney's former chief of staff Lewis “Scooter” Libby.

Last month, Kim's rapper husband Kanye West raised eyebrows after tweeting about his “love” for Trump and describing him as a “brother” with whom he shared “dragon energy.”—AFP ■

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO. ( 218 N/S )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO. ( 218 N/S ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. ( KHS 0083 N/S )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. ( KHS 0083 N/S ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

# 1.2bn children threatened by war, poverty, discrimination

LONDON — More than half of the world's children are threatened by conflict, poverty or sexual discrimination, Save the Children said in a report published on Wednesday. Entitled “Many Faces of Exclusion”, the study ranked 175 countries in terms of the threat of child labour, exclusion from education, child marriage and early pregnancy. It found that 1.2 billion children worldwide were at risk from at least one of the three main threats. Eight of the 10 countries which ranked worst for children were in west and central Africa, with the greatest threat level in Niger.

By contrast, Singapore and Slovenia were classed as the countries with the lowest incidence of such problems. “More than half the world's children start their lives held back because they are a girl, because they are poor or because they are grow-



Niger is the country in which children face the biggest threats from conflict, poverty and discrimination, Save the Children says. **PHOTO: AFP**

ing up in a war zone,” said Helle Thorning-Schmidt, the charity's chief executive. “Governments can and must do more to give every child the best possible start in life,” she added.

“The fact that countries with similar levels of income deliver such different outcomes for children

shows that policy, funding and political commitment make a critical difference.”

The report said more than one billion children live in countries hit by poverty and 240 million in countries affected by conflict and fragility.

More than 575 million girls live in countries

“where gender bias is a serious issue”, it found.

Some 20 countries, including South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen and Afghanistan, account for 153 million children living under all three threats of child labour, exclusion from education and child marriage.—AFP ■



# Evacuations urged in Hawaii as lava flow advances

LOS ANGELES — Authorities urged people in Hawaii Wednesday to evacuate an area at risk of being cut off by a flood of lava from the erupting Kilauea volcano.

“Hawaiian Volcano Observatory reports that lava from several fissures continues to advance toward the Kapoho area,” a Civil Defense message said, referencing an area that was devastated during a 1960 eruption.

“Residents of Kapoho Beach Lots and Vacationland are advised to evacuate.

You are at risk of being isolated due to possible lava inundation,” the message added.

Authorities had earlier advised that lava flow from Fissure 8 had



Around 2,000 residents have already abandoned their homes as a result of Kilauea’s eruption, which has destroyed 71 houses so far. PHOTO: AFP

blocked a major highway and caused an electricity blackout, and recommended evacuations of other nearby areas as telephone

communications were cut.

Meanwhile, a 4.5 magnitude earthquake with an epicenter at Kilauea itself

was recorded on Wednesday at 11:00 am (0000 GMT). Although it was felt strongly in the area, authorities dismissed the

possibility of a tsunami.

Local authorities could not confirm to AFP how many people would be evacuated. Around 2,000 residents have already abandoned their homes as a result of the eruption, which has destroyed 71 houses so far.

The lava has engulfed an area of approximately 9.5 square kilometers, with the majority ending up in the ocean, creating so-called “laze” — acid fumes created when lava meets water.

Kilauea is one of five volcanoes on Hawaii’s Big Island.

Scientists believe that volcanic activity can be a precursor to a major eruption, similar to the Kilauea eruption in the mid-1920s. —AFP ■

## Ancient stone elephant statue found in north China

SHIJIAZHUANG — A stone elephant statue dating back to the early Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) was recently discovered in north China’s Hebei Province, local authorities said.

The statue, about 55 centimeters tall and 150 kg in weight, was found by villagers building a house in Cixian County.

The head of the statue was damaged but the body, which features exquisite sculpting techniques, is well-preserved.

