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President receives outgoing Israeli Ambassador

President U Win Myint, outgoing Israeli Ambassador discuss promoting bilateral relationship, cooperation in agriculture, industrial, technical sectors

U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received outgoing Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Daniel Zonshine yesterday at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they friendly discussed matters related to promoting Myanmar-Israel bilateral relationship and

friendship, cooperation in the agricultural, industrial and technical sectors and strengthening economic and investment cooperation.

Present at the meeting were Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister for the Office of the President U Min Thu and officials. — Myanmar News Agency

President U Win Myint meets with outgoing Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Daniel Zonshine at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**



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Pyithu Hluttaw

MPs discusses appointing female admins, speeding vehicles, one stop services

IN yesterday's seventh-day meeting of the 9th regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw, the Speaker announced that the Pyithu Hluttaw will put on record and observe the motion tabled by U Tin Ko Ko Oo (a) U Athut of Bilin constituency concerning the upgrading and implementation of One Stop Shops and One Stop Services for supporting the implementation of the democratic reforms and strengthening trust between the people and the government by providing effective services from government departments.

Appointing female administrators in government departments

During the meeting, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu replied to a question raised by U Zaw Min Thein of Laymyethna constituency asking whether there are plans to appoint female administrators in township, district, state and regional level general administration departments under



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

der the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Deputy Minister replied that female staff will receive their due promotions and benefits in line with the National Civil Servant Law and regulations and thus it is possible for current female staff to eventually be promoted to an administrator position.

Effective measures against speeding, accidents on highways

U Maung Maung Oo of In-

sein constituency raised a question asking what measures are taken to identify, arrest and act against vehicles driving past the speeding limit on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway.

The Deputy Minister replied that they raise awareness on road safety by publishing information in state newspapers and broadcasting them on SkyNet Up To Date programs. He said the highway police force use modern red flax (radar system)

equipment to capture images of vehicles going past the 100 km/hr speed limit.

The images are shared via the Viber communication system to the Highway Preservation and Management Group at toll gates and mini toll gates, the highway police force, the Fire Services Department (Highway), and the respective administrative bodies in wards and villages, so that they may take appropriate legal action against the perpetrators. According to Section 58-A of the Motor Vehicle Law, a maximum prison sentence of one month, a penalty of Ks50,000, or both, can be charged against perpetrators, explained the Deputy Minister.

The National Road Safety Council led by Vice President U Henry Van Thio supervises affiliated state and regional organizations and committees to effectively act against vehicles driving past the speed limit. Penalties fined from the cases are added into the Union Budget, said the Deputy Minister.

The Deputy Minister also replied to questions raised by U Sai Ngaung Sai Hein of Mauk-mai constituency, Daw Aye Aye Mu (a) Daw Shar Mee of Kalay constituency, Dr. U Aung Naing of Thabeikkyin constituency and Daw Yin Min Hlaing of Gangaw constituency.

One Stop Services for the public

U Tin Ko Ko Oo (a) U Athut of Bilin constituency tabled a motion for the upgrading and implementation of One Stop Shops and One Stop Services by government departments, and the motion was discussed by six Hluttaw representatives.

Dr. Khin Sithu of Loikaw constituency said the one stop shops opened in township administration offices will be more effective if improvements and upgrades were made according to the four objectives laid down, but added that the objectives did not specify clear policies and guidelines.

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Amyotha Hluttaw

MPs suggest additional amendments to 2017 land confiscation law

THE second Amyotha Hluttaw's ninth regular session held its seventh-day meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning. At the meeting, asterisk-marked questions were answered by Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin, a bill sent back with amendments from the Pyithu Hluttaw was submitted and two other bills were discussed.

Q&A session

U Sai San Aung of Shan State constituency 12 raised a question as to whether a bridge over the Thanlyin River will be constructed to directly connect Hopong Township in the Wa Self-Administered Division and Lashio in Shan State. Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin replied there are no plans for constructing a new bridge in the area as there are already two existing bridges over the Thanlyin River and a new one is being built with the People Republic of China's facilitation. Similarly, U Kyaw Kyaw of Rakhine State constituency 4 raised a question as to whether the Konthedan-Bandula wooden bridge in MraukU Township, Ra-



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

khine State will be upgraded to a concrete bridge with steel beams. The Deputy Minister replied the costs for the upgrade has been included in the Rakhine State government's budget proposal for fiscal year 2019-2020, and further action will be considered depending on whether the funds for the upgrade are allotted or not.

The Deputy Minister also replied to a question raised by Daw Ma Ma Lay of Shan State constituency 8.

Speaker notifies bill for discussion

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker

Mahn Win Khaing Than notified the assembly that the Pyithu Hluttaw has sent back Myanmar Tourism Bill, with amendments, and called for MPs interested in discussing the bill to enroll their names.

MPs discuss second bill amending Myanmar Pearl Law

U Han Win Thein of Taninthayi Region constituency 4 suggested amendments for the Second Bill Amending the Myanmar Pearl Law. His suggestions included (1) adding the line 'providing support to regional

development operations in the respective state and region', (2) amending a line to read 'specifying oyster diving areas with official announcements after attaining confirmations and remarks from the regional and state governments and the Union Government', (3) adding the line 'forming a committee with respective regional representatives, led by a Managing Director, for reviewing and specifying the size of the area for oyster diving spots', (4) and amending a line to read 'the ministry, after obtaining the remarks from the respective regional or state government and the confirmation from the Union Government, can alter or invalidate the entire area or a section of an oyster diving spot.' U Soe Thein (a) U Maung Soe of Taninthayi Region constituency 10 also discussed the bill.

MPs discuss 2017 Land Confiscation Bill

Hluttaw representatives then discussed a motion tabled by U Ba Myo Thein of Yangon Region constituency 5, who is also Chairperson of the Committee for Farmers' Affairs, concerning

the 2017 Land Confiscation Bill.

U Kyi Win of Ayeyawady Region constituency 12 said Chapter 13, Section 63 of the bill states that entities that obstruct or impede any official work of organizations or individuals will be sentenced to a maximum of 3 years in prison and a fine of Ks500,000 maximum. He suggested adding that physical assault and criminal acts be included in the definition. He suggested adhering to Penal Law 353, which sets the maximum prison sentence to 2 years, and thus amending the prison sentence in the bill from 3 years to 2 years.

U Aung Myo of Sagaing Region constituency 2 said the bill includes forming a field inspection group with appropriate members from the respective state and regional government but does not specify that the group write or submit reports of their operations to any superior authority. He suggested adding that the field inspection group shall submit their reports to their respective state and regional government or the Nay Pyi Taw Council.

SEE PAGE-6

Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers speech at National Natural Disaster Management Committee coordination meeting

THE National Natural Disaster Management Committee held a coordination meeting at the Vice President's Office meeting hall in the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Committee Chairman Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivered a speech at the meeting saying the heavy floods that occurred in June and July have caused hazardous situations throughout the affected states and regions, especially in Taninthayi Region, Kayin State, Mon State and Bago Region.

The Vice President said preplanned procedures for reacting to disasters and rescue operations were carried in the flood-stricken areas, the National Natural Disaster Management Committee and respective ministries and state and region government provided aid and support, and the twelve work committees, formed at the inception of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee in 2016, also performed protection, rescue operations, aid and rehabilitation procedures.

The Vice President said the meeting will talk about forming the "Coordinating Body for Rehabilitating Disaster-Affected Regions", identifying regions as disaster-affected areas, effects from the recent disasters, status on support given, ongoing support processes, and preplanning operations for the remaining rainy season.

The Vice President said rehabilitation procedures have to



Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers the speech at the National Natural Disaster Management Committee coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

be carried out after search and rescue operations and aid have been provided after a natural disaster. He said, of the twelve work committees, the Rehabilitation and Renovation Work Committee and the Reinstating Vocational Training Work Committee will be the primary operators but the "Coordinating Body for Rehabilitating Disaster-Affected Regions" will be formed and given responsibilities to speed up, effectively coordinate, assist and review and fulfill requirements in the rehabilitation process.

He said there are existing laws and bylaws for identifying a region as disaster-affected.

After the floods and landslides that occurred during the months of June and July in 2015, Chin State, Sagaing Region,

Magway Region and Rakhine State were identified as disaster-affected areas. The casualties, losses, deaths and other factors of the recent floods will be considered and compared to previous undertakings in the discussion, said the Vice President.

Next, National Natural Disaster Management Committee Vice-Chair Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye explained about the population in the flood-affected areas, the status of people relocating, submerged farmlands, damage to educational and healthcare facilities, roads, bridges, wells and reservoirs, support from the National Natural Disaster Management fund, support from the Ministry of Social Welfare,

Relief and Resettlement, forming the "Coordinating Body for Rehabilitating Disaster-Affected Regions", and ongoing rehabilitation processes.

