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State Counsellor attends opening plenary session of 27th World Economic Forum on ASEAN in Hanoi

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended the opening plenary session of the World Economic Forum on ASEAN in the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi yesterday.

In her opening address, the State Counsellor emphasized the technological leaps the country has achieved in the past five years, the dramatic drop in the price of mobile phones for example, but also stressed that the Fourth Industrial Revolution

should be human-centric.

“Our approach to the Fourth Industrial Revolution is based on our belief in the creativity, empathy and stewardship qualities of our people, especially the young,” she said.

Myanmar enjoyed the advantage to leap-frog from line phone to 4G network, and Myanmar’s telecom sector has grown too fast that mobile phone penetration rose to 105 per cent today from about less than one per cent five years ago.

Approach to the Fourth Industry Revolution should be based on innovation, sharing and leadership, she said, saying the approach is concerned not only with youths but also human beings.

The State Counsellor also called for making more investments in human resources development as much as possible to achieve success in the Fourth Industrial Revolution for all human beings.

“Our approach to the Fourth Industrial Revolution is based on our belief in the creativity, empathy and stewardship qualities of our people, especially the young,”

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers her address at the opening of the World Economic Forum on ASEAN at the National Convention Center in Hanoi on September 12, 2018. PHOTO: MNA

Vice President U Myint Swe delivers speech at opening ceremony of 15th CAEXPO, CABIS

VICE President of U Myint Swe attended the 15th CHINA – ASEAN EXPO (CAEXPO) and CHINA-ASEAN BUSINESS and INVESTMENT SUMMIT (CABIS) held at the Nanning International Convention and Exhibition Cen-

tre — Guangxi, China, yesterday morning.

Present at the opening ceremony were Mr. Han Zheng, a member of the Politburo Standing Committee of the Communist Party of China and Vice-Premier,

leaders of delegations from ASEAN countries, Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn, Director-General from the Ministry of Commerce U AungSoe, Myanmar Consul-Gen-

eral in Nanning U SoeThet Naung and officials, high-ranking officials from China and ASEAN countries and businessmen.

At the opening ceremony, Mr. Han Zheng, a member of the Politburo Standing Committee

of the Communist Party of China and Vice-Premier delivered the opening speech followed by speeches made by leaders of delegations from the ASEAN countries.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Ninth regular session of Second Pyithu Hluttaw holds 17th-day meeting

THE 17th-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

No additional staff for sub health dept. yet

U Sai Saing Mai of Mongkai constituency raised a question on whether additional staff member will be supplied to the Sanha and Mongyun sub-rural health centres in Mongkai Township, whether sufficient staff residences will be constructed, and whether special priority will be given for health centre buildings to be constructed in line with proper construction standards.

Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein replied that there are no plans for supplying additional medical staff at the moment but it will be prioritized in 2019. In addition, once the Sanha and Mongyun



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

health centres acquire property deeds, funds for constructing the buildings in line with set standards will be included in the yearly budget proposals, said the deputy minister.

Dental association open to negotiations over overflow drains

U Shwe Hla (a) U Shwe Hla Win of Thingangyun constituency raised a question on whether

the overflow drains in the three wards fenced off by the Myanmar Dental Association will be nationalized to improve drainage.

Deputy Minister Dr. Mya Lay Sein replied that the Myanmar Dental Association is an independent non-governmental organization and thus the Ministry of Health and Sports has not directed authority over it. However, the MDA is ready to

discuss and negotiate with MPs and other departmental and relevant officials concerning the matter, said the deputy minister. She suggested that the Yangon Region government, the city development committee, regional MPs, local elders and the MDA should meet together to discuss the matter.

Q&A session

Firstly, Pyithu Hluttaw Hluttaw's Rights Committee Secretary Dr. Hla Moe answered to U Maung Myint of Mingin constituency's question on whether the time limit for having the floor asking questions and tabling motions will be altered from 5 minutes to 6 minutes, and whether the time limit for discussing motions tabled will be altered from 6 minutes to 5 minutes.