“Elephant” is pronounced similarly to “auspicious” in Chinese, and images are often seen in palaces, temples, gardens and cemeteries. —AFP ■

# ‘You’re all going to die’: Parkland shooter’s phone videos released

WASHINGTON — Nikolas Cruz, the now infamous shooter behind February’s Parkland school massacre, filmed his disturbing plans to attack his former school in footage released by Florida prosecutors Wednesday. “It’s going to be a big event. When you see me on the news, you’ll know who I am,” Cruz said, filming with his cellphone.

“My name is Nik, and I’m going to be the next school shooter of 2018,” said the 19-year-old, in clips apparently in part filmed on 14 February, the day of the shooting, which killed 17 students and staff members at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. “My goal is at least 20 people,” he added, speaking in a calm, nonchalant voice in an outdoor setting. “You’re all going



Nikolas Cruz (C) faces the death penalty if he is convicted of first-degree murder. PHOTO: AFP

to die. Pew pew pew pew. Ah yeah. Can’t wait.”

Cruz explained his plan to take an Uber taxi, armed with his semi-automatic AR-15 rifle, to his old school. The video also revealed he initially intended to shoot down at students in a courtyard. “All the kids in school will run in fear and hide. From the wrath of my power they

will know who I am,” Cruz said. “I am nothing, I am no one, my life is nothing and meaningless,” added the shooter, who was arrested soon after the massacre. “I hate everyone and everything. With the power of my AR, you will all know who I am.” Cruz faces the death penalty if he is convicted of first-degree murder. —AFP ■

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We, **DONGGUAN RUIDEFENG BIOTECHNOLOG CO., LTD.** would like to change the Distributor of the following products, which registered under Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar, from **MYANMAR NOPOSION CROP SCIENCE CO., LTD.** to **MYANMAR WAI FUNG AGRICULTURE CO., LTD.** If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, Yangon from here to next (2) weeks.

No	The Old Distributor	Trade Name	Active Ingredients	Registration Number	Registration Type	Change To New Distributor
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No.66, Mingalar St, 10 Zay Tan Ward, Nant Kham Township, Shan State,  
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1	MYANMAR NOPOSION CROP SCIENCE CO., LTD.	Noposion M-Mancozeb 58% WP	Metalaxyl 10% + Mancozeb 48% WP	2014-1921	Provisional	MYANMAR WAI FUNG AGRICULTURE CO., LTD.
2		Noposion Paraquat 20% SL	Paraquat 20% SL	2014-1922	Provisional	
3		Noposion Imida 70% WG	Imidacloprid 70% WG	2014-1937	Provisional	
4		Noposion Imida 35% SC	Imidacloprid 35% SC	2014-1936	Provisional	
5		Noposion Acetamiprid 20% SP	Acetamiprid 20% SP	2014-1932	Provisional	
6		Noposion Abamectin 1.8% EC	Abamectin 1.8% EC	2015-2729	Provisional	
7		Noposion Iprodione 50 WP	Iprodione 50% WP	2015-2728	Provisional	
8		Noposion Tebuconazole 430 SC	Tebuconazole 430g/l SC	2015-2733	Provisional	
9		Noposion Mancozeb 80 WP	Mancozeb 80% WP	2015-2738	Provisional	
10		Noposion Azoxystrobin	Azoxystrobin 25% WG	2016-3098	Provisional	
11		Noposion Imida 600 SC	Imidacloprid 600g/l SC	2016-3097	Provisional	

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# ‘Saw,’ ‘Insidious’ creator Leigh Whannell turns to cyborg horror

LOS ANGELES— Part man, part machine— the ultimate expression of humanity’s dominion over nature — cyborgs have been a staple of popular culture since they were unleashed in a short story by Edgar Allen Poe 175 years ago. Today they walk among us, in our movie theaters and in the real world, where pace-makers are prolonging lives and prostheses are helping paralympians win gold medals.

More plausible than zombies or interstellar travel, cyborgs offer sci-fi fans a glimpse of a future that is already upon us, speaking to ancient paranoid fears about untrammelled technology wielded without responsibility.

