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

## Ministries explain spending foreign loans on projects

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw put the discussion on spending foreign loans on projects on record yesterday following the debate by the lawmakers and union-level officials at the Hluttaw yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

### Power supply in Thilawa Industrial Zone, Aunglan Town receives upgrade

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing said the 33-KV power

line from the primary power station in Thanlyin has been successfully linked to Thilawa Industrial Zone. The substation in Thilawa houses two 25-MW generators, and an additional 9.3 mile-long 230-KV power line from the Thanlyin power station has been completed as well.

The 66/6.6KV-5MVA transformer at the Aunglan Town substation has been upgraded to a 66/11KV-10MVA transform-

er, and an 18.9 mile-long 11-KVA power line has been installed. Aunglan Town has also had 959 of the 1,227-old utility poles replaced.

The deputy minister said US\$90.738 million of the \$310 million loan from the World Bank for the National Electrification Plan has been used to buy transformers, concrete utility poles, steel parts and accessories via an open tender system.

### Education Ministry spends loans on education support programmes

Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said his ministry has received \$56.972 million in loans from the World Bank for the 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017 fiscal years. He said the specified amount is relevant to the currency exchange rate of the special drawing rate of the FY concerned.

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## MraukU inscription enters in MOWCAP register

During the eighth general meeting of the Memory of the World (MoW) Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP) held in Gwangju, South Korea, from 29 May to 1 June, Anandachandra Stone Inscription and Mya Ganang (The Emerald Jungle) movie of Myanmar were entered in the register of MOWCAP.

Among the documentary heritages proposed by 27 countries this year, 10 documentary heritages from seven countries made it to the register. These documentary heritages were two from Myanmar, two from China, two from South Korea, one each from Tuvalu, the Philippines, Viet Nam and the Solomon Islands. As of 2018, some 57 documentary heritages were entered in the register of MOWCAP.

According to the MoW Register Companion, published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), MoW is UNESCO's flagship programme that aims to ensure the preservation and dissemination of valuable archive holdings, and library and museum collections worldwide. A document is an item that is made up of signs or codes (such as writings) or sounds and/or images (such as a recording, photographs or film), and is (usually) movable, preservable and able to be reproduced or copied.

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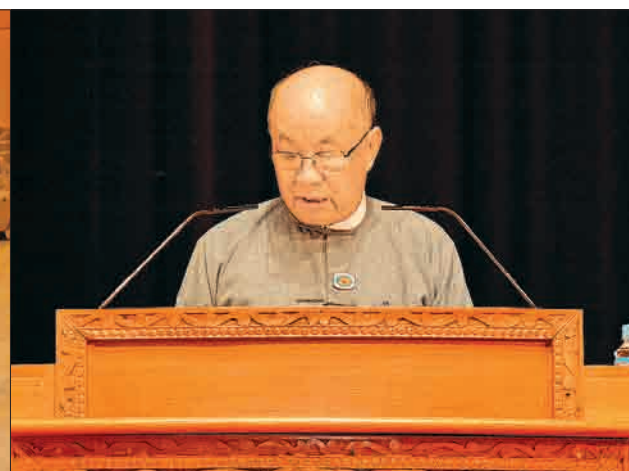
# Ministry explains first phase of National Electrification Plan to MPs of Pyithu Hluttaw

MINISTRY of Electricity and Energy reported on implementation of the first phase of the National Electrification Plan to Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday.

The ceremony began with opening speech by Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Tun Tun Hein.

The NEP is being carried out by the Ministry of Electricity and Energy with a US\$ 310 million international development association (IDA) loan from the World Bank.

The Deputy Speaker said the seminar would highlight areas where the attendants and their represented businesses can help with the NEP. He said Myanmar has the least electrical supply in ASEAN,



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung delivers the speech at the ceremony to explain the National Electrification Plan. **PHOTO: MNA**

percentagewise, and the development of the electrical/power sector is sorely needed to attract foreign investments and strengthen the country's economy. He said the Hluttaw

and the MPs are providing support to bring the NEP to fruition swiftly.

Next, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing also delivered a speech.

Later, the director-general of the Department of Electric Power Planning explained the completed works of the NEP and the deputy chief engineer of the Electric Power Genera-

tion Enterprise then explained the NEP's current progress. This was followed by a Q&A session between the Hluttaw MPs and officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Ministries explain ...

### FROM PAGE-1

He said his ministry received \$80 million in loans from the World Bank in the 2014-2015 FY to begin education supportive projects in schools, and as of the 2016-2017 FY, the ministry has spent \$56.972 million.

Similarly, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw; Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw; Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe, and Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win explained the status and project progress of their respective ministry's Pyidaungsu Hluttaw-approved loans.

Next, Vice President of the National Education Policy Com-

mission U Nyi Hla Nge submitted the six-month progress report (from October 2017 to April 2018) to the Hluttaw. The speaker then requested the interested MPs to register for further discussion.

### Joint Coordination Committee on Hluttaw Development

The MPs then discussed the 2016-2017 FY progress report submitted by the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) on Hluttaw Development.

### Tatmadaw MP states Pyidaungsu Hluttaw not notified of Joint Coordination Committee formation

During discussions, Tat-



U Hla Kyaw. **PHOTO: MNA**



U Han Zaw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Dr. Myint Htwe. **PHOTO: MNA**

madaw MP Major Zin Lin said the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was not notified of the formation of the JCC nor was it officially approved by the Hluttaw. He said legislators should follow the law they themselves have passed and called for the JCC to follow Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law Section 79-(F) and the Burma Offi-

cial Secrets Act.

MPs discussed Pyidaungsu Hluttaw-approved foreign loans up to 31 March 2017, and the assembly listened to reports from union-level organisations during the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session yesterday. A discussion on the formation of the Joint Coordination Committee on the Hluttaw

Development was brought up.

U Wai Sein Aung of Rakhine constituency (1) and Daw Wint War Tun of Shadaw constituency discussed the report as well. A further discussion concerning the JCC report will be continued in the next Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session on 12 June.—Myo Myint (Myanmar News Agency) ■

## NREC Union Minister receives US Ambassador

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win received Mr. Scot Marciel, the US Ambassador to Myanmar, at the meeting hall of the Union Minister's office yesterday morning.

At the meeting, matters related to possible cooperation between Myanmar and the US in business, investment in the en-

vironment sector and extractive industries (forest, gems and mineral), according to international standards, US businesses investing in various sectors, the status of conducting an environmental impact assessment and holding regular meetings between the ministry and the American Chamber of Commerce in Myanmar were discussed.—MNA ■



Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win holds talks with US Ambassador Mr. Scot Marciel yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**



## U Myo Aye presents credentials to President of Bulgaria

U Myo Aye, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Bulgaria, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Rumen Radev, President of the Republic of Bulgaria on 29 May 2018 in Sofia.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Union Minister for Health and Sports separately receives WHO, WFP delegations

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe received Dr. Gvenael Rodier, director, Health Emergencies Programme, Country Health Emergency Preparedness and International Health Regulations of the World Health Organisation, and Mr. David Kaatrud, Asia-Pacific regional director of the World Food Program-WFP, separately, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting with the delegation, led by Dr. Gvenael Rodier, they discussed the implementation of health safety and security in national-level projects, quick response to and prevention measures against new diseases and infectious diseases in a timely manner, promoting quality and perfor-

mance to fight infectious diseases, establishing a central bureau for controlling infectious diseases in Myanmar, publishing and using health manual books and disseminating knowledge about health over mobile phones.

At the meeting with the WFP delegation, led by Mr. David Kaatrud, they discussed the tasks to be carried out under the WFP strategic plan 2018-2022, WFP's survey of food sufficiency and nutrition on the outskirts of Yangon, releasing the data of WFP's survey on micro-nutrition and food intake, jointly carried out with the Ministry of Health and Sports, and cooperation in food sufficiency and nutrition.—Myanmar News Agency



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe meets with WFP Asia-Pacific regional director Mr. David Kaatrud in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Fifth public talks to be conducted in Htantabin

THE fifth public talks will be held at the monastery of MashweU Village, MashweU Village-tract, on 10 June morning under the sponsorship of Htantabin Township Information and Public Relations Department of Yangon North District.

Participants in the talks are MP U Aung Phone Kyaw, Administrator of the Township GAD U Than Zaw Linn, Township Education Officer U Ba Thein, Staff Officer of the

Township Rural Development Department U Myint Htwe Win, Staff Officer of Fishery Department U Aye Min, Staff Officer of the Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Kay Thi Maung and Deputy Head of the Township Agriculture Department U Htwe Aung.

The talks will be held under the title of "Rural Development".—Zin Min Htet-IPRD/MDN ■



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint meets with Mr. Lars Bestle, Head of Department for Asia of the International Media Support, at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Union Minister for Information separately receives Myanmar Press Council, International Media Support

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint separately received Myanmar Press Council Vice Chairmen Hanthawady U Ohn Kyaing and Dr. Myo Thant Tin, joint secretary U Kyaw Swar Min and party at 10 a.m. and Mr. Lars Bestle, head of department for Asia of the International Media Support at 11 a.m. at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting with the Myanmar Press Council, matters relating to electing the Myanmar Press Council members, news media law and news media rules were discussed.

During the meeting with the delegation led by Mr. Lars Bestle of International Media Support, matters relating to future works for news media development in

Myanmar, conducting workshops and courses to raise the quality of news reports, amending the television and video law and cooperation between the ministry and International Media Support were discussed. Present at the meetings were Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and other officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Mrauk U inscription enters in MOWCAP register

### FROM PAGE-1

A DOCUMENTARY heritage is a single document of any kind, or a number of documents that form logical coherent groups (such as a collection, a holding or archival fonds).

