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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 131, 14th Waxing of Wagaung 1380 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Saturday, 25 August 2018

State Counsellor attends 2018 conference on implementing education development

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended and addressed the 2018 Conference on Implementing Education Development held in Myanmar International Convention Centre (II) (MICC-II), Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The conference was attended by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Kyaw Tint Swe, Dr. Pe Myint, Dr. Aung Thu, U Ohn Win, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, U Kyaw Tin, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, Deputy Minister U Tha Oo, National Education Policy Commission Chairman Dr. Myo Kywe, Amyotha Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw education development committees members, officials from National Education Policy Commission and committees, Rectors Committee members, members of Myanmar Arts and Science expert group and technician group, directors general, rectors, deputy directors general, pro rectors, heads of universities and colleges, representatives of the teachers' union and invited guests.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visits the booth at the 2018 Conference on Implementing Education Development at (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Trade balance required through effective use of export promotion, import regulation: Vice President U Myint Swe

VICE President U Myint Swe, Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee, stressed the need to seek ways for promoting export and to im-

port essential goods and raw materials for producing value-added goods for export market.

"It is needed to boost export of domestic goods and reduce

import of foreign goods apart from essential products, including products which are important for the country's health and education sectors and semi-fin-

ished goods," said the Vice President at the 19th regular meeting between the Private Sector Development Committee and Myanmar entrepreneurs at the

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UM-FCCI) office in Yangon yesterday. **SEE PAGE-4**

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's ninth regular session holds twelfth-day meeting

THE twelfth-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's ninth regular session was held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning where a bill was put on record, a bill explained, a report read, a report explained, and rule debated and decided.

Myanmar Travel Bill put on record

First, Hluttaw put on record the Myanmar Travel Bill considered as approved by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Explanation of 2018-2019 Union Tax Bill

Next, on behalf of the Union Government, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win explained to the Hluttaw the 2018-2019 Union Tax Bill.

Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win said the 2018-2019 Union Tax Bill is the sixth annual tax bill. Tax laws are enacted not only to acquire tax for the state but also with additional aims including macro-economic stability and sustainable development.

2018 Union Tax Law is a law that is currently practiced and it will be in effect until 30 September. The current bill will come into effect on 1 October 2018. When a (tax) bill is prepared, there should be the least amendments and additions to it in order not to have a huge tax burden on the people and amendments and additions included are tax rate reduction and exemption.

The 2018-2019 Union Tax Bill was prepared with an aim for the tax payers to abide by it easily. The special exemption on diamonds, emeralds and pure gold permitted in 2017 by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was retained in it.

There are two noteworthy points in the 2018-2019 Union Tax Bill. The first is "increase rate



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

on special commodity" and the second is "adjustment of income tax exemption amount." Based on the increase in GDP and inflation rate, some tax rates on special commodities were slightly increased. This slight increase will enable the state to collect a slightly increased tax amount.

Another point is something that will greatly support the State's drug eradication effort. Rewards were being given to citizens who provided information for drug seizures and last year, income tax exemption to the reward money was up to Ks 10 million. This year, this cap on income tax exemption was removed so reward money will be income tax free. This is expected to prompt more informants to report for more drug seizures. Income from drug flowing into the economy affects the image of the country and through this amendment, increase in drug seizures would improve the image of the country, explained the Deputy Minister.

Forest Bill report read

Afterwards, a report of the Joint Bill Committee on its findings on Forest Bill, disagreed by the two Hluttaws, was read by

committee member Daw Kyein Ngaik Man. Announcement was then made for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the disagreements in the bill to enroll their names.

Myanmar Investment Commission work report for 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018

Following this, Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) work report for 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 was read and explained to the Hluttaw by MIC Chairman Union Minister for Office of the Union Government U Thauang Tun. MIC Chairman said the commission conducted 16 meetings in the last fiscal year where 222 foreign investments and 119 investments by Myanmar nationals were permitted. Investments are divided into two categories, investments permitted and ongoing investments.

222 foreign investments in 9 foreign investment sectors during fiscal year 2017-2018 were US\$ 4.778 billion. 82 investments were ongoing and increase in investment of \$0.94 billion was permitted in these ongoing investments. According to reports submitted every three months to

the commission by the permitted investments, the actual investments made were \$4.341 billion.

As the commission has announced the priority investment sectors, there were increase in investments in the industry, housing & building construction and other service sectors as well as in the agriculture sector. In FY 2017-2018, investments from 28 countries were permitted and People's Republic of China, Netherlands, Japan, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom and United States of America were the biggest investors. From FY 1988-1989 to FY 2017-2018, the biggest investors in Myanmar were People's Republic of China, Singapore and Thailand.

119 new investments totaling Ks 3,582 billion by Myanmar national investments in 11 investment sectors were permitted. 24 ongoing investments were permitted to increase their investment by Ks 395 billion. The total Myanmar national investment in FY 2017-2018 was Ks 3,978 billion. In FY 2016-2017, 51 new investments totaling Ks 1,572 billion was permitted in 10 investment sectors. This shows that Myanmar national investment this year increases considerably in

number of investment as well as in the investment amount.

Foreign investment works created 95,706 jobs and Myanmar national investment works created 22,149 jobs. The commission had conducted meetings with foreign governments, private entities and business persons. Programs to increase investment were conducted and one-stop service for investment and one-stop service providers for investment were formed, said the MIC Chairman in his explanation.

Announcement was made for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the report to enroll their names.

Hluttaw approve Myanmar dental, oral medical council bill

Later, the Myanmar dental, oral medical council bill, disagreed by the two Hluttaws, was approved by the (Pyidaungsu) Hluttaw after decision was made on it paragraph by paragraph.

Condominium Rule debated and decided

In the final work of the day, U Sai Aung Kyaw of Kehsi constituency, U Nay Kyaw of Dagon Myothit (East) constituency, U Tin Htway of Waw constituency, Dr. Aung Khin of Pyin Oo Lwin constituency, U Aung Kyaw Zan of Pauktaw constituency and U Kyaw Swe Win (a) U Ahlu of Kawhmu constituency debated the Condominium Rule, disagreed by the two Hluttaws, based on the amendment of the joint bill committee and the (Pyidaungsu) Hluttaw decision was made on it paragraph by paragraph.

The thirteenth-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is scheduled to be held on 27 August, it is learnt.—Myo Myint, Han Lin Naing ■

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting over National Planning bill for FY 2018-2019 and Union Budget bill for FY 2018-2019 at the second floor meeting hall, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D, yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Joint Bill Committee and Joint Public Accounts Chairman U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein, deputy-chairmen, secretaries, joint secretary and committee members from Joint Bill Committee and

Joint Public Accounts Committee, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission members, Ministry of Planning and Finance, officials from Union Attorney General Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee discusses over National Planning bill and Union Budget Bill for FY 2018-2019. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor addresses 2018 Conference on Implementing Education Development

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended and addressed the 2018 Conference on Implementing Education Development held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre (II) (MICC-II), Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. Following is an unofficial translation of her address.

Today's topic for discussion is very important for our country. Although we say higher education sector, this starts from the primary level. For many years, our education system has been weak starting from the primary level. When our youngsters reach higher levels, it became more difficult to raise their levels. So if teachers and the Ministry of Education struggling in the higher education sector are facing difficulties, our students must also be facing difficulties. We need to think how to overcome the bad foundation in order to reach the ultimate fine destination. The responsibility of everyone involved in the higher education sector is enormous.

To achieve success in education, there must be a belief in achieving success. This must be in the mind of our youths. Parents and teachers who guide and teach them also need to have this belief. As the youths are capable of achieving success, there must be a belief to achieve success.

We all need to think what sort of knowledge is required for a society to progress. We need to look at our country's weaknesses. We also need to look at our country's strengths. Our country's strength, our culture's strength is in the value the society places on education since the early part of our history. We have words and sayings that values knowledge. We all need to know that knowledge or education is not something that we obtain from a school room only. Our children need to know this, too.

The biggest challenge we face now is how to make our youngsters in our universities reach up to the required level when their primary, middle, and high school education were not up to the required level. We have to find a way on how to bypass or overcome this. I sometimes think whether jumping over or going around an obstacle is the correct way of overcoming it. Do we really need to go along

the same path? Why can't we find a path that is more suitable for us? When doing this, we can take lessons from others. Taking lessons is not copying. Based on other people's experience, we find the best way for us. This is taking a lesson. Copying what they did, without thinking whether it is appropriate or not for us, doing something they did because it made their country rich, is not right. Countries are different. Countries progress in different time periods. The time our country is striving to develop is not the same, as problems faced by successful countries in the region during the 1980s when they were trying to develop were not the same. That is why we need to aim towards education development that is appropriate for our country.

I'm very much encouraged by the mindset of our youngsters in primary and middle schools. They have full confidence. They have the will to study. They are keen and alert. As for youngsters in high schools, the teachers will know more. How are they when they are in the universities? Do they have the will to learn? This is most important. I don't differentiate between a good, bad, sharp and dull person. Whether a person can be taught or not is also not dependent on the person's age. Some who are 90 years old can still be taught, while some who are young couldn't be taught. Influence by the surrounding environment is the major factor whether a person could be taught or not. A person who was raised well since young will have a mindset of wanting to learn new things. If the response towards a young person's inquiries was not positive, their inquisitiveness will become dulled. That is why our higher education system needs to encourage this mindset towards learning.

The other thing is not to be afraid of failure. In our country, failure means having less marks or points in comparison to others in a test or an examination. If our points are less than others, we say we fail and the others win. I say this again and again. We need to compete with ourselves. We try and put in the best we can. When we compete with others, we compete to their level only. I don't want to encourage this, as it develops into jealousy that



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech at the 2018 Conference on Implementing Education Development in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

is not beneficial for the society.