“I worry a lot more about human beings than tech,” says Leigh Whannell, the writer of the best “Saw” movies and the entire “Insidious” franchise, whose cyborg thriller “Upgrade” hits US theaters on Friday.

“Even my fears about tech have to do with human beings. We are the ones creating this stuff, the great minds of tech, from Elon Musk to Steve Jobs, at one time,” the 41-year-old Australian tells AFP. “These are the minds that are able to conceive and build these worlds and I’m worried about our tendencies.”

A cyborg — short for “cyber-



Leigh Whannell, the writer of the best “Saw” movies and the entire “Insidious” franchise, whose cyborg thriller “Upgrade” hits US theaters on Friday. **PHOTO: AFP**

netic organism” — is a person with restored or enhanced mechanical or electrical body parts, typically giving them abilities beyond those of normal humans.

They are not to be confused

with androids, robots that have been made to appear human. So the Terminator, for example, doesn’t count — but Robocop does. Their first appearance in fiction is generally credited to

the 1843 Poe short story “The Man That Was Used Up,” which describes a disabled war veteran with extensive prostheses.

## ‘Undercurrent of anxiety’

“Upgrade” is the latest of several dozen mainstream cyborg, android and robot movies made since 1980, with Box Office Mojo attributing an average North American box office among the wide releases of about \$100 million. Cyborgs have been good guys and baddies down the years, from “The Six Million Dollar Man” through “Inspector Gadget” and perhaps the most iconic cyborg of them all, “Darth Vader.”

They continue to captivate, says Whannell, because they tap into a persistent dread about augmented reality, artificial intelligence and other advances — that the technology is gradually becoming our master.

Whannell uses the example of his smartphone, which makes him anxious whenever he opens it and checks the news. And it’s the messenger, not the message, that’s the problem.

“You could say smartphones are a first world problem, like people in Syria aren’t worried about Twitter, they’ve got bigger things to worry about,” the Australian tells AFP. “But I think that there

is an undercurrent of anxiety in modern society that has to do with our reliance on tech and the bombardment of information that comes from it.”

In “Upgrade,” curmudgeonly mechanic Grey Trace (Logan Marshall-Green), a technophobe sore thumb in a digital near-future, takes his wife Asha as he delivers a restored classic car to tech billionaire Erin King.

On the way home their self-driving car crashes and they are attacked by a gang who shoot dead Asha (Melanie Vallejo) and leave Grey a quadriplegic.

King (Harrison Gilbertson) visits Grey in hospital and convinces him that his cutting-edge computer chip — he calls it “Stem” — will help him regain control over his ravaged body.

## Souped-up Siri

Stem operates like a souped-up Siri, speaking in a voice only Trace can hear and able to operate his body independently, turning him into a cross between Usain Bolt and Bruce Lee.

Since his 2004 portrayal as terrified hostage Adam Stanheight in James Wan’s “Saw,” Whannell has become one of the most influential voices in 21st century horror.—AFP ■

# ‘The Americans,’ spy thriller for Trump era, ends after award-winning run

WASHINGTON—Tensions between Washington and Moscow are at an all-time high. US intelligence sees Russian spies around every corner, disrupting government and stealing secrets.

Set at the height of the Cold War in the 1980s, the hit TV series “The Americans” sees a pair of KGB agents and their children living deeply undercover as a perfect suburban Washington family, while they do their spymasters’ bidding.

After launching five years ago, the FX network series found particular relevance in the era of Donald Trump, with a return of Cold War tensions amid accusations that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election.

“The Americans” wrapped up an award-winning run with its final episode Wednesday after six seasons.

The show’s stars — Elizabeth

and Philip Jennings — were on the run and caught up in a plot by their own agency to sabotage the looming historic summit between president Ronald Reagan and Soviet reformer Mikhail Gorbachev that could lead to the end of the Cold War. Would Stan, the FBI counterintelligence agent who is the Jennings’ neighbor, finally expose them? Would they escape? What about their completely Americanized kids?

No giveaways here. What can be said was that the episode underscored the lack of any closure in the clandestine struggle between spies of both sides.