Management Committee Secretary Deputy Minister U Soe Aung then explained that the Natural Disaster Management Law and Bylaw state that a region can only be identified as being disaster-affected if the catalyst natural disaster results in the mass deaths of people and animals, mass demolition of basic infrastructure, property and livelihoods, a disproportionate loss of security, education and health opportunities and other social factors, mass destruction to the natural environment, and significant difficulties in rehabilitating and restoring an area to its

former state among other issues. He then gave an explanation on the losses sustained during the natural disasters that occurred in the now identified disaster-affected regions in 2015 and the recent floods that have affected the states and regions.

This was followed by National Natural Disaster Management Committee members being union ministers, deputy ministers and officials explaining about controlling the flow of rivers, repairing roads and bridges and costs needed for them, collecting crops, distributing crops and fertilizers, restoring farmers with farming equipment and machineries, conducting an initial survey, verifying losses, reopening schools, restoring damaged schools, providing textbooks and stationery, regaining electric power, responding to international aid offered, search and rescue formations, different levels of responses from ministries and departments and preplanned plans.

The Vice President then reviewed the discussions and gave instructions and advice as necessary.

Attending the meeting were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Sein Win, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Dr. Aung Thu, U Thant Sin Maung, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Dr. Myint Htwe, U Soe Win, U Han Zaw and Dr. Win Myat Aye, Deputy Ministers Dr. Tun Naing, U Kyaw Lin and U Soe Aung, permanent secretaries, directors-general and department officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe attends 7th Bali Process Ministerial Conference

A delegation led by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe attended 7th Bali Process Ministerial Conference and a ministerial-level forum between governments and economists at Bali International Convention Centre in Bali, Indonesia on 7 August.

The conference and forum were attended by Ministers from 45 member countries and senior officials from UNHCR, UNDP and IOM and Indonesian Minister for Foreign Affairs Mrs. Retno Marsudi and Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Julie Bishop acted as chairpersons.

At the discussion, the Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe fo-

cused on efforts of combating of human trafficking, cooperation processes between Myanmar and other countries and repatriation processes in Rakhine.

A senior official meeting related with the Conference and Forum was also held at the same place from 9am to 3:30pm on 6 August and Myanmar representatives led by Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo and he also added Myanmar cooperation processes in combating the human trafficking processes.

During his visit, the Union Minister also met separately with Indonesian Minister for Foreign Affairs Mrs. Retno Marsudi, Australian Minis-

ter for Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Julie Bishop and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees-UNHCR Mr. Filippo Grandi and discussed the true situation regarding to the displaced people in Rakhine State, increasing of complexity due to the accusation and pressure of the international community and commitment to resolving the situation in the positive ways.

The Union Minister and party arrived back at Yangon International Airport yesterday 4pm and welcomed by Secretary of Yangon Region government and officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs.— Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, right, attends the 7th Bali Process Ministerial Conference at Bali International Convention Centre in Bali, Indonesia on 7 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker sends message to commemoration of 30th Anniversary of the 8888 Uprising

Following is the unofficial translation of the full text of the message from U T Khun Myat, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Message from U T Khun Myat, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, to commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the 8888 Uprising

I wish all of the guests here including dignitaries from organizations attending this Commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the 8888 Uprising to enjoy good health and happiness physically and mentally.

Hluttaws are considered the basic foundation of democracy and the life-blood of a nation as well. Hluttaws, paying heed to the people's voices, desires and views and their needs, are working for the best of the people.

As all of you know, I, together with the representatives of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and by making the best use our intelligence and energy, am striving based on the policy and work processes laid down by the State for the emergence of a democratic federal Union.

Regarding the democratic reforms, people have expectation to see the result in a short time, but we should be aware that a basic nature of democracy demands taking time rather than getting answer immediately. Anyway, except the democratic system, there is no other system which can tackle the challenges of the 21st Century.

We are to step up our efforts for strengthening the democratic system and shall carry on our cooperation for the development of the country through negotiation.

All citizens are urged to work together with us for the development of the State and the people, following the existing laws and without partisanship, racism, regionalism, religionism and ideologism.

Hence, by carrying out our respective duties on the journey of democratic reforms with foresight and right conduct, and with genuine goodwill for the country, we believe that progress of works for emergence of a federal democratic Union would be achieved.

U T Khun Myat
Speaker
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

People commemorate 8888 Uprising 30th anniversary in Yangon

BY Zaw Gyi

THE University of Yangon was crowded with students, monks and people yesterday, as the last day of the 3-day event celebrating the 30th anniversary of the 8888 Uprising was held in the university's premises and recreation centre.

A group of cyclists pedaled from Zigone Township in Bago Region into the university premises, in honor to the 8888 Uprising, bringing some more liveliness to yesterday's ceremony.

"The struggle for democracy hasn't slowed down. We all have hope as it is still in momentum. A brief summary of the results from the political talks during the 30th anniversary event indicate that we will continue the fight for democracy. We will march on.

This is a real beneficial event," said U Nyan Win, central executive committee secretariat member of the National League for Democracy.

Ko Htike, a former political prisoner who took part in the bicycle tour from Zigone to Yangon also said, "We took the 130-mile bike tour of 130 miles from Zigone to Yangon University which was never allowed to celebrate the 8888 Uprising in its campus, and is celebrating the 30th anniversary of the 8888 Uprising as its first time, as well

as to pay respect to our fallen comrades during the uprising. Our main purpose is to honor the 30th anniversary.

Our nation needs unity and solidarity. I want everyone to be united." Ma Htet Htet Win Naing from the University of West Yangon said she feels like she understands the history of the 8888 Uprising more after seeing its portrayals in the exhibitions.

Like Ma Htet Htet Win Naing, there were a lot of new generation youths who took part in the ceremony.

The sight of flags bearing the peacock symbol finally dotting the university's walls after thirty years makes the 30th anniversary of the 8888 Uprising all the more memorable.

Similarly, in the morning, the ceremony of libation, sharing merits and laying wreath for the fallen persons who fought for peace, human right and democracy during the uprisings, was also held near Yangon City Hall, in front of Maha Bandoole Park. In the afternoon, the pearl jubilee of 8888 Uprising's historic song "Kaba Ma Kyei Bu" was held at the Goethe Institut in Bahan Township, Yangon. Various areas of Yangon City also saw many jubilated celebrations in honor of the 30th anniversary of the 8888 Uprising. ■



U Min Ko Naing delivers the speech at the commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the 8888 Uprising in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**



People look the display photos of 1988 uprising at the gallery to mark the 30th anniversary of the 8888 Uprising in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker sends message to commemoration of 30th Anniversary of 8888 Uprising

Following is the unofficial translation of the full-text of the message from the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw to the commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of 8888 Uprising for democracy movement.

Message from Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw to the commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of 8888 Uprising

I am proud and delighted to send this message to the commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of 8888 Uprising, which falls on 8 August, 2018.

As a result of the 8888 Uprising, the country left behind the one-party system and moved towards a multi-party democracy system, and Myanmar is now on the road to a new democratic nation.

Myanmar's political generation which had disappeared for many years in Myanmar is now reborn and the 8888 Uprising has become the biggest movement for democracy in Myanmar.

For gaining the peace in the Union and for emergence of a democratic federal Union aspired to by the people for many decades, commitment shall be made to march to our ultimate goal with the collective strength and joining our hands firmly through the obstacles, challenges and conflicts we are facing today.

I make a wish that from the 30th Anniversary of the 8888 Uprising, every citizen takes part, as much as they can, in building a future democratic federal Union while paying heed to the national solidarity and national reconciliation.

Mahn Win Khaing Than
Speaker
Amyotha Hluttaw

Commemorative event marks 30th Anniversary of 8888 Uprising at Yangon University

A commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the 8888 Uprising for democracy, which falls on 8th August, was held at the Yangon University yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun and Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, cabinet members of the Yangon Region Government, Hluttaw representatives, representatives of the political parties, diplomats, those who participated in the 8888 Uprising, students and people.

At the ceremony, attendees saluted the Fighting Peacock Flag which was used in the uprising in 1988 and observed eight seconds of silence to pay tribute to those who sacrificed their lives in the nationwide democracy movements.

On behalf of the committee on holding the commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the 8888 Uprising, U Min Ko Naing extended greetings.

Next, Ko Sithu Tun of the Yangon East University Students' Union, read out the message from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw



U Min Ko Naing delivers the opening speech at the ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of the 8888 Uprising at the Yangon University, Yangon, Myanmar, 8 August 2018. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**



U Min Ko Naing.



U Thet Tun.



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint looks the display photos of 1988 uprising exhibited at the gallery during the ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of the 8888 uprising at the Yangon University in Yangon on 8 August 2018. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

Speaker U T Khun Myat to the event.

(The message from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat is covered on Page-4.)

Afterwards, Ko Lin Htet of Thanlyin Technology University Students' Union read out the message from Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than to the event.