Higher education must not be differentiated by age. Higher education doesn't mean attending a university. Higher education is an education that couldn't be completed. I need to caution everyone on this. The major weakness in our country, where we need to strengthen is in the public servants. Public servants passed through our old education system, and then they reached the level of being public servants; they need to review whether they've reached the level required to be good public servants. I hope there are many public servants who are doing this, and it is important that they do so. Only through this can they improve. The higher education system needs to be thought out and implemented with an aim not only for students in schools and universities only but also for the people of the country.

We are now spending more on education. Spending correctly is more important than spending more. To think how we can spend the money we have for the best benefit of our country is important. We must be good at the beginning to be good in the end. Generally, we have high esteem for our teachers in universities over our teachers in the primaries. I don't think this is right. Good teachers in primaries set a good foundation for the children's future. Based on this solid foundation, upper structures like primary, middle, high school and university (education) are built up. Education personnel involved in higher education and

the people who are interested in education must not differentiate primary and other education levels. They need to look at it as a continuous process.

To say it openly, the teachers themselves are the products of a past weak education system. But it is not too late. We always have time to raise our quality. So please study. Strive towards raising ourselves. By raising ourselves, we are raising our country and be honored. I want to encourage this. In the end, it is the mindset. If the mindset of our teachers and our students are correct, we will succeed for sure. If we help ourselves in co-operation and coordination, we will succeed. We have friends around the world that will help us, too. But in the end, we have to depend on ourselves. No help is more effective than the help you give yourself.

Research is important in higher education. Research is finding new ways. Research is not an end. It is the beginning of new ways and means. Our education policy includes the encouraging of research. As we have ignored research for long, our inborn inventive minds became dull. That is why research has been given priority. Research must be conducted on topics and subjects that are appropriate for our country. Only then can our progress be practical. Only then can there be progress in our country. Only then can we and our education be abreast with the world. I don't think I need to emphasize that many support materials are

required to conduct a good research. I would like to say that the private sector can participate in this. In developed countries, businesses provide much support in research. We need to have that sort of support. We must lay a foundation for our country in the practice of struggling for its future. This is a matter that is important for higher education. I must talk about libraries when I talk about research.

We were just getting out of an era where we didn't have many libraries. We lack libraries and bookshops. Traditionally, our culture values literature. Selecting books at road side stalls are one of the important relaxation habits of our culture. Gradually, this habit is declining. There aren't many bookshops, anymore. We compare nations with the numbers of bookshops they have and the ease with which we can get a book we want. This does not depend on whether a country is rich or poor. In some countries that we think are poor, books are readily available. Bookshops are everywhere. These are, in fact, countries that are developed. Their prospects are bright.

When obtaining higher education, I encourage the desire to read and the habit of reading. There are thoughts on higher education departments to conduct things freely on their own thoughts, ideas and beliefs. When thinking in this way, equal value should be given to both university education and vocational education in the higher education system. Vocational schools are much required in our country. These are very valuable. In some of the most developed countries, vocational education is valued highly. Our country's advantage here is that the interest and values our people, students, as well as parents are giving importance to vocational education within the past couple of years. We need to build up on this.

In most Asian countries, vocational education is considered as beneath university education. As vocational education is considered as second rated, the students brought out by our education system do not meet the country's requirement. But now, I'm encouraged to see the value placed on vocational education.

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State Counsellor addresses 2018 Conference on Implementing Education Development

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Not only the Ministry of Education but the private sector also needs to assist in this. I want to encourage private sector to establish and support vocational education and schools.

I also want to clear a bit about distance education. For many years, our distance education has become an easy way of earning a degree. A degree obtained easily is not similar to a hard earned degree. I don't blame earning a degree through distance education. But we need to value the education provided. Our distance education system

didn't provide the required education. We are now striving towards making our distance education system a system that provides good education like a university education. All need to cooperate in this.

Raising the capacity of the teachers is a big challenge. To raise the education level of the students, we need to raise the quality of our teachers. We need to struggle a lot here too. Teachers have their responsibilities toward their families so they could not give all their time towards the education of the students. But I want teachers to try their best to increase their

capability for the sake of the country. Through this, they'll be satisfied themselves. They'll become people who work not only for the benefit of the students and the country, but also for the entire world as well.

Education development is most important for our country. Some may have not noticed this, but I do. We must encourage enthusiasm in our students and the confidence they have. We must instill in them the belief that they are capable to achieve success. If we didn't do this in the beginning, we wouldn't be able to correct it later on.

Most youths who are in the

higher education level now are victims of a weak education system. They need to change the old habits they have acquired. They need to be taught on how to obtain education that is appropriate to the times. This is a big challenge our teachers are facing. If we can overcome this challenge, we can be satisfied for our country's future. We don't need to wait until the youngsters attending primary schools come of age. All have the responsibility of overcoming this big challenge to our higher education system in creating educated youths that would support our country's de-

velopment. This responsibility lies with the teachers who are government employees, the teachers, the students and even the private sector. The main responsibility is on the parents. Only when parents instill in their children proper mindsets and good values, can the teachers have good support. All need to work together in this for success to be achieved, and I believe it can be achieved. Because of this belief, I can say we will succeed. In conclusion, I urge everyone in the higher education sector to put in their efforts with this belief. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Trade balance required through effective use of export promotion, import regulation: Vice President U Myint Swe

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"When we implement the trade promotion demanded by our country today, we need to effectively practice the export promotion and import regulation so that our country can see appropriate trade balance which can develop the economy," he added.

The Vice President said that he believed that the country's trade balance is likely to be better than the current situation through encouragements of local small-and-medium enterprises for import substitution and imports of goods under exact regulations.

In fiscal year 2017-2018, total foreign trade was US\$ 33.52 billion out of which the private sector contributed US\$27.24 billion or 81 per cent.

Trade value up to 10 August 2018 reached over US\$ 13 billion and the value is over US\$ 1.6 billion for the same period last year. The private sector contributed over US\$ 11.1 billion which is 85.47 per cent of the total.

Since its formation, five works were designated and five work committees were formed to implement these works.

The Private Sector Development Committee coordinated and discussed the works of the five work committees in its bi-monthly meetings, and the committee's seventh work coordinating meet-



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the 19th regular meeting with entrepreneurs. PHOTO: MNA

ing was held on 27 April.

To support the private sector development works, meetings with entrepreneurs were held since December 2016, where sector and group wise difficulties were resolved.

Up to July, 262 suggestions were made by traders and responses were sent to the relevant businesses.

In some matters yet to be concluded, the five work committees are arranging public-private dialogues between the relevant ministries and private businesses. To increase investment, the Union Government has been enforcing and relaxing laws,

frameworks, rules, regulations, procedures and processes, according to the age and system.

The new Myanmar Companies Law went into force on 1st August. From August onwards, an electronic registry system and e-payment system for the on-line registration has been operating becoming steps for the e-government system.

The Vice President also urged the departments concerned to make efforts for granting permits through digital system. The private sector development committee was formed over one and a half years ago by the Office of the President on 24

October 2016 to effectively implement Private Sector Development Framework placing special emphasis towards private sector development as it is vital for the country's economic development as well as socio-economic development of the people.

PSDC meetings were held once every two months in order to conduct the Private Sector Development Framework and seven such meetings have already been held.

Entry of illegal goods through the border is threatening the existence of SMEs (small and medium enterprises) and since no taxes were paid to the State,

it is causing difficulties for foreign investors to compete in terms of technology and market share.

As such, special groups were formed in Kachin, Shan, Mon, Kayah and Kayin states, in addition to setting up inspection gates in Yebu and Mayanchaung gates to prevent and control entry of illegal goods through the border.

Following the information given Tamu border traders's association, Kayin State Government cracked down illegal betel nuts smuggled from Thailand, resulting in an increase in export of betel nuts volume of 1,223 tons to India.

Also present at the meeting were Vice Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee and Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint; Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein; Deputy Ministers U Aung Htoo and U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Soe Thein, Yangon Region Ministers, officials from five work committees, UMFCI President and members, Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General, representatives of chambers of commerce and industries from regions and states. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Govt urged to review imported products, to ease export rules

By May Thet Hnin

CHIEF of Myanmar traders' federation has urged the government to relax some rules and eliminate bottlenecks in trade system to be able to boost the country's export.

U Zaw Min Win, Chairman of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry made the remark the meeting between Vice President U Myint Swe and traders in Yangon yesterday, urged the government to review the country's imported products through sector-by-sector approach and to encourage export promotion by erasing some export procedures

and customs restrictions.

"Business persons understood situation. But, the government should review the imported goods and should encourage export by relaxing some rules which are causing hindrances to the traders," said U Zaw Min Win.

According to the statistical report issued by the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar's export value as of 10 August reached US\$5.982 billion, whereas its imports hit \$7.032 billion, resulting in a trade deficit of \$1.049 billion.

The current trade deficit decreased by \$0.895 million compared with the same period last year, when trade deficit was

\$1.944 billion.

Dr Than Myint, Union Minister for Commerce, said that public-private partnership is necessary to boost exports of marketable local products. It is expected that trade deficit may also occur in future as the country imports edible oil, fuel, medicine and intermediate goods as essential products. Efforts are to be made for a gradual drop in trade deficit.

He continued to say that there were some ways to resolve trade deficit problem, including development of trade in tourism services and the availability of loans for the effective use in sectors in need. There may be some

difficulties in reducing trade deficit, however, and continuous efforts will be made for the interest of the country.

For the time being, private businesspersons are experiencing losses due to greenback appreciation and illegal trade. According to the Ministry of Commerce, the country's external trade as of 10 August this year was valued at \$13.015 billion, up by \$1.659 billion compared with the similar period in the last year.