The MoW programme was started by UNESCO in 1992, and every two years, the proposed documentary heritages from across the world are reviewed, and as of now, 348 have been designated as MoW. In 1998, the MOWCAP was established. This committee includes 43 countries in the region as members, of which 18 have opened national MoW committees.

Myanmar started proposing heritages for MoW status since 2012 and in 2013, the stone inscriptions of the Tipitaka in Mahalawka Marazein Kuthodaw Pagoda, known as the world's largest book, was listed as a UNESCO MoW. In 2015, Myazedi Quadrilingual Stone Inscription and the Golden Letter of King Alunghphaya to King George II of Great Britain, sent in the year

1756, were listed as UNESCO MoW. In 2017, King Bayintnaung Bell Inscription on the bell in Shwezigon Pagoda, Bagan, in 1557 AD was listed as UNESCO MoW. Prior to this listing, the bell inscription entered the register of MOWCAP in 2016.

The Anandachandra Stone Inscription was moved from Wethali (Vesali) to Shitthaung (Shite-thaung) Pagoda, Mrauk U, in AD 1536 by King Min Bar Gyi (AD 1531-1553). The four-face stone inscription was written in three ancient letters, including ancient north Indian letters spanning the period from AD 600 to AD 1000. The inscriptions were made under the order of King Anandachandra. The stone inscription will be proposed for UNESCO MoW too.

The Mya Ganaing (Emerald Jungle) movie was produced in 1934 by director A-1 U Tin Maung. It is a well-known movie involving jungle scenes with actor Chit Swe and actress Myint Myint portraying the lead roles.—Myanmar News Agency



Anandachandra Stone Inscription. **PHOTO: MNA**



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# Japan's cold chain logistics empowers Myanmar strawberry farmers

JAPANESE cold chain logistics expertise is buoying the spirits of strawberry farmers in Myanmar, radically reducing damage from poor transportation methods and heat before their produce is delivered to consumers in commercial capital Yangon.

Reefer trucks supplied by Premium Sojitz Logistics Co. a Japan-Myanmar joint venture, transport strawberries daily from Pyin Oo Lwin in central Myanmar at temperatures that never exceed 8 C.

The city near Mandalay is known for the country's largest strawberry fields, but the fruit has long been stored along with luggage on long-haul buses before being delivered to a wholesale market in Yangon.

Japanese trading house Sojitz Corp. group established the joint venture in 2015 with Premium Distribution Co., a subsidiary of retail and logistics firm City Mart Holding Co., to help the Myanmar partner modernize its wholesale operations.

Ichiro Uesawa, managing director of the joint venture, has arranged for Myanmar strawberry farmers to visit Japan to show them the integrated food cold chain from fruit producers through retail outlets.

Nay Lin Tun, a 33-year-old



Nay Lin Tun (L) and his wife sort strawberries in Pyin Oo Lwin, central Myanmar, on 6 April, 2018, before shipping them by reefer trucks of Japan-Myanmar joint venture Premium Sojitz Logistics Co. to the commercial capital Yangon. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

farmer, expressed a keen interest in Japan's modern logistics know-how. The adoption of refrigerated transportation is "rewarding as we suffer less product losses than before," he said.

His strawberries are now sold at high-end supermarkets in Yangon, gaining a favorable reputation among consumers. He plans to switch the current strawberry varieties to sweeter

Taiwanese ones next season.

Saw Tun Min Kyaw, Pyin Oo Lwin's biggest strawberry farmer who boasts a daily shipment of up to 3 tons, credits the Japanese refrigerated transport technology with equalizing the quality of strawberries and sharply limiting the losses from an average 25 per cent loss of shipments in the past.

Premium Sojitz Logistics now collects nearly 60 per cent

of the total strawberry shipments from farmers in the city, formerly known as Maymyo, Uesawa said.

He also said his joint venture has decided to start exporting Myanmar strawberries by air to Thailand in January next year. He added that the firm has also received inquiries about the transportation of vegetables and fresh flowers in Myanmar.—Kyodo News ■

## Agro products exports down by \$70 million in past two months

THE export of agricultural products from 1 April to 25 May in the interim period for the 2018-2019 fiscal year was worth US\$449 million, decreasing by \$70 million compared to the same period in the 2017-2018 FY, according to the trade figures released by the commerce ministry.

In the same period of the 2017-2018 FY, agricultural exports exceeded \$519 million in value.

The decrease in agro exports is attributed to the low demand from China. Chinese buyers are observing the market. Additionally, the mung bean and pigeon pea markets have not fully

recovered yet, following India's restriction on their importation.

In the export sector, the agriculture industry performed the best along with the natural gas export sector. The chief export goods in the agricultural sector are rice and broken rice, pulses, corn and rubber. Fruits and vegetables, sesame, dried tea leaves, sugar and other agro products are also sent to foreign countries.

The commerce ministry is endeavouring to help deal with the challenges faced by farmers, such as high input costs, procurement of pedigree seeds, high cultivation costs and erratic weather conditions.—Mon Mon ■

## Watermelon supply at Muse gate down by 75 per cent compared to pre-Thingyan period

WATERMELON supply at the Muse border gate is down 75 per cent compared to the pre-Thingyan period.

Between February and April, watermelons fetched 1,000 to 2,500 yuan per tonne at the Muse market. The price of watermelon dropped to 300 yuan-700 yuan per tonne in early June.

The decrease in price is attributed to the following reasons: China wants to buy only large-sized watermelons weighing at least 15 kilograms, while Myanmar can only export watermelons weighing below 8 kilograms.

Some Chinese merchants made advanced purchases in northern Shan State and the Ayeyawady, Sagaing and Mandalay regions and Nay Pyi Taw before cultivation. Additionally, Chinese watermelon cooperatives have been established in each province. Also, high transactions are one of the reasons for the drop in price.

Currently, watermelon growers are facing difficulty as they cannot export the watermelons to China. A watermelon is worth only Ks500 in the domestic market.—Sayar Maung (Muse) ■



# Myanmar gold entrepreneurs prepare to hold international gold and jewellery expo

By May Thet Hnin

Myanmar gold entrepreneurs are preparing to hold an International Gold and Jewellery Exhibition showcasing internationally and locally produced items of jewellery, said U Myo Myint, chairman of Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

Gold entrepreneurs discussed matters concerning the holding of a jewellery expo at the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association office on 6 June.

“We will initially conduct market surveys to understand how the public responds to this. Depending on the market sur-

veys, we will arrange the expo. The survey will be conducted soon,” said U Myo Myint.

At this expo, we will invite international exhibitors to showcase pieces of gold and jewellery from other countries, including Thailand, China and Singapore, gold refining machines, jewellery and diamond-cutting machines,

besides Myanmar’s gold and jewellery.

The expo will help attract international buyers for Myanmar’s gold and jewellery and facilitate technical sharing, U Myo Myint maintained.

The international gems and jewellery expo is planned to be held in early 2019.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein also mentioned at the regular meeting held with the businessmen last month that the regional government will assist the domestic businessmen in holding international-level expos, which will help enhance tourism. ■

## SMID bank to provide three loans, including education loan

By Nyein Nyein

The Small and Medium Industrial Development (SMID) Bank will provide three loans, which are education loan, trade finance loan and cash flow-based loan (CFB), said Dr. Zayyar Nyount, a member of the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Committee and chief executive officer of SMID, at SMID’s product launch event held at Sule Shangrila Hotel on 7 June.

The SMID bank has already engaged with five international universities to provide the education loan. The bank will provide the education loan for students enrolling in the diploma and master’s courses.

“We want to participate in providing education. Therefore, we are providing the education loan for those attending the diploma and master’s courses,” he added.

Moreover, the International

Banking Division of SMID will also provide a trade finance loan to the enterprise without receiving a mortgage. The bank will provide the loan without receiving the mortgage but by building a trustworthy relationship with the loan borrowers.

The SMID will also provide CFB loan in three main sectors, such as the agriculture sector (paddy and corn), livestock breeding sector (fish, shrimp, crab, chicken, cow) and the manufacturing sector (food, goods, garment), said Dr. Zayyar Nyount.

The SMID will spend a capital of Ks100 billion on the three loans, he added.

The SMID started its operations on 15 February 1996 and has 19 branches. The bank has provided Ks630 million worth of loans to 30 businessmen without receiving mortgage and Ks90 billion loans with mortgage documents. ■



Djenkol fruits. PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD

## Djenkol cultivators make good profits due to high yield

THANKS to the high yield of Djenkol fruits in the Papun Township in Kayin State, the Djenkol is reaping profits in the local market.

“Last year, the Djenkol fruit had a lower yield. But this year, the yield was high in our region because we are taking time before cultivating for the next season. For example, if the fruit has a lower yield this year, we will get a high yield next year.

This year, we made good profits because of the high yield. The fruit is selling well in the local market,” said a Djenkol fruit local cultivator.

The Djenkol fruit from the Papun Township is sold in the Hpa-an, Mawlamyine and Yangon. Some of the cultivators sell their fruits in the market, while some sell them to Djenkol fruit traders. Some Djenkol fruit traders buy the fruit from the

farmland itself.

Last year, the price of Djenkol fruit was Ks18,000 per basket. However, this year, the local cultivators are selling the Djenkol fruit at Ks22,000 per basket.

Djenkol fruits are cultivated mainly in Pae Wah, Dweloe, Mawthitdaw, Pantun, Parlar, Paykay, Daypunu, Kawpok and Meenannwe villages in the Papun Township of Kayin State.— Papun District IPRD ■

## Individual trade worth Ks55bn as of 18 May

The border trade with individual trading cards (ITCs) was valued at Ks55 billion between 1 April and 18 May of the six-month interim period for the next 2018-2019 fiscal year, according to the statistics of the commerce ministry.

