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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 121, 4th Waxing of Wagaung 1380 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Wednesday, 15 August 2018

State Counsellor receives Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs

Natural Strategic Partnership, Myanmar migrant workers, second Friendship Bridge among issues discussed



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (right) holds talk with Thai Foreign Minister Mr. Don Pramudwinai. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 August at 15:00 hrs., during his visit to Myanmar to attend the 9th Meeting

of Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand, and the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

During the meeting, the State Counsellor and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand discussed various issues

ranging from promoting bilateral relations, economic and socio-cultural cooperation; enhancing the bilateral relations between Myanmar and Thailand to the “Natural Strategic Partnership”; doubling the current bilateral trade volume by 2022; working continuously for the legal employment of Myanmar

migrant workers and their due entitlements; opening of the 2nd Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge for better connectivity; strengthening the exchanges between the Provinces/States and Regions along the border; implementing of modern villages project based on agriculture, livestock and farming to

contribute to the efforts of the Myanmar Government for the development of Rakhine State; promoting people-to-people contacts and tourism with agriculture, livestock and farming; and exploring possible ways to further expand the multi-faceted cooperation in both bilateral and regional contexts. — MNA ■

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

By Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

THE Second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session held its ninth-day meeting at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning. At the meeting, asterisk-marked questions were answered by Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun and Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin. Also at the meeting, a motion was tabled and a report read.



Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin. **PHOTO: MNA**



Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun. **PHOTO: MNA**

Questions and answers

During the asterisk-marked question session, U Myint Oo of Thanatpin constituency first raised a question on plans to open an AGTI (Associate Government Technical Institute) and a Teachers' Training College in Bago. Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun said the Ministry of Education is coordinating among its departments on opening an AGTI in Bago, if land is available.

If land is obtained at the Department of Higher Education, Bago University, for the AGTI (Bago) plan, budget allocation for the building, furniture and teaching aids will be included in fiscal year 2018-2019 and implemented when the budget is obtained, said the Deputy Minister.

As for teachers' training, education colleges were already opened in Taungoo and Pyay cities, in Bago Region, where D.T.Ed. (Diploma in Teacher Education) and PPTT (Pre-Service Primary Teacher Training) courses were conducted, producing about 300 D.T.Ed. teachers and 600 PPTT teachers (annually). Furthermore, teacher to student ratio in Bago Region is from 1:24 to 1:19 in primary level, showing that sufficient number of teachers was already employed in Bago Region. Therefore, there is no plan at the moment to open a teachers training college in Bago, said the Deputy Minister.

Replying to a question raised by U Aung Kyaw Oo of

Mongton constituency on the reason for the seemingly sudden plan to change question formats in the matriculation examination during 2018-2019 academic year and whether it would be more appropriate to first change the question format in grade ten this education year, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun replied that the main aim of changing the question format is to promote critical thinking over rote learning.

But more importantly, the question formats are not changed entirely, as there'll be questions in rote learning format as well as in meaningful learning formats, only with the exception that there'll be more questions on meaningful learn-

ing formats. The questions will cover the entire syllabus with questions balanced in easy, moderate and difficult levels so students who had covered the entire syllabus wouldn't find much difficulty in sitting the examination, said the Deputy Minister.

Furthermore, the new question formats are being published in state-owned media and internet websites of Ministry of Information and Ministry of Education for students to study, while trainings, talks and discussions with high school teachers were conducted for new question formats, explained the Deputy Minister.

Questions raised by U Saw Thalay Saw of Shwegyin constituency, U Sein Aung of Paletwa constituency, Daw Nan Moe of Mongton constituency, U Min Thein of Taungdwingyi constituency, U Kyaw Myint of Taikkyi constituency, U Nyunt Aung of Monywa constituency, U Khin Maung Myint of Yaksaw constituency, U Yan Kyin Kan of Kunlong constituency, Daw Thandar of Einme constituency and Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathedaung constituency were also answered by Deputy Ministers U Win Maw Tun and U Kyaw Lin.

Motion urging the govern-

ment to provide research grants to researchers

Next, Dr. Hla Moe of Aungmyaythazan constituency tabled a motion urging the government to increase the development momentum of Myanmar education by establishing a good research environment and providing research grants to researchers.

After the Hluttaw decided to discuss the motion, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the motion to enroll their names.

Bill committee report on literature and art copyright bill

Afterwards, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker informed the Hluttaw of the receipt of Literature and Art Copyright Bill, approved and sent with amendments by the Amyotha Hluttaw.

The Bill Committee report on the bill was then read and submitted by a Bill Committee member, after which the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to table an amendment motion to enroll their names.

The Second Pyithu Hluttaw's ninth regular session will hold its tenth-day meeting on 17 August, it is learnt.

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

Aung Ye Thwin

THE Second Amyotha Hluttaw's ninth regular session held its ninth-day meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning, where asterisk-marked questions were raised and answered, a bill and a motion discussed.

Asterisk-marked questions

In the asterisk-marked question session, Daw Ei Ei Pyone of Ayeyawady Region constituency 8 first posed a question on how lands that can be used for other means are being managed to be in accord with the aim of the government. Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied that when permission is granted to use land for other means, the land must be used as permitted within six months and if it is not used, the permit has to be forfeited. The permit

will also have to be forfeited once the period permitted expires. As such, permitted land users need to follow law and notifications, said the Deputy Minister.

Furthermore, the ministry's central farmland management group is managing the utilization of lands that can be used for other means and had also informed farmland management groups in Nay Pyi Taw Council, states and regions to do likewise. These groups will manage and review the utilization of lands permitted for other use in coordination with relevant state and region governments, replied the Deputy Minister.

U Ye Htut of the Sagaing Region constituency 5 then raised a question on plans to prepare about 1,900 acres of farmlands near Letpadaungtaung copper project and distribute them to farmers who lost their farmlands to the project. Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and



Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied that a farmland exploration committee has been formed and the committee had conducted field trip to identify the 1,900 acres of farmland.

The committee found 1,727 acres of vacant, fallow and virgin land in Yinmabin and Kani townships, where permission was already granted to use it as

a farmland, but no one is using it. Sagaing Region government is following up with farmers who had lost their farmlands to the project, to know their willingness to work on the 1,727 acres of land, and the matter is still ongoing, replied the Deputy Minister.

Similarly, a question raised by U Myo Win of Mon State constituency 8 was answered by the Deputy Minister.

Discussion on Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Bill

Next, Daw Ei Ei Pyone of Ayeyawady Region constituency 8 and Naw Hla Hla Soe of Yangon Region constituency 10 discussed the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Bill.

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

U Myo Win of Mon State

constituency 8 tabled a motion urging the government to control and manage the management committee, development committee and farmland management committee to ensure that there is no corruption because plots were formed on many farms and plantation lands and sold off illegally, causing losses of farms and plantation lands. In addition to these lands, lands set aside for expansion of towns and villages were also lost in a similar manner, said U Myo Win on his motion. The motion was discussed by U Htay Oo of Yangon Region constituency 2, Dr. Kyaw Than Tun (Canton) of Mandalay Region constituency 3, U Kyaw Myint Oo of Mandalay Region constituency 10 and U Win Kyaing of Bago Region constituency 10.

The Second Amyotha Hluttaw's ninth regular session will hold its tenth-day meeting on 17 August, it is learnt.

Myanmar, Thai mark 70 years of diplomatic relations

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai attended a reception commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Thailand held at Ayeyawady Hall, M-Gallery, Sofitel Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday at 6:30 p.m.

The ceremony was also attended by Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, U Thaung Tun, U Thant Sin Maung, U Thein Swe, U Ohn Maung and U Kyaw Tin, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, Deputy Ministers, Ambassador of Myanmar to Thailand U Myo Myint Than, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Jukr Boon-Long, Directors-General from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, special guests and officials.

In her opening speech, the State Counsellor said,

“His Excellency Mr. Don Pramudwinai,

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand,

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening. It is a great pleasure for us to jointly celebrate with Thailand the auspicious occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Thailand. I am happy and honoured that H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Foreign Minister of Thailand is present here today. I thank all our guests for joining us in our celebration of a long and valued friendship.

Thailand has always been one of our most important regional partners as well as a close neighbor of Myanmar. We share a 2416 km long border, and we have been cooperating in various areas to the mutual benefit of our two peoples since the establishment of diplomatic relations on 24 August 1948. Throughout the 70-year journey, our two countries have resolved issues, large and small, through amicable dialogue and consultations, based on friendship, mutual understanding and mutual respect. Thailand was the very first country outside Myanmar on which I set foot after I was released from house arrest in 2010. Thailand was also the first country I chose for my first official visit abroad after the assumption of my official duties in our new Government. I felt the warmth of friendship, kindness and hospitality extended by the



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers a speech at the ceremony to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Establishment of Myanmar-Thailand Diplomatic Relations in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Government and people of Thailand during both visits. During my official visit to Thailand in June 2016, I had very constructive discussions with Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha and felt that the good relationship between our countries had been further cemented.

I do not think it is an exaggeration to say that the relations between our two countries is better than it has ever been. The cordial and close engagement between our Governments, as well as through various bilateral cooperation mechanisms, have added new dimensions to an already existing understanding and trust.

Thailand is hosting millions of Myanmar migrant workers, providing employment opportunities, as well as experience for them. In return, Myanmar workers have been contributing to the development of the Thai economy. Our two countries have been coordinating and working together to ensure security, economy and mutually beneficial arrangements. We thank the Government of Thailand for the understanding and support offered to us and we are confident that the cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand will continue to become stronger and more comprehensive.

We always stand ready to help each other in times of need. Thailand provided technicians and necessary assistance when we had to cope with the assistance to the flood victims of Myanmar. We thank Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha and the Government of Thailand for the donation of 3 million Bahts in humanitarian assistance for those affected by the recent floods in Myanmar. It was with genuine metta that Myanmar, in our turn, offered volunteers and assistance to Thailand with regard to the rescue operation of the 13 young

students trapped in a cave. Such understanding and goodwill between us is a vital part of our special, neighbourly relationship. We believe that what helps one helps the other. Our people have always appreciated the consistent support that Thailand has rendered to us in our efforts to achieve peace and national reconciliation.

We have also forged a very strong partnership in the contexts of ASEAN and in the international community in general. Positive Myanmar-Thailand relations contribute to regional progress and stability. We can now see the true potential of our relations and what it means for our two countries. By facing the challenges together, we find the best way of overcoming them.