“The Americans” will linger in a US capital consumed by fears that Russian intelligence manipulated Trump’s election and possibly even coopted the White House.

## Lauded for realism

The show’s premise was

simple: how the Jennings — actors Keri Russell and Matthew Rhys — live under deep cover in a northern Virginia home, raising two children in American schools, keeping the house clean and the pantry stocked, while taking orders from KGB bosses to steal top government secrets, eliminate rivals, and remain hidden from US spy chasers.

Torn between allegiances as simultaneously hard-bitten Russian operatives and comfortable, middle-class American parents, they had to navigate a marriage forced on them by their KGB bosses, deal with angsty teen children, and parry factionalism back in the home office in Moscow.

In the final year they were caught up in the split between old-school communist and the reformers represented by Gorbachev, which leads to murder and mayhem in the last episodes.

While Hollywood is replete with spy series and movies — the often over-the-top “Homeland” another recent hit — Washington intelligence officials lauded “The Americans” for its realism.

Even new CIA director Gina Haspel, a three-decade veteran of covert services, is a fan.

That comes, in part, from deep cooperation between FX and real spies. Series creator and executive producer Joe Weisberg spent three years with the CIA before turning his hand to writing. His idea got the go-ahead not long after the 2010 arrest of a dozen Russian deep-cover operatives in the United States. A number of former CIA officials were advisors. “The Americans” gets the tradecraft and the technology of the 1980s generally right,” said Janna Hiestand Mendez, who was a married, undercover CIA operative in Europe for

years before becoming the chief of disguise at the agency.

“The script is littered with dead drops and communication protocols, disguises and cyanide pills, secret writing and signals that were used for impersonal communication with your agent or your team. It is all properly executed; it is done the way we did it.” Speaking in a CIA-sponsored forum on the show in Los Angeles Wednesday, former agency counterintelligence chief Mark Kelton said the show rightly depicted the simultaneously “thrilling and terrifying” activities of the spy-versus-spy world.

There were some differences, though.

“The one thing about the show, the sex bit is used a lot. “That’s very rare in my experience... unfortunately for me, when I was younger,” he said.—AFP ■



# Paris attacks documentary shows victims' defiance in face of horror

PARIS— "I'm not going to be killed by some guy in jogging pants," one of the Bataclan survivors told herself as jihadists raked the Paris concert hall with gunfire.

Remarkable testimony from dozens of survivors of the bloodbath form the core of a new three-part documentary about the 13 November carnage by the French brothers who won an Emmy for "9/11", the inside story of the heroics of New York fire-fighters on 11 September, 2001.

Although filmmaker Jules Naudet was in the World Trade Center when the second plane struck -- after already capturing the first one hitting the North Tower -- he and his brother were not in Paris when the attackers struck in November 2015, killing 130 people.

But their documentary mini-series, "Attack on Paris" -- which starts on Netflix on Friday -- tells the story through the eyes of those at the heart



One of the victims who was wounded at Paris' Bataclan concert hall during the November 2015 attacks shows her tattoo bearing the date 13-11-2015. **PHOTO: AFP**

of the drama. Through 40 interviews with survivors, the first police and ambulance officers at the scenes and former French president Francois Hollande, the pair try to recreate the terrible night which began with a suicide bombing at the Stade de France football stadium.

- Connection with survivors -  
"You get the feeling that (the

survivors) are all looking you in the eye" as they tell their stories, Jules Naudet told AFP.

"It was about creating a bubble where you forget the outside world" and are plunged back into the events which "are told in the present tense", he added.

His brother Gedeon said the fact they themselves had lived through a major terror attack

-- the pair were with the fire-fighters as they tried to evacuate the towers -- helped create a bond with the survivors.

"They talked about things that you share between survivors. They themselves were surprised that they were so open, like you would be in therapy," he said of the interviews, which were filmed over the course of eight months.

"We told them about what happened to us on 11 September, the stages of trauma we went through, and they were very curious," Gedeon Naudet added.