Exports conducted with the use of ITCs were worth Ks120 million, while imports were valued at Ks43.8 billion in the past two months.

The trade values of individual card holders were registered

as some Ks684 million at Tamu, Ks6.2 million at Muse, Ks3.7 billion at Myawady, Ks11.7 million at Tachilek, Ks175 million at Kanpikete, Ks130 million at Kawthoung, Ks127 million at Reed, Ks705 million at Mawtaung and Ks7.2 million at Kengtung.

The trade department has issued 1,442 cards so far. The trade values with ITCs were more than Ks737million from 21 November 2012 to 31 March 2013, more than Ks6.6 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, more than

Ks9.3 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, more than Ks6.4 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, more than Ks18.9 billion in the 2016-2017 FY and Ks45.9 billion in the 2017-2018 FY.

The trade department has issued trade cards to boost border trade. A businessman can trade Ks3 million worth of goods per day using the ITC, with the trade department granting trade values of up to Ks15 million per day, equal to a five-day trade value.—Ko Htet ■

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# National Literature Award Selection Committee holds press conference

The National Literature Award Selection Committee held a press conference on the 2017 national literature award selection policy at the Printing and Publishing Department Central Press Building of the Ministry of Information on Theinbyu Road, Yangon, yesterday.

At the press conference chaired by the National Literature Award Selection Committee member Dr. Kyaw Win, committee secretary U Than Ohn (Maung Zeya), and committee members U Htay Win (Maung Lin Yeik), U Kyaw Naing (Htet Myet) and U Khin Maung Soe (Maung Thamanya) took the lead in explaining the policy. The press conference was attended by literature experts, news media and invited guests.

## Dr. Kyaw Win

First, chairperson of the press conference and National Literature Award Selection Committee member Dr. Kyaw Win explained the history of the committee, committee members, the duties and responsibilities of the committee, the policies set for selection, selection according to majority consensus and the announcement made about the selected literature awards after holding meetings repeatedly.

## U Than Ohn

Next, committee secretary U Than Ohn explained the National Literature Award was not a literature competition but the selection of the best book from among the books and papers published within a year, and said the secretariat had been given a special assignment to collect all the books and papers.

The committee led by Sayagyi U Thaw Kaung in 2016 had 77 committee members, where Sayagyi U Thaw Kaung was the chairman. The vice chairmen were Saya U Khin Aye and Saya Maung Paw Htun. As some members resigned for health reasons, the National Literature Award selection work was conducted by 65 members last year. He said the members had done a good job. During the time of the democratic government, the committee set up new policies.

The first policy was the



The press conference on the 2017 National Literature Award selection policy in progress. PHOTO: YE HTUT

non-involvement of the Ministry of Information and the minister in the selection of the National Literature Award. The committee led by Sayagyi U Thaw Kaung strived to make the commission independent, without being influenced by outside entities or persons.

In setting this policy, the first step was to collect all the books that were published and to select the best book without bias and impartially. The second step was the decision to include all the books published in 2016. All members anonymously supported and accepted this, and the results can be found in last year's award-winning books. The third move was to put in an additional best modern poem category, in addition to the best traditional poem category.

All poems are considered equal, and the poem award was included to be made to only one type of poem. That year, there were quite a number of poetry enthusiasts in the committee, and there were many objections in the selection due to diverse opinions.

Although the meeting was attended by the union minister, the union minister did not get involved and simply confirmed (approved) the discussion made by the committee. Subject-wise, we had a lot of arguments. When no

consensus was reached, members voted on it. All who attended participated in the voting. Of the 250 poem books, one was selected and given the award. The award went to the modern type of poem.

Saya Maung Sein Win (Padi-gone), who was assigned the duty of head of poetry, left because he was not satisfied with the award. National Literature Award winner poet Myinmu Maung Naing Moe also left because he was not happy that there was only one award instead of two. Due to their exits, a search for a balanced and unbiased leader in poetry had to be made.

When the 2017 meeting was held, the Union Minister himself attended and there was a problem. Saya Hein Latt requested that a decision be made on whether there'll be one or two poem awards. The Union Minister himself asked the committee to discuss it and said that the committee's decision will be confirmed and approved if there are to be two awards.

As no consensus was reached, the matter was put to a vote. The votes were to be made in a sealed envelope and to remove any doubt of bias, the secretariat group handed over the duty (of counting the vote) to the Sarpay Beikman support group. There was no objection

and no one came up with a better idea or alternative. When the votes of all 65 members were counted, 40 went to the one poem award and 23 went to two poem awards, while two votes were discarded.

When the result was announced with the permission of chairman Sayagyi U Khin Aye, writer Ma Sandar immediately objected to it. The committee is striving toward becoming an independent entity and everything is being done toward this aim. But after the voting was conducted, first Ma Sandar left. The following day, Saya Thuya Zaw left.

The committee needs to have a culture of honouring and following the majority decision. That is why we are explaining the situation. Because there had been many accusations that only a modern poem award will be given.

But when the news about the matter reached the media, many cast doubts on the committee as promoting modern poems and neglecting traditional poems. We were worried that words of anger and hate were spreading among the literature circle. That is why this news conference had been held. We are truly sorry to hold this conference but we don't want to see the spread of hate (and anger) in the media and on Facebook.

## U Htay Win (Maung Lin Yeik)

Next, National Literature Award Selection Committee member U Htay Win (Maung Lin Yeik) explained that when the Poem Selection Committee was formed, it considered all forms and genres of poetry, but there are basically two types of poetry: classical and modern; and thus the selection process focused on including both genres.

He explained that the Poem Selection Committee was formed with experienced poets, most of who have served in executive or leading roles in poetry-centric organisations. He added that the poem selection process follows the policy set in the 2016 report by the National Literature Award Selection Committee and sub-committees.

## U Kyaw Naing (Htet Myat)

Committee member U Kyaw Naing (Htet Myat) said the Union Minister for Information and the National Literature Award Selection Committee rejected the inputs of former committee members concerning the Literary Conference's decisions. He added that the current issue did not concern modern poems.

He said the phrase "prefer not to be a culprit in recorded history" is insulting and not befitting of professional conduct. He added that the people involved all know the truth about who is the culprit and thus the issue did not need extra attention.

U Kyaw Naing then talked about the history of the Literary Conference's formation. He said author Myay Mhone Lwin suggested the idea for the literary conference, which started with representatives from 11 literary organisations, invited by Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint, holding a press conference here. U Kyaw Naing said he had held a similar literary conference in 1962 and said the government should take a leading role in the conference. However, he said Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint refused to be involved in the conference either as a representative of the government or in his individual capacity. He said the union minister wished for only the free voice of the literary organisations involved in the conference.

SEE PAGE-10



## Disaster drill held in Dala



Inland Water Transport conducts disaster preparedness drill on a ferry in Dala Township, Yangon Region. **PHOTO: MDN**

A DISASTER preparedness drill was held on a vessel at a jetty in Dala Township, Yangon Region yesterday morning.

“We (Inland Water Transport) have been working and focusing on the safety measures for vessels and passengers. Storms may occur during pre-monsoon season in Myanmar. The aim of the drill is to be ready and to make preparations when storms hit the country. By doing so, we can provide effective protection for people if natural disasters occur,” said U Aung Than Myaing, the Director General of the IWT at the opening of the drill.

Over 100 staff under the department took part in the drill. Officials gave lectures on obligations and emergency tasks to be carried out by individuals as natural disaster preventive

measures. Similar exercises were conducted in Mandalay, Sagaing, Mawlamyine and Rakhine State simultaneously.

The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) use the colour-coded storm warning system and classifies storms into five colours—orange, yellow, red, brown and green.

The yellow colour shows the outbreak of a storm and the orange colour represents the necessary preparations that should be made for possible strong winds. The DMH issues weather forecasts every two or three hours daily.

Two ferries from the IWT ply between Yangon and Dala 46 times from 5 am to 9 pm every day, offering transportation services to about 30,000 commuters.—Myanmar Digital News ■

## Fire breaks out in Monekoe's Market

A FIRE broke out at No.1 Market in Monekoe in Muse District, Northern Shan State at 11:30 pm on 6 June.

The fire started at the grocery store owned by U La Mone, the cause of the fire was an overheated wire. It took

firefighters and auxiliary fire members about one hour to extinguish the blaze.

No casualties were reported and an estimated loss of property from the fire is about K 4.5 million.—Myanmar Digital News ■



Firefighters manage to control the fire one hour after the blaze. **PHOTO: MUSE DISTRICT IPRD**

## Over 754,000 seedlings raised in Sagaing Region nurseries

IN a bid to distribute seedlings to growers in nine districts in the Sagaing Region, 754,580 seedlings were raised in the nurseries of the township forest departments of the Sagaing Region in the rainy season during the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

When the community planting event is held this rainy season, the Sagaing Region Forest Department will distribute

trees and flowering plants free of charge. Those who cannot attend this event can take the seedlings from the respective townships' nurseries, said U Than Soe, head of Sagaing Region Forest Department.

A total of 207,980 seedlings will be distributed in eight townships of Yinmabin and Monywa districts, 111,500 seedlings in three townships of Sagaing

District, 189,800 seedlings in eight townships of Shwebo and Kantbalu districts, 129,700 seedlings in seven townships of Katha District, 57,600 seedlings in three townships of Kalay District, 15,000 seedlings in Tamu Township, 25,000 seedlings in two townships of Mawlaik District and 18,000 seedlings in two townships of Khamti District.—Win Oo (Zayar Tine) ■



A seedlings nursery in Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: WIN OO (ZAYAR TINE)**

## Pakokku residents affected by torrential rains

THREE houses were swept away by a severe downpour and other homes became relocated due to bank erosion of a creek after torrential rains hit Ward-3 in Pakokku Township, Magway Region early yesterday morning, according to the Information and Public Relations Department.