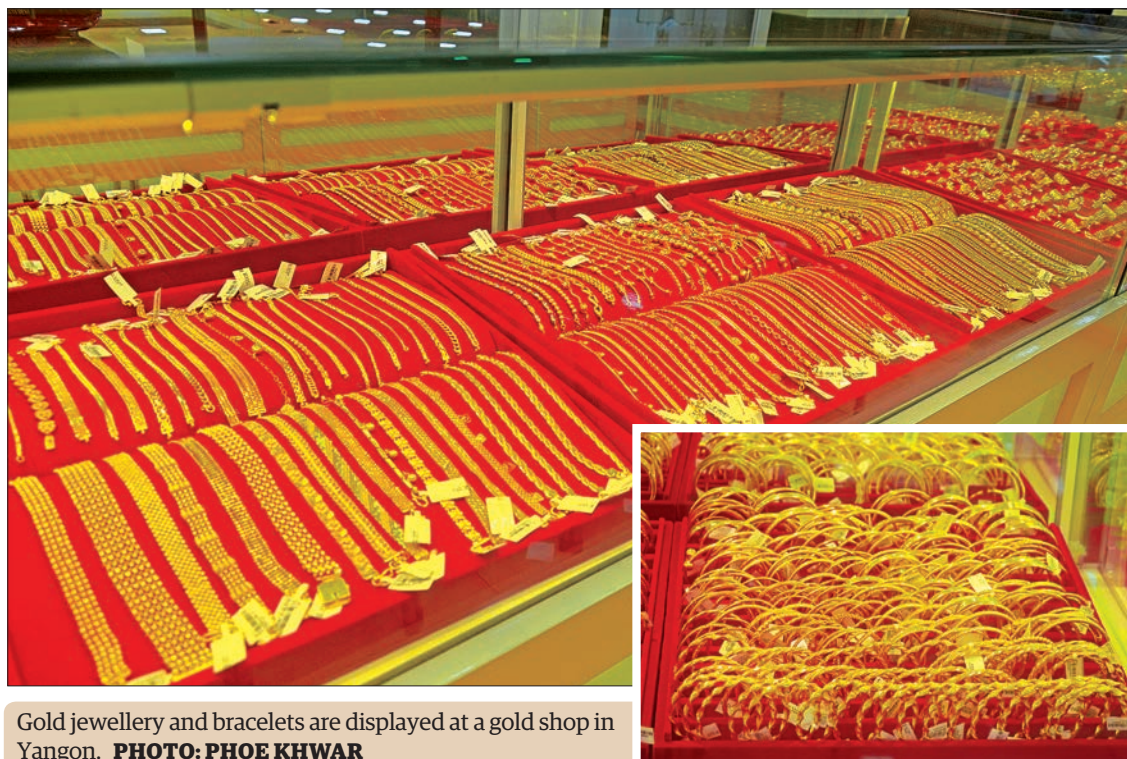
The private sector accounts for 85.47 % of the country's total trade value. Myanmar exports seven major groups of products—agricultural, animal, fishery and forest products, min-



U Zaw Min Win.

erals, manufactured goods and other miscellaneous products.

This year, export of manufactured goods was ranked first among other products, followed by agricultural products and minerals. ■



Gold jewellery and bracelets are displayed at a gold shop in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAIR

Domestic gold prices reach record high due to dollar appreciation

By May Thet Hnin

DOMESTIC gold price has reached a record high of Ks961,300 per tical on 24 August this year due to dollar appreciation, according to the market.

The dollar exchange rate has reached above Ks1,500 per Myanmar kyat beginning in the second week of this month. The current dollar exchange rate exceeded over Ks1,530 in the market.

At the present time, world gold prices are US\$1,191 per ounce, whereas local gold price set a new record in the domestic market, resulting in an inactive market.

U Ohn Myaing, secretary of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs

Association, said; "Sellers and buyers are monitoring the market condition as gold prices are coupled with dollar appreciation."

Due to the dollar appreciation, local gold market is cool. However, there are no huge impacts on the gold market, he added. Global currency is depreciating against the US dollar due to mounting trade war between the US and China and the US's increased tariffs on China.

The price of gold in the domestic market was above Ks930,000 per tical within this year. The prices exceeded Ks940,000 per tical in mid-February. The local gold price was over Ks950,000 in the last week of January. The market has seen the

maximum gold price of Ks957,000 per tical before.

Due to greenback appreciation, the price of imported products, including medicines, are increasing between 5-10% in the market, causing difficulties for businesspersons.

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) is supplying dollars starting on 27 July in an attempt to stabilize the local currency exchange rate. Negotiations have also been made between the Ministry of Commerce and the CBM to seek the best way to solve this problem, U Soe Win, Union Minister for Planning and Finance, said at the regular meeting between local businesspersons and Vice President U Myint Swe, held on 24 August. ■

MPMEEA advocates selling pharmaceuticals at fair prices

MYANMAR Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs' Association (MPMEEA) called on its members to sell pharmaceuticals at reasonable and fair price and encouraged them not to suspend selling amid soaring dollar exchange rate, according to MPMEEA's announcement on 21 August.

Ninety per cent of pharmaceuticals consumption is imported. Therefore, pharmaceutical industry also suffered from appreciation of dollar exchange value.

Besides finished products, prices of raw materials for vitamins and some antibiotics are also up by 20 per cent. Therefore, importers are buying pharmaceuticals at a higher price.

The imported pharmaceuticals are normally distributed on credit sales within one month. At a time when payment is made, the sellers are facing a huge loss due to soaring exchange rate. Currently, the market condition

has pushed most of the pharmaceutical companies not to offer sales on credit.

Pharmaceutical companies scaled the price up by only 5 to 10 per cent so that buyers do not have to bear the burden from high price.

The Central Bank of Myanmar reportedly plans to loan dollars to private banks and sell them to importers. Until now, there has been no such opportunity. This being so, the MPMEEA requested the UMFCCEI to submit this issue to the government.

Additionally, reduction of custom duty 1.5 per cent on ethical products import can help regulate high price of pharmaceuticals for a short term solution, when the dollar exchange rate is rising.

The aforementioned facts were discussed by Dr. Win Kyaing, general secretary of MPMEEA and Dr. Saw Nay Nwe, executive member of MPMEEA at a meeting held at UMFCCEI office on 18 August. — Ko Khant ■

Trade Mark Ads

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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing observes a picture at the world cultural museum park in Kaluga region, Russia. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES FACEBOOK**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits site chosen of Shwesigon replica in Kaluga, Russia

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who is visiting in Russia, visited the site chosen for building a Shwesigon replica in the world cultural museum park in Kaluga region, about 107 km from Moscow, on 23 August, according to the press release of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

The Senior General also visited booths of Russia, Europe and South-East Asia.

The museum-cum-park was established on over 10,000 square meters in

2006, offering cultures of 252 countries including Russia.

The replica of Bagan's Shwesigon pagoda will be built on 72ft x 72ft in the park, it will be 54ft high on completion.

Meanwhile, a Buddha Image in the style of Bagan era which will be built in a religious park and it will be 18 ft high on completion.

In the compound of the religious site, a museum of the culture of Buddhism and meditation rooms will be built, according to the press release.

—Myanmar News Agency ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meeting with Myanmar military officers in Russia. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES FACEBOOK**

C-in-C of Defence Services meets with mily officers attending post-graduate courses in Russia

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with military officers attending the post-graduate course, doctorate courses and doctor of science trainings in Russia yesterday, according to the press release of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. Speaking at the meeting at the D.Mendeleev University of Chemical Technology of Russia, the Senior General urged the officers to be in unity in the spirit of brotherhood and family as they are staying and learning in a foreign country.

He also expressed his delight for outstanding military officers including those

who won the Russia's Doctor of Science.

"The emergence of the outstanding officers show that our officers can keep abreast with international countries," said the Senior General, "We are building the Standard Army to carry out the defence duty, the main duty of the Tatmadaw."

Myanmar has sent military officers to Russian as from 2001 for training.

He also urged the officers to work hard they were given equal opportunities while preserving morality. At the meeting, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presented good and cash assistance to the officers attending at universities in Russia, said the press release.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar, Thailand discuss return of migrant workers

A JOINT working committee between Myanmar and Thailand held a second meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday in preparation for repatriation of Myanmar migrant workers who want to return home on their own volition from Thailand.

At the meeting, the two sides exchanged views and discussed plans for bilateral cooperation in return of Myanmar migrant workers in October for the third time.

It was attended from Myanmar led by U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, accompanied with U Myo Myint Than Ambassador of Myanmar to Thailand, and officials from Consular and Legal Affairs Department and International Organizations and Economic Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Border Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture,

Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, governments of Yangon Region, Bago Region, Sagaing Region, Kayin State and Kayah State while the delegation of Thailand was led by Ms. Busaya Mathelin, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and representatives of ministries concerned from Thailand.



A joint working committee between Myanmar and Thailand being convened. **PHOTO: MNA**

The two sides also discussed preparation for scrutinizing the migrant workers who said to be from Myanmar and want to return home of their own volition and cooperation between the two countries for smooth repatriation.

The Myanmar side also discussed the Case Management Team sent to Thailand to assist in national citizenship scrutinizing work and social affairs of the migrant workers.—Myanmar News Agency ■

73rd Indonesian Independence Day Ceremony held in Yangon



PHOTO: MNA

A CEREMONY in commemoration of the 73rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of Indonesia was held at 7pm at the Melia Hotel in Yangon yesterday and Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Thaung Tun attended.

The celebration was opened with the national anthems of Myanmar and Indonesia.

Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Prof. Dr. Iza Fadri and Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Thaung Tun delivered the opening speeches.

Afterwards, the Union Minister, the Ambassador and wife cut the traditional snack in commemoration of the Independence Day Ceremony and then they took photos together with attendees.

Next, the dinner was hosted by the Ambassador and wife for the attendees.

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo, Ambassadors and diplomats from respective Embassies in Yangon, Representatives of the United Nations (UN) and the invited guests.—MNA

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Let's put our hand to the plough for fishery sector development

RECENTLY, the Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu has encouraged fish farmers to seek help from the ministry if they wish to receive assistance from the ministry to overcome their challenges for the fish farming in accordance with the existing laws as the government is committed to development of private sector.

The Union Minister said the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has made plans to promote the quality and quantity of fishery products in cooperation with local and foreign organizations as the country is facing limitation on its fish export to 40 countries.

Besides, the ministry is making arrangements for all-round development of the fishery industry based on sustainability of aquaculture. The aquaculture industry is also playing an important role in putting the country on the road to development based on agriculture and livestock farming.

“Fish farming is the key to food security and can be a significant contributor towards our economy if managed correctly and supported by all the stakeholders.”

Legislation is crucial to the development of aquaculture. The ministry is eager to support a robust, sustainable fishing industry in the country.

Meanwhile, to implement the current projects of fish farming zones, feed factories, cold storages and high-quality product factories, the private sector needs fish and prawn species, as well as land. The projects will be constructed with the help of experts from China, Taipei and Indonesia, under the government's plan of setting up cold storages and high-quality product factories to develop the fish and prawn export industry, according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation-MFF. The cold storage and high-quality product factories will help the fish and prawn export industry earn US\$2.3 billion within a year or two.

Key personnel from the private the aquaculture sector have advised the ministry to provide loans to prawn farming sector and provide assistance to establishing feedstuff factories and to promote fishing technology and to develop markets in the off-shore farming sector.

Fish farming is the key to food security and can be a significant contributor towards our economy if managed correctly and supported by all the stakeholders. Let us hope that “all hands are on the plough!”

Tribute to unforgettable statesman Dr. Kofi Annan

By Sayar Mya (MOFA)

“Carve your name on hearts, not tombstones. A legacy is etched into the minds of others and the stories they share about you.”

— Shannon L. Alder

SUDDENLY, in minor shock and tremble, some hot coffee from my cup spilled over the newspaper *South China Morning Post* on the breakfast table, when the author of this article saw the news headlines “Kofi Annan, former UN chief and Nobel laureate, dead at age 80” in the Saturday, 18 August 2018 issue.

Dr. Kofi Annan, one of the world's most celebrated diplomat and a charismatic symbol of the United Nations, who rose through its ranks to become the first black African secretary general, has died. His foundation announced his death in Switzerland on Saturday in a tweet, saying that he died after a short unspecified illness.

“Wherever there was suffering or need, he reached out and touched many people with his deep compassion and empathy,” the foundation said in a statement.

We were casually talking about the Panglong peace process and the situation in Rakhine in our beloved country Myanmar with my better half and my daughter, while on a family gathering in Hong Kong.

As a retired Myanmar diplomat and a freelancer, my mind flew back to events in Myanmar over the years.

In September 2016, following a request from Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the State Counsellor of Myanmar, the Kofi Annan Foundation and the Office of the State Counsellor established an Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. The Commission is a national entity and the majority of

its members are from Myanmar. It was mandated to examine the complex challenges facing Rakhine State and to propose answers to those challenges.

After one year of consultations held across Rakhine State and in other parts of the country and the region, the Advisory Commission submitted its final report to national authorities on 23 August 2017. The report recommends urgent and sustained action on a number of fronts to prevent violence, maintain peace, foster reconciliation and offer a sense of hope to the State's hard-pressed population.

The final report of the Advisory Commission chaired by Dr. Kofi Annan puts forward recommendations to surmount the political, socio-economic and humanitarian challenges that currently face Rakhine State.

“Unless concerted action – led by the government and aided by all sectors of the government and society – is taken soon, we risk the return of another cycle of violence and radicalization, which will further deepen the chronic poverty that afflicts Rakhine State”, said Dr. Kofi Annan, Chair of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State.

In August 2017, it presented its final report, “Towards a Peaceful, Fair and Prosperous Future for the People of Rakhine”. The Commission was composed of six local and three international experts, and chaired by Dr. Kofi Annan.

In its work, it considered humanitarian and developmental issues, access to basic services, legal questions including citizenship and the assurance of basic rights, and security to all people in all communities. It presented its final report and recommendations to the Government of Myanmar in August 2017.

The State Counsellor lauded Dr. Annan in her speech delivered at the 43rd Singapore Lecture organized by ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute on 21 August 2018.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said, “Please allow me, at this point, to pay tribute to Dr. Kofi Annan. His qualities and achievements were myriad, but here it is only fitting that I should focus on what he meant to us as we negotiated the path of democratic transition. He agreed to take on the responsibility of advising us on how we might resolve deep-rooted problems in the Rakhine State, because his nature was cast in a generous,

positive mould.

“He wanted us to succeed, to reach our goals of peace, prosperity, security and progress for our country. Dr. Annan abided by his decision to help us, even after events in the Rakhine brought down severe criticism on Myanmar. His compassion, his integrity and his courage shone through his acts and the recommendations of his Commission reflected his wisdom and his wide experience of the challenges of our times. His approach was constructive and caring. Despite the many demands on his duties, he made time to speak to me on the telephone occasionally, to ask how he might help, to listen, and to encourage.

“One of the last public events he organized was a workshop earlier this year on ‘lessons learnt’ in Rakhine. His life is a lesson we could learn to our profit. It exemplified the principles and values on which the United Nations was founded, the principles and values that allowed us to hope peace and prosperity might be possible for all in our world.”

While browsing the web, this author fortunately came across a very touching and tear-shedding lines written by his son, which I

could not suppress my desire to share with the esteemed readers of the Global New Light of Myanmar. Here it is:

The family of former United Nations Secretary General has published a tribute to the man hailed as a reformer at the global diplomacy outfit. The piece authored by his son, Kojo, also acknowledged the outpouring of love and support from around the world. It was published on the website of the Kofi Annan Foundation and produced here below.

On 18 August 2018, the world lost a leader and a statesman: Kofi Atta Annan.

And we lost a brother, a husband, a father, a grandfather, and an uncle – a man of deep conviction who was as committed to instilling the values of fairness, integrity, kindness, and service in each of us, as he was to advocating for peace and human rights around the world.

He was as present with each of us and the family as a whole, as he was with every crisis, every mission, and every intervention.

No call, email, or text went unanswered.

No personal crises unaddressed.

No major family milestones

or celebrations unattended, no matter what was happening in the world.

So while we shared him with the world, we were never poorer for it.

Today, buoyed and comforted by the outpouring of love and support we have received from around the world, we are richer for having shared him with you. Stubborn optimist that he was, he would want us all to look forward with hope, and keep striving to create a freer, fairer, more peaceful world.

Daddy, may you rest in perfect peace knowing the depth of our love for you and gratitude for the tremendous role you played in each of our lives.

Atta says, “Bye bye Grandpa, enjoy heaven!”

The lines were written by Kojo, on behalf of the Annan family.

On my part, I could not find or think of any better and strong words in tribute of Dr. Annan to mention in my conclusion.

Therefore, the author simply takes the liberty by wrapping up with the following milestones.

Key dates in the life of Dr. Kofi Atta Annan

1938: Born in Kumasi, Ghana's second city, seat of the Ashanti kingdom

1962: Starts working at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland

1965: Weds Titi Alakija. They have two children, a boy and a girl

1984: Marries Nane Lagergren, having divorced a year earlier

1991: Twin sister Efua dies

1993: Becomes head of U.N. peacekeeping operations

1997: Appointed seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations

2001: Wins Nobel Peace Prize

2006: Steps down as Secretary-General after 10 years

2012: Becomes UN/Arab League Joint Special Envoy on the Syrian crisis

2013: Made Chair of The Elders, a peace and human rights advocacy group

2016: Leads the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, Myanmar

Rest in eternal peace, Sir!!!

State Counsellor's talks with business leaders to be broadcast live

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will hold talks with business leaders at the Myanmar International Convention Center (ICC) in Nay Pyi Taw, at 2 p.m. on 27 August.

The talks between the State Counsellor and local business leaders will be broadcast live at 1:45 pm on that day by Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV), Myanmar International Television (MITV), Ch9, Skynet Up to Date, MBizz, Myanmar Radio and FM Programmes, Myanmar Raido Ethnic Programme, MIR Radio and MOI Web Portal Myanmar Facebook page, MRTV Facebook Page, Myanmar Digital News Facebook, Myanmar President Office, Myanmar State Counsellor Office and Information Committee Facebook page. — Myanmar News Agency

President to pay official visit to Nepal in near future

AT the invitation of Her Excellency Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and spouse Daw Cho Cho will pay an official visit to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal in the near future. In conjunction with the visit, the President will also attend the Fourth Summit of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) to be held in Kathmandu.—MNA

State Counsellor's talks with youths to be broadcast live

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will hold talks with youths from Universities and Colleges in Yangon Region, at 2 p.m. on 28 August, at the Convocation Hall of Yangon University.