I wish to congratulate once again, His Excellency Mr. Don

our countries through the ages.

Thank you.”

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai then delivered a speech.

“... We are close in all aspects. There are always issues in our close affinity, whether we could still maintain the solidarity, the unity. Most recently, it's always the question of centrality.” said the Thailand Foreign Minister.

Thailand has learned the hard way from the ASEAN inception in 1967, he added.

“All through those years, until now, there have been up and downs of whole experiences ... we have gone through all those years. All through those years, Thailand initiated the constructive engagement with

Myanmar counterpart who are willing to engage with Thailand delegation in all aspects from the peace issue of the 21st century Panglong Conference, down to the issue of labour between Myanmar and Thailand.

“We share the border, we are very much alike, we feel almost exactly the same, we feel considerate at all times towards others. And more importantly, we know we are working towards the same destination, so we should feel natural with one other. So, this is the first time that Thailand has introduced this terminology of a natural strategic partnership with another country,” said Don Pramudwinai.

“We have chosen this country as our first natural strategic partnership and I hope this is a great movement for Myanmar. But for us, we know that it is more than just special, it's something that would really underscore the future of a new generation; the future of Thai and Myanmar,” said Don Pramudwinai.

The Foreign Minister also underscored the relations between Thailand and Myanmar which have been stable and very firm, saying that today is even more so because the two countries were able to forge both countries and bilateral relations with people to a new height.

Afterwards, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Union Ministers and guests had dinner together.

During the dinner, Myanmar-Thailand cultural troupes performed traditional dances and songs and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai presented floral baskets to the Myanmar-Thailand cultural troupes. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Positive Myanmar-Thailand relations contribute to regional progress and stability.

State Counsellor

Stability of Myanmar is the stability of Thailand.

Thai Foreign Minister

Pramudwinai and through you, the people of Thailand, on the very successful 70-year journey that we have walked together.

We are gathered here this evening with our close friends and colleagues to cherish and to remember the achievements that our two countries have accomplished together over the last seventy years. We are determined to continue along the path that will brighten the friendship between

Myanmar because, we believe as close neighbors that the security of Myanmar is the security of Thailand. We share more than just the border ... we share everything else and this is most apparent nowadays when we work together in all aspects, not just only in a regional ASEAN basis but most evidently in our bilateral relations,” he added.

The Thai Foreign Minister also expressed his delight for the

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting on Condominium Rule at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D, second floor meeting hall, yesterday afternoon. The two Hluttaws were in disagreement over the Condominium Rule.

The meeting was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Joint Bill Committee Chairman U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein, Joint Bill Committee deputy chairmen, secretary, joint secretary and committee members, Pyithu Hluttaw Transport, Communication and Construction Committee and Amyotha Hluttaw Construction, Industry, Electricity and Ener-



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Joint Bill Committee Chairman U Tun Tun Hein attends the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

gy Committee members, Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission members, officials from Ministry

of Construction, Office of the Union Supreme Court, Central Bank of Myanmar, Federation of Myanmar Construction En-

trepreneurs Association and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Ninth Meeting of Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between Myanmar, Thailand held

THE 9th Meeting of Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand was held at Ayeyarwady Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 August 2018 at 09:30 hrs. The meeting was co-chaired by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and His Excellency Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand.

During the Meeting, the two Ministers touched on a wide range of issues relating to promoting bilateral relations, economic and socio-cultural cooperation; enhancing the bilateral relations between Myanmar and Thailand to the "Strategic Partnership"; doubling the current bilateral trade volume by 2022; working continuously for the promotion and protection of the rights of Myanmar migrant workers; opening of the 2nd Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge for better connectivity; strengthening the exchanges between the Provinces/States and Regions along the border; implementing of modern villages project to contribute to the efforts of the Myanmar Government for the development of Rakhine



Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin hosts a luncheon in honour of Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

State; promoting people-to-people contacts and tourism; and exploring possible ways to further expand the multi-faceted cooperation in both bilateral and regional contexts.

Following the meeting, U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Transport and Communications of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, signed Air Services Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Kingdom of Thai-

land. Likewise, U Khin Maung Maw, Director-General of the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, and H.E. Mrs. Suphatra Srimaitreephithak, Director-General of Thailand International Cooperation Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the Project on the Development of Shrimp Culture in Rakhine State between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Then, U Kyaw Tin, Union

Minister for International Cooperation and H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand held a Joint Press Briefing regarding the 9th Meeting of Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand.

After the Joint Press Briefing, U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation hosted a luncheon in honour of His Excellency Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand and delegation at the M-Gallery by Sofitel Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw at 12:30 hrs.—MNA ■

Shan's pineapples selling at a loss in Ruili

PINEAPPLES produced in Shan State are sent to Shweli (Ruili) in Yunnan Province, China, through Muse border gate at a loss on cost price.

Pineapples fetched a good price during the harvest time, and growers hoped to get a high price during the closing season. But now, they are sold at a loss.

"A truck carrying 650 to 700 pineapples were previously offered over 3,000 yuan. Now, pineapples are being sold at a lower price. Unlike merchants from China, Myanmar's growers are individually selling them at a price offered. They cannot earn truck fare and custom export duty," said Daw Khin Saw Myint,

a seller from Singin Village.

Last year, pineapple growers faced losses. They were offered a good price during harvest time and forced to sell the stocks at a loss on cost price, as they could not return the fruits to town. A truck loaded with pineapples costs over Ks200,000. A single pineapple is sold for only Ks300, resulting in loss. There is no organization to regulate the pineapple market. Therefore, the price depends only on China's purchase price, said U Zaw Hmine, a pineapple grower.

China purchases pineapples produced in Singin, Konethar and Hsipaw towns. Pineapples from Kyaukme are



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

directly sent to Yangon. 100 Chinese yuan to Myanmar kyat is estimated above Ks20,000. Therefore, a truck carrying 700 pineapples is offered at 1,200 Yuan or over Ks240,000. China allows fruit import only through

Wangtein gate. China's ban on three wheelers of Myanmar merchants in China's border area is also related to sales drop in pineapple market, somehow. Pineapples are exported to China through Muse starting from

early June. The pineapple growers this year are facing with a great loss due to fruit damage with the use of artificial ripen method and delay caused by transportation difficulties. — Than Htike ■

Myanmar sculpture market cool in Bagan this year



A sculptor manually working on his wooden sculpture. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

MYANMAR sculpture market is cool in Bagan area this year and tourists are also asking sculptors to give a recommendation letter when they buy the sculptures, said a sculptor from Bagan area.

"Most of the tourists visit Bagan. When they visit Bagan, they keenly observe the sculptures, one of the artwork of Myanmar, and purchase them. This year, they asked us to write a recommendation letter that the sculptures they bought

were owned and produced by us," said U Aung Sint, a sculptor from Shwezigon Pagoda.

"I've been working in the sculpture business for more than 25 years. In this trade, there are two different lines, Myanmar traditional and modern. I'm in Myanmar traditional sculpture line, producing Buddha and Nat (spirit) statues. We use any wood with which we can make good sculptures. We focus on carving statues and arabesque designs. The

prices of our sculptures range between Ks 1,500 and Ks 2 million, depending on the design and quality," he added.

Although most of the tourists are interested in purchasing statues, many don't, because they have difficulties in taking them back to their country and just end up simply observing the sculptors at work. Sculpture business doesn't make much money for local people this year. — Kyaw Kyaw (Mahlaing) ■

Muse border gate shows increase of trade values since April

MUSE land port of entry saw trade values increase by US\$320 million from 1 April to 3 August, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The Muse gate is Myanmar's busiest border trade point. Border trade at Muse was estimated at \$2.05 billion, with exports worth \$1.46 billion and imports valued at \$589 million.

Five border gates are opened for trading with China: Muse, Lwejel, Kanpikete, Kengtung and Chinshwehaw.

Sino-Myanmar trade over the past four months, during the six-month inter-

im period prior to next fiscal year 2018-2019, amounted to \$2.31 billion, an increase of \$262 million, compared to same period last year.

Myanmar's exports to the most populous country, China, surpassed its imports. Rice, various kinds of 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. — Mon Mon ■

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Office of the President
Press Release No. 10/2018
2nd Waxing of Wagaung, 1380 ME
(13 August 2018)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses from 5 August to 11 August 2018 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