Heavy rains caused three houses and a vehicle to float away and forced another three homes and a religious building to relocate.

Regional lawmaker U Han Zaw Win, Deputy Com-



Local people gather in high-land area. **PHOTO: PAKOKKU IPRD**

missioner U Kyaw Arnt Maung, members of the district and township disaster management committee, firefighters and

policemen rushed to the flood affected area to evacuate the locals to a safer location.—Myanmar Digital News ■

## Illegal timber seized in Shwebo Township

A COMBINED squad comprising staff of the Township Forest Department, forest police officers and police officers from Kyaukmyaung Police Station, action on information, on 6 June intercepted a Nissan AD Van driven by

Kyaw Swa Tun, 20 years, of Shwebo with Kyaw Swa Lin, 41 years, of Tawseint Village, Salin Township and Bawgyi (a) Ko Shine (a) Shine Ko Ko, 23 years, of Maha Aungmyay on board at the Yadana Theinga Bridge tollgate and seized 12

blocks of Tamalan timber in their possession.

Action is being taken against the three including Kyaw Swa Tun under Section 6/1 of the Public Property Protection Law.—Myanmar Digital News ■



## Traditional practices for using renewable resources are the way to control plastic pollution

**W**E inherit a good environment from our ancestors and pass on this heritage to our next generation. Therefore, we have to collaborate in environmental conservation activities to fulfil the needs of the people in a sustainable manner.

As the population increases in the urban areas, waste is disposed of improperly, and so we face pollution. Plastic pollution is a major problem in Myanmar.

Most people in the country are not aware of the health hazards and the adverse consequences of littering and using plastic and styrofoam products.

Today in Myanmar, plastic waste is rampant, and its effects are severe.

So, awareness campaigns should be carried out to educate our people. Emphasis should be placed on the fact that it is important to reduce, reuse and recycle plastic bags. The 3Rs: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle are the way to control plastic waste.

In many countries, paper and fabric shopping bags that are biodegradable are being increasingly used. Also, recyclable plastic bags and biodegradable plastic bags are rapidly replacing ordinary plastic bags.

In Myanmar, plant leaves were long used as containers in communities. Besides, we already have sound traditional practices for using renewable resources instead of plastic. Some of the significant examples include the use of clay pots to store drinking water, and cane baskets and leaves for shopping purposes.

Every citizen applying these good traditional practices can support the cause by reducing plastic pollution.

However, single-use plastic products have made their way into markets that previously utilized the natural resources around them.

We should reintroduce the use of our traditional packing materials — banana leaves, lotus leaves and certain species of palm leaves. They are abundant in our country and were used from time immemorial, until the discovery of polyethylene and polystyrene, which are used for making plastic bags and styrofoam containers.

Meanwhile, we must encourage the local small and medium enterprises to produce products that do not harm our environment by reducing, reusing and recycling our plastic waste materials.

It is time to put an end to our throwaway culture. We have a responsibility towards our future generations to leave the environment in a better state than we have inherited. We can all make a difference. We hope that families across the country are taking up the challenge to reduce the amount of plastic they use on a daily basis. ■

By Thet Oo

**T**HE International Council on Archives (ICA) was created on 9 June, now celebrated as International Archives Day around the world. The ICA was established on the 9th of June, 1948, with the aims of promoting the management and use of records and archives, and the preservation of the archival heritage of humanity around the world. Its purpose was to strengthen relations among archivists of all nations, to promote the use of records, and to advance the documentation of human experience.

### Mission

The International Council on Archives (ICA) is dedicated to the effective management of records and the preservation, care and use of the world's archival heritage through its representation of records and archive professionals across the globe. Archives are an incredible resource. Its mission is to promote the conservation, development and use of the world's archives. The National Archives supported the ICA's creation because it would provide a much-needed forum for archivists from around the world to discuss common issues.

The ICA strives to protect and ensure access to archives through advocacy, setting standards, professional development, and enabling dialogue between archivists, policy makers, creators and users of archives. The ICA is a neutral, non-governmental organization, funded by its membership, which operates through the activities of that diverse membership. For seventy



years ICA has united archival institutions and practitioners across the globe to advocate for good archival management and the physical protection of recorded heritage, to produce reputable standards and best practices, and to encourage dialogue, exchange, and transmission of this knowledge and expertise across national borders. The ICA has grouped together about 1,400 institutional members in 199 countries.

### Background

At the international Congress in Vienna in 2004, the participants

adopted a resolution requesting the United Nations to create an International Archives Day. The participants of the UNESCO General Conference in Paris 2005 proclaimed 27<sup>th</sup> October as the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage. The World Day is an appropriate opportunity to raise public awareness of the importance of audiovisual archives. It brings new incentives to the benefit of the preservation of these archives. This was an excellent initiative, but these are not the only archives that are at risk and in need of attention.

This is the reason why the ICA decided at its Annual General Meeting in November 2007 to launch the International Archives Day by its own, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June. The date was obvious: on the 9th of June 1948, the International Council on Archives was created under the auspices of the UNESCO. This choice was adopted by the ICA Executive Board, and adopted by the archives community as a whole.

The founding of International Council on Archives (ICA) has been 70 years now since its creation in 1948.

Through the International Archives Day, we can raise the awareness among the public of the importance of records and archives; the awareness of senior decision makers of the benefits of records management for good governance and development; the public, private and public sectors' awareness of the necessity of preserving archives for the long-term, and of providing access to them.

Archives are a unique and irreplaceable heritage passed from one generation to another. They are managed from creation to preserve their value and meaning. Moreover they are authoritative sources of information underpinning accountable and transparent administrative actions, and they can play an essential role in the development of societies by safeguarding and contributing to individual and community memory.

### Good Governance and Development

The National Archives Department (NAD) has become a member of the International Council on Archives (ICA) since 1991, and has close affiliations with the South-East Asia Regional Branch of International Council on Archives SARBICA participating in its conferences and seminars.

Under the theme "Archives: Governance, Memory and Heritage" the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Inter-

national Archives Day, which falls on 9 June, will be marked with a two-week long activity, including displaying national heritage records in the national archives in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw from 1 to 14 June.

As for the National Archives Department, arrangements will be made to conduct its work according to the ICA and SARBIC work process and systems. Records obtained are preserved and protected from natural dangers using various technologies and methods. Conventional paper records are kept in an environment where temperature and humidity are controlled. Copies are made and kept separately in the Yangon (branch) Archives and Nay Pyi Taw (head office) Archives respectively.

Regarding the collections, records are collected from Union Ministries, Governmental Departments, and State and Region Governmental Departments. Departments, organisations, students, teachers and researchers are permitted to view the archives and make copies as a service to the public.

For the monarchy period, governance records of the last two Kings of the Konbaung Dynasty are kept. Especially the kings' correspondence with lower Myanmar, which had become a colony, and British Administration records are stored.

Colonial era records, states and divisions Gazetteer, civil list, acts, laws, codes, rules and procedures are also kept. Records during the occupation of Japan, such as BDA, BIA organization (setup), pre-independence period records like Panglong (agreement), Aung San-Attlee (agreement), Nu-Attlee (agreement), post-independence parliament democracy era records and so on.

In Myanmar, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of International Archives Day will be held, with the aim of raising public awareness of the importance of archives and promoting the conservation, development and use of all archives. ■

Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung  
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## Monsoon strong to vigorous over Andaman Sea, Bay of Bengal

MONSOON is strong to vigorous 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 areas it is one or two rain or thundershowers.

The degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar's coast. The surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35-40 m.p.h. The wave height will be some 9 to 12 feet off and along Myanmar's coast. —GNLM ■

## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2018)

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 8<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2018:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw and Magway Region, fairly widespread in Mandalay Region and Kayah State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Yangon Region, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and isolated heavy falls in Bago, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) m.p.h. Wave height will be about (9 - 12) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Strong monsoon.

**FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2018:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2018:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR Mandalay AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2018:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Meteorology and Hydrology Department

## Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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



## Advance voting announcement for voters outside of their constituencies in 2018 by-election

The Union Election Commission has announced in its notification 60/2018 that a by-election to elect Hluttaw representatives for vacant constituencies will be held on 3 November 2018 (Saturday).

Advance voting of voters who will be outside of their constituencies are to be conducted as follow.

- Relevant head of a training course, school, hospital and detention center are to contact their election sub-commissions to request form (15).
- Relevant head of a training course, school, hospital and detention center are to send form (15) filled up by the voters to township election sub-commission by 24-8-2018.
- Township election sub-commissions are to send the advance ballots and envelopes to relevant training course, school, hospital and detention center by 3-10-2018.
- Relevant training course, school, hospital and detention center are to arrange for advance voting

to be conducted at a convenient date from 5-10-2018 to 12-10-2018.

- The advance votes in envelopes are to be sent to relevant township election sub-commission not later than 4 p.m. 3-11-2018.

Relevant head of a training course, school, hospital and detention center are to inform and coordinate with the relevant township election sub-commission three days ahead of the date on which advance voting will be conducted as specified in subsection-(d) of the second paragraph.

Relevant election sub-commission needs to be informed and coordinated if anyone is hospitalized or is detained in a police station or correctional department, detention center after 24-8-2018.

