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Thursday, 14 June 2018

State Counsellor separately receives UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy, Australian Senator



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener at 10 am yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the State Counsellor and the Special Envoy exchanged views on cooperation between Myanmar and the office of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General in addressing the challenges facing Myanmar including situation in Rakhine State as well as on the progress in the Government's efforts in reconciliation and peace process.

The Special Envoy stated that her mission is to liaise with the Government of Myanmar to enhance its cooperation with the United Nations in a constructive manner to address the issue of the Rakhine State, and to provide assistance in bringing the two communities closer and in the Government's efforts in peace process.

The State Counsellor stressed the need for the Special Envoy to try to get to know the ground situation and its com-

plexities in an objective manner and to stand up for the truth and convey the real situation to the international community. She also expressed her hope that the Special Envoy can act as a bridge with the United Nations and positively contribute to the strengthening cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations. Also present at the meeting were U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Likewise, the State Counsellor received Senator the Honourable Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, the Minister for International Development and the Pacific of Australia at 2:00 pm at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the meeting, they discussed matters on the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation, provision of Australian Government's assistance for Myanmar's peace process and socio-economic developments including education sector and positive contribution of Australia in resolving the situation in Rakhine State.—MNA ■

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Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe holds talks with Deputy PM of Japan, JICA's President separately

U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, met with H.E. Mr. Taro Aso, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance at the Ministry of Finance, and Mr. Shinichi Kitaoka, President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), at the office of Japan International Cooperation Agency yesterday.

During the discussions, they

exchanged views on the strengthening of Myanmar-Japan friendship, closer cooperation in different sectors which can benefit both citizens, promoting people-to-people connectivity, Myanmar's peace process, current situation in Rakhine State, Myanmar's positive developments in the reform process and continuing the march on the federal democratic path.—MNA ■



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe shakes hands with Mr. Taro Aso, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw's 8th regular session holds 14th day meeting

THE Second Pyithu Hluttaw's eighth regular session held its 14th day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

2nd Bill Amending Myanmar Pearl Law

In yesterday meeting, Pyithu Hluttaw approved the 2nd Bill Amending the Myanmar Pearl Law which was sent with amendments from Amyotha Hluttaw.

Boundary Line is official term; Zero Line, No Man's Land are colloquial terms

MP U Maung Myint from Minkin Constituency asked the government why the state-run print media used the terms "Zero Line, Zero Line Area and No Man Land" and how the government planned to ensure there are no dwellings in the said zero-line area.

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun clarified the terms of reference used in the state-run print media regarding the boundary line.

It was found that the editorial team in the newsroom failed to correct the wrong usage in the news report on the Myanmar-Bangladesh bilateral meeting of the border authorities held on 21 February 2018, said the deputy minister.



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

Following the incident, the ministry informed the state-owned and private media to use the official term of reference, "Boundary Line", he said.

Besides, an article articulating the correct usage was published in the state-run media on 27 February 2018. He continued to say that Myanmar and Bangladesh signed the Demarcation of the Land Section of the Boundary, North of the Naf River on 12 November 1988, and paragraph

14 under Chapter 4 of the agreement said, "In order to make the boundary line easily identifiable and prevent the emergence of boundary line-intersected villages, neither High Contracting Party shall allow to build new houses or other structures of permanent or temporary nature, within a zone of 150 feet on each side of the boundary line."

Being prohibited houses within a zone of 150 feet from the boundary line, local people use "No Man's land" as colloquial terms, he said.

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun continued to say that it is

found that the land survey teams of the two countries also used the term "zero line" in order to make clear the difference between the 150-foot non-construction line and the Boundary Line, and the colloquial term "zero line" has hence become popular among the local people and land survey officials.

It is found that Myanmar and Bangladesh officials have been using the colloquial term at technical meetings for many years, he said, quoting the minutes of the meetings of the two countries held in 2006 and 2011.

The use of the colloquial term by the technicians cannot cause problems, but it can give rise to unnecessary complexities when the authorities and local people use the unofficial term, said the deputy minister.

Regarding the second part of the question, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun replied that the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Rakhine State Government are working together in accordance with the existing laws to ensure there are no dwellings in the restricted areas.

Afterwards, MPs discussed

a motion submitted by U Myint Thein of Wetlet constituency urging the Union Government to systematically collect unpaid tax revenue in a clear and transparent way.

Good practices, positive attitudes towards tax payments

U Tun Tun of Pwintbyu constituency discussed that good practices and positive attitudes towards tax payments need to be spread into the public. He said that instead of raising taxes it would be more beneficial to give tax awareness and education so tax evaders decrease and taxpayers increase. He said that Chapter (4)-Section (10) of the Customs Law states that the relevant ministry, in their task of tax collecting, can request aid and support from union ministries, state and region governments, and relevant authorities from self-administered zones to encourage taxpayers. U Tun Tun concluded by saying he approved the motion and wished for the swift development of the nation's economy and the emergence of a positive tax payment culture.

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Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw: Ministry of Education will provide additional life jackets for students, faculty residing near water bodies

UNION Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said the Department of Basic Education, operating under the Ministry of Education, is ready to implement its plans for the 2018-2019 academic year to provide life jackets for every student, educators, and faculty residing near the coast, rivers, or any water body, in line with the available budget. The ministry has also finalised plans to systematically recollect the life jackets by the end of the academic year.

The union minister made the remark in response to a question raised by Dr. Kun Win Thaung of Kachin State constituency (11). The Amyotha Hluttaw also held a question time, read two reports, and approved a bill.

Ensuring students and faculty receive functioning life jackets

The union minister said that during the 2016-2017 FY, the Ministry of Education had



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

distributed 19,788 small size life jackets worth Ks108.834 million and 17221 large size life jackets worth Ks103.266 million throughout the states and regions.

The union minister said the ministry had bought life jackets to replace the aforementioned

life jackets distributed two years ago, depending on their recommended conditions for use. Currently, the ministry has purchased 24,560 small life jackets worth Ks147.357 million and 22,121 large life jackets worth Ks143.787 million, a total of 46,681

life jackets worth Ks291.144 million, for this allocation and replacement purpose.

Budget needed to employ personnel in union auditor general offices

U Saw Than Htut of Kayin State constituency (2) asked if there were plans to employ more personnel for the office of the Auditor General of the Union and offices of regional auditor offices.

U Maw Than, the Auditor General of the Union, replied that the institution was undergoing a six-month reform, lasting from 1 April to 30 September 2018, and will only be able to appoint the necessary personnel after the salary budget for the 2018-2019 FY was approved.

Similarly, Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo replied to questions raised by

four other MPs.

Amyotha Hluttaw accepts amended Forestry Bill

Next, Daw Nwe Nwe Aung, member of the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee, read a report by the committee concerning the Forestry Bill, approved by the Pyithu Hluttaw and sent with amendments. Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than then called for and received the approval of the bill from the Amyotha Hluttaw.

UAG submits Myanmar Accountancy Council Bill

Union Auditor General U Maw Than then submitted the bill to amend the Myanmar Accountancy Council Law to the Hluttaw. Committee member Brig-Gen Tint Lwin then read the report concerning the bill, and the speaker announced that interested MPs could register to discuss the bill.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Senator the Honourable Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, the Minister for International Development and the Pacific of Australia in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Thaung Tun receives UNSG's Special Envoy



Union Minister U Thaung Tun holds talks with UNSG's Special Envoy Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

U THAUNG TUN, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government, received Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener, Special Envoy of the United Na-

tions Secretary-General and her delegation at 11 am yesterday at the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government in Nay Pyi Taw. During the meeting,

they discussed on co-operation between Myanmar and the United Nations as well as matters relating to the Rakhine State.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister for International Cooperation hosts lunch to Senator the Honourable Concetta Fierravanti-Wells

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin hosted lunch to Senator the Honourable Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, the Minister for International Development and the Pacific of Australia, at 12:30 pm at Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi and officials also attended the lunch.— Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor's peace talk in Mon State to broadcast live

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is conducting a peace talk with local people in Mon State, starting from 10 a.m. on 14 June, at the Great Hall of the Mawlamyine University in Mon State.