Next, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe replied a question from U Aung Thaung

Shwe of Buthidaung constituency asking whether any course of action will be taken towards the head of the immigration department in Buthidaung Township for abusing his power to receive bribes in the national registration card process.

Similarly, Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein replied (1) a question raised by U Kyaw Min of Kamayut constituency asking whether the university football field in Ward 9 of Kamayut Township will be reopened, (2) a question by U Aung Soe Min of Ywangan constituency asking whether the Myaing station hospital on the Hanmyintmoh-Ywangan-Aungpan highway in Ywangan Township will be upgraded, and (3) a question by U Sai San Thein of Mongnai constituency asking whether a spectator stand for the Mongnai Township football field will be constructed.

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Amyotha Hluttaw

Second Amyotha Hluttaw's ninth regular session holds 17th-day meeting

UNION-LEVEL officials reply to questions on land use, rock extraction, drug abuse, education

During the 17th-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw held at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, asterisk-marked questions were answered, a report read and a bill approved.

Local residents in Hmawby approved for housing

U Pe Chit of Yangon Region constituency 9 raised a question asking whether any solutions can be found for the issues faced by U Thein Aye and the 55 households concerning the 140 acres of land in Baygone Ohnchan, Padtan Village-tract, Hmawby Township in the Northern Yangon District.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu replied that his ministry has already approved that 40 acres of the land is used for housing by U Thein Aye and the 55 households, after a field inspection from the Hmawby General Administration Department confirmed 40 acres are used for housing while



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

the rest are used for farming. In addition, the rural farmland administration group only opened a lawsuit, in accordance with protocol, to revoke the grazing land status of the 40 acres used for housing. He said the ministry is working to ensure the Yangon Region General Administration Department can officially approve of this, in accordance with Section 68 of the Land and Revenue Act.

Illegal stone extractions will be prosecuted

U Khin Win of Magway Region constituency 2 raised a question asking whether any

measures will be taken to regulate the unrestricted extraction of stone from parts of the Ayeyawady River flowing near Pakokku, Chauk, Yenangyoung, and Sinbaungwe townships in Magway Region.

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Thu replied that the extraction projects conducted in the country are carefully documented to be in accordance with the law, and any violation will be handled with according to the law as well.

Remedying drug abuse with rehab, policy

U Tun Tun Oo of Mandalay Region constituency 2 raised a

question asking whether there are any strategic plans to combat the proliferation of cheap and illegal Yaba stimulant tablets throughout the country.

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Thu replied that a new drug policy has been implemented to not only eradicate drugs, but also to provide healing, rehabilitation, and alternative development or business opportunities to people. He said students and young people are being warned about the consequences of drug abuse through education programs, pamphlets, news and media outlets, and other educational programs throughout the Nay Pyi Taw Council and states and regions. He said the Anti-Narcotics Task Force and the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department are both contributing towards drug eradication. He added that international cooperation, research and implementation of the drug policy are being carried out to tackle this issue.

Procedures for ensuring optimal education

Naw Chris Tun (a) Dr. Arkar Moe from Kayin State constituency 7 raised a question asking what procedures and

techniques are used in forming school administration associations, determining school operations, appointing and promoting faculty in vocational institutes.

Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi replied that an independent committee was formed consisting of various professors on 6 April 2018, in accordance with Section 27 of the National Education Law to consult colleges and universities in designing and implementing agreements relevant to their institutions, as well as their institutions' development.

He said they are encouraging the formation of student councils and other associations to steer the development of institutions and ensure a bright future for students, while the appointing and promoting of teaching staff and faculty is carried out in accordance with the Civil Services Personnel Law and bylaws.

Similarly, Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin answered to questions raised by U Htay Oo of Yangon Region constituency 2 and U Zon Hle Htan of Chin State constituency 4.

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State Counsellor attends opening of 27th World Economic Forum on ASEAN

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She also stressed the need to bring about changes to teaching technological skills to the people regarding the industrial revolution.