Relevant head of a training course, school, hospital and detention center are requested to cooperate with relevant election sub-commission so that the voters who are outside of their constituencies and are in a training course, school, hospital or detention center do not lose their voting rights.—Union Election Commission ■

(Unofficial translation)

## Fishing training conducted to promote fish farming technology in Mandalay

The Fisheries Department provided fishing training courses to the fisheries department staff in the project regions for social development by promoting fish farming technology in Myanmar tropical region.

The opening ceremony of the training courses was held in Mandalay region on 6 June. The Fisheries Department started this training in March 2014, in cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency. The department has provided fish farming technology in 13 townships of Myanmar tropical regions. The project will be finished in February 2019.

“We are providing the training course to the staff in the region who are implementing the Small-scale Aquaculture Extension Project. We have already drawn the plans and submitted the annual report. The manageable fish farming training was provided to the staff, who will then train the fishermen in the region. We have also provided training to the local villagers directly,” said U Kyaw Moe Aung, project coordinator from the Fisheries Department.

The training was provided for social development by promoting fish farming technology in Myanmar’s tropical region. Currently, local farmers who received the training directly from the department are producing and distributing the fingerling fish. In this rainy season, the local farmers will distribute 500 fingerling fish each to their neighbours who want to breed fish.—Khine Set Wai

## Shwe Parami Health Care Foundation provides free eyes treatment in Sedoktaya

The Shwe Parami Health Care Foundation provided eye treatment to those suffering from eye diseases through its free mobile medical services at Mogok Vipassana Centre Insight (Meditation Centre) in Sedoktaya Town, Magway region, on 5 June. The Shwe Parami Health Care Foundation, led by U Aye

Ko Ko and nine members, treated some 348 patients, including 304 patients who had come for eye-testing and 44 patients for eye operations. The foundation provided the treatment free of charge to the patients on 5 and 6 June 2018, according to Shwe Parami Health Care Foundation.—Myo Myint (Minbu) ■

## National Literature Award Selection Committee holds press conference

### FROM PAGE-6

U Kyaw Naing then said that none of the 11 literary organisations involved represented the whole of the literary community in Myanmar. He said the union minister only offered assistance and solicited a donation from Yangon Chief Minister U Pyo Min Thein of Ks240 million; however, the donation did not involve a single cent from the Yangon Region Government or the Ministry of Information.

He said the voting at the conference was split into 60:40 ratio by the attendees, and the results will be sent to each respective ministry and department, and every individual concerned reserved the right to share this information.

He said the decision of the conference was not absolute, and the majority had voted to give out two poem awards; thus the decision was not made by the National Literature Award Selection Committee, and the Ministry of Information has not decided to follow the conference’s decision.

Some 40 points concerning the poem awards surfaced, but the union government did not

decide to follow or implement them. U Kyaw Naing said these points were submitted by the literary professionals concerned on their free will. He said the National Literature Award Selection made the final decision to give a fair review of the poems and give out only one award.

U Kyaw Naing said that there were 23 individuals who voted for giving out two poem awards but not all of them quit when the decision was finalised to give out only one award. He added that those who did quit after the results came out should have conducted themselves with professionalism and dignity.

He concluded that the change in modern poetry is a global phenomenon that no one can halt or contain.

### U Khin Maung Soe (Maung Thamanya)

There are a lot of misunderstandings and misstatements. The biggest misstatement is about the Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint. He said the literature conference had told him to think about giving two, three or four awards for



Attendees seen at the National Literature Award Selection Committee's press conference on the 2017 National Literature Award selection policy in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: YE HTUT**

poems. He continued and said you all (the committee) should discuss it and decide. He said the exact same thing in the last meeting. Some said Saya (Dr.) Pe Myint didn't do as he said. But they are going back to the past when things were done as per the instructions of the top person, the minister. Something is wrong with these people if they

do everything a minister says. Another thing is that they consider this committee to be doing things as ordered.

Some say two awards were not given because there was not enough award money or we didn't want to give more awards to others and hence gave just one award. Literature is not about money. The award is to

honour the dignity of literature. Media personnel who are present need to raise questions so that the public knows (the truth). A request is being made to the media to make the people aware about this. Later, questions raised by the news media were answered by the 2017 National Literature Award Selection Committee. MNA ■



## Facebook deals with Chinese firm draw ire from US lawmakers

BELJING — Facebook drew fresh criticism from US lawmakers following revelations that it allowed Chinese smartphone makers, including one deemed a national security threat, access to user data.

The world's largest social network confirmed late Tuesday that China-based Huawei — which has been banned by the US military and a lightning rod for cyberespionage concerns — was among device makers authorized to see user data.

Facebook has claimed the agreements with some 60 device makers dating from a decade ago were designed to help the social media giant get more services into the mobile ecosystem.

Nonetheless, lawmakers expressed outrage that Chinese firms were given access to user data at a time when officials were trying to block their access to the US market over national security concerns. Senator Ed Markey said Facebook's chief executive has some more explaining to do following these revelations.

"Mark Zuckerberg needs to return to Congress and testify why @facebook shared Americans' private information with questionable Chinese compa-

nies," the Massachusetts Democrat said on Twitter. "Our privacy and national security cannot be the cost of doing business." Other lawmakers zeroed in on the concerns about Huawei's ties to the Chinese government, even though the company has denied the allegations. "This could be a very big problem," tweeted Senator Marco Rubio, a Florida Republican. "If @Facebook granted Huawei special access to social data of Americans this might as well have given it directly to the government of #China."

Representative Debbie Dingell called the latest news on Huawei "outrageous" and urged a new congressional probe.

"Why does Huawei, a company that our intelligence community said is a national security threat, have access to our personal information?" said Dingell, a Michigan Democrat, on Twitter.

"With over 184 million daily Facebook users in US & Canada, the potential impact on our privacy & national security is huge."

'Approved experiences'

Facebook, which has been blocked in China since 2009, also had data-access deals with Chinese companies Lenovo, OPPO



Some lawmakers say Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, seen here at an April congressional hearing on personal data protection, should return to explain its deal allowing smartphone makers to access user information. **PHOTO: AFP**

and TCL, according to the company, which had similar arrangements with dozens of other device makers.

Huawei, which has claimed national security fears are unfounded, said in an emailed statement its access was the same as other device makers.

"Like all leading smartphone providers, Huawei worked with Facebook to make Facebook's service more convenient for users. Huawei has never collected or stored any Facebook user data."

The revelations come weeks

after Zuckerberg was grilled in Congress about the hijacking of personal data on some 87 million Facebook users by Cambridge Analytica, a consultancy working on Donald Trump's 2016 campaign. Facebook said its contracts with phone makers placed tight limits on what could be done with data, and "approved experiences" were reviewed by engineers and managers before being deployed, according to the social network.

Any data obtained by Huawei "was stored on the device, not on Huawei's servers," according to

Facebook mobile partnerships chief Francisco Varela.

Facebook said it does not know of any privacy abuse by cellphone makers who years ago were able to gain access to personal data on users and their friends.

It has argued the data-sharing with smartphone makers was different from the leak of data to Cambridge Analytica, which obtained private user data from a personality quiz designed by an academic researcher who violated Facebook's rules.

Facebook is winding up the interface arrangements with device makers as the company's smartphone apps now dominate the service. The integration partnership with Huawei will terminate by the end of this week, according to the social network.

The news comes following US sanctions on another Chinese smartphone maker, ZTE — which was not on the Facebook list — for violating export restrictions to Iran. The ZTE sanctions limiting access to US components could bankrupt the manufacturer, but Trump has said he is willing to help rescue the firm, despite objections from US lawmakers. —AFP ■

## China offers to buy \$70 bn of US goods, says official

WASHINGTON — China has offered to buy \$70 billion worth of US goods if Washington drops plans to impose tariffs in return, an official in President Donald Trump's administration told AFP on Wednesday, confirming an earlier report.

Top Chinese economic advisor Liu He made the offer during weekend trade talks in Beijing with a US delegation led by Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, The Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday. The new purchases would include soybeans, natural gas, crude oil and coal.

The Commerce Department on Wednesday told AFP no definitive agreement had been reached and no further information was available.

During a regular news briefing Thursday in Beijing,

the Chinese commerce ministry confirmed the two sides had discussed detailed proposals during the trade negotiations.

"China and the US carried out in-depth and concrete discussions in some specific areas of trade cooperation, especially agricultural products and energy," said Gao Feng, the ministry's spokesman, when asked about the \$70 billion figure.

"China is willing to expand imports from the US under the precondition of both sides walking towards each other," Gao said.

US exports to China last year hit \$130.4 billion, according to the Department. A \$70 billion package of purchases would amount to a 53.8 per cent increase.

For goods alone, the US trade deficit with China hit a record \$375 billion last year, and



US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross (L) chats with Chinese Vice Premier Liu He after their meeting at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, on 3 June 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

the White House has demanded Beijing cut the imbalance by \$200 billion.

"If the United States introduces trade sanctions including tariffs, all the economic and trade achievements negotiated by the two parties will be void," China's official news agency Xinhua said Sunday.

According to the Wall Street Journal, Liu personally explained to Ross the offer would be void in the event Washington imposed additional tariffs.

Trump had announced last

week that the US was pressing ahead with plans to impose 25 percent tariffs on \$50 billion worth of Chinese imports tied to the tech sector, which Washington says has benefitted from the alleged theft of US know-how and intellectual property.