The peace talk of the State Counsellor with the local people will be broadcast live by Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV), Myanmar International (MITV), MNTV,

Skynet Up to Date, Skynet Hluttaw, Myanmar Radio, MIR Radio, Myanmar President's Office Facebook page, Myanmar State Counsellor's Office Facebook page, Information Committee's Facebook page, MOI Web Portal Myanmar's Facebook page, MRTV's Facebook page and Myanmar Digital News' Facebook page.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister for International Cooperation hosts dinner to UNSG's Special Envoy



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin meets with UNSG's Special Envoy Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin hosted a dinner to a delegation led by United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener at 6:30 pm at Thinhaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Prior to the dinner, they exchanged views on strengthening

cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations.

The dinner was attended by the Union Minister, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Myint Thu, high-ranking officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.— Myanmar News Agency ■

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Inya Lake to receive blue heritage plaque

By May Thet Hnin

INYA LAKE, which is one of the popular recreational areas for Yangonites, has been included in the list of places that will receive a blue heritage plaque, said Daw Moe Moe Lwin, Director of Yangon Heritage Trust (YHT).

"Currently, we have already added Inya Lake to the list to receive the blue heritage plaque. We have planned to order eight blue heritage plaques. We will do so after negotiating with the Yangon government authorities," she said.

Inya Lake is an important resource in Yangon. Also, it is essential for the Yangon Region to absorb carbon dioxide. Many trees and animals species are found here.

However, most parts of the lake are inaccessible to the public. There are many tall buildings around the lake. Therefore, the public has access to only 0.75 miles now. Earlier, the Inya Lake was a small artificial lake. The lake was created by the British as a water reservoir between 1882 and 1883 to provide water

Sailing yachts on the Inya Lake in Yangon. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

supply to the Yangon, when the population increased after 1880. It is one of the largest lakes in the Yangon Region, according to data collected by the YHT.

In 1884, the water from Inya Lake was transported to Kandagyi Lake, near downtown Yangon, by pipe and cable connections.

"By installing the blue

heritage plaque, people who don't know the history of the lake will learn about it," she added.

The YHT will record the more than 3,000 ancient buildings, natural features, roads, open land spaces in the nine townships of the Yangon Region.

The YHT, which is a non-governmental organisation,

made the suggestion when the government set up the policy to implement an urban development project.

YHT blue plaques are already installed in 20 significant places, including the General Post Office, Yangon General Hospital, Basic Education High School No. (1) Dagon and Mahabandula Park. ■

Authorities plan to increase distribution of water to 135 million gallons per day from Ngamoeyeik dam next year

AUTHORITIES are holding discussions to increase the distribution of water to 135 million gallons per day from Ngamoeyeik dam in 2019. Currently, they are distributing some 90 million gallons of water per day from Ngamoeyeik dam, said U Victor Ngun Kio, a member of the National Water Resource Committee (NWRC) advisory team.

Recently, the water from Ngamoeyeik dam was supplied to be used for agricultural and household purposes. The authorities found that over 300 million gallons per day can be supplied. According to the Integrated Water Resource Man-

agement Policy, the authorities will give priority to people facing water shortage because of water changes, said U Cho Cho, chairman of the NWRC advisory team.

Moreover, 40 million gallons of water will be supplied daily from Lagunbyin dam, of which 10 million gallons will be distributed to Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

As a replacement for underground water, 155 million gallons, including 120 million gallons daily from Kokkowa river, 60 million gallons from Toe river, and 60 million gallons from Panhlaing river, will be purified with Jap-

anese technology. In 2040, the authority is planning to distribute 610 million gallons daily in the Yangon Region.

Recently, the NWRC drew up a recommendation report, requested by the Yangon City Development Committee, on water resources that can supply sufficient water and methods to manage water. The report will be submitted soon, said U Cho Cho.

"The condition in the region is critical, if a person needs 1,000 gallons daily. In Myanmar, one person can use 18,000 gallons daily. It means we don't need to worry. But, we have to use water efficiently and effectively.

We should not waste water, and we also need to control the water quality. We also need to stop throwing rubbish in the river," he added.

The authorities supply water to only 40 per cent of the Yangon population from Phugyi, Hlawga and Ngamoeyeik dams, while 45 per cent of the population relies on underground water. By 2025, the underground water will be used only as a reserve for emergencies. Therefore, the authorities are planning to distribute water from dams and the river to the people across the country after cleaning it.—May Thet Hnin ■

Over 200 acres of firewood cultivated in 2018-2019 FY

A total of 204 acres of firewood were cultivated in the second week of June in the townships of Kantbalu, Monywa and Katha in Yinmarbin Districts in the Sagaing Region.

Earlier, the authorities planned to cultivate 265 acres in the 2018-2019 fiscal year with

the aim of developing the self-tree cultivation practice and promoting forest trees that are naturally grown in the region.

In the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the authorities are planning to cultivate over 260 acres of firewood in the four districts of the Sagaing Region. Recently, some

25 acres of eucalyptus (Jukali) and cassia siamea (Me Zali) were cultivated in Kantbalu township in Kantbalu District, while 55 acres of eucalyptus and acacia catechu (Sha) were cultivated in Budalin, Monywa and Chaung Oo townships in Monywa District. A total of 30 acres

of eucalyptus and neem trees (Tama) were cultivated in Yinmabin and Hsalingyi townships in Yinmabin District. They also cultivated 94 acres of trees in Katha, Kawlin, Hteechee, Pinlaebu, Bawmauk, Wuntho and Indaw townships in Katha District.—Win Oo ■

Myanmar's exports to Thailand outdo imports in April

Myanmar's exports to Thailand surpassed its imports in April, with exports valued at US\$181.5 million and imports valued at \$88 million.

Bilateral trade between Thailand and Myanmar was worth some \$269.5 million in April.

According to the statistics of Myanmar Trade Promotion Department, bilateral trade was worth \$5.6 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$5.7 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$4.8 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, \$4.2 billion in the 2016-2017 FY and \$3.44 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, according to data provided by the commerce ministry online.

Myanmar's export items are natural gas, fish, prawns, minerals, pulses and agriculture products, while machin-

ery, auto parts, motorcycle and spare parts, petroleum products, plastic raw materials, cement, fertilisers, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, food products, agricultural equipment and trucks are imported into the country. The Thai-Myanmar border trade is conducted through the following border gates: Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthaung, Myeik, Htee Khee, Maw Taung and Maese.

Thailand is the third largest investor in Myanmar, accounting for 14.5 per cent of the overall foreign investments. Thailand businessmen have set five prioritised sectors for investments in Myanmar: infrastructure, manufacturing, technology and communication, agriculture and livestock, and tourism.—Mon Mon ■

Bilateral trade with China worth \$395 million in April

Myanmar's trade value with China in April during the interim period before the next 2018-2019 fiscal year (FY) is valued at US\$395 million, including \$51.7 million in exports and \$343.7 million in imports, according to the figures released by the commerce ministry.

Myanmar's regional trade with ASEAN countries was the largest, closely followed by bilateral trade with China. Border trade performed better than the sea route in trading with China.

The Sino-Myanmar border trade is conducted through the Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw, Kanpiketee and Keng Tung gates. Bilateral trade value with China was some \$10.8 bil-

lion in the 2016-2017 FY, \$10.9 billion in the 2015-16 FY, \$9.7 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$7 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$4.95 billion in the 2012-2013 FY and \$5 billion in the 2011-2012 FY.

Rice, peas, sesame seeds, corn, vegetables and fruits, dried tea leaves, fishery products, rubber, minerals and animal products are exported to China, whereas machinery, plastic raw materials, consumer products and electronic tools flow into Myanmar.