(The message from Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than is covered separately.)

Political parties, civil society organizations and organizations sent messages to the 30th anniversary commemoration of the 8888 Uprising.

At the event, U Thet Tun, on behalf of the committee, read out the suggestions made at the talks over the 30 year period after the 888 Uprising and the commemoration ceremony came to an end with concluding remarks by U Ko Ko Gyi.

In memory of the 1988 revolution, documentary photos on political situation before 1988, democracy movement during the 1988 uprising, news releases, flags and things that were used in the uprising are also displayed to the public at the Recreation Centre of the university.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat receives Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received outgoing Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Daniel Zonshine at the Pyithu Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they exchanged views and friendly

discussed matters related to Israel-Myanmar bilateral friendship, cooperation between the two Hluttaws, people to people cooperation and development of human resource, agricultural and technical sectors. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat shakes hands with Israeli Ambassador Mr. Daniel Zonshine in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Attorney-General receives outgoing Ambassador of Denmark to Myanmar

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received outgoing Ambassador of Denmark to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Peter Lysholt

Hansen at the Office of the Union Attorney-General in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, they cordially discussed mat-

ters related to implementation process of MoU signed by Embassy of Denmark and Office of the Union Attorney-General and cooperation to increase the standard of legislation sector.

They also cordially discussed matters related to conducting legislation trainings, procedures which can solve the investment problems and cooperation in the rule of law activities. Present at the meeting were Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin and Director-General Dr Thida Oo. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo meets with Denmark Ambassador Mr. Peter Lysholt Hansen yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Attorney-General's Office holds monsoon tree plantation campaign

OFFICE of the Union Attorney-General held a monsoon tree plantation ceremony in the compound of its office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, as a campaign of keeping the environment green.

Present at the event were Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin, Directors-General and staff.

Union Attorney-General

planted a sapling of Gantgaw (*Mesua ferrea*) and Deputy Attorney-General planted a sapling of Thabyay (*Eugenia*) while the other attendees planted 220 saplings of various trees including Ngu War, Ngu Cherry, Gantgaw, Sein Pan Gyi, Pynma, Swetaw and Tamarind.

The Union Attorney-General and party also observed the tree saplings planted in last year. —Myanmar News Agency ■

MPs discuss appointing female admins, speeding...

FROM PAGE-2

He said there should be consideration for adhering to the democratic system and privatization in designing policies and guidelines.

The one stop services should be relevant to the respective region, cooperation should be strengthened between the people and staff and between individual staff members, providing workshops on simple and effective guidelines for relevant authorities and staff from ministry departments, placing the local anti-corruption commission office in the one stop shop for easy access, as well as choosing a suitable and readily accessible location for the one stop shop.

U Sai Ngaung Sai Hein of Maukmai constituency, U Nyan Lin of Shwepyitha constituency, U Bo Gyi of Chauk constituency

and U Sai Thiha Kyaw of Mon-gyan constituency further discussed the motion.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu explained that the One Stop Shop Establishing and Implementation Work Committee was founded on 20 May 2015 to provide government services to the public in one location, to promote public trust on government departments, and to provide checks and balances among head departments. The work committee was reformed on 23 August 2016.

One Stop Service is also available in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone for performing company registration procedures with nine different government departments in one location.

A One Stop Service is also available at the 105-mile trading zone in Muse Township for

performing trade license procedures with twelve different government departments in a single location.

The Deputy Minister said there are 94 One Stop Services currently being provided and the remaining 66 services will be gradually provided as the e-government system develops. He said it will take time for them to accomplish all of their set processes and to draft laws for the public one stop services, so therefore asked for the Hluttaw to put the motion on record.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker called for the resolution of the Hluttaw and after receiving it, announced that the Hluttaw has agreed to put the motion on record for observation.

The eight-day meeting of the 9th regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw will be held on 10 August. —Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

MPs suggest additional ...

FROM PAGE-2

He also suggested amending a description in the bill to read 'forming a State/Regional Land Confiscation Case Implementation Group and Resettling and Rehabilitating Implementation Group with respective department officials, landowners, representatives of local residents, ethnic representatives and experts.'

He also suggested adding what processes to follow, what information to report after gaining approval for the Land Confiscation Implementation Group to continue the take over the duties of the entity that submitted for the confiscation of land when the aforementioned entity and the landowners cannot reach an agreement. He also suggested adding that should the landowners and the entities confiscating the land have reached an agree-

ment, then the agreement contract should be included in their submission to the implementation group, and the group shall review whether the contract was signed with the consent and agreement of the landowner. U Aung Myo also suggested that the contract signed between the landowner and the entities confiscating the land should be sent to the respective state and regional government or to the Nay Pyi Taw Council, who will in turn appeal to the central committee so that the concerned department confiscating the land acquire the proper grants to the land. U Sai Wam Hlaing Kham of Shan State constituency 3 and U Htay Oo of Yangon Region constituency 2 also discussed the bill. The eighth-day meeting of the 9th regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 10 August. —Aung Ye Thwin ■

THE CENTRAL

WHERE THE FINEST MEETS



At the Corner of Kabar Aye Pagoda Road and Kanbe Road, The Central is designed to be a world-class mixed-use development with Yangon's first retail walking street, F&B complex, luxury residential units, complete clubhouse facilities, and Grade-A office space. It is a vision for a vibrant, sustainable and harmonious Yangon.

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The Central သည် ရန်ကုန်၏ပထမဆုံးသော ဈေးဝယ်လျှောက်လမ်း၊ စားသောက်ဆိုင်များ၊ အဆင့်မြင့်လူနေအိမ်များ၊
ပြိုင်ဘက်မရှိသော Clubhouse ဝန်ဆောင်မှုများ၊ Grade-A ရုံးခန်းများ ပါရှိသည့် ကမ္ဘာ့အဆင့်မြင့်
mixed-use development တစ်ခုဖြစ်လာပါမည်။ The Central သည် ရန်ကုန်မြို့၏ သက်တက်စိုးလွင်ခြင်း၊
ခိုင်မာတည်တံ့ခြင်းနှင့် စည်းလုံးခြင်းတို့၏ ရုပ်ပုံလွှာတစ်ခုဖြစ်ပါမည်။

BY INYA LAKE



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PROJECT LOCATION
Corner of Kabar Aye Pagoda Road
and Kanbe Road, Yankin Township,
Yangon, Myanmar

GALLERY SHOWROOM
No. 7-8, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road,
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Paddy seed insufficiency in Rakhine State to be solved

RAKHINE State is facing a discrepancy between demand and supply of paddy seeds and it means we should take quick action to produce quality paddy seeds in the state.

There are about 1.2 million acres of land where rice can be grown in the state. But, the shortage of quality seeds has hit the farmers.

To narrow the gap, the Rakhine State has conducted training programs to produce seeds for its staff this year, in addition to disseminating knowledge to staff and farmers.

Currently, about 100 trainees from townships in Rakhine State are participating in the training to produce quality paddy seeds in the state.

The Department of Agriculture has been producing quality seeds, including paddy, in its research gardens. But, demand is higher than supply.

The agriculture department has encouraged the private sector to go into seed production, in particular, paddy.

Agriculture is listed in ten prioritized sectors by Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

However, the farming industry still absorbs less than one per cent of the total foreign direct investment, according to U Than Aung Kyaw, deputy director-general of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, as the agriculture investments are usually seen as long-term investments.

The new Myanmar Investment Law allows up to 80 % of foreign investment in the agriculture sector.

Also, foreigners have the opportunity to invest 100 per cent in seed production. However, the sector has seen no significant progress, so far.

The sector sees a relatively-low FDI influx as it is a long-term investment and is directly associated with the climate.

There may be some risks for investors to make investments in the farming sector. It is still difficult to implement a crop insurance system in Myanmar. Land ownership also remains an important issue. This is why investment in the agriculture sector is relatively low compared with the non-agriculture sector.

Currently, some private companies have begun seed production operations in partnership with farmers, with technical and financial support of the agriculture department.

Development of the seed production industry is very important. But the industry requires technical experts and enthusiastic entrepreneurs. Companies have to be more responsible and be able to guarantee their seeds grow into crops. Therefore, post-harvest technologies are crucial in the seed-production industry.

Opportunities and challenges of sustainable agricultural exports

By Khin Yadanar

Scarcity of skilled workers

MYANMAR is an ethnically diverse country and it is estimated that about 70 per cent of the population lives in rural areas, according to the census. Myanmar being an agricultural country, agriculture sector has become the back-bone of its economy. Thus, a majority of the rural populace rely upon agricultural and livestock sectors that play an important part in the economic growth. That is because nature has blessed the country with vast areas of fertile land, as well as abundant natural resources that are the principal ingredients of an agro-based economy. Moreover, Myanmar is one of the top rice-producing countries in the world which is regarded as the country's most important crop that is grown all over the country. Therefore, rice remains the staple food in Myanmar.