The talk of the State Counsellor with the youths will be broadcast live at 1:45 pm on that day by Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV), Myanmar International Television (MITV), Ch9, Skynet Up to Date, MBizz, Myanmar Radio and FM Programmes, Myanmar Raido Ethnic Programme, MIR Radio and MOI Web Portal Myanmar Facebook page, MRTV Facebook Page, Myanmar Digital News Facebook, Myanmar President Office, Myanmar State Counsellor Office and Information Committee Facebook page. — Myanmar News Agency

Heads of Service Organizations confirmed, appointed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Rector Dr Thein Kyaw of University of Traditional Medicine, (Mandalay), Department of Traditional Medicine under the Ministry of Health and Sports on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.
2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Deputy Director-General Daw Khine Khine Aung of the Department of Inspection under the Office of the Union Auditor General as Director-General of the same department from the date she assumes charge of her duties. —Myanmar News Agency

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

5th International ProPak Exhibition for Myanmar to be held next month

THE 5th International Processing and Packaging Exhibition for Myanmar's food, drink and pharmaceutical industries will be held from 13 to 15 September at Yangon Convention Centre on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road in Yangon.

Over 150 participants from 23 countries will showcase their innovations. Also, five international pavilions from China, Indonesia, Singapore, China (Taipei) and Thailand will feature their products at the expo.

"This event will benefit those who are interested in processing and packaging technology. It also aims to assist Myanmar's businesses engaged in manufacturing and processing by sharing technical know-how and strategy", said Mr. Fraser Hawkers, general manager of UBM Myanmar.

Objectives of ProPak



The 5th International Processing and Packaging Exhibition press conference being held. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Myanmar 2018 include presenting latest machines, technology and services to Myanmar's processors, manufactures and packagers and developing production efficiency, quality, variety and output.

ProPak Myanmar 2018 is

organized by UBM Myanmar and supported by Myanmar Industries Association, Myanmar Food Processors and Exporters Association, Food Science and Technology Association of Myanmar, Myanmar Retailers Association and the Delegation

of German Industry and Commerce in Myanmar.

Last year, ProPak Myanmar attracted 131 exhibitors from 21 countries, 4 international pavilions and 3,441 trade visitors from 22 countries.—GNLM ■

Police arrest alleged bank robber in Myeik

POLICE have arrested a man accused of robbing the Kanbawza Bank in Myeik yesterday.

At about noon yesterday, the man, identified as Min Min Soe, also known as Min Soe, armed with a machete, threatened the bank's staff, took K500,000 and ran away on a motor bike without a number plate.

No one was injured in the incident.

Police fired two warning shots as he attempted to attack the police with the machete, and arrested the suspect about two hours after the robbery.

Min Min Soe was charged with armed robbery by the Myeik District Police.—Khaing Htoo (Myeik IPRD) ■



Suspect accused of robbing the Kanbawza Bank in Myeik. **PHOTO: KHAING HTOO (MYEIK IPRD)**

Border trade with India increases by over \$30 million

By Swe Nyein

\$6.9 million only.

MYANMAR-India bilateral border trade between 1 April and 10 August this year totalled US\$58.6 million which showed an increase in value by \$33.8 million from this time last year, according to a statistical report from the Ministry of Commerce.

Last year, the trade between the two countries through borders was \$24.8 million, with \$18.9 million in exports and \$5.9 million in imports.

Myanmar's exports to India are greater than its imports. Having the world's second largest population, India imported goods amounting to \$51.73 million from Myanmar over the first 132 days of this FY.

During the period, its exports to Myanmar were

The two countries conduct border trade via Tamu and Reed border trade points. During the period, the bilateral trade value through the Tamu gate totalled \$46.19 million, whereas the Reed station handled goods amounting to \$12.42 million.

The trade value from all borders since this April exceeded \$3 billion, up by \$431 million in comparison with the same time in the last year.

At Myanmar-India border trade stations, a wide variety of goods, consisting of human hair, medicines, oil cakes, electronic devices, motorbikes, cotton yarn, non-alloy steel, areca nuts, ginger, saffron, turmeric, bay leaves and other herbal plants, fruits and vegetables are marketable. ■

State Counsellor attends 2018 conference on implementing education development

FROM PAGE-1

At first, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addressed the conference. Her speech is reported separately.

After delivering her speech, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi posed for a commemorative group photo with other attendees and inspected the exhibits displayed at the 2018 Conference on Implementing Education Development.

Next, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi conducted the second part of the 2018 conference on implementing education development (higher education sector).

At the conference, Rectors Committee Chairman University of Medicine 1 Yangon Rector Dr. Zaw Wei Soe, Professor Liviu Matei and Dr. Michael Marrett-Crosby first read papers titled "The role of Professors

Committee on higher education development" and "International Collaboration, master plans and higher education – the example of the University of Yangon." Following this, more papers were read by rectors of various universities and colleges in Myanmar. The 2018 conference on implementing education development (higher education sector) will be held until 25 August, it is learnt.—MNA ■



UEC Chairman U Hla Thein addresses the coordination meeting with political parties, candidates of the coming by-election in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

UEC holds coord meeting with political parties, candidates participating in by-election

UNION Election Commission (UEC) conducted a coordination meeting in UEC meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning with political parties and independent Hluttaw representative candidates participating in the by-election. The meeting was attended by UEC Chairman U Hla Thein and members, officials from the commission office, state/region election sub-commission chairmen and secretaries, officials from 24 political parties and 7 independent Hluttaw representative candidates.

At the meeting, UEC Chairman said 62 Hluttaw representative candidates from 24 political parties and 7 independent Hluttaw representative candidates totaling 69 will participate in the forthcoming by-election. Voters list will be announced for the second time in October and the candidates are requested to urge their voters to check for inclusion of their names in it. Candidates will be permitted to start campaigning around 3 September and the campaign period of sixty

days will be allowed. During the campaigning, code of conduct for political parties and candidates agreed by political parties are to be followed. Supporters of the political parties are to be controlled to avoid conflicts and occurrence of crimes and criminal acts described in the Election Law.

Election mediation central committee and committees of various levels will be formed for this by-election in the same way as it was formed for 2017 by-election. Election mediation central committee and committees of various levels are to prevent any problems occurring to become a conflict. Hluttaw representative candidates are to follow the prescribed enacted laws in appointing election representatives and polling station representatives. It is important for election representatives, polling station representatives and assistants not to act like campaigners in the polling stations. They must be aware of election law, rules and work guidelines. During the polling period, whenever there is any con-

travening of the laws and rules, polling station officials, other polling station representatives and assistants are to resolve the matter immediately. It will be an unbiased election only if laws and rules are followed. Hluttaw representative candidates are to submit the election expenses to the commission after the election is over and systematic records as prescribed need to be made said the UEC Chairman.

Next, UEC Office Director General and state/region election sub-commission chairmen from states/regions where by-election is to be held explained about preparation made for the by-election.

Afterwards, political parties and independent Hluttaw representative candidates participated in the discussion and UEC member U Myint Naing and the Director General responded to their discussions.

The meeting came to a close after UEC Chairman delivered a concluding speech.—Myanmar News Agency ■

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Appointment of Permanent Secretary

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Yan Naing Tun, Director-General, Department of Trade under the Ministry of Commerce, concurrently as Permanent Secretary of the same Ministry.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Announcement 116/2018

13th Waxing of Wagoung, 1378 ME
(24 August 2012)

Abolition of political parties

In accordance with Section 12 (b) of Political Parties Registration Law and decision made at the Union Election Commission meeting 23/2018, Union Election Commission abolished People Life Development Party which failed to run for at least three vacant seats in the by-elections to be held on 3 November 2018.

Sd/Hla Thein
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Notification 121/2018

13th Waxing Day of Wagoung 1378 ME
(24 August 2018)

Notification on conducting election speeches and campaigning

1. Office of the Union Election Commission had made an announcement No. (1/2014) dated 1-7-2014 for Hluttaw representative candidates of political parties and independents who are registered, assessed, approved and announced by the respective election sub commissions to participate in the election fairly and legally under the law.
2. Furthermore, Code of Conduct for political parties and candidates drawn up with the agreement of all political parties was also announced.
3. The Union Election Commission allows the Campaign period for 60 days from 6 a.m. 3 September 2018 to 12 midnight 1 November 2018.
4. Therefore, Hluttaw representative candidates and political parties participating in the 3 November 2018 by-election are notified to follow the above mentioned UEC announcement No. (1/2014) and Code of Conduct for political parties and candidate to ensure a free, fair and peaceful election.

Chairman
Union Election Commission

Car passes, identification cards to be issued on 26, 27 August for meeting between State Counsellor, business leaders

STATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and business leaders will meet at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-1 in Nay Pyi Taw from 2 pm to 4.15 pm on 27th August.

Union Ministers, deputy ministers, donors to

the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine, bankers and high tax payers have been invited to the meeting.

Car passes and invited guests identification cards will be issued at

the Office No. 1, Foreign Economic Relations Department of the Ministry of Planning and Finance in Nay Pyi Taw from 12 pm on 26 August to 12 pm on 27 August. More information are available at 067-3407635, 067-3407026 and 067-3407746. — MNA



Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi (right) receiving senior adviser Mr. Franklin De Vrieze (left). **PHOTO: MNA**

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman receives senior adviser from WFD

ANTI-CORRUPTION Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi received senior adviser Mr. Franklin De Vrieze from Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) at the Anti-Corruption Commission office

guest hall, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. During the meeting matters relating to the role and rights of the anti-corruption agencies, works done for establishment of a good governance system and

Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission's cooperation with government departments, private businesses, civil society organizations and international associations were discussed.— Myanmar News Agency ■



Journalists interview displaced people staying at the boundary line. **PHOTO: YAMANYA**

Journalists visit reception centre, meet displaced people in Maungtaw

A media group including local and foreign journalists visited reception centres and displaced people living near boundary line in Maungtaw, Rakhine State yesterday.

First, they visited to the friendship bridge at the border.

At Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre, officials briefed about the repatriation processes and the

journalists interviewed the officials.