Washington's trade battles with China, Europe, Mexico and others are an effort to make those countries buy more US goods and force down the US trade deficit, which Trump sees as a job killer and threat to the American industrial base.—AFP ■

## World robot finals to be held in China in July

WUHAN — More than 5,000 contestants from around the world will assemble at the 2018 World Robot Contest Finals next month in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, the organizer announced Thursday. The finals will be held from 26 to 29 July in the economic and technological development zone of Wuhan, an important robotics development area. This year's contests include a brain-computer interface (BCI) controlled contest, a Coexisting-Cooperative-Cognitive (Tri-Co) contest, an industrial skills contest, as well as a competition for young designers. According to Li Yang, secretary-general of the contest, this year's competition will have several hundred teams from about 20 countries and regions along the Belt and Road.—Xinhua ■



## At least 16 dead as arms depot blows up in Baghdad

BAGHDAD — At least 16 people were killed and dozens injured after an arms depot exploded in the Sadr City district of the Iraqi capital late Wednesday, security and medical sources said.

“An arms depot exploded... The security forces have opened an inquiry to determine the cause,” Baghdad’s security operations command said in a

statement. A senior police source told AFP on condition of anonymity that the blast was caused by heavy weapons, including rocket-propelled grenades and shells, belonging to an armed group and stored in a house.

He said at least 16 people were killed and some 32 injured in the explosion.

Medical sources con-

firmed the toll and said that women and children were found among the victims. Sources said the blast struck near a Shiite mosque in the district of northeast Baghdad.

Witnesses reported heavy material damage to homes and other buildings in the Sadr City district, which is a stronghold of populist Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr. — AFP ■



Iraqis inspect the aftermath of an explosion in Baghdad's Sadr City district, on 7 June 2018. PHOTO: AFP

## Nicaragua president to meet Catholic bishops for new crisis talks

MANAGUA — President Daniel Ortega will meet Nicaragua's Catholic bishops Thursday to discuss resuming church-mediated talks on ending a political crisis and protest violence that has left more than 120 people dead, the bishops' conference said.

The announcement came as the Nicaraguan

opposition ramped up the pressure against Ortega's government, blocking streets and roads around the country after seven weeks of protests.

The bishops called off the peace talks after a crackdown last week on a protest led by victims' mothers left at least 16 more people dead, and said they would not re-

sume for as long as the government failed to end the repression.

But the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference said Wednesday in a statement that after listening to “various sectors” both in Nicaragua and abroad, the bishops had proposed the new meeting and the president had accepted. — AFP ■

## Kim Jong Un lookalike set to make impression at summit



The Hong Kong-based impersonator, who goes by the name Howard X, will take part in an alternative summit on the sidelines of the meeting between Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un scheduled for Tuesday. PHOTO: AFP

HONG KONG — As the world awaits the historic summit between Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un, one man who has risen to prominence for his impressions of the North Korean leader is preparing for his own appearance in Singapore.

The Hong Kong-based Kim impersonator, who goes by the name Howard X, will take part in an alternative summit on the sidelines of the meeting between the US president and Kim, scheduled for Tuesday. In recent months Howard has worked the international circuit and appeared at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics alongside a Trump impersonator.

There he was hauled away by police after dancing and waving the unified Korean flag in front of North Korea's female cheerleading team.

Howard says the duo have been hired by a Singapore hotel to give their own take on the landmark meeting. Their aim is to encourage the public to discuss politics via satire, Howard told AFP in Hong Kong Thursday.

But he admits his family have reservations about his new career path.

“The first thing they said was ‘Don’t get killed,’” Howard told AFP, adding his mother had taken out life insurance for him.

Born in Hong Kong, Howard grew up in Aus-

tralia and previously worked as a musician.

But his impressions of Kim have become the main act since he began work as a lookalike in 2012.

To prepare for each performance, Howard, who says he is in his 30s, applies foundation and trims his eyebrows, but spends the most time perfecting Kim's slicked back hairstyle with copious amounts of spray.

Onstage he dresses in a black Mao-style suit with a North Korean flag pin and thick-rimmed glasses.

“You could say I’ve been blessed with this face,” he told AFP.

“Kim Jong Un is president for life, unlike an American president, or other prime ministers. Career-wise, I’ve got a very long and profitable one.”

Howard says he now makes a living out of being Kim through gigs, film and commercials and has also become an agent for other lookalikes in Asia.

But while his impressions pay the bills, he disagrees strongly with Kim's authoritarian regime.

“It’s total control over the population, mind and body.” — AFP ■

### Transferring Distributor for Registered Products

Distribution of following pesticides registered by Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Singapore) is transferring from AKA YARZAR Co., Ltd to MARGAR MIN Co., Ltd. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, West Gyogone, Insein Township within (14) days.

Sr.	Trade Name	A.I	Type of Reg	Reg No
1.	ERASE 500EC	Pretilachlor 50g/L	Full	F 2018 – 1592

Asiatic Agricultural Industries Pte Ltd (Myanmar Branch)  
Rangoun Business Center. Room 209. No. 97.  
West Shwe Gon Daing Road. Tele ; 01 8603042, 09 5145328

## Announcement

In preparation for the commence of the Myanmar Companies Law 2017, the establishment of the Myanmar Companies Online (MyCO) electronic registry system, the company affairs divisions of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration will be temporarily closed from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 to Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018.

During that time, company registration and filing processes will be temporarily suspended. All company registration and filing processes will re-commence on Wednesday 1 August 2018 under the new electronic registry system, MyCO.

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration



# At least 99 dead as Guatemala volcano threatens new eruptions

GUATEMALA—Explosions boomed from Guatemala's fearsome Fuego volcano Wednesday, unleashing fresh torrents of mud and ash down slopes, as the death toll from a previous eruption rose to at least 99.

Fears of a new blowup of the 3,763-meter (12,346-foot) volcano have stalked rescue workers since Sunday's eruption buried entire villages on its southern flank.

The National Forensic Sciences Agency said in a report Wednesday that morgues had received the remains of 99 people killed as a result of the eruption.

Only 28 have been identified so far, it said.

"We already have data with names and locations where there are missing persons and that number is 192," Sergio Cabanas, head of Guatemala's disaster management agency, told reporters earlier in the day.

Experts warned Wednesday that heavy rains in the area could provoke avalanches due to the large flows of volcanic mud, known as lahars, since the eruption on Sunday.

Volcanologists recorded the volcano exploding several times an hour Wednesday, which generated a fresh 4,700 meter (15,500 feet) high column of gray ash.

"The explosions are generating moderate avalanches that have an ap-



Soldiers search for victims of the Fuego volcano eruption in the ash-covered village of San Miguel Los Lotes. **PHOTO: AFP**

proximate distance of 800 to 1,000 meters," the Volcanology Institute said.

It said the lahars could sweep down the mountain laden with concrete, rocks up to a meter (yard) in diameter and tree trunks.

"The activity continues and the possibility of new pyroclastic flows in the next hours or days cannot be ruled out, so it is recommended not to remain near the affected area," it said.

Emergency workers had to temporarily suspend their search late Tuesday after a new eruption triggered a landslide.

Hundreds of people were evacuated from seven communities in the Escuintla area near the summit, as panicked locals rushed to their cars to escape, causing chaotic traffic.

An AFP photographer saw a large plume of ash

rise into the sky, prompting an evacuation of everyone authorities could find before the police, the military and rescuers were ordered to stand down.

## Ongoing search

Hundreds of rescue workers, including firefighters, police and the military, were battling adverse conditions to search for remains in the tangled morass of rubble, dust and earth left behind by the landslides.

General Walter Sanchez, in charge of operations around the epicenter of the destruction near the village of El Rodeo, said the heat from the ash and hot sediment made rescue work difficult.

Firefighters hosed down their smoking boots, which had sunk into molten volcanic material just below the ash surface.

Everything in the search area was covered in a thick blanket of dust. In the murk created by the dust, police were using red ink to mark homes that had already been searched for bodies.

More than 12,000 people have been evacuated from their homes, the disaster management agency said, with over 3,000 of them housed in temporary shelters.

On the slopes Wednesday, local volunteers distributed food to rescue workers, and columns of cars handed out food, water, toilet paper, diapers and other necessities to residents.

Some residents said they had organized themselves to prevent looting that they claimed occurred on the first night of the disaster.—AFP ■

# 10 killed as minibus rams into truck in western India

NEW DELHI— At least 10 people were killed and 12 others injured after a minibus rammed into a parked truck in the western Indian state of Maharashtra Thursday, police said.

The accident occurred on a national highway near Chandwad in the state's Nashik district, some 160 km from state capital Mumbai.

"The minibus carrying some 25 people, including two drivers and a helper, hit the stationary truck from behind after its driver lost control of the vehicle, following a sudden tyre burst.

The impact of the crash was such that 10 people died on the spot," a police official said.

Those injured have been admitted to a local hospital, where the condition of five are said to be serious. "The death toll may go up later in the day as the five are battling for their lives in Chandwad Civil Hospital after sustaining head injuries," he said.

The victims were returning home in

Thane district from a pilgrimage in the neighboring state of Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain district.

Eye-witnesses told cops that the minibus was travelling at high speed and went out of control after its front tyre bursted suddenly, leading to the fatal crash.

A probe has been ordered into the incident, the official said. "A case has been registered and a manhunt launched to track down the truck driver who fled the spot after the accident.

We will also question the injured passengers of the bus once they are out of hospital," he added.

This is the second major road accident in the state in the last one week. Some 10 people died in a car-truck collision in the state's Yavatmal area on 1 June.

India has one of the highest numbers of road fatalities in the world.