There are, however, several challenges to change the mechanization in the agricultural sectors in the country. Nowadays, the role of agricultural workers becomes crucial and there arise a lot of job transfers of the workers by dint of low wages. With each passing year, the number of workers has become fewer and fewer in the agricultural sector, year by year, for various reasons.

"Currently, the cultivation cost per acre ranges from Ks 150,000 to Ks 200,000, and harvesting cost per acre is Ks 150,000 as well. Because of labour shortage in many parts of the country, it is difficult to hire them," said the cultivators. "There is still not enough mechanization in the farming sector. That's why we are facing cattle shortage and cannot afford to buy expensive agricultural machineries that are worth from Ks20 million to Ks30 million," added the cultivators. Demand for labour in agriculture is very high in the major rice-growing regions, including Ayeyawady and Bago regions, Rakhine and Mon states while labour shortage occurs in many places, especially in Magway, Sagaing and Mandalay regions as well as Shan State. Although there are 18 million acres of farmlands in Myanmar, the actual grown acres are less than 15 million, according to the agri-



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

culture experts. Substantial wages

"We have faced the scarcity of labourers for a long time, and the main thing is that their wages are very low compared to their counterparts in other sectors. An odd-job worker can fetch only Ks7000 per day and has to work at most six months in a year. Authorities concerned have tried to move from traditional farming to industrialized one, encouraging the formation of cooperatives and providing capital to purchase the farming equipment. In Myanmar, there are many such small- and medium-sized businesses, based on farming products, looking to get medium- and long-term loans to expand.

Sustainable agricultural product

"Although the agriculture sector constitutes 30 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), only a few percentages of farmers can enjoy healthy profits and majority of them have to suffer the impact of socio-economic status. Cooperation is of great important to ensure sustainable crop production systems and to produce agro livestock products so that we could vie with them in the international markets. "The costs are very high on account of scarcity of labourers. As a result,

they cannot afford to spend on the production costs" said U Chit Khine, Chairman of Myanmar Rice Federation.

Myanmar's unusually fertile soils and abundant water sources are legendary in Southeast Asia region. It is even said that Myanmar has the most favorable agricultural conditions and almost anything can be grown in the country, from fruits to vegetables, from rice to pulses. However, the sector will continue to play a remarkable role in reducing poverty in Myanmar for many years to come. Farmers in Myanmar use much less fertilizer, often with the wrong nutrient balance, because of the lack of knowledge and training and a shortage of fertilizer quality assurance.

Factors to be taken into consideration A policy shift is needed

from rice production to broad-based agricultural support. Producing more and getting better instead of using more, to achieve higher yields, is a key to ensuring high returns for the progress of agriculture. Agricultural extension services are to be scaled up and strengthened to reach out to more farmers and cover more crops to accelerate adoption of productivity-increasing farm technologies.

words, producing more by using fewer inputs, or using inputs better instead of using more, to achieve higher yields, is a key to ensuring high returns for the progress of agriculture. Agricultural extension services are to be scaled up and strengthened to reach out to more farmers and cover more crops to accelerate adoption of productivity-increasing farm technologies.

Agricultural sector development

As for authority concerned, efforts should be made to easy access to quality education a reality, and strengthen the actions aimed at becoming agriculturalists, disseminating agricultural information to farmers and moving from traditional to industrialized farming techniques in order to boost productivity in the agricultural sector. Myanmar's agricultural performance offers opportunities for successful agricultural development in the country where rapid gains can be made by better inputs, better seeds and improvement of logistical and marketing arrangements. Therefore, it is paramount that improvement of agriculture is urgently needed to capitalize this emerging demand. Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung

It is important, therefore, that farmers have the freedom to select the least costly and most profitable crops to make their production effective and profitable.



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH



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EARTHQUAKE NEWS

(Issued at 04:40 hour MST)

A slight earthquake of magnitude (4.4) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about 13 miles west-southwest of Katha) latitude 24.13°N, longitude 96.15°E, depth (10) kilometers about (13) miles west-southwest of Katha seismological observatory was recorded at (04)hr (09)min (51)sec MST on 8th August, 2018.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 15:00 hrs MST on 8-8-2018)

Flood condition of Sittoung River

According to the (14:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River has exceeded by about (2) feet at Madauk above its danger level. It may fall about (1) foot during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition of Thanlwin River

According to the (14:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River has exceeded by about (2½) feet at Hpa-an above its danger level and may remain above its danger level during the next (3) days.

Advisory

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and lowlying areas in Hpa-an Township and Madauk, to take precaution measure.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 8th August, 2018)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 9th AUGUST, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah State, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw , Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, fairly widespread in (Southern and Eastern) Shan State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6 - 8) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Taninthayi Region and Shan State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th AUGUST, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th AUGUST, 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9th AUGUST, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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able to publish "Letter to the Editor"
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you submit a text longer than 500 words
please be aware that your letter will be
edited.International entry-exit checkpoints
between Myanmar, India open

THE opening ceremonies of international entry-exit checkpoints at the Tamu- Moreh and the Reedhorda-Zowkhawtar borders between Myanmar and India were concurrently held yesterday at the particular places.

This is an implementation of landmark Land Border Crossing Agreement between India and Myanmar, signed on 11 May 2018.

The opening ceremony of Tamu-Moreh entry-exit border checkpoint was held yesterday at the archway of the checkpoint near the Myanmar-Indian Friendship Bridge in Tamu Township, Sagaing Region, in which U Aye Lwin, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population Myanmar explained the reasons of opening international entry-exit checkpoints between Myanmar and



Chief Minister of Chin State U Salai Lian Lwal and officials cut ribbon to open a checkpoint at the opening ceremony of International Border of India-Myanmar. **PHOTO: MNA**

India. Afterwards, Consul General of India in Myanmar Mr. Nandan Singh Bhaisora and Tamu District deputy commissioner U Myint Thin Aung delivered speeches.

The Permanent Secretary,

Consul General and District deputy commissioner then cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the checkpoint after which they observed the immigration process at the gate.

Following the opening ceremony at the India-Myanmar

Friendship Bridge, the Myanmar delegation was given a tour of the Integrated Check Post (ICP) facilities in Moreh, India.

Myanmar's delegation for the ceremony yesterday morning at Reedhorda was led by U Salai Lian Lwal, Chief Minister of Chin State, Government of Myanmar, while the Indian side was led by Shri Pu H Rohluna, Minister of Commerce and Industries, Government of Mizoram, India. The chief minister of Chin State thanked India External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj for opening the border posts. This was followed by a tour of the immigration check post at Rihkhawdar.

The opening of these checkpoints will facilitate travel on both sides, as people holding passports and a valid visa will be allowed to enter and exit through these border check posts. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Japanese gov't, Singapore private companies donate humanitarian aid

THE Japanese government donated 1,000 temporary shelters and 25 plastic water storage tanks, worth Yen 17 million, to fulfill the urgent needs of the people in the flood areas. The Japanese government handed over those donated items through the Japan International Cooperation Agency on 7 August.

To be able to access drinking water in the flood-affected areas, four private companies from Singapore also donated a total of five water treatment plants. Each water treatment plant costs US\$ 9,500. The Singapore companies handed over those five water treat-

ment plants on 7 August. The handover ceremony of the humanitarian aid was held at Yangon Region Disaster Management Department. Disaster Management Department Deputy Director General and officials accepted the donation and presented a document of honor.

Items donated are temporary shelters, plastic water storage tanks and water treatment plants. The current donated items from the Japanese government and Singapore private companies will be distributed to the people from flood-affected areas as soon as possible.—MNA ■



Japanese government representatives hand over humanitarian aid to Disaster Management Department Deputy Director General in Yangon on 7 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

Over a thousand technology engineering vacancies
offered during first half of 2018

MYANMAR top international companies have offered over a thousand job vacancies related to technology and engineering through www.jobnet.com.mm, Myanmar number one job portal, during the first half of 2018, said Mr. Natt De Luca, Managing Director of Jobnet.com.mm.

"Technician and engineers are one of the key parts

of country development. We are very glad to provide and fill the job opportunities," he added.

Nearly 15,000 job seekers applied for the technology and engineering jobs, such as design and architecture, hardware and software engineer, web and mobile developer, other science and technology

positions through www.jobnet.com.mm.

With a growth of economy, science and technology are running in parallel. Therefore, it can't be denied that the demand for technical and engineering jobs are getting higher nowadays and also will be in the future. And we are gearing up to create more opportunities

for the seekers", said Mr. Justin Sway.