No	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal action taken			
1	Information received of Kalarlay selling illegal drugs in Selkyauk Village, Lan Pyinmana (Old) Village-tract, Pyinmana Twp, Nay Pyi Taw Council.	On 6-8-2018, local police entered the home of Mya Khine (a) Kalarlay, 54, in Selkyauk Village, Lan Pyinmana (Old) Village-tract, Pyinmana Twp and discovered powder heroin hidden between banana trees near his fence. He has been arrested and a case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Pyinmana) MaYa(Pa) 15/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.	8	Information received of illegal drug sales in Ward 7, Hlinethaya Twp, Yangon Region.	On 9-8-2018, local police investigating Ward 7 in Hline-thaya Twp received news of Bhome Maung (a) Nay Win Maung, 30, who lives in No. 1075/A, Ngu Shwewar Street, selling illegal drugs. A search of his house revealed WY psychotropic tablets and marijuana in his possession. He has been arrested and a case opened with MaMaSa (Hlinethaya) MaYa(Pa) 46/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of Poe San Win selling illegal drugs with a motorcycle in Ywartawlay Village, Singu Twp, Mandalay Region.	On 7-8-2018, local police staked out along the Letpanhla-Doenwe road near Nattaung Village, Singu Twp, and arrested Poe San Win (a) Aung Hlaing Tun, 28, and Moe Thet Naing (a) Moe Tee, 32, both from the same village, together with “88/1” psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against them with YaKaSa (Letpanhla) MaYa(Pa) 8/2018 under Section 19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.	9	Information received of a car tire service shop selling illegal drugs on a large-scale at Padaukmyaing Ward, Kyunhla Twp, Kanbalu District, Sagaing Region.	On 10-8-2018, local police entered “Zwe Ko Ko” car tire service shop in Padaukmyaing Ward, Kyunhla Twp, and discovered powder heroin in owner’s office. Police further searched the house of the owner, Min Min Kyaw (a) Kyaw Gyi, 21, and discovered more powder heroin in his kitchen. He has been arrested and a case opened with MaMaSa (Kyunhla) MaYa(Pa) 2/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of Ko Law Thein selling illegal drugs in Ward 2, Lwejel Sub Twp, Momauk Twp, Kachin State.	On 7-8-2018, local police entered the house of Law Thein, 42, in House No.83. Ward 2, Lwejel Sub Twp, but did not find Law Thein and instead arrested Ko Aung (a) Theinkha Aung, 39, and Aung Myat, (49) together with powder heroin and nameless pink psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Lwejel) MaYa(Pa) 19/2018 under Section 16-C/20-A-21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.	10	Information received of illegal drugs being used and sold in Bominyaung Street, Myomalay Ward, Dala Twp, Yangon Region.	On 6-8-2018, local police investigating Bominyaung Street, Myomalay Ward, Dala Twp, received news of illegal drugs being sold by Ko Min from Payargone Village in Thanlyin Twp. Police arrested Aung Ko Min (a) Ko Min, 28, in front of Thukasan Tea Shop on Thanlyin-Kyauktan Road, Payargone Village, Thanlyin Twp, together with WY psychotropic tablets hidden in the motorcycle he was riding. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Thanlyin) MaYa(Pa) 23/2018 under Section 16-C/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of groups of people selling illegal drugs daily on the hilltop in Group 10, Ward 4, Kutkai Twp, Shan State (North).	Police made opened 13 cases and arrested 13 men together with illegal drugs in Kutkai Twp, Shan State (North) two weeks ago. Investigations into related cases led to a stakeout near Ward 4, Kutkai Twp on 5-8-2018. Police arrested Yi Jin Seik, 43, as he was walking along and discovered heroin in his jacket. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kutkai) MaYa(Pa) 80/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. Another stakeout conducted in the same ward led to the arrest of Phyo Min Naung (a) Aik Puu, 22, with heroin hidden in his clothes. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kutkai) MaYa(Pa) 81/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. On 6-8-2018, local police staked out near basic education middle school (Myoma Susi Ywar) in Kutkai Twp and arrested Ma Yan Swe Kout, 48, of Ward 7 together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Kutkai) MaYa(Pa) 85/2018 under Section under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. An additional stake out led to the arrest of Tangan (a) Mar Gun, 28, from Ward 2, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Kutkai) MaYa(Pa) 86/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.	11	Information received of illegal drugs being used day and night at Viewpoint Resort in Sittway City, Rakhine State.	On 4-8-2018, local police staked out along the Point coast and arrested Lin Chay, 22, and Win Min Thein, 18, both from Magyinyaing Ward, together with WY psychotropic tablets as they were walking along the intersection of Kannar Street and Trigan Street in Pyitawtar Ward. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Sittway) MaYa(Pa) 34/2018 under Section 16-C/ 21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further investigation led to the arrest of Kyaw Thura (a) Thura Chay, 23, from Pyitawtae Ward, together with WY psychotropic tablets as he parked his motorcycle near WESTERNPART POINT restaurant in Viewpoint Resort. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Sittway) MaYa(Pa) 35/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further investigation led police to Mani Ratana Monastery in Ywargyitaung Ward, Sittway City. After obtaining permission from the presiding Sayadaw (head monk), police arrested U Ottamathiri (a) Khin Aye Maung, 30, after discovering WY psychotropic tablets in his room. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Sittway) MaYa(Pa) 36/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. Investigation into related cases led to the arrest of Ma Soe Soe Aye (a) Ma Soe, 40, from Mingan Area 4, Row D, No. 11, together with WY psychotropic tablets as she was walking along Minsawmon Street. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Sittway) MaYa(Pa) 37/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. Police searching Ma Soe Soe Aye’s house discovered her cousin Kyaw Min Tun, 38, from Chaungwa Ward, Yathedaung Twp, in possession of psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Sittway) MaYa(Pa) 38/2018 under Section 16-C/ 20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further investigations led to the arrest of Khine Min, 32, at his house in Shwepyar Kannar Street in Lanmadaw (North) Ward together with psychotropic tablets. Police discovered the drugs were bought from U Aung San Mya, 45, who lived in the same ward. A search of U Aung San Mya’s house did not turn up any illegal drugs but a case has been opened against both of them with MaMaSa (Sittway) MaYa(Pa) 39/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of illegal drugs being sold in Hnin Si Gone Ward, Thingangyun Twp, Yangon Region.	On 10-8-2018, local police scouting Hnin Si Gone Ward in Thingangyun Twp interrogated suspect Thant Zin Tun, 25, of Ward A in Thuwanna, and discovered WY psychotropic tablets in his possession. Further investigation revealed he had purchased the drugs from Ma Yin Yin Htwe, 45, in Zagawar Street in Ward A. Police searched her house but found no items related to illegal drugs. However, a case has been opened against both of them MaMaSa (Thingangyun) MaYa(Pa) 30/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.			
6	Information received of Win Ko from Ward 4, Lashio Twp, Shan State (North) selling illegal drugs with a car.	On 5-8-2018, local police stopped the car Win Ko, 49, from House No.43 in Ward 4, was driving at terminal 40 in Lashio Twp and arrested him and Tin Tun Nyein, 44, from Cherry Myaing Housing in Ward 1, together with opium tinctures. Police searched Win Ko’s house and discovered more illegal drugs. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Lashio) MaYa(Pa) 144/2018 under Section 16-C/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.	12	Information received of illegal drugs being sold in Kinchaung Village, Thit-seimgone Village-tract, Mongmit Twp, Shan State (North).	On 4-8-2018, local police entered the house of Ma Thida Tun (a) Ma Aye Tar, 24, in Khinchaung Village, Mongmit Twp, and discovered WY psychotropic tablets in a bag she threw away. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Mongmit) MaYa(Pa) 64/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further investigation led to the arrest of Poe Pyae (a) Poe Mya, 26, from Aung Yadanar Zay Ward in the same village, after police discovered WY psychotropic tablets under the shoe shelf in his home. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Mongmit) MaYa(Pa) 65/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7	Information received of Ko Tun Aung Kyaw from Zaytigone Village, Meitalin Village-tract, Katha Twp, Sagaing Region, selling and using illegal drugs.	On 8-8-2018, local police entered the house of Tun Aung Kyaw, 32, in Zaytigone Village, Katha Twp, and arrested him together with powder heroin found hidden in his compound. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Katha) MaYa(Pa) 56/2018 under Section 19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.			

Thailand hands over school, sports ground to MOE

TO commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Myanmar-Thailand diplomatic relation Thailand transferred a new two-storey school building and a sports ground at Nay Pyi Taw, Pyinmana Town, Basic Education Primary School (Thabyayhla) yesterday afternoon. The transfer ceremony was held in the new two-storey school building.

At first, Basic Education Primary School (Thabyayhla) headmistress explained about the history of the primary school.

Next, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai explained about the reason for donating the two-storey school building and the sports ground.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi presented commemorative gift to Minister of Foreign Affairs of

Thailand.

The ceremony was then continued in front of two-storey school building where the Union Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand opened the two-storey school building by cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

Following this, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand presented documents related to the two-storey school building and sports ground to the school headmistress.

Finally, Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand H.E. Mr. Don Pramudwinai and officials inspected the two-storey school building and the sports ground.

The new two-storey school building is a 110 ft. long and 30 ft. wide brick nogging building and the sports ground includes a badminton court and a futsal court.—Myanmar News Agency



Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and Thailand Foreign Minister Mr. Don Pramudwinai meet school children at Basic Education Primary School (Thabyayhla), Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

13	Information received of U Myo Myint from Aima Village, Myothit Twp, Magway Region and Ma Khin Htay Yi of Shwe Pann Village, both selling illegal drugs.	On 4-8-2018, local police entered the house of Myo Myint, 53, in Aima Village, Myothit Twp, and arrested him together with WY psychotropic tablets and black opium. Police discovered the drugs were purchased from Ma Khin Ktay Yi, 40, in Shwe Pann Village. A search of her house did not reveal any illegal drugs but a case has been opened against both of them with MaMaSa (Myothit) MaYa(Pa) 1/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
14	Information received of U Win Zaw Than and his wife Daw Khin Win Yi selling illegal drugs in Ward 6, Nhamaw Village, Seimhu Village-tract, Phakant Twp, Kachin State.	On 4-8-2018, local police entered the house of U Win Zaw Than, 29, and his wife Daw Khin Win Yi, 35 in House No. 6/121, Ward 6, Nhamaw Village, Seimhu Village-tract, Phakant Twp, and arrested them after discovering pink psychotropic tablets in their possession. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Phakant) MaYa(Pa) 145/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
15	Information received of Ko Poe La Min selling illegal drugs in Hpatnan Village, Taunglaylone Village-tract, Taunggyi Twp, Shan State.	On 5-8-2018, local police entered the house of Poe La Min, 36, in Hpatnan Village, Taunggyi Twp, and arrested him, Ye Win Ko (a) Ye Ko, 27, from Shwenyaung Town, and Htet Aung, 20, from Yadanar Ward 1 in Shwenyaung Town, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa (Nyaungshwe) MaYa(Pa) 18/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
16	Information received of U Nga Min selling illegal drugs in Seetar Village, Nanwintaw Village-tract, Taze Twp, Shwebo District, Sagaing Region.	On 5-8-2018, local police entered the house of Min Khine (a) Nga Min, 43, in Seetar Village, Nanwintaw Village-tract, Taze Twp, and arrested him together with "88/1" psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Taze) MaYa(Pa) 13/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
17	Information received of U Maung and his wife Daw Nyunt Aye selling illegal drugs in Bayinnaung Street, Nhamti Village-tract, Mogaung Twp, Kachin State.	On 9-8-2018, local police entered the house of U Maung (a) U Than Oo, 50, and his wife Daw Nyunt Aye, 48, in House No. 405, Bayinnaung Street, Myo-U Ward, Nhamti Village-tract, Mogaung Twp, and arrested them together with raw opium and another type of illegal drug. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (Nhamti) MaYa(Pa) 25/2018 under Section 16-C/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
18	Information received of Ko Thet Win selling illegal drugs near the jetty in Kawtdut Village, Lamine Village-tract, Ye Twp, Mon State.	On 10-8-2018, local police searched the house and store of Thet Win, 51, in Kuoto jetty, Kawtdut Village, Ye Twp and arrested him after discovering WY psychotropic tablets in his possession. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (Lamine) MaYa(Pa) 8/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
19	Information received of Daw Win from Kunchaung Village and Daw Nyunt Yi from Thaechaung Village selling illegal drugs in Mabein Twp, Mongmit District, Shan State (North)	On 10-8-2018, local police entered the house of Daw Nyunt Yi (a) Nyunt Nyunt Yi, 28, in Thaechaung Village, Kunchaung Village-tract, Mabein Twp, and arrested her together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Mabein) MaYa(Pa) 54/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. Police also searched the house of Daw Win 76, in Kunchaung Village, Mabein Twp, and arrested her together with Thut Pi (a) Aung Moe, 35, from Nga Oe Village, after discovering heroin and WY psychotropic tablets in her handbag. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Mabein) MaYa(Pa) 55/2018 under Section 16-C/19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far 139 cases have been opened as of 11-8-2018, and 175 men and 35 women have been arrested with seizures of 1,786.44 g of heroin, 0.55 g of ICE, 230 g of black opium, 31,381 g of raw opium, 17.50 g of low-quality opium, 27.50 g of opium residue, 1,502 g of powder opium, 3,266 g of speciosa, 77,568 stimulant tablets, 1,766.08 g of marijuana, 0.10 litres of opium tincture, 213.40 g of opium blocks, and 60 g of poppy seeds. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the ministry will report on further exposed cases.
4. In addition to the investigations and arrests conducted on drug related complaints mentioned above, the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force have also carried out separate investigations on drug complaints, search and arrests at border gates, and searches of vehicles acting upon given information.