Road accidents occur mostly due to poor driving or badly maintained roads and vehicles.—Xinhua ■

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY.NO. ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY.NO. ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT / HPT 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

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V AREZOO VOY.NO. ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AREZOO VOY.NO. ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND AND SEA  
SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V EVER ALLY VOY.NO. (0243-564W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EVER ALLY VOY.NO. (0243-564W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT 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 EVERGREEN SHIPPING  
LINES

Phone No: 2301185



## Kate Spade was under treatment for depression, anxiety: husband

NEW YORK — Designer Kate Spade, who committed suicide in New York this week, had been treated for depression and anxiety for five years, her husband said Wednesday.

"She was actively seeking help for depression and anxiety over the last five years, seeing a doctor on a regular basis and taking medication for both depression and anxiety," her husband Andy Spade said in a statement carried by The New York Times.

It was a blunt rebuke to claims by the designer's sister that Kate Spade needed mental health care but refused treatment over concerns about potentially hurting the light-hearted brand.

The death of the 55-year-old star designer, whose body was found Wednesday in her Park Avenue apartment, "was not unexpected by me," Spade's older sister Reta Saffo told The Kansas City Star from her home in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Spade — a Missouri native who first worked as a journalist, including a stint as accessories editor at *Mademoiselle* magazine — launched her Kate Spade fashion label in 1993 with her husband Andy and the



Designer Kate Spade was treated for depression and anxiety for five years, her husband said.

PHOTO: AFP

help of outside investors.

Her cheerful use of bright colors and prints proved a hit with career women. Over a decade ago, she sold the business and later launched a luxury line Frances Valentine.

Celebrity news website TMZ cited police sources as saying Spade had fallen into depression in recent weeks after her husband left her and was seeking divorce. Andy Spade said that the couple had been living apart but in the

same neighborhood, caring for their 13-year-old daughter Bea.

### Embodying authenticity

"Our daughter was our priority. We were not legally separated, and never even discussed divorce. We were best friends trying to work through our problems in the best way we knew how. We were together for 35 years. We loved each other very much and simply needed a break," Andy Spade added.

"There was no substance or alcohol abuse. There were no business problems. We loved creating our businesses together. We were co-parenting our beautiful daughter," he stressed.

"My daughter and I are devastated by her loss, and can't even begin to fathom life without her."

Anna Wintour, the grand priestess of fashion and editor-in-chief of *Vogue* magazine, hailed Spade as a woman who "defined" authenticity.

"There was a moment when you couldn't walk a block in New York without seeing one of her bags, which were just like her; colorful and unpretentious," Wintour said in a statement.—AFP ■

## Penelope Cruz reveals she walked away from her first Hollywood film

LOS ANGELES—Penelope Cruz says she lost her first lead role in a Hollywood movie because the team wanted to include a nude scene at the last minute.

The actor, who was just 21 years old and on the cusp of stardom, said she decided to follow her heart even when it meant losing a big opportunity.

The Oscar-winning star, who recently played the role of Donatella Versace in FX's "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story", said she was sent an "amazing script" for a lead role in a major American movie and she took four months of English lessons before flying to Los Angeles for her final audition.

"When I get there, completely jet-lagged... they say, 'Oh, we have to see you in the office.' They wanted to add something to (my contract). They said, 'If you want to do the screen test, you have to accept that there are going to be some naked scenes that were not in the script'."

"I said, 'Why didn't you tell me 24 hours ago, before I got on the plane?' Even if I did movies before that had scenes at that time, I didn't want to go through that. I felt like, for a few years, I'm just going to say no to whatever, when my heart is telling me no," Cruz said in an interview for the SAG-AFTRA Foundation.

The actor said she refused to sign the new contract but decided to go through the screen test as planned even though the director was livid and had stopped talking to her.

"I called the heads of the studio. I didn't speak English, but in that meeting, I spoke English. I said, 'If you think you can treat people like this with me, it's not going to work. My family loves me, I'm gonna get back on the plane, and I don't care if I don't do your movie. But you know what? I'm gonna do your screen test.' They looked at me like something was wrong with me."

Cruz did her screen test before leaving Los Angeles.—PTI ■

## 'Ocean's 8,' a glamorous crime tale for the #MeToo age

NEW YORK—They're eight women, poised to take over from the men for an "Ocean's" reboot full of glitz and glamor — a particularly #MeToo affair that does away with the saga's traditional masculinity.

"Ocean's 8" is to be released Friday, more than 10 years after "Ocean's 13," the third volume following the escapades of Danny Ocean (George Clooney) and his casino-robbing gang.

But to freshen up the latest instalment, Warner Bros bid farewell to Danny — killed in 2018 in unknown circumstances — and replaced him with his sister Debbie (Sandra Bullock), who, like her brother at the beginning of the saga, has just been released from prison. Meanwhile, there's another change of scenery. Rather than casinos, Debbie's focus is one of the most extravagant events in New York's calendar: the Met Gala.

It's at this party — organized by *Vogue* editor Anna Wintour — that Debbie wants to get her hands on a \$150 million Cartier



Actresses Cate Blanchett, Anne Hathaway and Mindy Kaling attend the "Ocean's 8" worldwide photo call at The Metropolitan Museum of Art on May 22, 2018, in New York City. PHOTO: AFP

necklace. In preparation, she's gathered an expert team — all women, of course, echoing the likes of "Set It Off" (1996).

But "Ocean's 8" does away with testosterone, darkness and dramatic tension — elements synonymous with the crime gen-

re and prominent in the first three "Ocean's" films.

There are no guns, bombs or physical violence. No enemy opposition, such as Terry Benedict (Andy Garcia) in the first three films, either. Once that's all stripped away, all that remains is

planning the heist and its precise execution.

### "A lot has shifted"

And while historically, female gangs have often been portrayed as clumsy or inexperienced, "Ocean's 8" presents Debbie and her accomplices as

a diverse force to be reckoned with — with skills matching those of her brother's team.

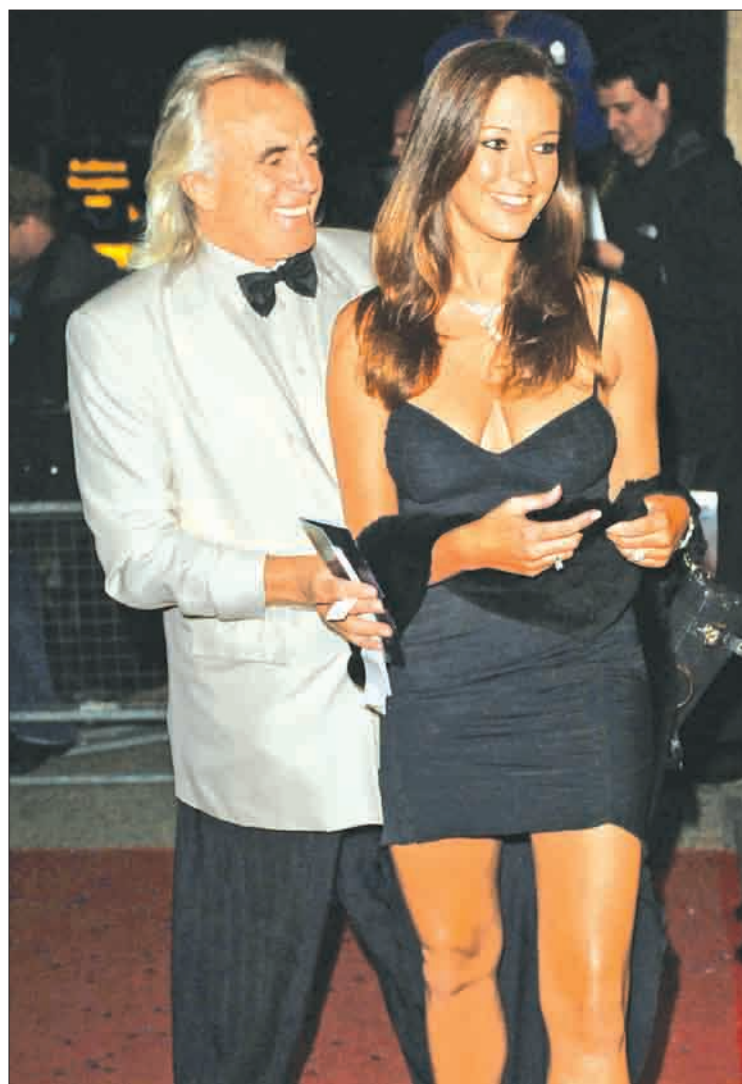
"One of the things we're celebrating is not just their communality but their differences," director Gary Ross ("The Hunger Games"), told a New York press conference at the end of May.

"These are eight distinct women with eight distinct backgrounds and that roughly look like what the world looks like, not just what Hollywood has made the world look like."

But the director and co-screenwriter added the film did not see the light of day for "three or four years" — despite its hefty budget, and three Oscar-winning actresses and the singer Rihanna among its cast.

"Isn't it interesting that two or three years ago, this seemed like an impossibility. Like how could you possibly get this made. And it's so great that it's being released now when you go: well, of course!" said Cate Blanchett, who plays Debbie's partner-in-crime Lou.—AFP ■





With his long hair and habit of posing on a gold throne with a gaggle of beautiful girls, Peter Stringfellow came to personify a particular type of playboy debauchery. **PHOTO: AFP**

## British nightclub pioneer Stringfellow dies aged 77

LONDON—Peter Stringfellow, Britain's legendary nightclub owner who pioneered strip-tease, died Thursday at the age of 77 after suffering from cancer, his publicist said.

He began his career in the 1960s booking acts such as The Beatles, Rolling Stones and Jimi Hendrix, but made his name with glitzy clubs filled with scantily clad women, becoming the first to win a licence for nude shows.

"It's very sad news. He passed away in the early hours of this morning. It was kept very private, he didn't want to tell," said his publicist Matt Glass.