A technology and engineering career conference will be held at the Sedona Hotel on 12 August from 9am to 6pm. The event will include a job fair and a conference, with a seminar feature presented by experts from the technology and engineering fields.—GNLM ■



Workers load sacks of rice onto a truck in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Rice export exceeds 800,000 tons in four months

THE volume of rice and broken rice exports in the past four months reached over 802,212 metric tons, with an estimated value of US\$277.7 million, according to an announcement of the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Between 1 April and 27 July 2018, Myanmar's rice was sent to 40 countries, while broken rice were exported to 15 foreign countries. The rice export was worth \$223 million,

while broken rice was valued at \$54 million.

Border trade surpassed sea trade in rice export, accounting for 55.3 per cent of the total export. Rice export through border checkpoints earned an estimated \$158.68 million, whereas the sea trade saw an income of \$119 million.

Since last month, China's minimum purchase price and low demand, and transportation difficulties caused by ter-

rible weather brought down export rice price in both border and sea trades.

Rice is the chief export among the country's agriculture products. 75 per cent of the production is for domestic consumption and the remainder is exported. In the last 2017-2018 fiscal year, 3.6 million tons of rice and broken rice worth \$1.13 billion were exported to foreign countries.

—GNLM■

About 200 tons of tea leaves exported in past four months

MYANMAR exported about 200 tons of fresh and dried tea leaves to foreign countries between April and July, earning over US\$400,000, according to data from the Department of Trade.

The volume is up by 35 tons, compared to that of last year. During the similar period of last year, over 150 tons of fresh and dried tea leaves were sent to external markets, fetching over \$200,000. Myanmar's tea leaves are shipped to Japan, South Korea, Singapore, China (Taipei), Germany,

the US, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Australia and China.

Exports prioritize on organic dried tea leaves and there are hopes for wider potential markets. Organic yields can be lower than conventional. Moreover, local consumption is high. Only small volume can be exported to foreign markets. Tea-leaf growers are also facing with shortage of labour at harvest time.

Therefore, some owners who can afford purchase tea leaf harvesting machines, each worth around Ks160,000. An

acre of tea plantation produces around 300 viss (a viss equals to 1.6 kg) per year, said Daw Nan Nan Khin, a tea leaf grower from Taunggyi Township.

There are over 200,000 acres of tea leaf plantations across the country. To pick the leaves, an acre needs about 300 labourers.

At present, green tea leaves, organic dried tea leaves and ready-make tea packages, fresh tea leaves and assortment of crispy beans are being exported.—Zar Lin Thu (AMIA)■

Some exporters not reaping healthy profit due to high US dollar exchange rate

By May Thet Hnin

SOME exporters are not earning a remarkable profit, in spite of the fact that the US dollar exchange rate hit a record high of Ks1,475 per dollar in the floating exchange rate system on 7 August.

"Exporters are believed to get a handsome profit due to soaring dollar exchange rate. However, it is like reaching a breakeven point as they have to purchase imported goods such as packing materials, ingredients at the current US dollar rate", said U Ye Myint Maung, general secretary of Myanmar Food Processors and Exporters Association.

The US tariff hike on China in the escalating trade war is affecting other countries. The country needs to prioritize export promotion and import substitution businesses by drawing up export-oriented strategy in a bid to control high dollar exchange rate and inflation, he maintained.

With the dollar exchange rate gaining, commodity prices are surging. Therefore, exporters also have to scale up the purchase of price in the supply market.

Daw Toe Nanda Tin, vice chair of Myanmar Fishery Products Processors and Exporters Association commented that "exporters usually make profit with dollar appreciation but there is no significant increase in profit while import rises. Both exporters and importers want stability of exchange rate.

Export is meant to attain hard currency earnings and so, we need to boost export. If import outdoes export, the value of foreign currency will keep soaring".

Starting from mid-January, a US dollar exchange rate dropped to Ks1,322. The rate fluctuated around Ks1,327 between January and April and it hit the highest of only Ks1,331. In May, it picked up to above Ks1,340 and soared to above Ks1,390 by the end of June. The exchange rate reached Ks1,410 in mid-July and this year's highest record of Ks1,470 in the first week of August.

The government should prioritize export market in the respective sectors in order to earn foreign currency.

Most of the large exporting countries implement export subsidies such as tax relief and incentives to enhance the country's competitiveness in the foreign markets, said the businessmen.

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) is gradually raising the set exchange rate amid soaring prices in the local currency market.

The CBM set a US dollar exchange rate at Ks1,438 yesterday. In addition to this, the CBM has been selling US dollars since 27 July, and a total of US\$800,000 were sold as of 7 August. The CBM is trying to govern the floating exchange rate and price manipulation, said Daw May Toe Win, Director-General of the CBM.

The inflation rate, interest rate, terms of trade, the country's current account and deficits, political climate and economic performance are contributing factors to the decrease in the exchange rate.

At present, imported goods, including pharmaceuticals, increased by 5 per cent minimum owing to the soaring dollar exchange rate. ■



Malaysian ex-PM Najib charged with money-laundering

KUALA LUMPUR (Malaysia) — Malaysia's former prime minister Najib Razak was hit with new charges on Wednesday linked to a multi-billion-dollar financial scandal that contributed to his shock election defeat in May.

Appearing at a court in Kuala Lumpur, Najib was charged with three counts of money-laundering over claims he pocketed 42 million ringgit (\$10.3 million), and pleaded not guilty. He faces up to 15 years in jail for each charge.

These are in addition to the charges he faced last month after he was first arrested — three for criminal breach of trust and a separate count that he abused his position to take the money. He faces up to 20 years in jail for each of those charges, which he has also denied.

Malaysia's new government is probing allegations that billions of dollars were looted from state fund 1MDB, which was set up and overseen by Najib, in an audacious fraud that spanned the globe.

Allegations of massive corruption were a major factor behind the electoral earthquake in May that toppled Najib's long-ruling coalition and ushered in a reformist alliance headed by his 93-year-old former mentor Mahathir Mohamad.



Malaysia's former prime minister Najib Razak arrives for a court appearance at the Duta court complex in Kuala Lumpur on 8 August, 2018. Malaysia's disgraced ex-leader Najib Razak faces new charges in court on 8 August under anti-money laundering laws in a case linked to a multi-billion-dollar graft scandal, authorities said. **PHOTO: AFP**

In a packed courtroom, the three new charges were read out to Najib. Asked if he understood them, Najib responded: "I understand".

His case was transferred to another court, where he entered not guilty pleas, meaning he will stand trial.

The new charges allege 42 million ringgit stemming from illegal activities was transferred

to a bank account between December, 2014 and February, 2015.

All the charges relate to SRC International, an energy company that was originally a subsidiary of 1MDB. According to an investigation by the Wall Street Journal, about \$10 million originating from SRC was transferred to Najib's personal bank accounts.

Real estate, artworks

This is just a fraction of the

\$681 million that was mysteriously transferred to Najib's personal bank accounts several years ago, sparking uproar in Malaysia. The then attorney general cleared Najib of wrongdoing, and said that the money had been a donation from the Saudi royal family.

Najib, who has consistently denied any wrongdoing, and his allies are accused of plundering billions of dollars from 1MDB to

buy everything from US real estate to artworks.

The US Department of Justice, which is seeking to recover items allegedly bought with stolen 1MDB cash in America, estimates that \$4.5 billion in total was looted from the fund.

Following Najib's election loss, police seized a vast trove of items — including expensive handbags and jewellery — from properties linked to him with an estimated value of up to \$273 million.

Investigations into 1MDB have been moving swiftly. On Tuesday, a luxury yacht allegedly paid for with about \$250 million stolen from 1MDB arrived outside Kuala Lumpur after being handed over by Indonesian authorities, who impounded it following a DoJ request.

The 300-foot (90-metre) Equanimity, kitted out with a pool and helicopter landing pad, was allegedly bought by playboy financier Jho Low, a friend of Najib's family who was said to exert great influence over 1MDB.

Najib and his wife Rosmah Mansor led a life of luxury, allegedly funded by stolen public money, that came to symbolise the rot in an elite that had ruled the country uninterrupted since Malaysia's independence from Britain in 1957.—AFP ■

Cambodia brings forward formation of new government to 6 September

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, whose ruling party easily won a 29 July general election after the main opposition party was banned, said on Wednesday that a new government will be formed on 6 September, rather than the originally scheduled on 20 September.

Speaking to garment workers in a province west of the

capital Phnom Penh, Hun Sen, who is set to extend his 33-year rule, said the formation has been brought forward to allow him to attend the UN General Assembly session set to start in New York on 18 September.

The formation of a new government will follow the start of the first post-election National Assembly session on 5 September.

ber. The first Cabinet meeting will be held on 7 September, he said.

The ruling Cambodian People's Party claims it won all 125 seats up for grabs in the election, which critics denounced as being neither free nor fair.

The country's election commission is expected to announce the final results on 15 August.—Kyodo News ■

Upbeat IMF economy report welcome news for Indian PM Modi

MUMBA, (India) — India is to remain one of the world's fastest-growing major economies, the International Monetary Fund said on Wednesday, in welcome news for Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of elections due next year.