There have been two arrested involving firearms in this week. On 7-8-2018, two men were arrested on the Tamu-Kalay road between Htinzin and Bokkan villages in Tamu Twp, Sagaing Region, in possession of one six-chambered pistol with 4 bullets, 93,530 stimulant tablets and 5.5 kg of ICE. On 11-8-2018, police arrested one man in Kanyoe Village, Taungoo Twp, Bago Region, in possession of one pistol with 15 bullets, one hand grenade and 5,481 stimulant tablets.

There have been two cases of suspects resisting arrest and retaliating to police officers. On 10-8-2018, local police were stopping and searching vehicles along the Lwesitone-Minehe road near Yamkaung Village, Tachilek Twp, Shan State, when two vehicles drove away. Police fired warnings shots and a man received a bullet wound. Police seized 7,820,000 stimulant tablets from the two vehicles combined. On 11-8-2018, local police were conducting investigations in Village 3, Namsan Twp, Shan State, when a male suspect retaliated and tried to wrestle a gun away from the police officers. He was fatally shot and police seized 200 stimulant tablets from him.

There have been 358 cases being opened between 5-8-2018 and 11-8-2018, and 430 men and 56 women have been arrested. Seizures of 6,120.97 g of heroin, 7,295.50 g of ICE, 50,798.39 g of raw opium, 60 g of low-quality opium, 760 g of powder opium, 5,307g of speciosa, 8,239,339 stimulant tablets, 32,530,094 g of marijuana, 22 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 262.20 g of opium blocks, 13.20 g of marijuana tincture, 1,000 g of ketamine, 36 ecstasy tablets, 6 bottles of diazepam, two firearms, 19 bullets, and one hand grenade.

5. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

Contacts

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

Fulfilling a national requirement

THE provision of a wide-array of farming-related information to the peasants in real time is the most basic requirement for the development of the agricultural sector of Myanmar. But the work of choosing an information sharing system in a developing country like Myanmar is indeed a challenge.

When we study the experiences of other developing countries in doing this job, we have found cell phones as the most effective tool for sending information to farmers. As Myanmar is experiencing the wider use of cell phones, we should seriously take into consideration the method of applying these gadgets as a tool in distributing information all over the country.

In it's efforts to fulfill this national requirement, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation organized a workshop

with the participation of the Myanmar Agriculture Network-MAN. The workshop was held in Yezin in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. The workshop focused on highlighting the importance of information and communications technology in disseminating the agricultural knowledge on a wider scale.

In fact, the Agriculture Department has made the right decision in choosing MAN as its partner in the project of sharing knowledge on farming. In 2013, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation formed the MAN with the involvement of local and foreign business organizations in addition to the related bodies. MAN with the participation of all its members and related and sister organizations is striving for generating food-related opportunities and increasing investments in the country. It is also in the mission of protecting and conserving the natural environment, ensuring sustainable development

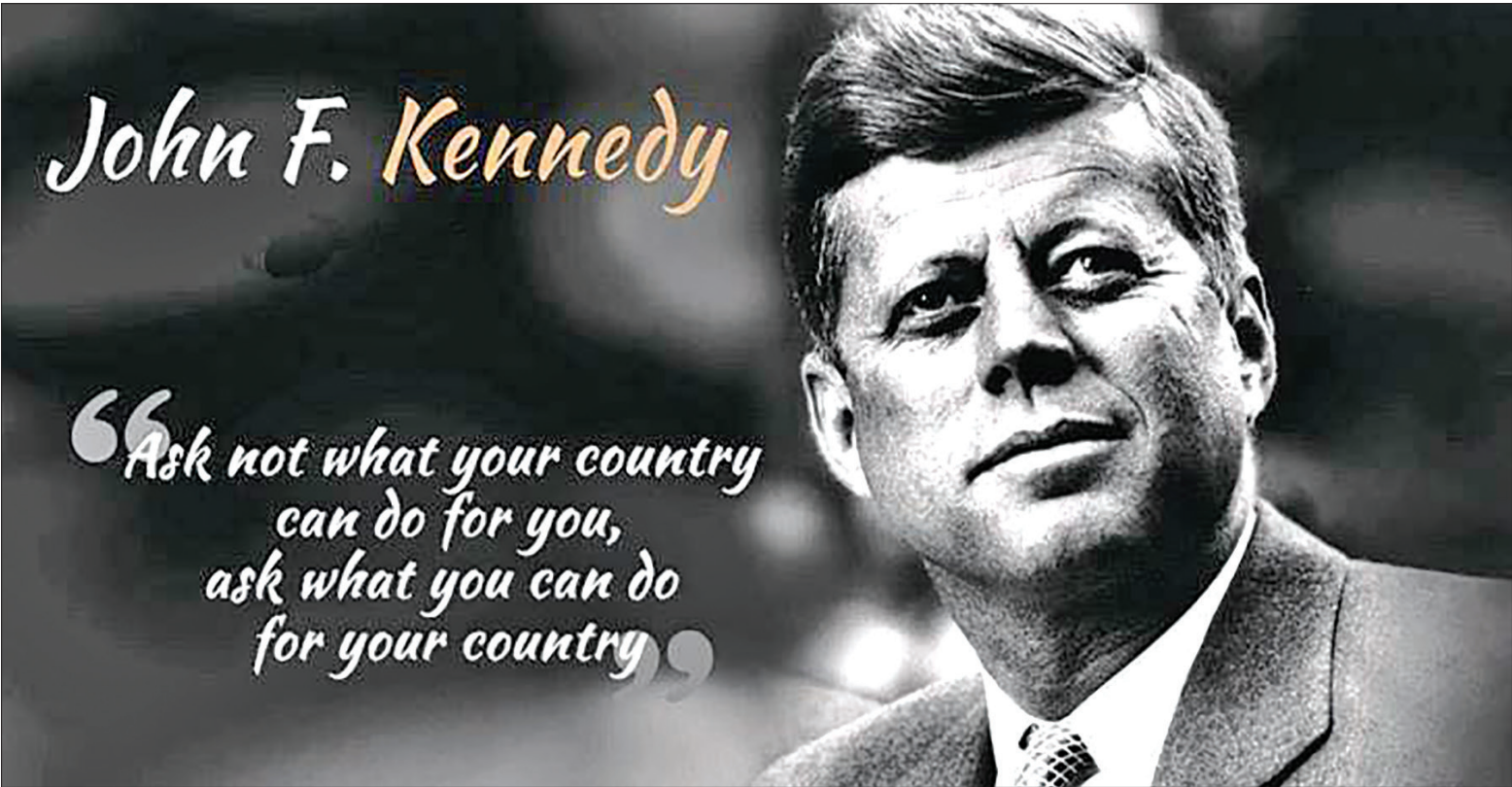
of the agriculture sector and sharing benefits to all stakeholders.

In the initial stage the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation will draw a plan to implement the Myanmar Seed Portal that will send information on seeds in real time and the Global Market Information Portal for fulfilling the domestic demand and export promotion.

We all understand that the effort for further development of the agricultural sector in all aspects is a national requirement. In this regard, the Global New Light of Myanmar hails the joint efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Myanmar Agriculture Network-MAN to fulfill this national requirement.

Serving the interests of the country with utmost dedication and commitment

By Ambassador Dr. Hla Maung (Baw Ga)



country.

In his 14-minute 1961 inaugural speech, which addressed the United States' role in the Cold War, Kennedy told Americans to "ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

Embedded in the heart

The quote was embedded in the hearts of the American people as their commitment to the nation, and that the status, standing and stature of President Kennedy enveloped across the planet.

The person further explained, "the Presidential quote has been printed by the University Administration Department and was instructed to be displayed in all offices. Well, you will see the same quote at the office buildings, hotels, restaurants, and shopping malls."

The Director continued to explain that the quote had been printed and aired in all the media, and asserted his opinion by saying, "the words in the Presidential quote are very much meaningful to all the American citizens.

In other words, it urges the American people on the need to serve the interests of the country with utmost dedication and commitment, setting aside the personal and organizational narrow interests. In doing this, the benefits go to the nation."

Trust building

He continued that due to the Presidential quote, the Lower House and the Senate, trade unions, industrial unions, and other organizations had gradually slowed down their one-sided demands, paving the way for negotiations, based on understanding with the government in trust building through consensus.

The above quote of President Kennedy resulted with advantages and benefits to the United States, getting strong support of many nations across the planet, which were printed in various media. The quote was popular and accepted not only in the United States, but also acknowledged by many countries creating an atmosphere of trust on common grounds for engaging positively.

Late for two decades

Last month (July), the author contributed a research article supported with statistics in the Myanmar Alin Daily newspaper in connection with nation building. It was entitled "Towards a developed and peaceful nation through the success of the third session of the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference."

In the past, the socioeconomic status (SES) of Myanmar was on par with its Asian partners, and now we are left behind for about two decades in the SES, compared to our neighboring

countries.