Afterwards they met with local people near boundary line. The group returned Yangon in the evening.—Myo Thu Hein ■

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (16/2018)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-015(18-19)	Welding Set with Accessories (400 V) Maximum Current At 100% Duty Cycle 400 AMP (Dry Type) (1) Lot	US\$
(2)	IFB-016(18-19)	CNG Ground Storage Cascade (3) Sets	US\$
(3)	IFB-017(18-19)	CNG Compressor Driven Electric Motor Package & Accessories (1) Lot	US\$
(4)	IFB-018(18-19)	Lathe Machine with Electromagnetic PLC System (1) Lot	US\$
(5)	IFB-019(18-19)	Hydrostatic Testing System (Direct Expansion Method for Type II CNG Cylinder Complete Set (1) Set	US\$
(6)	IFB-020(18-19)	Cascade Trailer (1) Unit	US\$
(7)	DMP/L-076(18-19)	Steel Ball Valves and Pipe Fittings (2) Groups	Ks
(8)	DMP/L-077(18-19)	Air Compressor (1) Set	Ks
(9)	DMP/L-078(18-19)	Desander Unit (Number of Cyclone-2Nos, Operating Pressure(0.2-0.5)MPA (2) Sets	Ks
(10)	DMP/L-079(18-19)	Degasser Unit (Volume Flow Rate- (220-260) M3 / HR) (3) Sets	Ks
(11)	DMP/L-080(18-19)	Dispenser (2 Products, 2 Hose) (2) Nos	Ks
(12)	DMP/L-081(18-19)	Air Compressor Engine Driven with Dryer (100 KW) (1) Set	Ks
(13)	DMP/L-082(18-19)	Batch Mixer (BACS-300-100A) (2) Sets	Ks
(14)	DMP/L-083(18-19)	Skid Mounted Water Transfer Pump with Motor(700GPM x 700FTHD), 185KW (2)Sets	Ks
(15)	DMP/L-084(18-19)	Double Girder Overhead Crane (15) Tons Complete Set (1) Set	Ks
(16)	DMP/L-085(18-19)	Skid Mounted Crude Transfer Pump with Engine (200IGPM x 300PSI)(73-97KW) (1) Set	Ks
(17)	DMP/L-086(18-19)	Skid Mounted Crude Transfer Pump with Engine (100IGPM x 300PSI)(73KW) (3)Sets	Ks
(18)	DMP/L-087(18-19)	Hacksaw Machine with Motor [Work Size- 220mm, 1.5 KW] (1) Set	Ks
(19)	DMP/L-088(18-19)	Air Compressor with Motor (3000 L/MIN, 8 KG/CM ² , 20 HP) (1) Set	Ks
(20)	DMP/L-089(18-19)	Horizontal Lathe Machine with Motor [Spindle Hole-130 mm, Center Distance ≥1500 mm, Motor Power ≥ 10 KW, 4 Jaw Chuck (1)Set	Ks
(21)	DMP/L-090(18-19)	Upgrading for POS System of CNG (1) Lot	Ks
(22)	DMP/L-091(18-19)	Suction Dryer (1) No	Ks
(24)	DMP/L-092(18-19)	Cooling Tower (2) Nos	Ks
(25)	DMP/L-093(18-19)	Analog Gas Detector (Methane) (2) Units	Ks
(26)	DMP/L-094(18-19)	1.5MW(1875KVA) Gas Engine Driven Generating Set attached with Switch Gear Panel (1) Set	Ks
(26)	DMP/L-095(18-19)	36 KW Diesel Engine Driven Generating Set (4) Sets	Ks
(27)	DMP/L-096(18-19)	Fuel Bowser (2800 Gal Capacity) (1) Unit	Ks
(28)	DMP/L-097(18-19)	Caterpillar C 15 Engine with Gear Box Assy (475 HP) (1) Set	Ks
(29)	DMP/L-098(18-19)	Caterpillar C 18 Marine Engine with Gear Box (670 HP) (2) Sets	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy Website Portal (www.moe.gov.mm) as from **24 August 2018**. Tender forms will not be sold.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **14:00 pm on 24 September 2018**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time- 24-9-2018, 14:00 pm

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411206

Trade
Mark



09251022355,
09974424848

Sofia theatre group explores 'invisible hands' of recycling

SOFIA — In a neighbourhood in downtown Sofia, theatregoers are looking for entertainment among the city's rubbish — quite literally.

As night falls, spectators are led from one garbage bin to another, listening to the untold stories of the Bulgarian capital's army of unofficial refuse collectors.

"You can tell a home by its rubbish. Show me people's rubbish and I can tell you who they are," says one actor dragging a cart, while another describes a collector's daily routine while sitting on top of a full garbage container.

The unusual joint performance by environmental pressure group Za Zemiata and the Vox Populi documentary theatre group presents verbatim some of the accounts of the 5,000 or so people who eke out a living in Sofia's ever-growing rag-and-bone trade.

Za Zemiata, in addition to combating the stigma that brands them "vagrants", also wants to highlight the crucial role these unofficial collectors play in helping Sofia meet an EU target of recycling 50 percent of its rubbish by 2020.

Indeed, according to field studies by Za Zemiata, they handle between 70,000 and 100,000 tonnes of recyclables every year, accounting for between 41 and 57 percent of such material collected in the capital.



Environmentalists have joined forces with a theatre group to explore the untold stories of Sofia's army of unofficial refuse collectors who eke out a living in the Bulgarian capital's ever-growing rag-and-bone trade. **PHOTO: AFP**

Most of the collectors are middle-aged or elderly, with two-thirds of them working seven days a week, carrying huge loads on foot or with small makeshift carts, and earning less than 10 leva (\$6/5 euros) a day.

That amounts to a monthly income that comes close to Bulgaria's official poverty line of 321 leva.

Making ends meet

While collectors are happy to tell their stories, only a few agree to give their names or be filmed by journalists.

One of them is former secretary Penka. At 63, she gets by collecting nylon and cardboard and handing it over to her local recycling depot in return for enough money to buy food for herself and her cats.

"Seven days a week, 2.50 leva (1.25 euros) per day makes around 20 leva

per week but I am grateful," the haggard woman told AFP outside the depot, clutching her daily haul of coins in her hand.

Near a rubbish container on a central boulevard, Boryana, 62, is also finding what she needs to make ends meet, carefully

arranging bottles, cans and paper in separate sections of her small cart.

"I am not a pensioner yet. My husband died, I have no children but somehow I don't want to die yet," she said.

In recent years, people like Penka and Boryana

have become a common sight in the capital of the EU's poorest member state. But according to Za Zemiata, they have remained largely invisible to the authorities and have often been unjustly vilified.

Ambitious targets

"These people do what most of the others do not. Let us stop pretending they are not there," said Za Zemiata activist Evgenia Tasheva.

A recent national poll showed that 68 percent of the population do not recycle — which is not obligatory in Bulgaria. Several schemes backed by city authorities to sort waste using different-coloured containers have also fallen flat, with the result that less than one-third of the city's waste is recycled.

A further 16 percent of the city's rubbish ends up in landfill, while the rest

is converted to fuel, with city authorities recently green-lighting a new power plant to burn it. Za Zemiata has protested against the plant, saying the authorities should focus instead on integrating collectors like Penka and Boryana into the waste disposal system as a way of boosting recycling.

'We separate, like ants'

But any such move would likely face stiff opposition from the contractors who run the city's official recycling schemes and who accuse the unofficial collectors of "hindering" their work by rummaging through their bins.

"Piles of litter are left around the containers, which discourages people from taking part in the separation system," one such company, Ekobulpack, said in comments emailed to AFP. —AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V INDIGO FLORA VOY. NO. (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V INDIGO FLORA VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-2 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 HELIO INT'L SERVICES
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V D D VOGUE VOY. NO. (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V D D VOGUE VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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 WILHELMSSEN SHIPS
SERVICE (S) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (183W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (183W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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 NEW GOLDEN SEA
SHIPPING

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1089 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1089 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V FENG ZE HAI VOY. NO. (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V FENG ZE HAI VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-4 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 CA SHIPPING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

Isolated tribe members in Brazil spotted in drone footage



Brazil's FUNAI has made contact with eight isolated tribes in the Javari Valley -- but says that there are 11 more, detected via signs including a huge hut, handmade axes and canoes crafted out of palm tree trunks like those seen here. **PHOTO: AFP**

SAO PAULO — In the sprawling greenery of the Brazilian Amazon, near the border with Peru, a group of people — small in the distance — walk through a clearing.

These are isolated tribe members, and little do they know, they're being watched — drone footage revealing their existence to the world.

The video — recorded in 2017, but published this week

— is just one element of the material that Brazil's National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) collected during missions to the Javari Valley.

The hard-to-access area of southwestern Amazonas state is home to the majority of the more than 100 confirmed isolated tribes in the vast South American nation.

FUNAI has made contact with eight in the Javari Valley —

but says that there are 11 more, detected via signs including a huge hut, handmade axes and canoes crafted out of palm tree trunks.

To get to the region, FUNAI officials and police had to cover 180 kilometers (110 miles) by river and dirt road, and then another 120 kilometers on foot through the jungle, the agency said in a statement.

The project, which aims to protect isolated tribes, relied on the in-depth local knowledge of the Kanamari tribe.

During the mission, they also encountered two groups of poachers, forcing them to release wild animals.

"Vigilance and control must be stepped up in the region to... guarantee total possession of the territory for indigenous peoples," said coordinator Victor Gois.

Last month, FUNAI released video of what it believes to be the only survivor of one Brazilian Amazon tribe.

The man lives in the state of Rondonia — which borders Bolivia — and it is thought he has spent 22 years living along in the jungle, after his village fell victim to landowners and loggers.