During this FY, China invested some \$1.39 billion in 65 projects, according to the statistics provided by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.—Ko Htet ■



Workers assemble a car at a factory in East Dagon Myothit, Yangon. **PHOTO-SUPPLIED**

Manufacturing sector brings in over US \$100 million in May

THE manufacturing sector absorbed foreign direct investments (FDIs) worth some US\$103 million through 11 projects last month, according to statistics provided by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

The agriculture sector attracted one foreign investment with a capital of \$5.6 million. The real estate sector also received investments worth some \$2.8 million. Some \$26.27 million FDIs were pumped into other serv-

ices. The MIC gave the green light to 15 foreign enterprises to invest in those sectors. Last month's foreign investment was approximately \$149 million, including capital increase.

China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Viet Nam and the United Kingdom made investments in May.

The MIC intends to attract foreign direct investments worth \$3 billion during the six-month interim period from April to September, prior to the next 2018-

2019 fiscal year. The manufacturing and real estate development sectors are likely to remain top in attracting FDIs during the six-month interim period.

According to the new Myanmar Investment Law, region and state investment committees are authorised to grant endorsement of an investment proposal with capital of not more than \$5 million (Ks6,000 million), with an aim to facilitate the verification process of investment projects.—GNLM ■

Poverty, lack of education lead to child labour in Myanmar

By Nyein Nyein

Child labour is a consequence of poverty and the lack of education in Myanmar, said U Nyunt Win, Director-General of Workshop and Labour Law Inspection Department, during the fifth World Day against Child Labour, which was observed at Chatrium Hotel on 12 June.

"To solve the problem of child labour, we need time as it is a difficult process. Also, we need to give priority to solve the two main reasons such as poverty and the lack of education, which cause child labour," he added.

According to the 2017 My-

anmar Child Labour Survey report, there are more than 12 million children between 5 and 17 years in Myanmar, of which more than 800,000 are engaged in child labour, more than 600,000 are engaged in forced child labour and more than 68,000 are working in dangerous places.

"Moreover, we also need to keep track of children and young labourers aged between 14 and 18 years who are working more than 44 hours per week; whether they are working in too hot or too cold areas, areas with too much noise, smoke and dust; working in a sealed room or in high altitude areas; and carrying heavy

loads and working in unhealthy conditions. Some of the children are exposed to predatory behaviour and exploited, besides not being allowed to study," he noted.

The Myanmar government ratified the ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour on 18 December 2013. Also, Myanmar has submitted an implementation report to the ILO on 1 September 2015.

Moreover, the Myanmar National Committee on Child Labour Eradication was formed with 37 members, led by Vice President (1), on 5 February 2018 to implement the Myanmar National Project on Child Labour Eradication. ■

Trade Mark Ads

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The Committee for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State

Report to the People on the Progress of the Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State
(January to April 2018)

(CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY)

Humanitarian Assistance

Provision of humanitarian assistance continues for people who still need help to meet their daily basic needs. 10,327 people from 1,694 households in Buthidaung and Maungdaw Townships of Rakhine State received food aid (rice, cooking oil, salt and beans) worth of

128.42 million MMK. Likewise, 29,140 people from 4,520 households received rice, cooking oil, salt, beans, onions, tinned fish and infant formulas worth of 277.296 million MMK, through the UEHRD Youth Volunteer Program. Female personal care supplies and hygiene kits were also provided to 156 households in Thaechaung Village in Sittwe and 84 female-headed households in Gaungdoetka Camp.

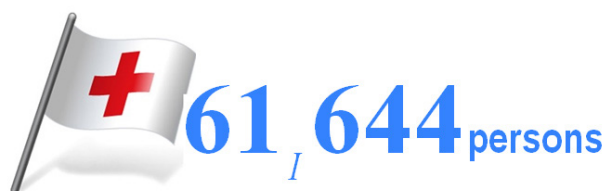
Child friendly spaces were also set up in Mingan, Thetkaepyin, Danyawaddi and Say Thamar Gyi Camps in Sittwe as part of the child development program, as well as in North Ohntawgyi, Set Yone Su, Gaungdoteka, Phwe Yar Gone and Thaechaung villages. These child friendly spaces were also supported with educational



Number of pregnant women and mothers of children under two years of age in Rakhine State who received monthly cash transfers

materials and toys for children.

The First 1000-Day Nutrition Initiative was launched in Rakhine State on March 1, 2018, to reduce malnutrition rate in the area. The program supports pregnant women and mothers with children under 2 years of age in all townships across Rakhine State with monthly cash transfers. To date, a total of 2538.72 million MMK has



Number of beneficiaries that received support from Red Cross Movement

been disbursed to 56,560 beneficiaries.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Rakhine State Government, the Red Cross Movement (RCM) also provided food and other non-food relief items, emergency health kits and hygiene products, packets of high energy food and oral rehydration salts, seeds, temporary shelters, drinking water and water purification units to 61,644 people from 12,184 households in Rakhine State, during the period of January 1 to April 11, 2018.

Media Access

During this reporting period, the Rakhine State Government- in cooperation with the Myanmar Media Council - arranged four media tours with 74 journalists from various local and international media outlets, with an aim to provide balanced coverage of the situation in Rakhine State as well as the status of rule of law, peace and stability.

Additionally, the following media support activities were carried out for raising awareness amongst domestic and international communities about efforts being made for development, stability, peace and rule of law in Rakhine State:

- TV broadcast of 689 news, 3 interviews and 41 education and documentary programs;
- Radio broadcast of 1,797 news, 17 interviews, 5 education and documentary programs and 368 awareness raising programs;
- 264 Public Service Announcement (PSAs)
- Online coverage of 1,207 news and articles on the Ministry of Information website;
- Daily newspaper coverage of 482 news, 858 photos and 27 interviews;

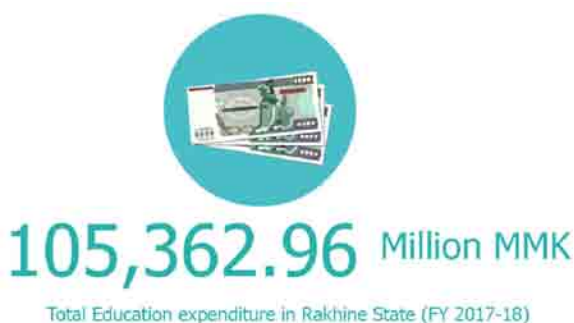
Education

The government continues to endeavor for equal access to Education in Rakhine State regardless of religion, race, citizenship status and gender. 34 additional schools were reopened in January 2018; And this brings the total number of schools reopened after the terrorist events to 324, out of 424 schools that had to close down. End-term tests were also completed for all basic education levels, and the exam results have already been announced. Additionally, the FY 2018-19 budget will include funds to open two government technical high schools in Gwa and Buthidaung townships, to increase access to livelihood training opportunities.



Number of schools reopened after the terrorist attacks

The total expenditure for the education sector in Rakhine State for FY 2017-18 is 105,362.963 million MMK. This is by far the largest budget among all the states; and accounts for 8% of the total capital expenditure for



Total Education expenditure in Rakhine State (FY 2017-18)

the Ministry of Education in the fiscal year.

Accommodation for school teachers is provided in the premises of local offices, local police stations and police outposts under the command of the Office of No 1 Border Guard Police Force, for safety and security during the summer holidays.

About one hundred school teachers who speak Bengali dialect were also appointed as permanent staff to promote literacy in communities living in Maungdaw District.

Plans are in place to provide free text books and stipends in basic education schools in the upcoming 2018-19 Academic Year. The Department of Technical, Vocational Education and Training is also calculating required budgets for the FY 2019-20, to assist vulnerable households from all communities in Rakhine State who are finding difficult to access vocational education due to financial barriers.

Health

Equitable health care services are provided in the state, with public announcements to ensure people are aware that anyone can access health care services and that the hospitals and that clinics are "protected zones" for people seeking health care. A total of 14,196 people (2,823 ethnic nationals and 11,373 Muslims) received outpatient and inpatient care at Sittwe, Thetkaepyin, Myaungbwe, Buthidaung, Zeditaung and Muangdaw hospitals during this reporting period.