ASEAN member countries, especially the member countries with least development should face the challenges bravely and to overcome them when they approach the new technological skills, she said.

The State Counsellor also urged the ASEAN member countries to prepare for promoting their technological skills of their workers today though they relied on ordinary workers to attract foreign investment in the past.

To overcome the challenges, a country should reform its education system to become practical for life and to adapt to the changing world, she said.

An education system must be adapted to better prepare the youths for their innovation and critical thinking skills they will need in the future, said the State Counsellor.

The State Counsellor also stressed the importance of innovation in the face of challenges today and the role of leadership which should be linked with innovation and sharing.

While appreciating the Myanmar youths' innovation skills, she also called for linking the innovation skills with practical skills when approaching the innovation, capability and market competition.

She stressed the need to nar-



(L-R) Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen, Laos Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Prajin Juntong attend a panel discussion at the World Economic Forum on ASEAN at the National Convention Center in Hanoi on 12 September 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

row the development gap among ASEAN member countries.

The State Counsellor also expressed her hope that Myanmar would be provided security including financial security and stability as the country transitions to the Fourth Industrial Revolution. She also expressed her hope that the forum would produce means and ways for improving the world economy and creating a better world to live in during the period of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The State Counsellor attended the opening and plenary of the 27th World Economic Forum on ASEAN together with Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam, Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of Viet Nam, Lee Hsien-

Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore, Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia, Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Thongloun Sisoulith, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Prajin Juntong, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice of Thailand, senior economic officials, Professor Klaus Schwab, Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum and business personnel from the ASEAN countries.

Following the opening ceremony, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended the luncheon hosted by Professor Klaus Schwab together with heads of State of the ASEAN member countries.

Afterwards, the State Coun-

sellor received Japanese Foreign Minister Mr. Taro Kono at the Daewoo Hotel in Hanoi.

At the meeting, they discussed promotion of cooperation between Japan and Myanmar, matters related to holding Japan-Mekong Summit to be held in Tokyo, Japan, in October, 2018, Japan's constructive support to the Rakhine issue and continued cooperation between Japan and Myanmar in the UN and international arena.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister U Thaung Tun and U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister U Set Aung, Ambassador U Kyaw Soe Win and officials.

In the afternoon, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, attended a Mekong forum together with leaders of the Me-

kong member countries Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of Viet Nam, Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Thongloun Sisoulith, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Prajin Juntong, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice of Thailand, discussing a vision for a shared, prosperous future.

The Mekong region, comprising five countries – Viet Nam, Cambodia, Thailand, Lao PDR and Myanmar – is home to 240 million people and accounts for a combined GDP of US \$800 billion.

In the evening, the State Counsellor attended a dinner hosted by the Vietnamese government together with the Heads of State of the ASEAN member countries.—MNA



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with Japan's Foreign Minister Taro Kono during a bilateral meeting on the sideline of the World Economic Forum on ASEAN in Hanoi yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Vice President U Myint Swe delivers speech at....

FROM PAGE-1

In his speech, Vice President U Myint Swe said that first and foremost, he was obliged to the Government of the Republic of China, officials from the Guangxi autonomous region and organizers of the 15th CHINA – ASEAN EXPO (CAEXPO) and CHINA-ASEAN BUSINESS & INVESTMENT SUMMIT (CABIS) for their invitation and warm hospitality. As for China, China-ASEAN Expo is being held every year in Nanning; he was pleased to see the remarkable results from that expo, and believes that it would retain its significant place and further strengthen the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership through trade, investment, tourism and connectivity among people. China is ASEAN's long-

est partner and the year 2018 is a significant year because it marks the 15th year anniversary of ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership. He thanked China for supporting ASEAN community building and strengthening in keeping the ASEAN integration process through the implementation of three schemes for the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025. China also stands for 8 consecutive years as the largest trading partner of ASEAN, and trade volume between China and ASEAN countries has reached 17.1 per cent as of total trade volume of ASEAN countries in 2017. Moreover it was found that China has remained the third largest source of foreign direct investment of ASEAN nations.