With his long hair and habit of posing on a gold throne with a gaggle of beautiful girls, Stringfellow came to personify a particular type of playboy debauchery and was often a target of campaigners.

But those who knew him say he was warm and kind, and he claimed he was a feminist.

He was a firm supporter of the Conservative party, in particular Margaret Thatcher, but threatened to quit over his opposition to Britain's withdrawal from the EU.

Stringfellow was born in Sheffield, northern England, in 1940, and began booking acts in small venues in the city -- some, the Beatles, turning out to be huge stars.

The son of a steelworker, Stringfellow had a brief brush with the law, serving a prison sentence in 1962 for selling stolen carpets, which he said was a sharp lesson.

He opened his first eponymous club in Covent Garden, in London's West End, in 1980, and also bought The Hippodrome, starting its first ever gay night.

Other clubs followed in New York, Miami and Beverly Hills, although the expansion was too quick and he was declared bankrupt.

Back in London, he started again, providing what he called "adult entertainment" with topless dancers, and later becoming the first night club owner to secure a licence for fully nude dancers.

Stringfellow claimed to have welcomed many A-list stars into his clubs, everyone from late physicist Stephen Hawking to Marvin Gaye, Tom Jones, Prince and Rod Stewart.

He underwent treatment for lung cancer after being diagnosed in 2008, but kept it a secret, and the seriousness of his latest illness was also kept under wraps. He was married three times and is survived by his wife, Bella, and four children.—AFP ■

## Scans reveal newsprint, second painting under Picasso

TOKYO—Infrared imaging technology has helped peel back the layers of a Pablo Picasso painting on display in Japan, and revealed a page from a 1902 newspaper and another composition below.

US and Japanese researchers scanned the piece "Mother and Child by the Sea", owned by the Pola Museum of Art in Hakone, west of Tokyo, and uncovered a page of the French newspaper *Le Journal* from 18 January, 1902.

"While the reason for the presence of newsprint in the paint layers in a mystery, the discovery is significant for Picasso scholars due to the proximity of the date to the artist's move from Paris to Barcelona," said the Washington-based National Gallery of Art, whose researcher John Delaney led the project in Japan.

Picasso is thought to have moved to the Spanish city in early January 1902, bringing a few canvasses with him, and the newspaper article revealed in the painting suggests the work was completed some time after



Washington-based National Gallery of Art researcher John Delaney sits next to the original painting of 'Mother and Child by the Sea', by Spanish painter Pablo Picasso, during his research at Pola Museum of Art in Hakone, Japan's Kanagawa prefecture. **PHOTO: AFP**

his move.

The scan also provided clear images of an underlying painting of a woman sitting down next to an absinthe glass with a spoon in it.

Picasso frequently reused canvasses or incorporated previous sketches into a final work

However, it was not immediately clear why the artist used a page from *Le Journal*, which he was known to have

read frequently.

"It may have been used... to cover previous layers before he painted another layer or the final composition of the mother and child," scientists said.

The section of newsprint brought readers news of parliamentary clashes in London and the creation of a new annual exhibition of painting and sculpture at the Automobile Club of France, a gentleman's club in Paris.—AFP ■

## Pakistanis enchanted by 11-year-old motivational coach

PESHAWAR—Several hundred Pakistani university students sit enraptured as Hammad Safi lectures them on the merits of bettering their diction by watching Barack Obama speeches on YouTube.

The elegantly dressed motivational speaker is something of an internet sensation in Pakistan and regularly draws large crowds.

But it's not just because of his infectious enthusiasm and engaging smile. It's also because he's only 11 years old.

Safi speaks into his wireless microphone, his hand gestures practised and his confidence unwavering before the attention of his elders at the University of Spoken English (USECS) in the

northwestern city of Peshawar.

The pint-sized motivational coach is already an online star with his own YouTube channel and 145,000 subscribers. Some videos have been viewed millions of times.

Some of his advice may sound hackneyed: "every second is a challenge," he says in one video. "Failure is the basis of success."

But his audiences don't seem to mind.

Bilal Khan, a political science student twice Safi's age who came to listen to his speech, said the boy wonder had had a profound effect on him.

"A few months ago I was really disappointed with life... I was (thinking) about suicide, because there are no jobs and no success in life," he told AFP.

"Then I saw a movie of Hammad Safi. I thought, if an 11-year-old child can do anything, why can't I?"

Online comments also shower him with praise.

"People love him because he's just talking, he's a hit every time," says Samiullah Waqil, one of his former English teachers.—AFP ■



Pakistani motivational coach, Hammad Safi, aged 11, gives a lecture to students at a languages academy in Peshawar. **PHOTO: AFP**



## Yangon vs Ayeyawady match to be held to Aung San Stadium

THE Yangon United vs Ayeyawady United match, scheduled for Sunday, will be shifted from the Yangon United Sports Complex (YUSC) to Aung San Stadium due to the renovation of YUSC, according to the Myanmar National League (MNL).

YUSC, the home stadium of Yangon United, is being ren-

ovated since April 2018.

It is nearly completed, but the rain affected the works and the match between Yangon United vs Ayeyawady United has been shifted from YUSC to Aung San Stadium, according to a statement on the MNL page.

I am a fan of Yangon United and even if the venue of the

match has changed, we will always stand with our team, Yangon United. It is more convenient to commute to Aung San Stadium than YUSC, as the stadium is located in downtown Yangon and this is better for us, said Myat Khaung Kyaw, a medical student from Yangon.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## Yangon beat Hantharwady in U-19 MNL

YANGON United (U-19) played against Hantharwady United (U-19) at Padonmar stadium in Yangon at 3:30pm yesterday and Yangon beat Hantharwady by a score of 2-0.

The goals were scored by young player Myat Min Khine in the second half of the match.

Heavy rain caused a barrier for all the players in maneuvering around the turf during yesterday's match.

Yangon United forced play from the kick-off with speedy passes and neat tackling while utilizing some tricky footwork.

Nevertheless, Hantharwady youths cleared the ball well in their defensive position with stable play making it so much more difficult for Yangon to have good chances.

The first half ended with 0-0

result as both teams could not create any opportunities to add to their goals.

Serious action flared up in the second half with Yangon's power play and counter attacks.

Yangon's reliable player Myat Min Khaing also entered in the match by substituting in the second half.

At the 69 minute mark, the substituted player Myat Min Khaing scored a starter goal for Yangon.

The match was more thrilling as Hantharwady also opened their attack.

Nonetheless, Yangon gained their second goal at the 83 minute mark, scored by Myat Min Khaing again.

The game ended with a 2-0 win for Yangon.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## Premier League booming in stable football market

LONDON — The Premier League delivered its “most impressive results” ever in a European football market worth a record 25.5 billion euros — reflecting a new era of financial stability, analysts Deloitte said on Thursday.

The big five European leagues generated 14.7 billion (\$17.3 billion) revenue in 2016/17,

a nine percent increase from the previous year, with the Premier League 86 per cent bigger than its nearest competitor, Spain's La Liga. The 92 Premier League and Football League clubs generated a record £5.5 billion (\$7.4 billion) and it is now more than five years since an English football club entered insolvency proceedings, reflecting better finan-

cial discipline and the positive impact of regulation, Deloitte said.

Roar Power - Annual Review of Football Finance 2018, from the Sports Business Group at Deloitte, said new broadcasting arrangements in England, Spain and France had had a major impact on revenue growth.—AFP ■

## What sort of welcome will World Cup visitors get in Russia?

MOSCOW — World Cup organisers say the competition will draw more than one million fans to Russia, creating challenges that range from the logistical to the cultural for the hosts and their guests.

One million expected

There won't be an “Oranje” army in Russia, because the Dutch failed to qualify, but there will still be the clapping Icelanders, the chanting English and the distinctive personalities of the supporters of the other 29 visiting countries. The differing languages, songs, flags and fan cultures of the world will energise the streets of Russia's host cities until the middle of July. The figure of one million seems to have been reached by a surprisingly unscientific manner. FIFA has deducted the number of tickets sold to Russians, 872,578, from the two million it says have been sold in total. The biggest demand, outside the host nation, has come from the United States, whose team failed to qualify, with 86,710



Around \$450 million was spent on Sochi's Fisht Olympic Stadium in Sochi. PHOTO: AFP

sold. Then comes Brazil (71,787), Colombia (64,231) and Germany (60,457). The English are not even in the top ten. Russia's objective, organising committee chief Alexei Sorokin said, is to show fans “an unforgettable, colourful Russia.”

\$13 billion in infrastructure

Russia has spent a whopping \$13 billion (11 billion euros) on infrastructure.

“The airports in six cities have new terminals, 21 new hotels have been built in host cit-

ies,” Sorokin said in May, adding that “14 hospitals have been re-equipped for the tournament.”

“Nothing is superfluous,” he said. “We needed them.”

“This fulfils a regional planning objective which is in effect catching up on the lack of invest-

ment over the last 20 years,” said Jean-Baptiste Guegan, one of the authors of a book investigating Russian football.

He added that the goal was also to present a “radiant and attractive” image and give visitors the best possible experience so they would go home and recommend Russia as a tourist destination.

Free transport and Fan ID

FIFA president Gianni Infantino told AFP this week that “I have never seen a country that has done so much to welcome the fans”. They will certainly be able to get between the host cities on trains, although in reality the vast majority who benefit will be Russian nationals. Sorokin said 700 additional trains would be laid on. “It's a good system but what they are offering is insufficient and the vast majority of trains are already reserved,” said Ronan Evain, head of Football Supporters Europe (FSE), an umbrella organisation of supporters in 40 countries.—AFP ■