Number of patients who received medical care at hospitals in Sittwe, Buthidaung & Maungdaw townships

Health care professionals and staff are continuously recruited, trained and appointed to improve the health care personnel vs. population ratio. In brief -

- 430 nursing/midwifery trainees are currently being trained at the Nursing and Midwifery Training School in Sittwe;
- 78 new health care professionals and doctors including specialists were appointed to increase health care service delivery;
- 32 new auxiliary midwives from Kyauktaw, Ann and Myaybon townships received an auxiliary midwife training; while 49 auxiliary midwives from the existing workforce received two refresher trainings;
- 101 Public Health Supervisors II (PHS II) who completed their training in February 2018 have started working for the health care service delivery in Rakhine State;
- 7 training for 196 new community health workers and one refresher training for 20 existing community health workers were also delivered in 8 townships across Rakhine State.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Pyithu Hluttaw speaker receives UNSG's special envoy on Myanmar

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received a delegation led by United Nations (UN) Secretary General's Special Envoy to Myanmar Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener at the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on cooperation between the UN and Myanmar, issues related to human

rights, the Hluttaw's participation in Myanmar's transition process to democracy, internal peace processes and agendas for holding the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong.

Also present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein and other officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat meets with Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener, United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy on Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Deputy Minister U Soe Aung provides aids to children at Nga Khu Ya reception centre yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement meets with boat crash survivors at Nga Khu Ya reception centre

DEPUTY Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung arrived at the Nga Khu Ya reception centre yesterday morning. The Deputy Minister met with the boat crash survivors, inspected the process of scrutiny and coordinated with the organising teams.

The Deputy Minister and party, with the cooperation of the Red Cross Movement, gave the crash survivors 11 personal

items, including aluminium pots and bowls, mats, blankets, mosquito-nets, longyis for men and women, and clothes for the children. Moreover, they assisted the staff of the reception centre by offering them an amount of Ks600,000. Following this, they offered words of encouragement to the staff. The Deputy Minister and party then left for Maungtau in the evening. —Myanmar New Agency ■

One dead in Shwesin U motorboat accident

A MOTORBOAT, named Shwesin U, plying between Homalin and Kawyah, sank near the old USDA office's jetty, Homalin, as it departed from the jetty.

The boat carrying 25 passengers and operated by Min Thet Oo, 23, sank when it was leaving the jetty on Strand Road, Naungpakyit Ward, Homalin for Kawyah village. Chairman of the Township Management Committee U Kyaw Soe Lin, fire

fighters led by the commander of the township fire brigade, police officers of the Myoma Police Station, the administrator of Naungpakyit Ward General Administrative Department and members rushed to the scene and provided relief aid.

All the passengers were rescued, except for a woman who died on way to the 100-bed Homalin Hospital. —Lin Lin (IPRD) ■

Local authorities help boat crash survivors in Yathedaung Township

LOCAL authorities in Yathedaung Township in Rakhine State rescued 104 persons, including 44 men and 60 women, who were stranded in Aungbala stream near Thaze village after their motorboat crashed. They were relocated to Nga Khu Ya Reception Centre on 11 June.

Officials from the Department of Immigration then performed mandatory checks, and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (SWRR) provided humanitarian aid to the survivors. On 12 June, Union Minister for SWRR Dr. Win Myat Aye, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Rakhine State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col. Phone Tint, Director-General U Win Kyaw Aung of the Ministry of the State Counsellor's Office, Police Brig-Gen Myint Toe of No.1 Border Guard Police Division, ministry

officials, and the Maungtau District deputy commissioner met the boat crash survivors at Nga Khu Ya Reception Centre. During the meeting, the union minister said the ministry will assist Bangladeshi citizens to contact their country's authorities and help those who settled in Myanmar to contact any existing relatives in Buthidaung and Maungtau Township. He requested the boat crash survivors to be patient during the process and report any difficulties faced during their time in the reception centre.

The survivors with relatives in Buthidaung and Maungtau told officials they would like to return home by 16 June, while those without relatives asked the officials to help them.

The union minister and officials then held a meeting with all staff members in the recep-

tion centre and discussed the matter in detail. The Ministry of SWRR is providing food for the survivors, while the border guard police forces are attending to their safety. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population will provide diplomatic assistance to the Bangladeshi citizens involved in the boat crash. As for the Myanmar citizens, they will be relocated and resettled in accordance with the UEHRD principles of humanitarian aid, provided by the Department of Disaster Management and the Red Cross Movement.

The Social Welfare Department will send psychosocial support and the Ministry of Health and Sports will open a medical tent to provide health-care to the boat crash survivors. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye (Centre) and Officials meet the boat crash survivors at Nga Khu Ya reception centre. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

National Day ceremony of Russia held in Yangon

THE National Day ceremony of the Russian Federation was held at Melia Hotel in Yangon yesterday evening. Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Thaung Tun attended the ceremony.

The ceremony was attended by General Mya Tun Oo, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy, Air), and wife; Lt-Gen Myo Zaw Thein of Commander-in-Chief's (Army)

office; Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Thet Pone and other army officials and wives; ambassadors and diplomats from foreign embassies in Myanmar; and representatives from the United Nations.

The ceremony was opened with the Myanmar and Russian national anthems.

Later, Union Minister U Thaung Tun and Russian Am-

bassador to Myanmar Dr. Nikolay Listopadov delivered speeches, followed by the cutting of the cake to commemorate the Russian Federation's national day.

Next, the union minister and the ambassador took commemorative photographs, together with other officials. A dinner party was held for the officials attending the ceremony. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Thaung Tun poses for the documentary photo at the reception of the National Day of the Russian Federation in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Delegation led by Former President of Timor-Leste arrives in Yangon

A DELEGATION led by Senior Ministers and Former President of Timor-Leste Mr. Jose Ramos Horta arrived in Yangon by air yesterday morning.

They were welcomed at

Yangon International Airport by Timor Leste Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Joao Freitas de Camara and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Senior Minister and Former President of Timor-Leste Mr. Jose Ramos Horta arrives at Yangon International Airport in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

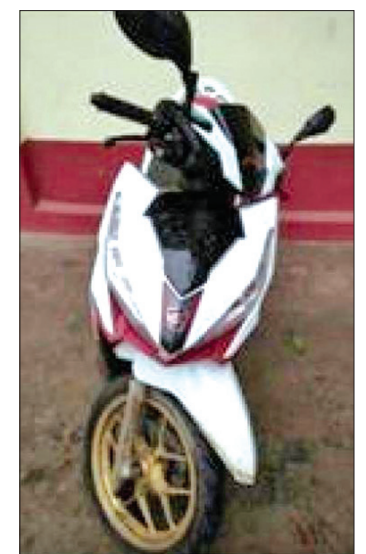
Stolen motorbike with GPS tracker recovered from thief

A STOLEN motorcycle equipped with a GPS device was recovered from a thief within an hour, said Nay Yu Maung, a Police Inspector from Shwebo Police Station.

A Shwebo resident identified as U Nanda informed the police that his motorcycle which is installed with a GPS system and manufactured in Thailand was stolen early this morning. According to the motorcycle owner, the GPS data showed the motorbike was spotted near Min Kyaung Village in Shwebo Township.

The police together with the motorbike owner and eye witnesses followed the suspect based on the data they got from the motorcycle's GPS device. They found an unidentified man along with a motorcycle and one mobile phone near a rest house beside the Shwebo-Kyaukmyaung Road and arrested him on suspicion of stealing a motorcycle.

The man named Lin Htet



Aung (alias) Min Htet Aung, 17 years of age from Singu Township; Mandalay Region confessed that he had stolen the motorbike and mobile phone from a junction near the Correctional Department in Shwebo. Action is being taken against the motorbike thief in accordance with the law by the local police department. —Moe Thaut (Shwebo)/MDN ■

New Australian Embassy office opens in Vantage Tower on Pyay Road, Yangon

THE Australian Embassy in Myanmar officially opened its new office at Vantage Tower on Pyay Road in Yangon yesterday morning.

Australia has had diplomatic relations with Myanmar since 1952, and its previous office was located on Kannar Road (Strand Road) in Yangon.