In making a summary of comparative study on the socioeconomic status of Myanmar with the Asian partner countries, our existing Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is still 5 to 23 times below others. Similarly, the export value of Myanmar dived down to the marker of 13 to 45 times, compared with other countries in our region. Likewise, the Per Capita Income of Myanmar is lesser in the pointer, ranging from 3 to 46 times. Education, health and social conditions are also losing status.

The main cause of the problem or defect and lagging behind others in the socioeconomic status of the country could be assessed and evaluated as the lack of ability and poor capacity to

build internal stability and peace for 70 long years.

The winds of change or an influence or tendency that cannot be resisted is in the horizon for all the people that long for the stability and peace in the country. The noble plan is no other than the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference.

The successful outcome of the peace conference is sure to bear fruits of national unity to further step into the peace and stability in the country in building a modern, developed democratic federal union.

With a view to create peace and unity of national races, the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conferences is in process with the formation of various support committees at different levels.

The ongoing peace process is participated with the model of inclusiveness, such as that of the Union Government, Upper House and Lower House of the Parliament and the Tatmadaw, armed ethnic groups, political forces, civil society organizations, and representatives candidly talked and exchanged on political, social, economic and military matters, with a focus on fundamental principles to achieve a common ground and platform. Only when an agreement on a common ground is achieved, will the intended goal of peace and prosperity come true.

Development is set to speed up

In conclusion, the author of this article is of the view that all stakeholders and relevant organizations should emulate and follow the stance mentioned in the speech of President Kennedy and ward off the inflexible narrow self-interest mindset to achieve the aspiration that they dreamed of. When they come up in that direction at the peace conference discussion, with a view to salvaging and uplifting the declining social economy for more than 70 years in the country, then the common aspiration is sure to be achieved.

During the shortest possible time, it is hopeful that a common agreement could be reached for a many-sided sphere, and all the national brethren would be able to build a 'democratic federal Union' with a positive vision to accelerate into continued socioeconomic status in full gear.

Translated by UMT (HK)





Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons

Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day

13th September

The entire public needs to participate, Trafficking in persons to eliminate...

2018 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day's Objectives

- ❖ To mobilize the participation of all citizens in combating human trafficking as a national duty;
- ❖ To have the public instilled with awareness about and knowledge of trafficking in persons;
- ❖ To protect and care trafficked victims with empathy; and
- ❖ To strengthen cooperation and coordination among all counter trafficking stakeholders – government agencies, civil society organizations, UN agencies, international organizations and general public.

Flood Warning
(Issued at 15:00 hrs MST on 14-8-2018)
According to the (14:30) hrs MST observations today, the water level of Ngawun River at Ngathaingchaung is observed as about (3) inches below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (2) days.

It is especially advised that people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at Ngathaingchaung, to take precautionary measures.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 14 August 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30)hrs MST today, the low pressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal still persists. Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 15 AUGUST 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, Southern Shan State, fairly widespread in (Northern and Eastern) Shan State and widespread in the remaining regions and states isolated heavy falls in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasionally squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph. Wave height will be about (9 - 14) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Increase of rain in Lower Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 AUGUST, 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 AUGUST, 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15 AUGUST, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Chairperson, member of Independent Commission of Enquiry arrive



Ambassador Rosario Manalo, Chairperson of the Independent Commission of Enquiry, is welcomed by officials in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

AMBASSADOR Rosario Manalo, Chairperson of the Independent Commission of Enquiry which was established as part of Myanmar's national initiative to address reconciliation, peace, stability and development in Rakhine, and Ambassador Mr. Kenzo Oshima, member of the commission, arrived Yangon by air yesterday separately.

Rosario Manalo is also Former Deputy Foreign Minister of the Philippines and Former Chair and Current Representative of the Philippines to CEDAW.

Mr. Kenzo Oshima is Former Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator and Former Permanent Representative of Japan to the

United Nations.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by U Zaw Phyoo Win, Deputy Director-General of the Strategic Studies and Training Department, and U Zaw Tun Oo, Deputy Director-General of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Eid Day on 22 August

THE Government issued a notification on Tuesday that as Eid Day (Qurbani Eid) falls on 22 August (Wednesday), the day is declared as a public holiday in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, according to Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act.—MNA ■

Myanmar attending Asia Cross Country Rally (AXCR) 2018 as observer

SEVEN members from Myanmar Motor Sports Organization, led by Asia Cross Country Rally Myanmar representative Daw Mya Thaung Wai left Yangon International Airport on the morning of 11 August to attend Asia Cross Country Rally (AXCR) 2018 as observer.

The Asia Cross Country Rally (AXCR) event for 2018 will start from Pattaya, Thailand on 12th August and finish at Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 18th August.

At the event, cars, motorcycle and motorcycle sidecar will compete. The Asia Cross Country Rally will be participated by eight countries including Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Taiwan and Cambodia. The organization leader Daw Mya Thaung Wai said that they will participate in this Asia Cross Country Rally with two vehicles as a preparation to host Asia Cross Country Rally (AXCR) in Myanmar in 2019.—Myo Min Thura ■

Trade Mark

Ads

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Thin Thin May,

09251022355, 09974424848

High tide forces people to leave homes in Mon State, brings floods in Yangon

POLICE in Paung, Mon State, evacuated the fishing community in Ahlyat Village in Paung Township as high tide destroyed their homes yesterday.

The wave destroyed seven homes yesterday and 37 on Monday in the fishing village. Police also relocated 26 houses and evacuated the villagers yesterday, according to the Paung Township General Administration Department.

"Waves about five-foot high struck their homes. We also evacuated patients at the Station Hospital on 12 August. We need to grow mangrove forests here," said U Tun Min Aung, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative of Paung Township.

High tide hits Bogalay Village, Kayan Township

The high tide has also flowed into Bogalay Village in Kayan Township yesterday, forcing the residents to leave their homes. Staff of the Kayan Township

General Administration Department, police, firefighters, Red Cross members and members of philanthropic associations evacuated the people.

High tide floods low-lying areas

The high tide also pushed the Yangon River over its banks and caused flooding in Dala Township and in low-lying areas along the Strand Road in Yangon since two days ago.

Police have closed a road along the river's bank following a landslide in Dala yesterday.

Due to the high tide in Dala Township, water rises up to more than 4 ft. in Khanaung Ywama village near the mouth of the river. Water entered into some houses, and a bridge over the Kama Aung creek was also inundated.

During the months of monsoon, and during high tide periods water rises to record levels but it usually subsides, it is learnt. —GNLM ■



Rising water levels in Botahtaung Jetty raises the ferry over the port's embankment as local residents board to cross the river over to Dala Township. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

Trump signs \$716 bil. defence bill to modernize military

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump on Monday signed into law a \$716 billion defence spending bill to modernize the military and increase service people's salary.

The spending for fiscal 2019 starting in October "is the most significant investment in our military and our warfighters in modern history," Trump said as he signed the bill at the US Army's Fort Drum base in New York.

It authorizes spending for 77 F-35 fighter jets, 13 new battle force ships and other assets, as well as an increase of 15,600 troops across the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps, accord-

ing to the White House.

Trump said the United States is carrying out "a major upgrade" of missile defence and spending "a tremendous amount of money" to modernize the nuclear arsenal.

"We will replace aging tanks, aging planes and ships with the most advanced and lethal technology ever developed," he said.

"And hopefully we'll be so strong we'll never have to use it. But if we ever did, nobody has a chance."

The measure will also boost military pay by 2.6 per cent, the largest increase in nine years, the White House said. —Kyodo News ■



US President Donald Trump in Florida on 18 April, 2018. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Brazil seizes 1.3 tons of cocaine on Italian ship

SAO PAULO (Brazil) — Brazilian authorities said on Monday they seized 1.32 metric tons (2,910 pounds) of cocaine aboard an Italian-flagged ship in Brazil's main port of Santos, near Sao Paulo.

"The drugs were divided into 1,202 tablets distributed in 41 sacks" in two containers on the Grande Francia ship, which had arrived from Argentina, the customs department said.

According to G1 news site, the ship was attacked by pirates on Sunday. However it was unclear whether the incident was connected to the drugs discovery.

The federal police in Santos said that a pirate incident had occurred but targeting a different vessel.

"We are working on the case," the police said in a statement.

The customs service said that so far this year it has intercepted 13,518 kilos of drugs (29,802 pounds) in 27 operations at Santos port, the biggest in Latin America. This is more than the total seized in 2017.—AFP ■

Former Brazil finance minister charged with corruption

BRASILIA (Brazil) — Former Brazil finance minister Guido Mantega was indicted on Monday on money laundering and other charges as part of the corruption scandal that has rocked the country's business and polit-

ical elites.

Mantega, 69, is accused of taking money from construction giant Odebrecht in exchange for helping to advance legislation that favored the company, Judge Sergio Moro wrote.

It is the first time Mantega has been charged in the so-called "Operation Car Wash", a vast probe of a pay-to-play relationship between Brazilian companies and politicians centered around the state oil company

Petrobras. Mantega was finance minister during the second term of now jailed former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, and continued to hold the post under Lula's successor Dilma Rousseff.—AFP ■

Text-messaging FBI agent Peter Strzok fired: lawyer

WASHINGTON (United States) — FBI agent Peter Strzok, who was removed from the probe into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election after it was revealed he had exchanged anti-Trump text messages with his lover, has been fired, his lawyer said on Monday.

Aitan Goelman, Strzok's attorney, said the 21-year veteran of the Federal Bureau of Investigation was fired by FBI

deputy director David Bowdich on Friday.

Goelman said Strzok was dismissed despite the fact that the disciplinary office had decided he should face a demotion and a 60-day suspension.

He described the move as "a departure from typical bureau practice."

"This decision should be deeply troubling to all Americans," Goelman said in a statement.

"A lengthy investigation and multiple rounds of congressional testimony failed to produce a shred of evidence that Special Agent Strzok's personal views ever affected his work," he said.

"In fact, in his decades of service, Special Agent Strzok has proved himself to be one of the country's top counterintelligence officers," Goelman said.

"The decision to terminate was taken in response to po-

litical pressure, and to punish Special Agent Strzok for political speech protected by the First Amendment, not on a fair and independent examination of the facts," he said.

"It is a decision that produces only one winner — those who seek to harm our country and weaken our democracy," the attorney said.

Strzok, 48, and his lover, former FBI lawyer Lisa Page, exchanged text messages dur-

ing the 2016 election campaign which were critical of Republican nominee Donald Trump.