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Vice President U Myint Swe visits 15th CAEXP, CABIS in China. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Tatmadaw members in Loikaw

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meeting with officers and other ranks of Loikaw Station and their families yesterday in Loikaw.
PHOTO:OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with officers, other ranks and their families in Loikaw Station at the station hall in Loikaw Township, Kayah State.

At the meeting, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said peace and stability prevails in Kayah State, but the KNPP armed organization has remained to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA. Myanmar is home to diversity of ethnic races and different ethnic people are living in every

region and state.

"Hence, the Tatmadaw is carrying out for giving equal opportunities to all ethnic races and the Tatmadaw is helping the peace, stability and development affairs of Kayah State," said the Senior General.

"Peace, security and stability are the crucial needs for a region and we should be aware of the fact that pointing accusing fingers at each other has caused hindrances to the democratic transition," he added.

The ethnic armed organizations are obliged to

respect the law and to make efforts from the regional development-level to the national development-level.

Afterwards, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presented food and aid to the families of officers, and other ranks, and his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla presented cash to the Maternal and Child Welfare Association of the station.

Next, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Tin Aung San, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Maung Maung Kyaw and Quartermaster-General

Lt-Gen Nyo Saw presented the families of officers and other ranks in the station with food stuffs, sport accessories and books.

In the morning, the Commander-in-Chief, his wife and his entourage visited the Tatmadaw Hospital in Loikaw Town and gave cordial individual encouragement to the Members of Sangha, officers, other ranks, families and local people and presented them with food stuffs, according to the news release of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief.—MNA ■

Job Nation to offer thousands of vacancies

THE biggest 2018 job fair in Yangon, Job Nation, will offer thousands of job vacancies, according to www.jobnet.com.mm.

Job Nation will be hosted by www.JobNet.com.mm, Myanmar number one job portal, at Novotel Hotel on 22 September, from 9 am to 5 pm.

At the job fair, thousands of job vacancies will be offered to job seekers by about 70 local and foreign companies from Myanmar. JobNet.com.mm expects tens of thousands to visit Job Nation.

Staff from 65 companies, including PTTEP Nestle, Ooredoo and Myanmar Japan Tobacco

Employees checking job vacancies on the board. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

will be at the fair.

Most of the in-demand jobs are sales professionals, marketing and public relations, infor-

mation technology, engineering, human resources, accounting, administration and manufacturing, according to a list of JobNet.

com.mm. The event will include a job fair, a seminar presented by experts from human resources, technology and engineering fields to share their knowledge.

Job Nation is the biggest job fair in 2018. This year, JobNet.com.mm has also held VR Job Fair, Sales and Marketing Career Conference, Myanmar-Singapore Biggest Job Fair, and Tech and Engineering Career Conference.

Among them, 30 per cent of the job opportunities are being offered for manager and director positions, over 55 per cent for skilled workers and over 15 per cent for non-experienced worker positions.—GNLM ■

Yaba tablets seized in Htantabin Township

ACTING on a tip off, police from Htantabin Township seized Yaba tablets at Nin Kyan village, Htantabin Township on 12 September. According to investigation, police searched the house of HmatGyi (alias) Thein

Hswe, living in Thuka Thida Kyaung street dormitory-2, Nin Kyan village, Htantabin Township and found 187 Yaba tablets weighing 18.7 gram, worth Ks 374,000, three mobile phones, one tablet worth Ks 175,150,

plastic bottles, 40 unused and three used aluminium foil, six gas lighters and two knives. Khin Maung Win, 46, Agyilay (alias) Kyaw Myint, 47, Hsan Lin Aung, 23, Hla Ko Ko, 20 and Ma Phyu Maw, 29 were found

together with the host.