The embassy includes staff from the Australian Trade Commission, Home Affairs, Australian Federal Police, and the Department of Defence. The embassy moved to Vantage Tower a year ago to accommodate its growing faculty but held an official opening ceremony only yesterday.

The opening speeches at the ceremony were delivered by Ambassador Mr. Nicholas Coppel, and Senator the Honourable Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, the Minister for International Development and the Pacific of Australia.

Next, Yangon Region Chief



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Australian Senator the Honourable Concetta Fierravanti-Wells cut the cake at the opening ceremony of New Australian Embassy office. **PHOTO: MNA**

Minister U Phyo Min Thein, the Australian Senator, minister, cut the celebratory cake. The Australian Senator minister, then gave gifts to the Corporate Team who assisted in relocating the

Embassy.

This marks the second official visit by the Australian Senator, Minister for International Development and the Pacific. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Interview with boat crash survivors in Yathedaung Township



Shahdra Bi Bi (Maungtaw Township)



Mahmet Shawfeit (Bodawsawra village, Cox Bazar, Bangladesh)



Mizanu Ramawman (Nayapara village, Teknaf Township, Bangladesh)



Mohammed Zaylout Udain (Sawpawrondi village, Coz bazaar, Bangladesh)



Deesha (Myoma Kanyintan village, Maungtaw Township)

On the morning of 11 June, authorities discovered 104 people, 44 men and 60 women, together with a wrecked boat in Aungbarlay stream near Tharze village in Yathedaung Township, Rakhine State. They were transported to Nga Khu Ya reception centre where officials from the Department of Immigration performed mandatory inspections and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided humanitarian assistance.

The following are excerpts from interviews with some of the boat crash survivors.

Shahdra Bi Bi (Maungtaw Township)

My aunt from my mother's side and her relatives are in Bangladesh. That's why I went

there. Other people wanted to go to Malaysia. My aunt is sick, that's why I wanted to be by her side with my other relatives. We were on our way back from Bangladesh. My parents are both on the Myanmar side that's why I came back.

Mahmet Shawfeit (Bodawsawra village, Cox Bazar, Bangladesh)

I was trying to go to Malaysia and get whatever work available there. There are a lot of people going to work in Malaysia like me. I contacted a broker to go there. The broker gathered a lot of people to send to Malaysia and we had to pay Bangladeshi taka 180,000 as brokerage fees. We were travelling to a ship which would take us to Malaysia and

then this happened.

It's going well here on the Myanmar side. I want to go to Malaysia. Their currency has high value so we can earn more daily wages than in Bangladesh. But I don't want to take the illegal route anymore. I want to go there with the government's help.

I'm thankful for the Myanmar government for taking care of us and giving us security while we're here.

Mizanu Ramawman (Nayapara village, Teknaf Township, Bangladesh)

I was going to Malaysia to earn a lot of money there. Working in Bangladesh is tiring. I want to provide for my aging parents. I've heard that you can earn more in Malaysia and it's not as tiring.

I was a footballer back in Bangladesh.

I contacted a broker and paid 180,000 in Bangladeshi taka for the brokerage fees. Our motorboat got caught in a storm and we washed up on Myanmar's coast.

The Myanmar government has been helpful and provided security. I just want to return to Bangladesh.

Mohammed Zaylout Udain (Sawpawrondi village, Coz bazaar, Bangladesh)

I knew travelling to Malaysia would be tiring but the money we earn working the entire day in Bangladesh is not enough to feed the family. That's why I decided to risk it but we ended up here in Myanmar. The Myanmar government has been helpful and

relocated us to the centre here. I understand and will follow the laws and rules here. I wish to return to Bangladesh with the government's assistance.

Deesha (Myoma Kanyintan village, Maungtaw Township)

I went to Bangladesh for medical treatment and was on my way back. I had to pay 5,000 in Bangladeshi taka for the ferry back here. The boat was over packed and water started to flow in. I started crying but then a motorboat was headed our way. We climbed over to the motorboat, not knowing it was headed to Malaysia. Then the motorboat crashed and we were stranded for three days before arriving in Myanmar.—News Team ■

Amyotha Hluttaw: Ministry of Education will provide additional life jackets for students, . . .

FROM PAGE-2

MPs discuss Condominium Bylaw

U Htay Oo of Yangon constituency (2) tabled a motion to discuss the Condominium Bylaw concerning joint ownership. He said the bill, sent by the Pyithu Hluttaw with approval, states in Section 28 that the construction of a condominium required meeting the building standards set by the ministry (of Construction), State and region government, or the respective city development committee or similar organisation. U Htay Oo suggested rephrasing the section to include the construction of the building to meet the basic standards, in addition to the standards set by the ministry,

state and region governments, or city development committee.

U Htay Oo then mentioned that even though Section 24 (C) of the original Condominium Law states that a maximum of 40 per cent of the rooms in a condominium building may be sold to and owned by a foreign citizens, Section 34 of the Bylaw states that no more than 40 per cent of the condominium's total square feet may be sold to a foreign citizen. He suggested reviewing the law and bylaw, and making amendments, if necessary, as they both state the criteria of the maximum permitted amount differently.

The amendment to Section 45 (A) of the bylaw states that the contractor will maintain the custody of the available rooms

during and up to two years after the project's construction phase, and the contractor will hold on to custody after the two-year period until a temporary committee for ownership is formed. U Htay Oo discussed that this may place a heavy burden on the contractor for an indefinite period of time. He suggested making amendments similar to Section 36 of the original law, which states that a temporary committee can be formed if at least 30 per cent of the available rooms in the building are occupied, thus relieving the contractor of any burden.

The 15th-day meeting of the eighth regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held tomorrow.—Aung Ye Thwin ■

Pyithu Hluttaw's 8th regular session holds 14th day meeting

FROM PAGE-2

The motion was further discussed by ten MPs.

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance, U Maung Maung Win, explained that the Internal Revenue Department has been collaborating with international organizations to implement a modern tax administration system since 2012. The first phase of implementation was carried out from 2012-2013 FY to 2016-2017 FY. The second phase will be conducted from 2017-2018 FY to 2021-2022 FY with a focus on reviewing and amending laws related to taxes.

The deputy minister and MP U Myint Thein then submitted the motion to the Hluttaw for approval.

After a discussion among

the assembly, Speaker U T Khun Myat then announced that the Hluttaw has approved of the motion.

The Speaker then announced that the Hluttaw approves the Second Bill to amend the Myanmar Pearl Law submitted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Next, the Pyithu Hluttaw discussed the 2017 Bill amending the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law sent with amendments by the Amyotha Hluttaw.

The Speaker then announced the Pyithu Hluttaw's approval of the bill. The fifteenth day meeting of the Eighth Regular Session of the 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw will be held tomorrow.—Aye Aye Thant/MNA ■



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.
PHOTO: TASS

Russian top diplomat comments on Korean Peninsula denuclearization

MOSCOW — Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has called for special attention to be paid to terms when discussing the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula at Wednesday's news conference.

"For example, many commentators who voice their opinion about the

developments state that an agreement on the denuclearization of North Korea was reached," Lavrov noted.

"However, Pyongyang itself, just like all of us, like Russia, China and the international community in general, has always spoken of the denucleariza-

tion of the whole Korean Peninsula. The difference is great, as you can see." Washington and Pyongyang are hardly able to resolve all the Korean Peninsula issues alone, Lavrov said. According to him, direct dialogue between the leaders of the US and North Korea "is worth sup-

porting." "However, even though it is important to resolve issues between the US and North Korean, including the denuclearization of the peninsula, it is clear that these issues cannot be fully resolved only at bilateral level," the Russian top diplomat stressed.—Tass ■

French privatizations as Macron 're-thinks' state's role

PARIS — The French government has announced the first major privatizations under President Emmanuel Macron which will be used to finance a new innovation fund and pay down the country's public debt. Under a draft law unveiled late Tuesday, the government plans to lower its shareholdings in airport operator Aeroports de Paris, gaming monopoly Francaise des Jeux and energy group Engie by an undisclosed amount.

Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire said the state holdings were worth an estimated 15 billion euros (\$17.6 billion) and most of the proceeds of the sales will go towards a state fund for promoting innovative technologies. During his presidential campaign last year, Macron promised public investment of \$10 billion in new disruptive tech-

nologies such as artificial intelligence and robotization. "We are moving from a management approach to an approach of investing in the future," Le Maire told Les Echos newspaper in an interview published on Wednesday.

Macron, a 40-year-old former investment banker, has allowed strategic assets once considered too sensitive to sell to fall into private — and foreign — hands. The maker of France's famed high-speed trains, Alstom, is merging with Germany's Siemens company, with the latter set to emerge as the dominant shareholder. Italian firm Fincantieri has also taken control over major shipyards in western France, albeit with strong state oversight.

"It is about re-thinking the role of the French state in the economy," Le Maire

added in his interview. "The state's influence can be exerted in other ways than shareholdings," he added, citing "increased regulation" as an alternative.

Long-term trend

Over the last 20 years, major French firms such as France Telecom, bank Credit Lyonnais, airline Air France and motorway operators have been progressively sold off by successive governments.

The state still has investments in the defence, nuclear and other heavy industries that the government has vowed to hold on to, seeing them as key to the country's security and sovereignty. The French state currently holds 50.6 per cent of Aeroports de Paris, which owns and operates the capital's Charles de Gaulle, Orly and Le

Bourget airports.

Le Maire said that France would strengthen gambling laws ahead of the sale of Francaise des Jeux, which is 72-per cent state owned. France sold a 4.1-per cent stake in energy company Engie in January 2017, taking its shareholding to 28.7 per cent, to help finance a state-led rescue of troubled nuclear firm Areva. The French state is the biggest shareholder in Engie, which is the world's top independent electricity producer and a leading liquefied natural gas importer.

The law authorising the privatizations is expected to come into force by early 2019. France has not balanced a national budget since the early 1970s and it has a public debt that represents nearly 100 per cent of its GDP, far above the EU target of 60 per cent.—AFP ■

France alarmed after Trump 'practically hugged' Kim: minister

PARIS — French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian criticised Donald Trump's "destabilising" foreign policy on Wednesday after the US leader fell out with historic US allies then "practically hugged" North Korea's dictator in a matter of days. Le Drian said Tuesday's historic summit between Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un was "an undoubted step forward", but he expressed concern about the US president's diplomatic manoeuvres.

"In the space of just a day you see President Trump attacking Mr Trudeau who is a historic ally, and you see President Trump breaking with his collective allies after the G7 meeting in Quebec, and the next day practically hugged a dictator born into a Communist dictatorship which

just a few days ago he said he was completely opposed to," he said. "We are in a destabilising situation," Le Drian told CNews television. "President Trump has decided to progressively dismantle the tools of multilateralism created after the last war. It is a period of uncertainty and risk... America is shutting itself away in its fortress of power." Trump's critics have seized on his warm embrace of Kim, days after a spectacular bust-up with G7 allies at a summit in Canada, as the latest sign of his rapport with autocrats. Trump clashed badly with leaders of the G7's Western democracies over tariffs and accused Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of being "dishonest and weak" at a summit that ended in farce last weekend. —AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V THANLWIN STAR VOY.NO. (033 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V THANLWIN STAR VOY.NO. (033 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL
SHIPPING LINE PTD LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HASIL VOY.NO. (KHS 0084 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HASIL VOY.NO. (KHS 0084 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/AWPT 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 ANAN BHUM VOY.NO. (219 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ANAN BHUM VOY.NO. (219 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

With summit over, Pyongyang residents swarm around newspapers

PYONGYANG — Residents using the subway system in Pyongyang on Wednesday swarmed around publicly displayed newspapers reporting the previous day's summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump, reflecting their intense interest in the diplomatic event involving their leader. Reporting for the first time the summit's outcome in close step with the country's other official media, Wednesday's issue of the Rodong Sinmun featured dozens of related photos,

including of the two leaders shaking hands in front of a row of North Korean and US flags, as well as articles spread over four pages. "I can't believe they went so far as to issue a joint statement," a woman murmured as she gazed at a copy of the official party newspaper displayed inside a subway station in the capital. Another woman was seen smiling and reading aloud from an article on the summit as her finger traced its letters. "The first summit in history was held (between

North Korea and the United States)," she said softly. Each time a train arrived at the station, many people stopped to read the newspaper. As many as about 50 people swarmed around two newspaper displays in the area at some point, some of them jostling with one another for a better vantage point. Some people around another subway station were seen checking their smartphones to read news reports about the summit. The official Korean Central News Agency reported Wednesday that at



People gather to read the official newspaper of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party at a subway station in Pyongyang on 13 June, 2018, as it reports the meeting between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and US President Donald Trump the previous day. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

their summit in Singapore, Trump and Kim agreed on the importance of "step-by-step and simultaneous action" for denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula.

Trump also expressed his intention to halt the US-South Korea joint military exercises during a period of "good-will dialogue" between the

United States and North Korea, offer security guarantees to Pyongyang and lift sanctions against it, according to the report. —Kyodo News ■

Cambodia slams US for imposing sanctions on PM's bodyguard chief

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia on Wednesday criticized the United States for imposing sanctions on General Hing Bun Heang, commander of the country's Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen's Bodyguard Unit, for alleged

human rights abuses. "The Cabinet of the Prime Minister of Cambodia condemns the US's measure, which was taken groundlessly on His Excellency Hing Bun Heang, who is a strict law enforcer and dignified obligor in

safeguarding Cambodia's stability and social order," the Cabinet said in a statement. "What the US did is the violation of sovereignty of an independent country," it said. "The Cabinet of the Prime Minister of Cambo-

dia openly criticizes this unreasonable, violable, and shameless measure of the US." Another statement issued by the Ministry of Defense said the US's sanctions imposed on the Cambodian senior official was unacceptable

and a flagrant violation of law in Cambodia, which is a sovereign state. "The Ministry of Defense of Cambodia urges the US Treasury Department to immediately stop imposing sanctions on any Cambodian senior mili-

tary officials without clear grounds," the statement said. The reaction came after the US Treasury Department on Tuesday sanctioned Bun Heang for "being the leader of an entity involved in serious human rights abuse".—Xinhua ■

Tensions on Korean Peninsula ease after Trump-Kim summit: Japan gov't

TOKYO — Tensions on the Korean Peninsula have eased after the historic summit between US and North Korean leaders, Japan's top government spokesman said on Wednesday. "It is clear that, through this summit, the severe security conditions that meant we were always on alert for incoming missiles (from North Korea) were alleviated," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a press conference. In the first-ever US-North Korean summit in Singapore on Tuesday, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un pledged to work toward the "complete" denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, while



Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga at press conference on 13 June, 2018. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

US President Donald Trump committed to provide security guarantees to Pyongyang. In marked contrast to the recent conciliatory mood, North Korea last year carried out a nuclear test and launched two ballistic missiles over Japan. The government spokesman also said that Japan will offer to assist

in the denuclearization process in cooperation with the United States and South Korea. Noting that "a step toward various issues concerning North Korea" has been initiated by the US-North Korea summit, Suga welcomed Trump raising the issue of Japanese nationals abducted by the North decades ago, something Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government views as its top priority. Although a joint statement released after the summit did not specify a time frame to achieve denuclearization, Suga said, "The North Korean issues are not easy ones that could be settled in a summit."—Kyodo News ■

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation No.(2) Mining Enterprise Invitation for Opening Tender

1. No. (2) Mining Enterprise, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation invites to submit the tender quotation for the following materials.