One of the most surprising things to emerge from the documentaries was the manner in which many of the survivors talk about the gunmen.

None of the jihadists are ever named -- nor is the Islamic State mentioned -- so "the films can never be used as propaganda", the brothers say. — AFP ■

## Keanu Reeves to star in 'Always Be My Maybe'

LOS ANGELES— Hollywood star Keanu Reeves and Daniel Dae Kim have joined the cast of Netflix's romantic comedy "Always Be My Maybe".

The movie stars Ali Wong and Randall Park in the lead roles, reported Variety.

Wong and Park feature in the film as childhood sweethearts who have a falling out and do not speak for 15 years. They reconnect as adults when Wong's character a celebrity chef opening a restaurant in San Francisco runs into Park's character, a happily struggling musician still living at home working for his dad.

Additional cast members include Karan Soni, Charlyne Yi, Michelle Buteau, Vivian Bang, James Saito, Lyrics Born, and Susan Park. Nahnatchka Khan is directing the film from a script by Wong, Park, and Michael Golamco.

Netflix will release "Always Be My Maybe" in 2019. —PTI ■

# Woody Allen to stage Puccini comic opera at Milan's La Scala

MILAN (ITALY) — Woody Allen, embroiled in revived sex abuse allegations, will take part in the 2018-19 season of Milan's La Scala when he directs his version of a Puccini comic opera, the head of the celebrated opera house said Wednesday.

The programme, which opens 7 December, will include the veteran US director's riotous rendition of "Gianni Schicci", set in New York's "Little Italy" in the 1930s.

Allen's version, which was a hit in Los Angeles in 2015 with Spanish legend Placido Domingo in the title role, will play in Milan in July 2019.

The 82-year-old has faced growing isolation over allegations that he molested his adopted daughter Dylan Farrow as a seven-year-old in 1992, leading a string of actors to distance themselves from him.

The allegations, which have never been proved, resurfaced in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal.

"Let's not give that too much weight," La Scala di-



La Scala's 2018-19 season will include Woody Allen's version of Puccini's comic opera "Gianni Schicci" set in 1930s New York. **PHOTO: AFP**

rector Alexander Pereira told AFP, adding: "There's also another part" of Hollywood that still wants to work with Allen, who has directed more than 50 films, winning four Oscars and numerous accolades in Europe.

"He's 82 years old, what does all this mean?" Pereira asked. "Let's leave things as they are."

La Scala's season will open with the 1846 Verdi opera "Attila" under the baton of Riccardo Chailly, with Russian

bass Ildar Abdrazakov in the title role opposite soprano Saïa Hernandez of Spain.

"Half of the programme will be dedicated to the Italian repertoire, because opera was born here," Pereira told a news conference. — AFP ■

## Sylvester Stallone working on film about Trump-pardoned boxer Jack Johnson

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood action star Sylvester Stallone is teaming up with MGM to develop a biopic on legendary boxing champion Jack Johnson, who was recently posthumously pardoned by President Donald Trump.

Johnson was a dominant boxer and the first African-American heavyweight champion.

The film will launch Stallone's Balboa Productions, created to develop film and television projects, reported Variety.

Stallone was instrumental in obtaining a presidential pardon for Johnson, who was convicted of violating the Mann Act in 1910 for transporting a woman across state lines for "immoral purposes." MGM Motion Picture Group president Jonathan Glickman and MGM executive vice president of production Adam Rosenberg are overseeing the film, but there is no writer or director attached yet.

Stallone has previously partnered with MGM on the "Rocky" movies and the "Creed" spin-off. — PTI ■



## Two-division world champion Aung La N Sang to defend his title this month

AUNG LA N SANG, One Championship's middleweight and light-heavyweight world champion, will defend his title against newcomer Ken Hasegawa of Japan in the evening's main event of ONE: Spirit of a Warrior on 29 June at Thuwunna Indoor Stadium. Aung La informed the media on 30 May that he is ready to defend his title and bring glory to Myanmar once again with another victory.