Police have filed charges against all suspects, under section 19(A), 20(A) and 22(B) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Zin Min Htet (IPRD) ■

Fish scales sees commercial potential due to foreign demand

By May Thet Hnin

WITH foreign demand for fish scales, those interested can run business on a commercial scale, according to Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF).

“Buyers from Thailand and Japan connected with us in recent days. Thailand started to purchase 5,000 kg,” said U Win Kyaing, general secretary of MFF.

Japan traders proposed to buy Tilapia’s scales to be used in skin care products. However, Myanmar’s Tilapia production cannot still meet the market demand. Therefore, they took sample scales of rohu, carp and catla.

“Thai traders connected with us to produce aqua feed powder with the use of fish scales of fresh water fish including rohu, carp and catla. They purchased a kilo of fish



Tilapia fishes seen in the market. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

scales at US\$0.8,” said U Win Kyaing.

“They regularly want about 50 tons of fish scales per month, but only scales of freshwater and white fish.

Myanmar disposes fish scales as waste without recycling. A regular demand of fish scales will encourage small-scale businesspersons to systematically store them to resell, as

this business can bring profits, like plastic bottles and caps sold for recycling. This is why we want to share this message through media”, he maintained.

In order to sell fish scales,

they have to be sun dried after rinsing them with water for three times. At present, a viss of fish scales fetches Ks2,000. Sellers promised that a more competitive purchase price will be offered as time passes, U Win Kyaing continued.

Previously, there was demand of fish scales from Mahachai market in Thailand, to use them in cosmetics production.

In other countries, by-products of fish are used in cosmetic products, such as fish scale decoration on handbags and slippers, as organic fertilizer as well as aqua feed stuff, using fish bone powder, and livestock feed by extracting fish oil.

Myanmar’s fish farming sector is mainly dependent on the flesh. Recycling by-products can reap more profits and those interested can start a business. ■

MIC-approved enterprises create over 670,000 jobs over past seven years

By Nyein Nyein

DOMESTIC and foreign enterprises, approved by Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC), created over 670,000 jobs for local employees and foreign workers over the past seven years, according to data released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Majority of job opportunities went to local people, while the permitted enterprises also hired expatriate workers. Those enterprises hired 659,839 local employees and 14,217 foreigners, totaling 674,056.

Local employment created by domestic and foreign investment enterprises were

registered at 15,829 people in 2011-2012 fiscal year, 81,283 in 2012-2013 FY, 94,866 in 2013-2014 FY, 128,126 in 2014-2015 FY, 124,340 in 2015-2016 FY, 75,573 in 2016-2017 FY, 114,899 in 2017-2018 and 24,923 in past five months of current mini-budget period.

Additionally, those domestic and foreign investment enterprises offered 625 foreign jobs in 2011-2012 fiscal year, 917 in 2012-2013 FY, 1,560 in 2013-2014 FY, 2,721 in 2014-2015 FY, 2,579 in 2015-2016 FY, 2,164 in 2016-2017 FY, 2,956 in 2017-2018 and 695 in past five months of current mini-budget period.

Domestic and foreign enterprises approved by MIC in

the first week of September created 5,558 jobs, said U Than Aung Kyaw, deputy director-general of the DICA. According to Myanmar Investment Law Chapter 13, Section 51, the investor may appoint any foreign or local citizen who is qualified as senior manager, technical and operations expert, or advisor in their investment within the Union.

The investor is also required to provide capacity building programs to local citizens in order to replace appointed foreign citizens in management positions, as technical and operation experts and advisors and must appoint only local citizens for work that does not require special skills. ■

Rice export unlikely to meet target in mini-budget period

MYANMAR’S RICE export in past five months seems likely to miss its target of 2 million tons during the mini-budget period (from April to September).

The volume of rice and broken rice export from April to end of August is estimated at 983,792 metric tons, earning over US\$340 million., according to an announcement of Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

In past five months, Myanmar’s rice worth US\$279 million was shipped to 42 countries, with export volume of over 778,360 metric tons. Meanwhile, over 205,400 metric tons of broken rice were exported to 15 countries, earning \$61.9 million.