Following the public revelation of the messages, Strzok was removed by Special Counsel Robert Mueller from the investigation into Russian meddling into the 2016 election.

Trump has seized upon the messages to bolster his claim that the Special Counsel's probe is a political "witch hunt" by biased prosecutors.—AFP ■

Cubans to join public debate on new constitution recognizing private enterprise

HAVANA (Cuba) — Cuba called on its citizens on Monday to join a series of public debates on a new constitution that will recognize the role of market forces and private enterprise in the Communist island's economy.

A referendum will be held in February 2019 on the new post-Cold War constitution, and the one-party state called on its

citizens to join debates to be held in universities and workplaces between 13 Monday August, and 15 November this year.

For the first time since the 1959 revolution, the 1.4 million Cubans living abroad, were also invited to participate in the discussion.

The timeline for the debates was set in honour of the revolu-

tion's late leader, Fidel Castro, who was born on 13 August, 1926 and who died on 25 November, 2016.

The draft of the new constitution recognizes the role of the market and of private enterprise in the economy, but still under the supervision of the Communist Party, which will remain the only political party legally

allowed on the island. The draft was approved by parliament in July.

President Miguel Diaz-Canel, who succeeded Castro's younger brother Raul in April, said that during the public consultation process, "every Cuban can freely express their opinion." The new constitution maintains the offices of presi-

dent and vice president and also creates the position of a prime minister. It will limit the age limit for presidential candidates to 60 years. The president will serve for a five-year term and can run for a second consecutive term.

It also opens the door to same-sex marriage, a major demand of Cuba's LGBT community.—AFP ■

Myanmar climbers eye Hkakabo Razi — the peak conquered only once

HPA-AN (Myanmar) — A two-week jungle trek followed by a sheer climb up avalanche-prone slopes to a jagged ridge of icy pinnacles awaits three Myanmar mountaineers planning to take on Hkakabo Razi, a peak so treacherous it has been conquered only once.

Believed to be the highest in Southeast Asia, the mountain stands at an estimated 5,881 metres (19,294 feet) in the northern tip of Myanmar near the border with China and India, a Himalayan cap of the largely tropical nation.

The formidable route to the top starts with a grueling 240-kilometre (150-mile) slog by foot through Kachin state's dense jungle, filled with venomous snakes and bloodsucking leeches.

But it is the challenging climb itself that has thwarted nearly all of the handful of attempts to reach the summit, one of which resulted in a deadly rescue attempt.

"The difficulty level of the mountain is extreme," Zaw Zin Khine, 32, told AFP during a break from a training session on a limestone karst cliff in eastern Kayah state. The team will have to negotiate precipitous faces of loose scree, frequent avalanches and a choice between ridges spiked with towers of rock and shrouded in snow and ice.

"There is a risk we won't come back alive," the climber added.

He and his two partners Pyae Phyo Aung, 36, and Aung Khaing Myint, 32, aspire to make history as the first all-Myanmar team to summit the mountain.

They also hope to settle a decades-long dispute over whether Hkakabo Razi or the nearby Gamlang Razi — also in Myanmar — claims the honour as the region's highest.

'Makes Everest look easy'

The three climbers, now waiting for the right window in the weather to start their expedition, have

been in intensive training for months, including a trip to Nepal and sessions in a Yangon gym, wearing masks to simulate low-oxygen levels at altitude.

Team member Pyae Phyo Aung is one of only two people from Myanmar to have summited Mount Everest but he says Hkakabo Razi's isolation and lack of infrastructure makes it far more perilous.

"Even if you're 70 years old, you can get to the top of Everest if you have the money to pay people to pull you up," he says.

"They maintain the routes from the base camp to the summit, have lots of porters and it's easy to find people by air if they're missing. That's not the case on Hkakabo Razi."

The first known attempt to scale the mountain was by British explorer and botanist Frank Kingdon-Ward in 1936.

In his book "Burma's Icy Mountains", he describes how the peak "utterly defeated" him, forcing him to turn back a vertical kilometre below the top.



Map showing Hkakabo Razi, a 5,881m peak in the northern tip of Myanmar. PHOTO: AFP

It took another 60 years before Japanese mountaineer Takashi Ozaki and his Myanmar climbing partner Nyima Gyaltsen prevailed on their third attempt. Ozaki, the first-ever climber to successfully tackle Mount Everest's north face, reportedly described the peak as "one of the most difficult and dangerous mountains in the world".

Two separate expeditions in 2014 both met with costly failure. One local Myanmar team never returned, a tragedy magnified when a rescue helicopter crashed, killing one pilot. The other ill-fated

ascent is the subject of a National Geographic documentary. The expedition ground to an icy halt on what team member Emily Harrington remembers as a "nightmare ridge" that dropped off for hundreds of feet on either side, leaving them "depleted on all fronts".

"We kinda assumed it would be like Nepal and Pakistan where the culture is centred around the mountains," the 31-year-old told AFP from California. "But it's not. They're not used to people coming here to trek so we had to take more on ourselves." —AFP ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Monster Energy Company, a company registered under the laws of Delaware, the United States of America, which is located at 1 Monster Way, Corona, California 92879, the United States of America, is the sole owner of the following trademarks:

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Chinese Application No. 27536311

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For **Monster Energy Company**

Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 15th August 2018

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date : 15th August, 2018

Invitation for Bids

IDA, Credit No : 5727-MM

Contract Title : **Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers for Sagaing (1) For National Electrification Project**

Reference No : MOEE-NEP/C1-W1/18

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for **Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers for Sagaing (1)**

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for **Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers for Sagaing (1) in the following locations**

The number and identification of lots comprising this bidding process is:

Lot 1: Sagaing District	- 18 villages
Lot 2: Shwebo/ Kanbalu District	- 24 villages
Lot 3: Shwebo District	- 52 villages
Lot 4: Shwebo/ Kanbalu District	- 49 villages
Lot 5: Shwebo District	- 56 villages
Lot 6: Shwebo District	- 46 villages
Lot 7: Shwebo District	- 128 villages
Lot 8: Katha District	- 51 villages
Lot 9: Katha District	- 58 villages

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers* ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Management Office (National Electrification Project), Project Manager and nep.pmoep@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours [09:30 to 16:00 hours] at the address given below.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through email only.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 28th September, 2018, (10:00 am) - Myanmar Time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below.

7. All bids must be accompanied by "Bid-Security"

8. The address (es) referred to above is(are):

Attention: **Project Manager**
Project Management Office
(National Electrification Project)
Office Building No.27,
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
City: **Nay Pyi Taw**
ZIP Code: **095**
Country: **The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**
Telephone: **+95 67 3431175**
Facsimile number: **+95 673431176**
Electronic mail address: nep.pmoep@gmail.com

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Tunisia anti-litter activist takes up 300-km, 30-beach challenge

TUNIS (Tunisia) — Bin bags at the ready, “long-distance activist” Mohamed Oussama Houij moves methodically along a beach in Tunisia’s Mediterranean town of Nabeul, scooping up all kinds of trash as he goes along.

The 27-year-old sanitary engineer set out in July to walk a 300-kilometre (185-mile) stretch of coastline in northern Tunisia and clean up 30 beaches along the way.

He hopes the two-month trek will help convince authorities, holidaymakers and average Tunisians alike that the sea should not be used as a giant garbage tip.

With a sturdy pair of boots and a hat to shield him from the summer sun, Houij began his journey in the central coastal city of Mahdia and plans to finish in Solimane, 40 kilometres from the capital Tunis.

The trip will take him through crowded hotspots like Daar Chaabane in Nabeul, but also along secluded coves and shores.

“I believe in citizen mobilization and I chose to act... and to raise awareness about the problem of pollution on our beaches,” the activist told AFP.

The Facebook page of his “300 Kilometres” campaign has more than 13,000 followers and is entirely independent, he boasted.

“No political party is welcome... 300 Kilometres



Houij hopes his two-month trek will help convince authorities, holidaymakers and average Tunisians that the sea should not be used as a giant garbage tip. **PHOTO: AFP**

is a free citizen initiative and will remain forever,” the activist wrote on the page.

‘Drop of water’

But while Houij may be a dreamer, he is also realistic. “The 300 Kilometres action is not really about cleaning... I know I’m just a drop of water in the ocean,” he said.

“I want to raise public awareness and get people thinking: ‘Wait, it’s not normal, all these bottles, these caps... all these plastic bags’.”

Since Tunisia’s 2011 revolution, the proliferation of waste has steadily worsened across the country — in big cities, rural areas and beaches alike.

One contributing factor has been the absence of elected municipal councils.

Between the fall in 2011 of longtime dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and

local polls held in May 2018, town halls were managed by “special delegations” that often neglected issues like littering and waste management.

But there is also a lack of environmental awareness among Tunisians, Environment Minister Riadh Mouakher said in mid-2017 as he announced the launch of a special “green police” unit to combat the North African country’s rubbish woes.

At his first beach stop, Oussama estimates he collected about 100 kilograms (more than 200 pounds) of waste. After that, he simply stopped weighing the bags.

Nearly 150 kilometres and 14 beaches later, Houij is astounded by the sheer volume of waste he’s found along the shore.

“We’re talking tonnes of rubbish... The more you clean, the more you find. It

never ends,” he said.

Sleeping rough

From plastic bottles and soiled diapers to commercial refuse, Oussama says he’s seen “all forms of pollution” seeping into the sea.

“I’ve seen a wide array of pollution, from the personal pollution of people who come to the beach through to the industrial pollution” of local and public companies, he said.

“The authorities do not take the problem of pollution in Tunisia seriously,” said Houij.

The environmental activist is also frustrated with holidaymakers who treat him as a “zabel” (rubbish collector) and don’t hesitate to ask him to pick up their waste.

Travelling with nothing but a rucksack and a guitar, on lucky nights he is offered shelter and a bed. Most nights, though, he sleeps rough.

Reactions from those he meets along the way range “from one extreme to another”, he said. “There are people who are very active, who encourage you and who help you clean up... but others kill your desire to work for the cause,” he added. “Each day brings enough trouble of its own, but the will is there... there’s no reason for me to stop.”—AFP ■

Typhoon Bebinca forecast to hit northern Viet Nam soon

HANOI — Bebinca, the fourth typhoon to hit Viet Nam so far this year, is likely to make landfall in its northern region from Quang Ninh province to Nam Dinh province on Friday morning, according to the country’s National Centre for Hydro-Meteorological Forecasting on Tuesday.