"Ken Hasegawa is one of the best martial artists in his category in the history of Japan. He is incredibly strong and possesses great stamina and endurance. He cannot be underestimated, so I am fully focused and putting in every effort in preparing for this bout", Aung La N Sang said.

"I have studied his strengths and weakness, which I can use to my advantage. My team and I have come up with a sound game plan to capitalize on his unique style. I feel no pressure. I'm just excited to get in there and defend my title. This is going to be a huge bout and I am training for



One Championship's middleweight and light-heavyweight world champion, Aung La N Sang.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

it like it's the most important of my career. I would encourage my opponent to train equally as hard, so we can put on a good show".

The match is much anticipated

because the two competitors are closely matched, as Ken Hasegawa is the current DEEP Megaton Champion.

Hasegawa won the vacant

title by participating in a tournament where he first defeated Peter Tornow and advanced to the finals, where he bested Seigo Mizuguchi.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## Women footballers played friendlies in MDY

As part of the preparation for the AFF Women's Championship 2018, the Myanmar women's national football team played three friendlies with local youth clubs.

The women footballers arrived in Mandalay on 22 May and started their physical exercises and training on 23 May at the football academy of Mandalay.

All the matches that the Myanmar women played were divided into three sections of 30 minutes.

In their first friendly match, the women's national team played Lucky Home Club on 25 May at Ba Htoo Stadium.

The Myanmar women team beat Lucky Home Club by a score of 2-1, with goals scored by Win Theingi Tun and July Kyaw.

On 27 May, in their second match, the women team played the team from Unity Private School team. The Myanmar women's team beat Unity Private School team by a score of 4-1, with goals scored by Yu Par Khaing, Win Theingi Tun, Thin Thin Yu and Nu Nu.

In their third friendly on 29 May, the Myanmar women played a team comprised of football coaches from Mandalay. The women beat the coaches by a score of 4-0. Three goals were scored by Ni Lar Win and one by July Kyaw.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## Danilo comes to Sterling's defence in gun tattoo row

LONDON — Manchester City defender Danilo has played down the row surrounding team mate Raheem Sterling's gun tattoo.

A picture of Sterling's tattooed leg appeared on the front page of Britain's popular Sun tabloid on Tuesday and prompted

ed criticism from anti-gun campaigners.

But the 23-year-old England forward insisted there was a deeper meaning behind the tattoo than was apparent from first glance.

In an Instagram post from

England's pre-World Cup training camp at St George's Park, Sterling wrote: "When I was 2 my father died from being gunned down to death I made a promise to myself I would never touch a gun in my life time, I shoot with my right foot so it has a deeper

meaning N still unfinished."

England's governing Football Association backed what it said was Sterling's "honest and heartfelt account" of why he had the new tattoo and now City teammate Danilo has also come to his defence.—AFP ■

## Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane says will leave club



Zinedine Zidane is the only coach in history to win three Champions Leagues in a row. PHOTO: AFP

MADRID — Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said Thursday he was leaving the Spanish giants in a surprise move announced just days after winning the Champions League for the third year in a row.

"I have taken the decision to not continue next year as Real Madrid coach," the Frenchman told a hastily convened press conference, before adding he was not looking for another club to coach.

"This club deserves to continue to win and needs a change"

he said, adding that he believed the "moment has come."

"After three years the club needs another discourse, another method of working," he added.

"I don't see myself continuing to win this year and I am a winner; I don't like to lose," added Zidane, who was under contract with Real until 2020.

"I have thought a lot about this decision and I can't go back on it."

Real beat Liverpool 3-1 in the final in Kiev on Saturday, making Zidane the first coach

in history to win three successive Champions League titles.

Zidane, 45, has now won nine trophies since replacing Rafael Benitez in the Santiago Bernabeu dugout in January 2016.

He was flanked at the press conference by Real Madrid president Florentino Perez who said Zidane's announcement was "totally unexpected".

Zidane said his decision had nothing to do with Cristiano Ronaldo hinting that he will also leave the club.—AFP ■