Sr. No.	Materials Classifies	Weight (MT)	Location	Tender Closing Date / Time	Delivery Term
1	Wolfram Concentrate	2.762	Dawei, Tanintharyi Region	12.7.2018 / 2 : 00 PM	F.O.B (Dawei)
2	Tin & Wolfram Mixed Concentrate	52.779			
3	Tin -Wolfram & Scheelite Mixed Ore (55%)	25.604	Loikaw, Kayah State		F.O.B (Loikaw)
4	Wolfram Concentrate	0.626	T.S.R.P (Thanlyin)		F.O.B (Thanlyin)
5	Tin Slag	108.00			

2. No.(2) Mining Enterprise could provide necessary documents to interest companies and contact to No.(2) Mining Enterprise, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Office Building No.(19), Nay Pyi Taw, Ph:+95-(0)67-3409391, E-mail; metwo@e-monrec.gov.mm, within office hours.

Tender Committee
No.(2) Mining Enterprise

Putin says Russia committed to principle of 'politics and sports don't mix'

MOSCOW — Russia has always believed that 'sports and politics don't mix' and is ready to cooperate with everyone in order to bolster a creative start for sports, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at the FIFA Congress on Wednesday.

"I would like to underline that FIFA is committed to the principle of keeping politics out of sports," Putin stressed. "Russia has always adhered to such approaches and is striving for the closest cooperation with everyone who is determined to develop and enhance a creative beginning for sports and its boundless humanistic potential."

According to the Russian president, the upcoming championship is not only an exciting sporting event, but a chance for millions of people to get to learn about different peoples and their traditions, and make new friends.

In addition, they will "understand that other countries like their own are home to kind, enthusiastic and open-minded people and all of them want



Russian President Vladimir Putin. PHOTO: TASS

to live in peace, communicate with each other, visit each other, and watch and play football together."

Putin stressed that Russia is ready to host the World Cup and ensure that all people who come here will have the finest amenities and the best positive attitudes.

"Our goal is that all our guests — from football stars

to ordinary fans — will feel the warmth and kindness of our people, get into the spirit of Russia's multiethnic culture and unique nature and (we) hope (you will) all wish to come here again," Putin stated.

Speaking about the importance of the World Cup, Putin said that several generations of Russian fans had been dreaming of this. "Twelve first-class

stadiums and modern infrastructure have been built" in Russia, he noted.

The Russian head of state also wished the delegates to the Congress success in their endeavors, and also invited them to the opener on Thursday. "We will be sincerely glad to see all of you. Welcome to Russia," he announced. —Tass ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Austrian, German, Italian ministers form 'axis' against illegal immigration: Kurz

BERLIN — The hardline interior ministers of Austria, Germany and Italy have formed an "axis of the willing" to combat illegal immigration into the EU, Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz said on Wednesday.

"I am happy about the good cooperation that we want to develop between Rome, Vienna and Berlin — I think it marks very sensible cooperation that will contribute to reducing illegal migration to Europe," Kurz, whose country assumes the EU's rotating presidency on July 1, said after talks with German Interior Minister Horst Seehofer in Berlin. —AFP ■

France seeks 'cooperation' with Italy on migration

PARIS (France) — France is "perfectly aware" of the pressure on Italy as it copes with an influx of migrants from Africa, a foreign ministry spokeswoman said on Wednesday, and it is "committed to cooperation and dialogue" on the issue.

The comment came amid an escalating row between the two countries after France criticised Italy's decision at the weekend to turn away a rescue boat carrying more than 600 migrants. —AFP ■

Italy says without France apology Conte-Macron meet should be cancelled

ROME — Italy's Interior Minister Matteo Salvini said on Wednesday that without an "official apology" from France, a planned meeting between Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte and French President Emmanuel Macron on Friday should be cancelled.

"If an official apology doesn't arrive, prime minister Conte would be right not to go to France," Salvini told reporters after demanding that France take in more migrants. —AFP ■

S Korea newspapers welcome summit as 'first step' toward peace

SEOUL — Most South Korean newspapers reacted with cautious optimism on Wednesday to the historic meeting between Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un in Singapore, although one conservative daily denounced the agreement it produced as "absurd".

The centrist Hankook dai-

ly noted that the post-summit joint statement signed by the US president and North Korean leader on Tuesday had omitted Washington's demand for a "complete, verifiable, irreversible" denuclearisation of the North and lacked a concrete timetable to achieve that goal. Instead the statement commits Pyongyang

to "work toward complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula".

"In terms of the key issue... it may appear that the result failed to meet expectations," Hankook said in an editorial.

But it added that the concrete steps of dismantling the North's nuclear arsenal would be handled during follow-on negotiations, and that negotiations for a nuclear-free Korean peninsula and permanent peace between Seoul and Pyongyang had "just begun".

The pro-business JoongAng daily was cautiously optimistic, even though the timetable for the dismantling of Pyongyang's nuclear weapons remained vague.

"We can't dismiss the summit as a failure. It is already a historic event that the leaders of two foes have met. The first step to end decades of hostilities since the Korean War has been made", JoongAng said.

However, the conservative

Chosun daily lambasted the agreement signed by Trump and Kim. "The 12 June agreement is so outrageous and absurd that we could hardly believe our eyes," it said in an editorial.

The paper attacked Trump for promising to stop annual US-South Korea joint military drills before the North had started dismantling its nuclear arsenal.

Its view was echoed by the conservative opposition Liberty Korea Party, whose leader Hong Joon-Pyo castigated the summit as a "great failure".

But an editorial in the left-leaning Hankyoreh praised the summit as opening a new chapter for a "great change" in US-North Korea ties.

The stoppage of the US-South Korea drills, which the North says are rehearsals for aggression against it, will serve as "a catalyst" in improving ties between the two Cold War foes and denuclearisation of the North, it said. —AFP ■



The drama of the on-off Trump-Kim summit has provided South Korean newspapers with copy for weeks. PHOTO: AFP

Bend it like Modi: Indian PM trots and treads in fitness video

NEW DELHI — Narendra Modi, whose supporters boast of his physical prowess and indifference to sleep, has shared the secrets to his morning fitness regimen in a video where the Indian premier thrusts a staff, walks backwards and flexes over a boulder.

Modi spruiked the "refreshing and rejuvenating" benefits of his exercise workout in a video posted online on Wednesday that also included a meditative stroll over a special path "inspired" by nature.

It follows a trend of home-made motivational fitness videos from prominent Indians, including adored cricket captain Virat Kohli, trying to tackle obesity and poor health in the country of 1.25 billion.

In the latest addition Modi, 67, implores Indians to follow his example in a two minute clip shot in the lush garden of his New Delhi residence.

"Apart from yoga, I walk on a track inspired by the Panchtatvas or five elements of nature — Prithvi (earth), Jal (water), Agni (fire), Vayu (air), Aakash (sky)," Modi says in the video viewed nearly 200,000 times within hours of being posted.

"This is extremely refreshing and rejuvenating. I also practise breathing exercises."

In one clip Modi, clad in a black tracksuit, walks backwards over a treaded lawn with his hands clasped in a prayer pose, before stretching over a large boulder.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 67, released a two minute exercise video clip shot in the lush garden of his New Delhi residence. **PHOTO: AFP**



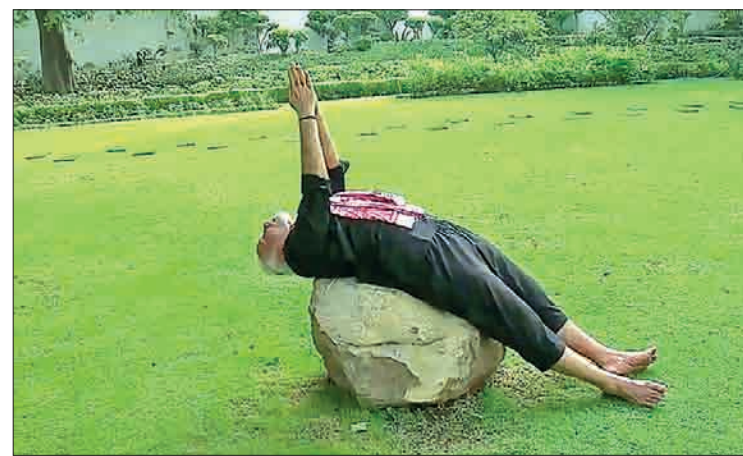
The sexagenarian premier claims he operates on little sleep and his devotees have bragged on his impressive physique, including most notably a rumoured 56-inch chest. **PHOTO: AFP**

He then proceeds to a specially-designed path around a large tree, balancing on its edges before walking over pebbles, wood and water, as he pumps a wooden staff from side to side.