On Friday, within a radius of some 90 km from the typhoon’s eye, strong winds will blow at speeds of 40-75 km per hour. From Wednesday night to Friday, Viet Nam’s northern region and the northern part of the central region are forecast to have heavy rain, said the centre.

Vietnamese localities are maintaining close contact with captains and owners of sea-going vessels and

cruise ships, keeping strict surveillance on dykes and reservoirs, and organizing evacuation of local residents in low-lying, coastal, and landslide-prone areas, according to Viet Nam’s National Steering Committee for Natural Disaster Prevention and Control.

Natural disasters, mainly typhoons, flash floods and landslides, killed or left missing 78 people and injured 64 others, destroyed over 740 houses, damaged 18,100 other houses, and damaged 12,600 hectares of rice and other crops, causing property losses of around 1,468 billion Vietnamese dong (63.8 million US dollars) in the first seven months of this year, said Viet Nam’s General Statistics Office. — Xinhua ■

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Ph: 01-544041

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Department of Rural Development National Electrification Project (NEP) Call for Proposal for Mini-Grid Projects (CFP 3: NEP FY 2018/19)

As for the parties who are interested in submitting proposal for the Mini-Grid Rural Electrification Programmes which will be implemented by the Department of Rural Development in 2018-2019 fiscal years, the request for **Technical and Financial Supports** is required to be submitted, and the relevant procedures will be explained.

• Targeted companies/organizations:

- All the interested mini-grid companies and institutions (less than 1 MW Solar Photovoltaic Systems, hydropower, bio fuel, wind power or hybrid mini plants)
- **Date of the meeting** – 31st August, 2018

All interested parties must sign up via NEP mini-grid web portal, www.tinyurl.com/nepin, and only those parties who have signed up for the meeting will be invited separately and explained.

For detailed information, please contact as per the following address:

NEP Project Management Office
Department of Rural Development
Office No. (36), Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Tel/Fax: +95-673-418656/418635
Email: drdnepmg@gmail.com

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V SENTOSA STAR VOY. NO. (1805N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SENTOSA STAR VOY. NO. (1805N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE**

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

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

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‘Queen of Soul’ Aretha Franklin ‘gravely ill’: reports

DETROIT (United States) — Music legend Aretha Franklin is “gravely ill” and surrounded by family and friends in Detroit, reports said on Monday, as prayers and well wishes poured in for the Grammy-winning ‘Queen of Soul.’

The 76-year-old Franklin — who influenced generations of pop divas with hits such as “Respect” (1967), “Natural Woman” (1968) and “I Say a Little Prayer” (1968) — was said to be at a Detroit hospital and has asked that details of her condition not be made public.

Franklin cemented her place in American music history with her powerful, bell-clear voice that stretched over four octaves — in her decades-long career, her hits spanned the genres, from soul to R&B to gospel and pop.

She was the first woman to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987.

Franklin’s serious condition was first disclosed on the Showbiz 411 website late Sunday by Roger Friedman, a reporter and family friend. He wrote that she was “gravely ill in Detroit. The family is asking for prayers and privacy.”

Local television stations lat-



Aretha Franklin is shown here performing at the Elton John AIDS Foundation event in New York in November 2017 -- her last known public performance. **PHOTO: AFP**

er confirmed Franklin’s illness.

“I actually got a chance to talk to Miss Franklin about an hour ago,” WDIV journalist Evrod Cassimy said during the station’s noon newscast, describing himself as a “close friend.” “I’ve been speaking with her family members,” he added. “They have not only asked for prayers during this time, but they have also asked for their privacy.”

Robert Smith, the current pastor at the New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit where Franklin’s father was the reverend, told AFP that Franklin’s representatives asked him Monday to “keep praying for her.” “Everybody’s fearful,” Smith said. “I really

don’t know what it would be like not to have her.”

Artists from across the musical spectrum offered well wishes to the legendary singer who has lived in Detroit — the Motor City, home of Motown music — most of her life. “My prayers are with Aretha Franklin and her family during this difficult time,” tweeted rapper Missy Elliott. “We MUST CELEBRATE the Living Legends while they are here to see it. So many have given us decades of Timeless music.” Boy George said: “This is sad news. Aretha Franklin, what a voice.” And, Mariah Carey tweeted simply: “Praying for the Queen of Soul.”—AFP ■

Lindsay Lohan apologises for criticising #MeToo movement



Lindsay Lohan **PHOTO: PTI**

LOS ANGELES — Actor Lindsay Lohan has apologised for her comments about #MeToo where she had said that women look weak by speaking out about sexual misconduct.

The 32-year-old actor said she is apologising because she understands how her statements may have caused hurt.

“I would like to unreservedly apologize for any hurt and distress caused by a quote in a recent interview with *The Times*,” Lohan told *People* magazine.

“The quote solely related to my hope that a handful of false testimonies out of a tsunami of heroic voices do not serve to dilute the importance of the

#MeToo movement, and all of us who champion it. However, I have since learned how statements like mine are seen as hurtful, which was never my intent. I’m sorry for any pain I may have caused,” she added.

The actor said she had “utmost respect” and “admiration” for women who chose to speak about facing harassment. “Their testimony has served to protect those who can’t speak, and give strength to those who have struggled to have their voices heard,” she added. In an interview to British newspaper *The Times*, Lohan had termed those who spoke out as “attention seekers”. “If it happens at that moment, you discuss it at that moment. You make it a real thing by making it a police report. I’m going to really hate myself for saying this, but I think by women speaking against these things, it makes them look weak when they are very strong women,” she had said.—PTI ■

Beatles’ Indian hideaway comes together, 50 years on

RISHIKESH (India) — Fifty years after the Beatles came to India, the bungalows where the Fab Four lived, the post office where John Lennon sent Yoko Ono postcards and the giggling guru’s house are all ruins. Maharishi Mahesh Yogi’s ashram, where the world’s most famous group sought refuge and spirituality in 1968 and wrote much of their seminal “White Album”, fell into disuse in the early 2000s.

But thanks to the efforts of a group of locals, the site has been reclaimed from the jungle and tourists now roam where tigers and snakes were until recently the most common day trippers.

“Before, people used to sneak in, which could be dangerous,” said local journalist Raju Gusain, instrumental in rescuing the area overlooking Rishikesh in northern India.

“There used to be leopard paw marks and elephant dung,” he told AFP on a tour of the site. “Now we have erected a fence to stop animals getting in from the tiger reserve next door.”

By 1968, following the death of Beatles manager Brian Epstein the year before, fissures were beginning to show between John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr. But the group found a new mentor: the magnetic Maharishi who promised them happiness and enlightenment without drugs, through transcendental meditation. The bushy-bearded sage persuaded them to travel to his spiritual retreat in Rishikesh, and so in February 1968 they fetched up with their partners, not knowing quite what to expect.

Come out to play

A world away from “Swinging London”, the band appeared to reconnect, penning almost 50 new songs.

Others there included fellow musicians Donovan and Beach Boy Mike Love, actress Mia Farrow and her reclusive sister

Prudence, inspiration for Lennon’s song “Dear Prudence”. The local wildlife — although the song is also supposedly about heroin or Yoko Ono — inspired “Everybody’s Got Something to Hide Except Me and My Monkey” as well as “Blackbird”.

McCartney wrote “Why Don’t We Do It in the Road” after seeing monkeys openly copulating, while Love’s presence helped spark “Back in the USSR”, a pastiche of the Beach Boys’ “California Girls”.

The band — with the exception of Starr, who brought a supply of baked beans due to his sensitive stomach and left after 10 days — enjoyed the break and the meditation too.

“I felt like I actually was a feather floating over a hot-air pipe,” McCartney recalled later of one session. “And I reported that to Maharishi, and he giggled: ‘Yes, this is good!’” One local old enough to remember is Ajit Singh, the owner of a music shop — still open — in the nearby town of Dehradun, who fixed Lennon’s guitar and performed at Harrison’s 25th birthday. Turbaned, thin and with a croaky voice, the 86-year-old Singh recalls with twinkling eyes the band wandering into the store one day, pursued by a crowd outside, and him “inviting them home for tea”.

“They were very polite with me, they were not haughty or something,” he told AFP in his shop. “I always said to people that they were good people.”

After a while though, relations worsened between the Beatles and the Maharishi, the atmosphere soured by the yogi’s rumoured sexual advances and his evident desire to make money from his famous new pupils. McCartney left after five weeks and Harrison and Lennon after two months. Asked the reason by the yogi, Lennon is reputed to have told the guru, “If you’re so cosmic you’ll know why.”—AFP ■



Tourists take pictures of a mural at the now-derelict ashram visited by the Beatles 50 years ago, in Rishikesh in northern India. **PHOTO: AFP**

200-million year old Pterosaur 'built for flying'

PARIS (France) — Scientists on Monday unveiled a previously unknown species of giant pterosaur, the first creatures with a backbone to fly under their own power.

Neither dino nor bird, pterosaurs — more commonly known as pterodactyls — emerged during the late Triassic period more than 200 million years ago and lorded over primeval skies until a massive space rock slammed into Earth, wiping out land-dwelling dinosaurs and most other forms of life more than 65 billion years ago.

The newly discovered member of the family, identified through remains found in north-eastern Utah, had a wing-span of 1.5 metres (five feet) and 112 teeth, including fang-like spikes sticking out near the snout.

A jutting lower jaw suggests

a pelican-like pouch, perhaps to scoop up fish and unsuspecting small reptiles.

"They are delicately framed animals that are built for flying," said Brooks Britt, a paleontologist at Brigham Young University in Utah and lead author of a study in *Nature Ecology & Evolution*.

Caelestiventus hanseni — roughly, "heavenly wind" — is probably the most complete skeletal remains of a pterosaurs ever found.

"Most pterosaurs bones look like road-kill," Britt told AFP, noting that there are only 30-odd specimens in the entire world from the Triassic period.

By contrast, the new specimen left behind dozens of intact bones and teeth, along with an entire brain casing.