In a wide-ranging report on Asia's third-biggest economy, the IMF forecast GDP growth for the fiscal year 2018-2019 at 7.3 per cent before rising to 7.5 per cent the following year.

The IMF said India was facing a "broadly positive outlook" thanks to "strengthening investment and robust private consumption".

India's growth expanded to 7.7 per cent for the quarter from January to March, the highest for seven quarters ac-

cording to Bloomberg News, as it started to recover from a rocky start to several of Modi's economic initiatives.

Despite teething problems, the IMF commended Modi's government for introducing a nationwide goods and services tax in 2017 which aims to create a single market in India.

It also praised the government for relaxing rules on foreign direct investment but added that more needed to be done.

The IMF directors stressed that "India would benefit from further liberalization of trade and foreign investment, and welcomed the authorities' commitment to a multilateral rules-based trade system."—AFP ■

S Korean officials visit DPRK for joint inspection of forests

SEOUL — A group of South Korean officials visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Wednesday for joint inspection of forests in the DPRK side, according to local media reports.

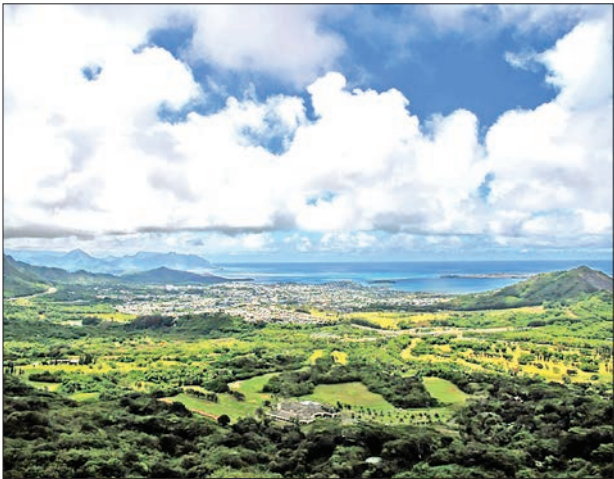
Twelve South Korean officials, led by a high-level Korea Forest Service official, crossed

the military demarcation line (MDL) earlier in the day via the eastern route along the coast to get to the Mount Kumgang.

The officials would conduct a joint inspection of the Mount Kumgang areas with DPRK officials and discuss ways to protect forests from harmful insects and diseases.

The South Korean officials are scheduled to return home later in the day.

The visit is a follow-up measure to the agreement reached during the inter-Korean working-level talks in July to increase forest cooperation between the two Koreas.—Xinhua ■



Category Four hurricane Hector is expected to reach Hawaii, pictured 2010, kicking up “large and dangerous” swells. **PHOTO: AFP**

Hurricane Hector threatens Hawaii, John targets Mexico

HONOLULU — Hurricane Hector whirled toward Hawaii on Tuesday with 130 mph winds, bringing the threat of dangerous swells on two islands in the US archipelago state.

The Category Four storm was expected to pass about 165 miles (100 km) south of the Big Island on Wednesday, government forecasters said.

Swells kicked up by Hector are expected to reach shores of the Big Island and Maui late Tuesday, “likely becoming large and dangerous by late tonight and Wednesday,” the Central Pacific Hurricane Centre in Honolulu said.

Off the coast of Mexico, meanwhile, Hurricane John lumbered toward the Baja California peninsula as a Category Two storm.

It is expected to generate swells with potential for life-threatening surf on

the coasts of southwestern Mexico and Baja California, the National Hurricane Center said.

On the five-point Saffir-Simpson scale, a Category Five storm is the most dangerous, with winds exceeding 156 miles per hour (251 kph).

John, which absorbed a tropical storm called Illeana, is already dumping heavy rain on states in western Mexico, the National Water Commission said. It urged the general public and ship crews to be on the lookout for strong rains, wind and waves.

Authorities in the Baja California resort of Los Cabos placed red flags on beaches in expectation of waves up to five meters high, said Carlos Alfredo Godinez Leon, a civil protection official. All ports in Los Cabos were closed. —AFP ■

Arid and ablaze, Europe battles deadly heat

LISBON (Portugal)—Europe’s scorching heatwave has killed nine people in a week in Spain, health authorities said on Tuesday, as stifling temperatures kindled wildfires in the country and neighbouring Portugal where a ferocious blaze encircled a resort town.

Weeks of nonstop sunshine and near-record temperatures have caused droughts and seen tinder-dry forests consumed by wildfires from the Mediterranean to the Arctic Circle, in what many fear could be the region’s new normal in an era of climate change.

The devastating effects of the heatwave were visible from space, according to images of swathes of arid landscape taken by the German astronaut Alexander Gerst from the International

Space Station.

“After several weeks of night flying, I was able to take the first day pictures of central Europe and Germany. The sight is shocking. Everything that should be green is parched and brown,” Gerst said on Twitter.

Resorts threatened

Spain and Portugal approached record tem-

peratures at the weekend, with the mercury hitting 46.6 degrees Celsius (116 Fahrenheit) at El Granado in Spain and 46.4 C in Alvega, Portugal, according to the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

While the deadly hot spell is expected to ease in parts of western Europe in the coming days, firefighters in Spain and Por-

tugal struggled to contain wildfires that have swept southern areas.

In the southern Portuguese holiday region, residents and tourists have been evacuated from around an Algarve resort town as fire crews struggled to extinguish wildfires that have raged for days leaving 30 people injured, one seriously.—AFP ■



A potato field is pictured during a hot summer in Vezin on 7 August, 2018 during a heatwave in Europe. **PHOTO: AFP**

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (005 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (005 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S INTER ASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO. (223 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO. (223 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-8-2018 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY. NO. (598 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY. NO. (598 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V SOUL OF LUCK VOY. NO. (1823-1824)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SOUL OF LUCK VOY. NO. (1823-1824) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T/T.M.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 MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO. (037 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO. (037 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-8-2018 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 PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

My biggest fear is failure

NEW DELHI — Priyanka Chopra may be one of the biggest and most successful Indian stars, but the actor says failures still scare her.

The 36-year-old actor, who forayed into the West with ABC thriller “Quantico”, said she feels “miserable” when she faces a setback in any aspect of her life.

“My biggest fear is failure. I hate failures. I am miserable when I fail. My mom tells everyone, ‘Let her be alone for while’, whenever I fail. But because I am so afraid of failing that developed a way of not being nervous,” Pri-

yanka said.

The actor believes the fact that women have always had lesser opportunities makes them worry a lot about their lives and in the quest to make the best of the options they have, they “tend to pull each other down”.

“When I entered the entertainment industry I came in through a beauty pageant. I was also thinking that only I should get the job. So I had to teach myself that I had to be the most confident of the lot. After spending three-four years in the industry I realized if I wear my

confidence well I don’t need to elbow anyone out.

“I felt if I just be great then I can be the person who actually pushes the other person up. That was a phenomenal change that came in me when I started working in movies... I really want to be that person who can be a support other girls out there because we get less opportunities anyway,” she said.

Priyanka said even though she appears confident in front of the world, she still get serious nerves when going on the set.

“I like nervous energy when



Priyanka Chopra. PHOTO: PTI

I walk on to a set. Because if I don’t feel like that then I can’t perform somehow. I will be complacent and it is boring,” she added.

The actor was speaking at an

interactive session titled ‘Challenging the Status Quo & Forging New Paths’ organised jointly by FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO) and Yes bank.—PTI ■



Recording artist Lady Gaga speaks onstage during the 2018 MTV Movie And TV Awards. PHOTO: AFP

Lady Gaga heads to Vegas with dual shows

NEW YORK — Pop star Lady Gaga on Tuesday announced a residency in Las Vegas with twin shows to display her two sides — extravagant and glitzy, and stripped back and jazzy.

At 32, Lady Gaga is unusually young and culturally prominent to launch a residency in Sin City, generally the preserve of older artists who either want to set up elaborate productions away from the rigors of the road or to cash in on the nostalgia of tourists.

Lady Gaga said her shows would begin on 28 December at the newly rebranded Park MGM, a giant complex on the Las Vegas Strip which was initially built as the Monte Carlo Resort and Casino in the style of the Mediterranean gambling hub. The synth-pop star once known for her eye-popping attire and ultra-extroverted sexuality plans two shows, with one, entitled “Lady Gaga Enigma,”

promising more of her theatrics.

“We’re creating a show unlike anything I’ve done before. It will be a celebration of all that is unique and different within us,” she said in a statement.

“The challenges of bravery can be overcome with creativity and courage that is grown out of adversity, love and music.”