The teetotal vegetarian then stands before a Buddha statue in his garden, breathing through one nostril. Later he sits on a rock, sharply taking quick breaths in a meditative pose.

The sexagenarian premier claims he operates on little sleep and his devotees have bragged on his impressive physique, including most notably a rumoured 56-inch chest.

A passionate yoga enthusiast, Modi has also touted the benefits of the ancient Indian practice via a cartoon avatar of himself performing sun salutations and downward dogs.



In one clip Modi, clad in a black tracksuit, walks backwards over a treaded lawn with his hands clasped in a prayer pose, before stretching over a large boulder. **PHOTO: AFP**



Despite the tranquility depicted in Modi's backyard, experts often warn Indians against exercising outdoors in New Delhi and other major cities due to terrible air quality. **PHOTO: AFP**

Government ministers were quick to heap praise on Modi for his "unparalleled energy levels".

But others were less impressed.

"Majority of middle-class citizens live amidst #stink from open defecation by #slumdweller & smoke from waste burning & fuelwood," posted one Twitter user, Naresh Minocha.

Despite the tranquility de-

picted in Modi's backyard, experts often warn Indians against exercising outdoors in New Delhi and other major cities due to terrible air quality.

Levels of harmful airborne pollutants in the capital reached 14 times the World Health Organization safe level on Wednesday, according to the US Embassy website, as Modi's video went viral.—AFP ■

New Advancing Community Empowerment Grants Expected to Benefit More than 500,000 People in Southeastern Myanmar

Four critical service grants have been awarded to project partners in Kayin and Mon States as part of the USAID-supported Advancing Community Empowerment in Southeastern Myanmar project. Grantees include the Kayin Department of Health and Welfare and the Kayin Ethnic Health Organization Consortium, Global Neighbours Thailand Foundation, Mae Tao Clinic, and Mon National Health Committee (MNHC). The Advancing Community Empowerment project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

These critical service grants focus on essential healthcare needs in vulnerable communities as well as internally displaced



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

persons, pregnant women, and children under 5 years of age along the Thai-Myanmar border and in hard-to-reach communities.

These grants follow February's signing of four initial grant awardees in Loikaw, Kayah State to support organizations addressing community development pri-

orities in southeastern Myanmar. A total of eight critical service grants have been awarded, with an estimated 500,000 people expected to benefit from interventions in the areas of health, education, livelihoods, and gender and youth. The next Request for Applications under the project is expected to be released by July. This grant opportunity will support the provision of health and education services in ethnic-administered and mixed-authority areas in southeastern Myanmar. In addition to providing services, successful applicants will work with project consortium members to support increased responsiveness and accountability to communities, improve the inclu-

sion of marginalized individuals/groups, and pursue options to ensure the continuity of education and health services. The Advancing Community Empowerment project is a five-year, \$48-million project funded by USAID and implemented by Pact in partnership with Community Partners International, Mercy Corps, and Save the Children International. The project will also partner with a wide range of local and regional organizations, service providers, and others to address community development priorities. The projected geographical reach of the project includes Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Southern Shan, Eastern Bago, and Northern Tanintharyi Regions and States.—GNLM ■

Yangon reaches semi-final in General Aung San Shield 2018

Yangon United has advanced to the semifinal of General Aung San Shield 2018 after beating GFA 2-0 in a quarterfinal match at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday. Using the 4-4-2 formation, Yangon scored through young players Aee Soe and Zaw Min Tun. Both teams put in all their efforts, as a win would take them to the semifinal of the tourney.

Yangon missed scoring opportunities in the 15th and 19th minutes, as Aee Soe's aim was

blocked by the GFA keeper, while Kosuke's hit bounced over the net. GFA played strongly, unleashing a tough attack to break the deadlock, but Yangon's defence foiled all their attempts.

At the end of the first half, the scoreboard read 0-0.

In the second half, Yangon substituted Kyaw Zin Oo with Htoo Khat Lwin. The deadlock was broken for Yangon when an attempt by Emmanuel bounced back from the keeper and Aee

Soe kicked it into the net at the 62nd minute. The opening goal seemed to have energised Yangon, which played better since. Yangon scored the second goal at the 76th minute when defender Zaw Min Tun converted an assist by striker Emmanuel. By the end of full-time play, Yangon had won 2-0. Yangon United advanced to the semi-final of the tournament and will face Magwe FC, which won over Ayeyarwady in a penalty shootout.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Myanmar U-19 to train in Singapore

IN preparation for the ASEAN U-19 Championship, which will be hosted by Indonesia from 29 June to 15 July, the Myanmar U-19 boy's national football team will train, together with Singapore's Albirex Niigata team, and will play a test match with the Singapore U-23 team in Singapore, according to the Myanmar

Football Federation (MFF). The Myanmar team will leave on 16 June and will train along with Albirex Niigata team from 17 to 19 June. A friendly match with Singapore's U-23 national football team will be played on 20 June, according to MFF. The Singapore U-23 team had participated in the 2017 SEA Games

and showed its skills in the competition.

Although football officials from Singapore have invited the Myanmar U-23 national football team, Myanmar football officials decided to send the younger U-19 team to gain fruitful experiences, said an official from MFF.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

FIFA World Cup 2018 to be broadcast live on MRTV

A total of 16 matches, including the opening and closing ceremony, semi-finals, finals and a few group matches of the FIFA World Cup 2018, hosted by Russia from 14 June to 15 July, will be broadcast

live on MRTV. The opening ceremony of the FIFA World Cup 2018 at Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow City, Russia, will be broadcast live on MRTV at 8.30 p.m. on 14 June (today).—Myanmar News Agency ■



FIFA to choose North America or Morocco for 2026 World Cup

MOSCOW — FIFA members vote on Wednesday on whether to award the 2026 World Cup to frontrunners North America or to underdogs Morocco, which has African support to bring football's showpiece event back to the continent.

On the eve of the opening match of the 2018 World Cup, delegates from 207 nations attending the FIFA Congress in Moscow are faced with a clear choice.

The joint bid from the United States, Mexico and Canada boasts modern, established stadiums and well-developed transport links underpinned by Mexican football fervour.

Morocco, on the other hand, is promising a "European" World Cup in Africa, playing on the north African nation's proximity to Europe. But compared to North America, Morocco's bid exists largely on paper — many stadiums and roads would have to be built and critics question how it would cope with the 2026 tournament, which will be ex-



A North American bid is the frontrunner against Morocco to earn the right to host the 2026 World Cup.
PHOTO: AFP

panded to 48 teams from the 32 that are taking part in 2018.

FIFA inspectors have classified the north African nation's stadiums, accommodation and transport as "high risk", awarding it just 2.7 out of five in an

evaluation report, with concerns raised over several critical aspects.

They warned "the amount of new infrastructure required for the Morocco 2026 bid to become reality cannot be overstated".

The report left the US-Canada-Mexico bid as the clear favourite after rating it four out of five.

'Vote on us, not Trump'
But the North American bid

fears it could lose out if the vote becomes a referendum on the popularity of US President Donald Trump. Trump has tweeted threats that if countries did not support the North American bid, they could not expect US support on other issues.

That prompted bid leader Carlos Cordeiro to urge FIFA members to vote on the "merits" of the bid, not Trump.

"We believe strongly that this decision will be made on its merits," Cordeiro said. "This is not geopolitics. We're talking about football and what is fundamentally, at the end of the day, the best interest of football and our footballing community."

The US hosted the World Cup in 1994, while football-crazy Mexico hosted in 1970 and in 1986, the tournament remembered for Diego Maradona's "Hand of God" goal. Morocco has tried, and failed, four times, most recently in a bid to host the 2010 World Cup, which went to South Africa as the African continent hosted for the first time.—AFP ■