That footage was recorded in 2011, but only just released. Evidence discovered this year suggests that he is still alive.

His situation, like that of other peoples, alarms specialists who warn of pressures from the agricultural and mining industries, who seek to overtake indigenous lands. —AFP ■

Sudan, music capital: Album recalls former rhythm beacon

NEW YORK — Traveling Africa in search of its music, Vik Sohnie was struck by a common in-

fluence — Sudan, whose songs still hold power over a generation in much of the continent.



A member of Sudan's Nuba community dances during the Nuba Mountains Cultural Heritage Festival. **PHOTO: AFP**

Sohnie, the founder of Osinato Records, a New York-based label devoted to bringing the music of overlooked and conflict-riven countries to wider audiences, has led a restoration of Sudan's musical heritage through a new album that arrives as the major artists of the country's golden era fade away.

"Two Niles to Sing a Melody," which comes out on September 14 on three LPs or two CDs, follows Osinato's project on Somali music, "Sweet as Broken Dates," which was nominated this year for a Grammy for Best Historical Album. Unlike Ethiopian or even Somali music, which soaked up the big-band brass and jazz of the United States, Sudan's music is notable not for its foreign inspirations but the lack thereof. —AFP ■

Brexit nightmare: Video game shows grim vision of life after EU

LONDON — Set in a dystopian post-Brexit Britain, a new video game follows the struggles of a bouncer of foreign ancestry in a world of xenophobia and immigrant camps, but gamers are divided over its message.

The grim vision of the future played out in "Not Tonight", which has a funereal version of "God Save the Queen" as its theme tune, reflects the fears of its creator, Tim Constant, who developed the game over 18 months as part of a three-man team.

Gamers play the role of a nightclub doorman who has recently lost his British nationality and is forced to do odd jobs to meet the demands of an authoritarian government, whose motto is "work hard, stay out of trouble, and we might let you stay in the UK".

The bouncer, now working in the gig economy, checks the identity of characters via a few mouse clicks and decides whether to allow them into the bar, and later on in the game, whether to let them into the country.

The minimalist and colourful graphics recall the adventure games of the 1990s, while the story-theme evokes "Papers, Please", the surprise 2013 independent success.

"If you look at politics and video games as a whole, they're generally not approached because it can put people off," explained Constant.

But for Olivier Mauco, founder of gaming website Game in Society and professor at Science Po university in Paris, bringing politics into the gaming world can be useful.

"It's a chance for you to live in a dystopian Britain, which is very different, so it has an effect because you will understand the consequences and the impacts — you will make choices,

and you will try to reason with them".

'Overtly political'

The game was among the top 10 bestsellers on the Steam download platform when it was released last weekend, and received mostly good reviews, scoring a "very positive" average from users of the site.

But some users criticised the political message.

"Terrible. Propaganda. Refunded," wrote user iPlay_Zombies.

"It's all rather distracting with how in your face it all is while at the same time not really saying anything other than.... what? British people are evil and xenophobic?" added gamer Dr. Marker.

"Being so overtly political means it may not be as hard-hitting as it could be, it's not going to be as punchy," said Mauco.

"It's going to strengthen the pro and anti-Brexit positions, and risks dividing the audience".

It's a risk that Constant was prepared to take. "I probably knew that there was going to be push back because of the Brexit argument," he told AFP.

"The Brexit vote has happened, so I don't think, even if I do change people's mind, it's gonna change anything. But it might make them think a little bit more about the situation, which is great."

For the small team behind the game, Brexit has already had real consequences.

"The (graphics) artist on "Not Tonight" is Polish, he's just moved back to Poland because he wasn't sure what is going to happen."

The game is currently available in English on PC via download platforms and will be released on consoles in early 2019. —AFP ■



Endgame: The new video game "Not Tonight" is set in a dystopian post-Brexit Britain. **PHOTO: AFP**

Zero tolerance: no safe level of alcohol, study says

PARIS — Even an occasional glass of wine or beer increases the risk of health problems and dying, according to a major study on drinking in 195 nations that attributes 2.8 million premature deaths worldwide each year to booze.

“There is no safe level of alcohol,” said Max Griswold, a researcher at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation in Seattle, Washington and lead author for a consortium of more than 500 experts.

Despite recent research showing that light-to-moderate drinking reduces heart disease, the new study found that alcohol use is more likely than not to do harm.

“The protective effect of alcohol was offset by the risks,” Griswold told AFP in summarising the results, published in medical journal *The Lancet* on Friday.

“Overall, the health risks associated with alcohol rose in line with the amount consumed each day.”

Compared to abstinence, imbibing one “standard drink” — 10 grammes of alcohol, equivalent to a small beer, glass of wine or shot of spirits — per day, for example, ups the odds of developing at least one of two dozen health problems

by about half-a-percent, the researchers reported.

Looked at one way, that seems like a small increment: 914 out of 100,000 teetotalers will encounter those problems, compared to 918 people who imbibe seven times per week.

“But at the global level, that additional risk of 0.5 percent among (once-a-day) drinkers corresponds to about 100,000 additional deaths each year,” said senior author Emmanuela Gakidou, a professor at the University of Washington and a director at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation.

‘Less is better, none is best’

“Those are excess deaths, in other words, that could be avoided,” she told AFP.

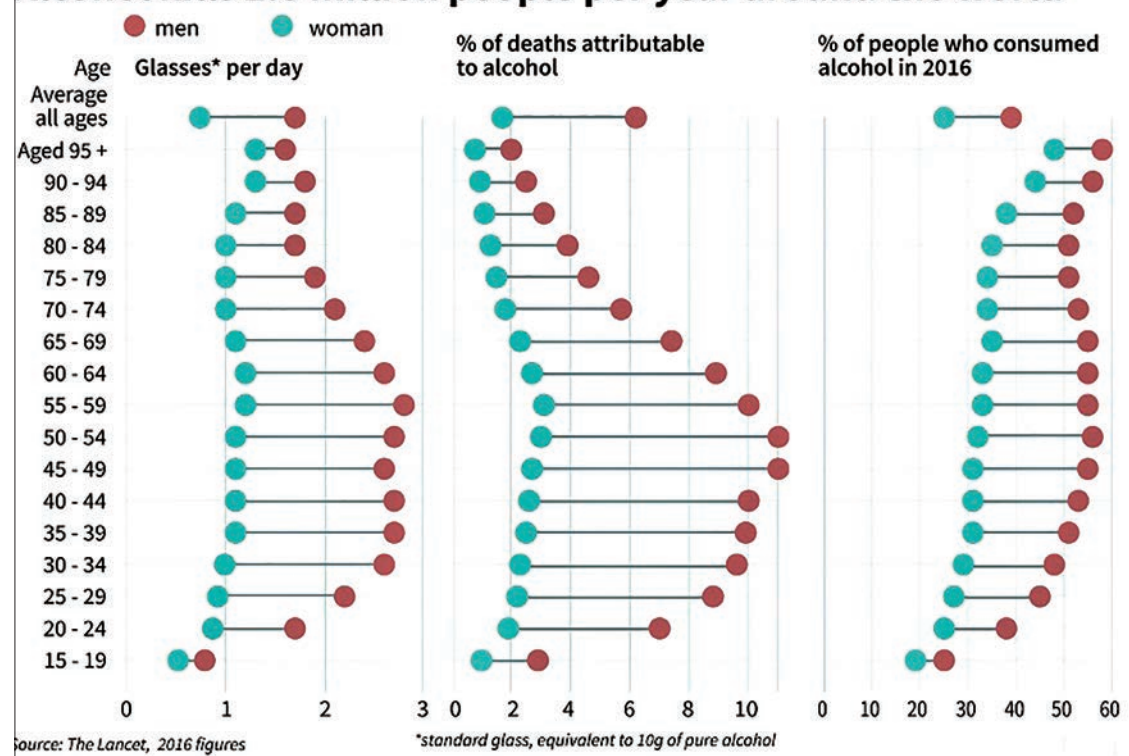
The risk climbs in a steep “J-curve”, the study found.

An average of two drinks per day, for example, translated into a 7.0 percent hike in disease and injury compared to those who opt for abstinence.

With five “units” of alcohol per day, the likelihood of serious consequences jumps by 37 percent.

The “less is better, none is best” finding jibes with the World Health Organization’s long-stand-

Alcohol kills 2.8 million people per year around the world



Alcohol problem: How different levels of alcohol effect the health of different age ranges. PHOTO: AFP

ing position, but is at odds with many national guidelines, especially in the developed world.

Britain’s health authority, for example, suggests not exceeding 14 drinks per week “to keep health risks from alcohol to a low level”.

“There is always a lag between the publication of new evidence and the modification and adoption of revised guidelines,” said Gakidou, who admitted to

being an “occasional drinker” herself.

“The evidence shows what the evidence shows, and I — like 2.4 billion other people on the planet that also consume alcohol — need to take it seriously.”

Overall, drinking was the seventh leading risk factor for premature death and disease in 2016, accounting for just over two percent of deaths in wom-

en and nearly seven percent in men.

The top six killers are high blood pressure, smoking, low-birth weight and premature delivery, high blood sugar (diabetes), obesity and pollution.

But in the 15-49 age bracket, alcohol emerged as the most lethal factor, responsible for more than 12 percent of deaths among men, the study found. —AFP ■

Move over, Musk: Kalashnikov unveils ‘electric supercar’

MOSCOW — Russian arms maker Kalashnikov on Thursday presented its new electric car inspired by a rare 1970s model, saying the new technology will rival Elon Musk’s Tesla.

The brand, best known for the AK-47 machine gun, presented the decidedly retro-looking pale blue prototype, the CV-1, at a defense expo outside Moscow.