The other show, “Lady Gaga Jazz and Piano,” will star her singing minimalist versions of her songs as well as pop standards. Gaga refashioned her career four years ago when she teamed up with classic crooner Tony Bennett, who is six decades her senior. She similarly adopted a more mature sound on her latest album, “Joanne,” which veered into country music with lyrics about family ties. Lady Gaga announced “Enigma” shows through November 2019 with only a handful of the stripped-back concerts.—AFP ■

Cat snap: Tokyo ‘lucky cat’ temple draws Instagrammers

TOKYO— Tokyo’s Gotokuji temple has long attracted spiritual visitors with its thousands of figurines of beckoning white cats, thought to bring good luck. But of late it has brought in another breed: Instagrammers.

Around 10,000 figurines of white cats seated with one paw raised are stacked and strewn around the temple, providing tempting fodder for social media mavens from Japan and abroad.

“I actually Googled ‘Instagram spots Tokyo,’” said Emily Lin, a 25-year-old tourist from Hong Kong.

“This was named one of the most ‘Instagrammable spots.’”

“These cats are like a symbol of luck in the Japanese culture,” she added, looking for new angles to capture the copious cats.

Ying-Chi Hsueh, 31, a photography student from Taiwan, also said he had been drawn to

the temple by the photogenic felines.

“I saw a picture on Instagram and I came here using Google Maps,” he said.

They were among dozens of visitors there the week before Wednesday’s International Cat Day, snapping shots of the temple’s “maneki-neko” or “beckoning cat” figurines.

Temple lore says the popularity of the figures was inspired by an event at Gotokuji in the 15th century. The priest at the time kept a cat called Tama, which according to legend one day strolled out of the temple and raised its right paw to beckon a powerful samurai lord inside — moments before a thunderstorm struck.

Impressed by the cat who had helped him escape the storm, the lord became a patron of the temple.

Tama the cat has been im-

mortalised as a stylised white cat figure considered a symbol of good luck in Japan and across Asia, usually depicted sitting on his back legs with one paw raised.

The figurines are often spotted in businesses and some versions feature a paw that moves back and forth. “The maneki-neko gives you the chance to appreciate what you have, the people you meet,” Gotokuji’s deputy priest Tessai Kasukawa told AFP. “The feeling of appreciation will bring you good luck.”

And the feline figurines have certainly brought luck to the temple, which says it is seeing a growing number of visitors.

“Now with the Tokyo Olympics coming up (in 2020), we receive many international visitors. They spread the word about the temple, making this place globally famous,” Kasukawa said.—AFP ■



Temple lore says the popularity of the figures was inspired by an event at Gotokuji in the 15th century, in which a cat protected a powerful samurai lord from a thunderstorm. PHOTO: AFP

Australian, Chinese scientists use nanoparticles to detect deep-tissue cancers

SYDNEY — Australian and Chinese scientists have developed a method using coded nanoparticles to detect and help diagnose disease.

Published in the scientific journal *Nature Nanotechnology* on Tuesday, the research team from Macquarie University and Fudan University hopes that their study will lead to less invasive disease detection.

“Currently for many disease diagnosis such as for cancer, they rely on medical imaging but ultimately need to take tissue out for testing,” research author Dr Yiqing Lu from the Centre of Excellence for Nanoscale BioPhotonics (CNBP) at Macquarie University told Xinhua. “We would like to move that to a different approach using optical imaging.” In its current level

of laboratory testing, the method has been successful in detecting multiple forms of breast cancer in mice.

“This technique has the potential to provide a low-invasive method of determining if breast cancer is present, as well as the form of breast cancer, without the need to take tissue samples via biopsy,” joint-lead author Professor. Fan Zhang from Chi-

na’s Fudan University said.

Up until now it has been very difficult for the method to detect multiple biomarkers, or different forms of disease.

Light absorbing and scattering elements such as blood, muscle and cartilage produce too much interference making it difficult to determine if a range of disease biomarkers are present. The team’s solution was to engineer spe-

cial nanoparticles which emit light for set periods of time. “It is the duration of the light-emission and the biomarker reaction to this timed amount of light that produces a clearly identifiable molecular signature,” Lu said.

“This enables high-contrast optical biomedical imaging that can detect multiple disease biomarkers all at the one time.” Professor Jim Pip-

er, CNBP node leader at Macquarie University described the research as a major breakthrough.

“Next steps in our research collaboration are to further refine the nanoparticles, to examine issues related to a clinical roll-out of the technology and to explore further applications and disease areas where this technique could be best utilised,” Piper said.—Xinhua ■

NASA poised to launch first Sun-skimming spaceship

TAMPA (Florida)— NASA is poised to launch a \$1.5 billion spacecraft on a brutally hot journey toward the Sun, offering scientists the closest-ever view of our strange and mysterious star.

After the Parker Solar Probe blasts off from Cape Canaveral, Florida on 11 August, it will become the first spacecraft ever to fly through the Sun’s scorching atmosphere, known as the corona.

Understanding how the corona works will

“Touch the Sun”

The unmanned probe is named after Eugene Parker, the 91-year-old pioneering solar astrophysicist, and the US space agency has coined it as the first mission to “touch the Sun.”

It will actually skim by at a distance of 3.83 million miles (6.16 million kilometers) above the Sun’s surface. Mission managers say that may sound like a lot but is really quite a close shave, given the sweltering conditions out there.

project scientist Nicky Fox of the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab.

Over the course of its seven year mission, the spacecraft aims to pass through the corona 24 times, which Fox said makes for an “incredibly daring journey.”

Why the corona?

Unlike a campfire, which feels hottest at the source, the heat from the Sun gets more intense further away from its surface.

“As we go from the surface of the Sun, which is 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit, and move up into the corona, we find ourselves quickly at millions of degrees,” he said.

NASA calls this mismatch “the coronal heating problem,” and hopes the Parker Solar Probe will solve the mystery of why the corona reaches temperatures of up to 10 million degrees Fahrenheit.

Fox said scientists have already studied the corona “every way imaginable,” and a closer look is now needed.

“We need to get into this action region, where all of these mysteries are actually occurring.”

Heat shield

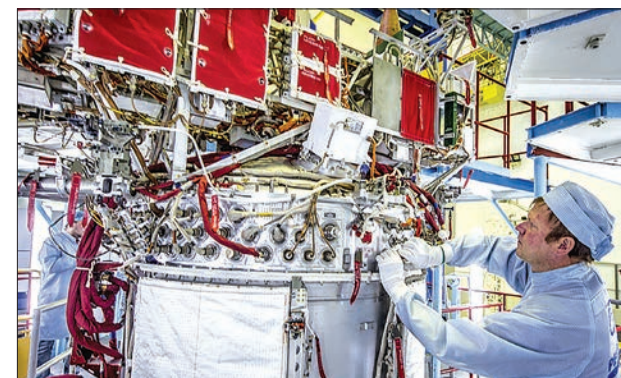
The probe is protected by a 4.5-inch-thick (11.43-centimetre) carbon-composite shield, built to withstand 500 times the Sun’s radiation on Earth.—AFP ■

Private capital needed to revive Russian space industry, Roscosmos chief says

YAROSLAVL — The Russian space industry can be revived only with the help of private investors, State Space Corporation Roscosmos Chief Dmitry Rogozin said on Monday.

“We believe that the revival of the Russian space industry will be linked with the attraction of the private investor,” the Roscosmos chief said at the ceremony of launching into operation a facility at the Yaroslavl radio factory for the assembly of payload modules.

“Up to now, the Russian rocket and space industry had been working on the market of launch services, where we held leading positions. However, in the past few years, we have lost the leading positions and, importantly, we have come to realize that the



Russian space industry needs to switch to serial-produced satellites, according to Dmitry Rogozin. PHOTO: TASS

basic market involves not the delivery of some others’ payloads into outer space but the creation of our own payloads,” the Roscosmos chief said. “We are not going to cede our leadership in outer space to anyone. We respect our country and will compete tightly with all our rivals,” Rogozin said.

Rogozin also said that Russian enterprises man-

ufacturing satellites should switch to their serial production to provide communications, navigation and the Internet for the country.

“In order to provide our large country with unified communications and unified navigation, we must switch from the creation of individual items to the serial production of satellites,” Rogozin said. — Tass ■



In this image released by NASA, technicians and engineers perform light bar testing on NASA’s Parker Solar Probe at the Astrotech processing facility in Titusville, Florida, near NASA’s Kennedy Space Center on 5 June, 2018.

PHOTO: AFP

help scientists anticipate dangerous space weather storms, which can disrupt the power grid on Earth.

“It’s of fundamental importance for us to be able to predict space weather much the way we predict weather on Earth,” explained Alex Young, a solar scientist at NASA.

The corona is a “very strange, unfamiliar environment for us.”

The Sun-facing side of the probe will endure temperatures of about 2,500 degrees Fahrenheit (1,370 Celsius).

The spacecraft is protected by a heat shield that will keep it closer to room temperature, about 85 degrees Fahrenheit.