The remains are still encased in sandstone, but scientists

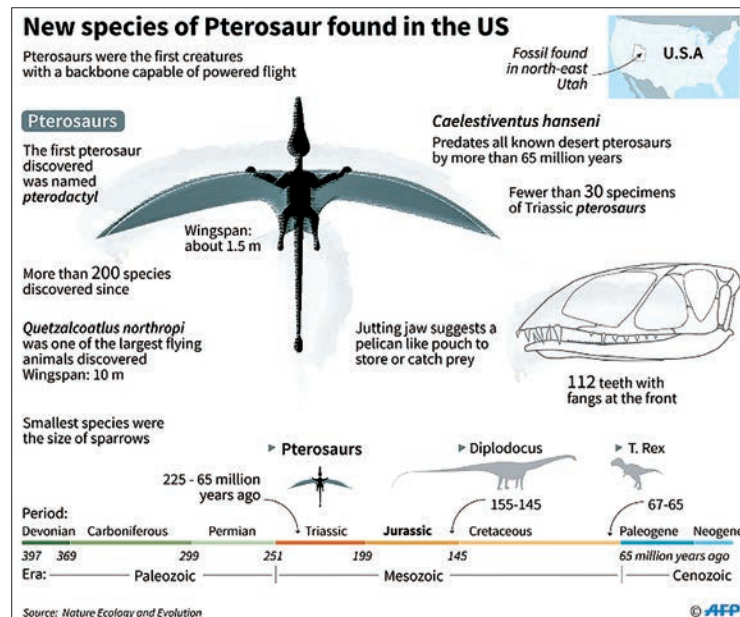
generated accurate 3-D images and models of each fossil using CAT scan technology.

The site where *C. hanseni* was unearthed, known to fossil hunters as Saints & Sinners, reveals a dramatic story of survival and local extinction in the face of climate change, the researchers said.

The rocks it was found in were part of an oasis in a two-million square kilometre (775,000 square mile) desert covered with giant sand dunes.

"During droughts, large numbers of animals — including pterosaurs, predatory dinosaurs and crocodylomorphs — were drawn to the pond in the middle of the oasis, where they died as water dried up," said Britt.

The result was a treasure trove of more than 18,000 bones from dozens of water-starved



New species of flying reptile discovered in the US. PHOTO: AFP

animals.

C. hanseni is not the biggest pterosaur ever found, but was likely the largest of its era, especially for a desert environment.

It also predates other desert-dwelling specimens by about 65 million years. The other pterosaurs from the same period found so far came from coastal

areas in what is now Europe and Greenland.

That the high-flying creatures were spread across much of the globe may have helped them survive — some 201 million years ago — the end-of-Triassic mass extinction, which wiped out half of the species on land and in the sea. —AFP ■

SpaceX vows manned flight to space station is on track

LOS ANGELES — Tech magnate Elon Musk's SpaceX vowed on Monday to send its first astronauts into orbit on schedule next year — part of a drive to restore America's dominance of the space race.

Gwynne Shotwell, the aerospace manufacturer's president, told journalists in Los Angeles an unmanned flight to the International Space Station in November would pave the way for a manned mission in April 2019.

"Predicting launch dates could make a liar out of the best of us. I hope I am not proven to be a liar on this one," she said.

NASA awarded contracts to SpaceX and Boeing in 2014 as part of its commercial crew programme, aimed at helping private industry build space-ships to reach low-Earth orbit.

On 3 August the agency named the first nine astronauts who will fly to space on Boeing and SpaceX vehicles in 2019 — a mix of novices and veterans.

Those named for the SpaceX test crew include shuttle veterans Bob Behnken, Michael Hopkins and Douglas Hurley, alongside naval aviator Victor Glover, a novice to spaceflight.

The flights to the ISS will be the first leaving US soil to put people into orbit since the iconic space shuttle program ended in 2011.

For seven years, NASA astronauts have hitched rides to the orbiting outpost on Russia's

Soyuz spacecraft — at a cost of some \$80 million a seat.

A US government report released in July said it was unlikely that SpaceX would be able to send astronauts to the ISS next year.

Shotwell said however the mission would go ahead as soon as SpaceX was "ready to fly these folks safely."

"Next in line we want to make sure not only that we get these folks up and back safely but that that's reliable and a mission that we conclude," she added.

"We want to hit all the boxes do everything we need to do, to demonstrate that this vehicle is capable of taking astronauts up from US soil as often as NASA will allow us."

SpaceX unveiled its astronauts, all clad in blue overalls and smiling proudly in front of the module that will transport them to the ISS, to answer questions from the media.

"Being able to fly as a first flight a vehicle as a test pilot is a 'once in a generation' type of opportunity, so obviously I'm very thankful for it," said Hurley.

"But I would also say that we've got a lot of work left to do." —AFP ■

Apple postpones FaceTime group chats feature from iOS 12

SAN FRANCISCO — Apple on Monday removed the long-anticipated Group FaceTime feature from the first public version of iOS 12 and macOS Mojave betas, which were released earlier in the day.

Group FaceTime of iOS 12 and macOS Mojave were designed mainly to allow a maximum of 32 people to chat in group sessions at the same time, a feature that had been available in iOS 12 and macOS Mojave since the first betas became available in June.

"Group FaceTime has been removed from the initial release of iOS 12 and will ship in a future software update later this fall," Apple said in its latest developer release posted by Apple developer Guilherme Rambo on Twitter.

Apple announced the new feature of iOS 12 during its annual Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) held in San Jose, northern California, two months ago, when more than 1,000 engineers and developers attended the high-tech giant's grand gathering.

It's not clear why Apple has decided to push the feature back to a later date. —Xinhua ■



A mock up of the Crew Dragon spacecraft is displayed during a media tour of SpaceX headquarters and rocket factory in Hawthorne, California. PHOTO: AFP



Balde played in Senegal's loss to Colombia which saw them knocked out in the group stage at the World Cup. **PHOTO: AFP**

Senegal attacker Keita Balde returns to Italy with ambitious Inter

ROME (Italy) — Inter Milan on Monday continued their strong summer transfer window ahead of the start of the Serie A season, announcing the return to Italy of Senegal international Keita Balde on loan from French Ligue 1 side Monaco.

Ambitious Inter, who have been busy in the transfer market after finishing fourth in Serie A last season and qualifying for the Champions League for the first time since 2011, have brought in the 23-year-old former Lazio striker for a reported initial five million euros (\$5.7 million).

The fee will rise to 39 mil-

lion euros should the Serie A club exercise an option to buy next summer, according to Italian media.

"The forward Keita Balde Diao is a new Nerazzurri player. The Senegalese has signed for Inter from Monaco on a year-long loan with an option to make the deal permanent," Inter said in a statement.

Balde rose to prominence at Lazio in 2016-17, when he scored 16 goals in 31 league appearances — 10 of which were from the bench — before sinking into a contract row at the start of last season and leaving for France.

Last term he scored eight goals and provided five assists in 23 Ligue 1 appearances as Monaco finished second behind champions Paris Saint-Germain.

Balde joins fellow Inter newcomers Radja Nainggolan, signed from rivals Roma, promising Argentine attacker Lautaro Martinez and Dutch international centre-back Stefan de Vrij.

They have also brought in right-back Sime Vrsaljko, who started in six of Croatia's seven matches in their run to the World Cup final, on loan from Atletico Madrid.—AFP ■

Emery needs time to rebuild Arsenal — Petr Cech

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Arsenal goalkeeper Petr Cech pleaded for patience after Unai Emery's first match as Arsene Wenger's successor ended in a 2-0 defeat to Manchester City.

The Gunners were largely outclassed by the Premier League champions on Sunday and struggled to implement some obvious changes demanded by Emery in the off season.

Cech nearly scored an embarrassing own goal and looked uncomfortable in trying to play out from the back as City pressed high.

After a series of risky passes, a long clearance by Cech was met with huge cheers from the Arsenal fans, but the veteran called for Emery's methods to be given time.

"I think they have to understand that when you start building a new team with a new manager and a completely new way it may take time," said Cech, who kept his place in goal ahead of new signing Bernd Leno.

A tough start for the Spanish coach continues next weekend against Cech's

old club Chelsea at Stamford Bridge. Chelsea's new boss Maurizio Sarri did get off to a winning start in his Premier League debut at Huddersfield.

But Cech believes Arsenal can take heart from Chelsea's own struggles to cope with City in losing the Community Shield 2-0 last weekend.

"Next week we have another big game but we will be better prepared because we have this game behind us. I believe we pushed them more than Chelsea did in the Community Shield," he added.

Many of the concepts Emery wants to implement at Arsenal are similar to what Pep Guardiola has mastered in raising the bar at City.

And the difference between a project now into its third season under Guardiola and Emery's early days was obvious on the opening weekend of the season.

"We try and build the team and create our own way of playing," said Cech.

"Obviously we have been doing that for five weeks, they have been doing that for three years now so obviously they have a big advantage."

— AFP ■

Federer 'anxious' ahead of return in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI (Ohio) — Roger Federer on Monday said he is eager to make his start at the Cincinnati Masters as the world number two begins his delayed summer hardcourt season.

With the US Open a fortnight away, the 37-year-old Swiss is keen to test his form prior to the 27 August kick-off of the last Grand Slam of the season.

The 20-time major winner skipped Toronto last week to pace himself with the tournament at Flushing Meadows followed by the Laver Cup in Chicago in mid-September.

"I've trained hard, I'm anx-

ious. I chose to skip Toronto for the health of my body," the seven-time Cincinnati champion said. "I don't want to be hurt, there is too much to play."

But the Swiss admitted that sitting out competition is difficult.

"Watching from afar is tough," said Federer, who will start against Peter Gojowczyk after the German beat Portugal's Joao Sousa 2-6, 6-4, 7-5.

"But that's part of growing older, you've got to take care of the body.

"It's nice to be back and I hope to have a good tournament."

Federer last played a match on hardcourt 141 days ago, when he lost in the Miami second round to Thanasi Kokkinakis before skipping the clay season and returning on grass.

He said that while he would prefer not to take weeks away, it has now become a necessity in prolonging his fabled career.

"You've got to keep it all in perspective, it's easier now for me to take time away. I wish I could play everything but it's not possible.

"I'm more relaxed about my schedule now. I have more time for the family, which is important for me," the father of two



Roger Federer is returning to action for the first time since his quarter-final exit at Wimbledon. **PHOTO: AFP**

sets of twins said.

"The hectic part of my life has passed. Even when I have to take time away, I still get something out of it."

Federer did express regret that Rafael Nadal, the Toronto

champion, had to withdraw from Cincinnati in order to ease the strain on his body after a solid, if demanding, week of success.

"It's a pity Rafa is not playing, but it's still an amazing draw."—AFP ■