The look was inspired by a Soviet hatchback model developed in the 1970s called

“Izh-Kombi,” a statement on the Kalashnikov website said. Holding company Kalashnikov Concern said it has developed some cutting-edge elements for the “electric supercar”, including a “revolutionary” inverter. The vehicle can travel 350 kilometres on one charge.

“We are developing our own concept of an electric supercar, which is based on several original systems developed by the concern,” the firm said. —AFP ■



The brand, best known for the AK-47 machine gun, presented the decidedly retro-looking pale blue prototype, the CV-1, at a defense expo outside Moscow. PHOTO: AFP

Chinese, American paleontologists discover two new bird-like dinosaurs in Xinjiang



Chinese and American researchers have discovered two new species of dinosaur in an expedition to China’s Xinjiang. PHOTO: XINHUA

WASHINGTON — Chinese and American researchers have discovered two new species of dinosaur in an expedition to China’s Xinjiang, according to a study published on Thursday in the journal *Current Biology*. The two new species named “Xiyunykus pengi” and “Bannykus wulatus” are bird-like dinosaurs known as alvarezsaurs that share many characteristics with birds. The bodies of alvarezsaurs are slender; with a bird-like skull and many small teeth instead of the usual large, sharp cutting

teeth of their meat-eating relatives, according to the study.

“When we described the first well-known alvarezsaur, Mononykus, in 1993, we were amazed at the contrast between its mole-like arms and its road-runner-like body, but there were few fossils connecting it back to other theropod groups,” said James Clark, professor of biology at the George Washington University. The alvarezsaurs did not always look this way, however, according to the researchers.

Early members of the group

had relatively long arms with strong-clawed hands and typical meat-eating teeth. Over time, they evolved into dinosaurs with mole-like arms and a single claw.

The discovery of the new specimens lent clue to an important shift in how the specialized features of the alvarezsaurs evolved. “It can be hard to pin down the relationships of highly specialized animals. But fossil species with transitional features, like Xiyunykus and Bannykus, are tremendously helpful because they link bizarre anatomical features to more typical ones,” said Jonah Choiniere, an associate professor at Wits University and member of the research team. “Our international field teams have been tremendously productive over the years,” said Xu Xing from the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. “This research showcases just some of our incredible discoveries.” —Xinhua ■

Japan swimmer Ikee pursues Asian Games record haul

JAKARTA — Japan's athlete of the moment Rikako Ikee continued her relentless pursuit of Asian Games history Friday by topping the times in the 50 metres freestyle heats.

The 18-year-old breakout star won her heat in a time of 25.09 seconds as she chases a record sixth swimming gold on the final day of the pool competition in Jakarta.

Ikee, who is poised to become the face of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in her home city, is threatening to stamp her name all over the Asian Games.

She has already snaffled gold in the 50m fly, 100m fly, 100m free, 4x100m free and the 4x100m medley in an electrifying week. "I just hate losing," said Ikee, her wide grin concealing a steely determination. "I'll win through sheer willpower if I have to."

China's Liu Xiang, who set a world record in the 50m backstroke earlier this week, will look to dash Ikee's ambitions after winning her heat in 25.14.

"The Chinese girl won't want to lose the freestyle after setting a world record," said Ikee.

"It will be a tough race. But I plan to really get my teeth into this one and just go for it."

Competing for the limelight on the final evening, Chinese giant Sun Yang will be the odds-on favourite to add the 1,500m freestyle title to his haul after powering to gold in the 200, 400 and 800m. China's fiercely patriotic team captain will be hoping his talismanic presence can inspire his troops to finish top of the swimming medal table after Japan took a 17-16 lead in golds after day five. Japan swim queen Ikee will surpass countrywoman Yoshimi Nishigawa's five gold medals at a single Asian Games (1970 and 1974) if she wins.

Korean in cross-hairs

After Thursday's relay, Ikee also became only the eighth athlete to win at least five gold medals at one Games, and the seventh to bag seven medals of



Japan's swimmer Rikako Ikee competes during the 100m butterfly women final of the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships 2018 in Tokyo, on 11 August 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

any colour. Only North Korean shooter So Gin Man, who scooped seven gold medals and eight overall in 1982, has done better – but Ikee has him in her cross-hairs.

Defending champion Dmitry Balandin qualified fifth for the

men's 50m breaststroke final in what could be his last competitive race. Frustrated by injury and poor form, the 100m Rio Olympic champion from Kazakhstan clocked 27.53 — well off the pace set by China's Yan Zibei (27.06).

China's Wang Jianjiahe topped the time-sheets in the 400m free heats in 4:19.02 as the 16-year-old looks to maintain her stranglehold on the women's long-distance events after gold medals in the 800 and 1,500m. —AFP ■

Myanmar men volleyball team advances to quarter finals

THE Myanmar men volleyball team was defeated 2-3 yesterday by the Japanese team, but advanced to the quarter finals at the sixth day of 18th Asian Games 2018 in Indonesia.

In shooting, Myanmar shooting pair, Hteik Lin Oo and Thida Ngwe, advanced to Round of 16 after beating the pair from Bhutan. But they were defeated by the pair from China at the Round of 16. In the compound mixed team, the pair from Chinese Tai-

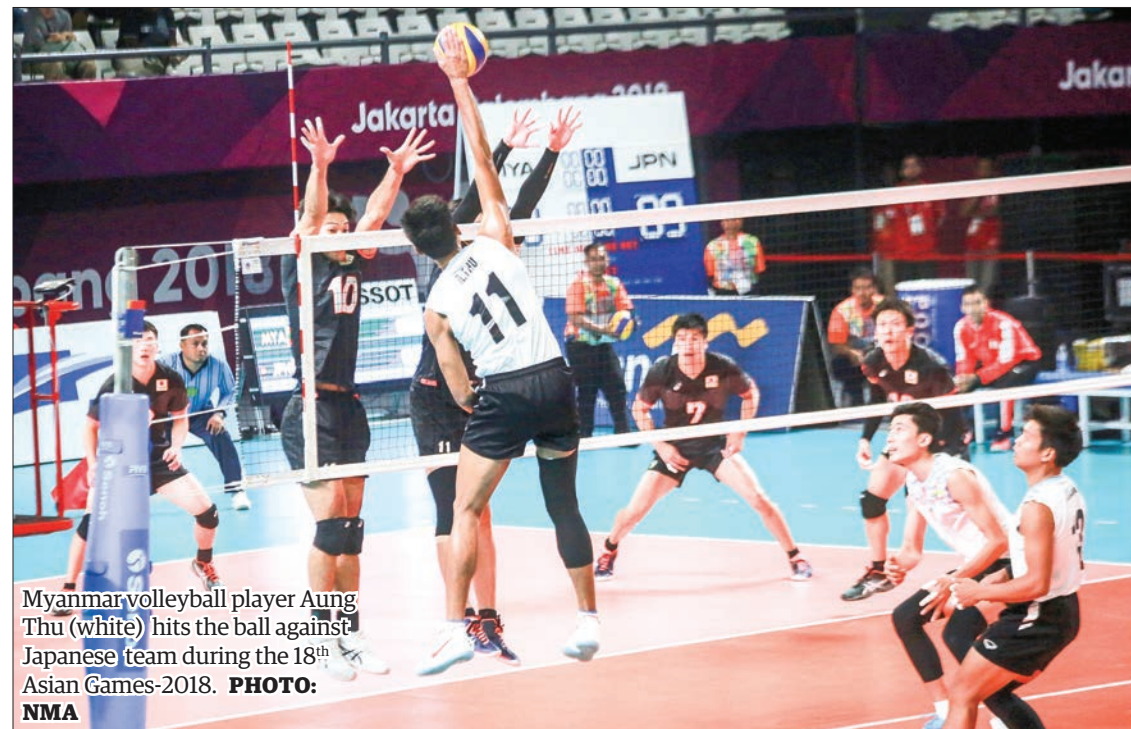
pei beat the Myanmar pair, Zin Thurein Hmu and Su Su Hlaing.

In the 10 m air pistol event in Jakabaring Shooting Range, athletes from 43 countries competed and Myanmar's May Poe Wah ranked 22, collecting 560 points.

In the women's quadruple sculls (2000m) rowing event held in Jakabaring Lake Rowing, six countries participated and Myanmar's Nila Win and team ranked five, with 7 minutes and 33.17 seconds.

Director General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Myo Hlaing and officials visited Tower-9 of Jakabaring Sport City in Indonesia where they cordially greeted the athletes from Myanmar, giving them words of encouragement.

Afterwards, the Director General and party presented cash prize to the bronze medal winning Myanmar sepak takraw women team. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Myanmar volleyball player Aung Thu (white) hits the ball against Japanese team during the 18th Asian Games-2018. **PHOTO: NMA**



ASIAN GAMES

2018

Jakarta
Palembang

Medals Table

Rank	Country	G (Gold)	S (Silver)	B (Bronze)	Total
1	 China	60	41	23	124
2	 Japan	27	29	37	93
3	 Republic of Korea	20	22	28	70
4	 IR Iran	11	11	8	30
5	 Indonesia	9	8	12	29
6	 DPR Korea	7	4	5	16
7	 India	6	5	13	24
8	 Thailand	6	4	19	29
9	 Chinese Taipei	5	7	11	23
10	 Uzbekistan	4	10	7	21
11	 Kazakhstan	3	7	19	29
12	 Mongolia	3	2	4	9
13	 Singapore	2	1	6	9
14	 Vietnam	1	5	8	14
15	 Hong Kong, China	1	4	12	17
25	 Myanmar	0	0	2	2
26	 Afghanistan	0	0	1	1
26	 Pakistan	0	0	1	1
26	 Qatar	0	0	1	1