Speeding by at a pace of 430,000 miles per hour will make it “the fastest human-made object,” said

IN MEMORIAM

18 April 1928-25 July 2018 Sylmar, California USA

Heather Shirley Burghall BA THAN, RN, BSc. Nursing, University of Colorado, only daughter of the late Samuel and Helena Burghall and sister of Wellesley, passed away peacefully after a long illness. She was Nursing Matron of the former Prome Road Nursing Home, Yangon and Operating Theater Nurse, Olive View UCLA Medical Center, Sylmar, California from which she opted for early retirement to care for her aging mother.

Heather and her mother were among the hundreds who fled to India on foot in 1942 ahead of the advancing Imperial Japanese Army. In the chaos of the Japanese invasion and those hastening to depart, there were not enough cars, buses, ships or planes; walking was the only option. They returned to Burma after the war.

Heather was the second wife of widower, the late Dr. Ba Than, FRCS; former Professor and Chief Surgeon, Yangon and Mandalay General Hospital and Dean of Rangoon Medical College. A devout Roman Catholic, she is resting in peace with the Lord.

Japan, Thai to play MFF U14 Youth Football Tourney final

JAPAN'S Fukushima U-14 boy's football team and Thailand U-14 boys' national football team will play the final match of the MFF U14 Youth Football Tournament today.

At the invitation of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF), Thailand and Japan Fukushima U-14 team partic-

ipated in the tourney and all four teams including two Myanmar youth teams played round robin system starting from 6 August.

Yesterday, Myanmar representing Mandalay Academy U-14 boys' football team was beaten by Japan's Fukushima U-14 team by a score of 2-1.

As a result, Japan's Fukushima earned 6 points in total after playing three matches while Thai team advanced to final by all three wins of 9 points in total. Myanmar representing Mandalay Academy U-14 and Pathein U-14 teams will play for the third place match. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba.
PHOTO: AFP

Ferdinand urges Man Utd not to sell Pogba

LONDON—Former Manchester United defender Rio Ferdinand has warned the club not to sell France World Cup star Paul Pogba and instead to focus on strengthening the squad.

Speculation about the midfielder's future is rife, with reports of interest from Barcelona, but Ferdinand has told executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward he must keep hold of the 25-year-old.

Manager Jose Mourinho has already predicted a "difficult season" if United do not do more business before the Premier League transfer window shuts on Thursday.

Ferdinand, who made more than 450 appearances for the club, wants Pogba to stay and Spurs defender Toby Alderweireld to come in.

Referring to reports that Pogba's agent, Mino Raiola, is looking at the Camp Nou as a possible new home for his player, Ferdinand said: "Don't you dare allow this ED... #MUFC is Pogba's home!! Silence these rumours ASAP & get @AlderweireldTob through the door."

United start their Premier League campaign on Friday at home to Leicester and, speaking on Sunday, Mourinho told MUTV: "My CEO knows what I want and I still have a few days to wait and see what happens. "The other clubs who compete with us are really strong and already have fantastic teams. Or they are investing massively like Liverpool, who are buying everything and everybody."

United's build-up to the new campaign has been dominated by Mourinho's clear frustration over transfers, which has brought his relationship with Woodward into the spotlight.

The only arrivals at Old Trafford this summer have been Brazilian midfielder Fred, teenage full-back Diogo Dalot and back-up goalkeeper Lee Grant.

Pogba, a key member of the French team that won the World Cup in Russia last month, was part of United's youth set-up but, short of first-team opportunities, opted to join Juventus in 2012.

Mourinho brought the Frenchman back to Manchester in 2016 for a then world-record fee of £89 million (\$115 million) but he struggled last season, left out of the starting line-up or substituted on a number of occasions. — AFP ■

Myanmar secures semifinal berth in AFF U-16 Championship 2018

MYANMAR U-16 national football team advanced to the semifinal of the AFF U-16 Championship 2018 in Indonesia, by garnering 10 points in total, 3 wins, 1 draw and 1 loss after playing five matches in the Group A of the tourney.

Myanmar is placed in the group to-

gether with the Philippines, host Indonesia, Viet Nam, Cambodia and Timor Leste and steps up to the next stage with second place. In the first place, Indonesia collected 18 points in total with all wins of five played.

Likewise, in the Group B, Thailand

and Malaysia respectively step up to the semifinals.

As semifinal matches that will hold today, Myanmar U-16 will play against Thailand U-16 and host Indonesia U-16 will play against Malaysia U-16. —Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Real Madrid end US tour with 2-1 win over Roma

LOS ANGELES — Gareth Bale is serving notice that he is ready to shine without Cristiano Ronaldo, factoring in both goals as Real Madrid wrapped up their US tour with a 2-1 win over Roma on Tuesday.

Bale and Marco Asensio scored for Real Madrid who put on a strong performance especially in the first half of the International Champions Cup friendly at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey.

Real Madrid is hoping Bale is ready to fully evolve into the player they signed for a world record fee in 2013.

The 33-year-old Ronaldo ended a

nine-year spell at Real Madrid by recently signing with Italian champions Juventus.

"We're scoring goals and we're winning matches, so we're doing well," Bale said.

"We have to keep improving and we're really looking forward to starting the new season."

Asensio, with his third goal of the preseason, opened the scoring just two minutes into the contest. Bale delivered a brilliant pass to the foot of Asensio and he found the back of the net.

Real Madrid struck again in the 15th minute as Bale would score this time, taking an equally superb pass from Dani Carvajal. Bale walked in and beat goalkeeper Robin Olsen to make it 2-0.

Real Madrid wasn't nearly as dominant in the second half as most of their starting squad was subbed off.

Kevin Strootman made it interesting by scoring in the 83rd minute for Roma.

Strootman was left wide open off a throw-in and headed pass and all he had to do was hammer it past the startled Real Madrid goalkeeper. — AFP ■

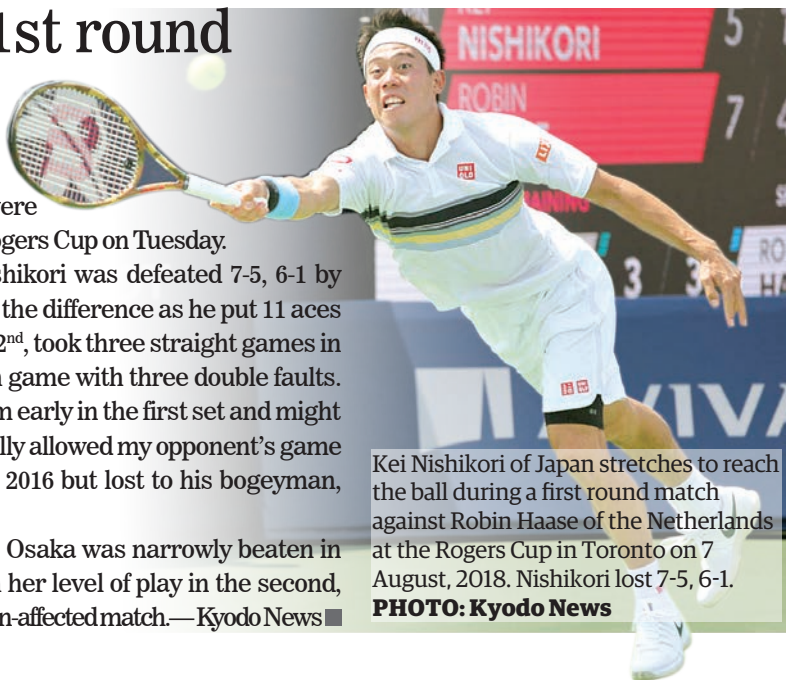
Nishikori, Osaka make 1st round exits at Rogers Cup

TORONTO—Japan's Kei Nishikori and Naomi Osaka were both knocked out in straight sets in the first round of the Rogers Cup on Tuesday.

In the men's singles at Toronto's Aviva Centre, Nishikori was defeated 7-5, 6-1 by world No 39 Robin Haase. The Dutchman's serve proved the difference as he put 11 aces past the former world No 4. Nishikori, currently ranked 22nd, took three straight games in the first set to book an early lead but imploded in the fifth game with three double faults.

"I made a lot of mistakes," Nishikori said. "I broke him early in the first set and might have advanced had I extended the lead more, but I gradually allowed my opponent's game to take over." Nishikori reached the Rogers Cup final in 2016 but lost to his bogeyman, Serbia's Novak Djokovic.

In the women's singles at IGA Stadium in Montreal, Osaka was narrowly beaten in a hard-fought first set tiebreaker and could not maintain her level of play in the second, falling to a 7-6(2), 6-2 loss to Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro in a rain-affected match. — Kyodo News ■



Kei Nishikori of Japan stretches to reach the ball during a first round match against Robin Haase of the Netherlands at the Rogers Cup in Toronto on 7 August, 2018. Nishikori lost 7-5, 6-1.

PHOTO: Kyodo News