Border trade surpassed sea trade in rice export, accounting for 56.4 per cent of the total export.

Rice export through border checkpoints earned an estimated \$143 million, whereas the sea trade saw an income of \$197 million.

Export volume during this period may decrease but it’s a wait-and-see situation.

Around 400,000 acres of paddy plantations were damaged by floods, said U Ye Min Aung, general secretary of MRF.

In the last 2017-2018 fiscal year, 3.6 million tons of rice and broken rice worth \$1.13 billion were exported to foreign countries. —GNLM ■

Trade with Singapore registered \$1.3 billion from April to July

BILATERAL trade between Myanmar and Singapore amounted to US\$1.3 billion from April to July during mini-budget period. However, the country’s import outdoes export, according to statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Singapore is the second largest trading partner of Myanmar in the region, after

Thailand. Myanmar’s export to Singapore was worth \$152 million, while import exceeded \$1.17 billion.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, footwear, textile and clothing, minerals and animal products to Singapore, while its imports are plastic, fuel oil, capital goods, intermediate goods, consumer products, metals and chemicals.

Myanmar’s bilateral trade with Singapore was registered at \$3.83 billion in 2017-2018 fiscal year, \$2.96 billion in 2016-2017 FY, \$3.69 billion in 2015-2016 FY, \$4.89 billion in 2014-2015 FY, \$3.6 billion in 2013-2014 FY, \$2.82 billion in 2012-2013 FY, and \$3.05 billion in 2011-2012 FY.

Singapore listed enterprises brought into the country a capital of \$315 million in the

first four months of current mini-budget period, according to data released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Additionally, Singapore topped the list of countries with the largest FDI inflow in Thilawa Special Economic Zone with investments of \$598 million so far, followed by Japan and Thailand, respectively. — GNLM ■

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Shan Nationalities League for Democracy presents its policy, stance and work program



Central Executive Committee Member Nann Htwe Hmon.

CENTRAL Executive Committee Member Nann Htwe Hmon of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) presented the party's policy, stance and work program on radio and television on 12 September. Following is a translation of the presentation:

May sung khaa.

First of all, allow me to extend our heartiest greetings for the health and happiness to all residing in the Union of Myanmar.

I am Central Executive Committee Member Nann Htwe Hmon of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy.

Respected voters and esteemed people,

Due to the past mismanagement under the one-party system and authoritarian rule, our nation is lagged behind as a least developing country until now. Today, our nation practices multi-party democracy system and moving in at a steady pace for democratic transition. Politicians of a party should have the following basic state of mind:

- (1) One must give priority to party's interest when it comes to self interest and party's interest.
- (2) One must give priority to people's interest when it comes to party's interest and people's interest.

If persons, who are meant to lead the Union, could not set aside and trim down their personal ego and self interest, they will not be able to lead for the development of the country. Actions and tasks of oneself and the party must aim at the interest of the people, and must uphold the people as parents.

At this juncture, I would like to say that leaders and members of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy always uphold first and foremost the interest of the people rather than oneself and the party.

The aim and purpose of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy is as follows.

While working and creating for strengthening the mutual respect trust among national

brethren residing in the Union of Myanmar, the SNLD party also peacefully endeavors to the best of its ability for internal peace and national reconciliation. With a view to implementing internal peace process and national equality task in the lead role, basic policies are being laid out for cooperation. The sustainable peace construction policy of the party is as follows:

- (1) In building an independent federal union, it will be based on commitments and Panglong principle, as mentioned in the historic Panglong Agreement being exchanged and signed on 12 February 1947.
- (2) It will be based on the genuine Union principle, agreed and adopted at the all-state seminar held in Taunggyi in 1961.
- (3) It will be based on equality, self-administration rights and democratic system.
- (4) It will be based on the principle of mutual acknowledgment of nationalities residing in the Union, including mutual respect, assisting one another, unity and peaceful coexistence.
- (5) It will be based on the acceptance of diverse historical backgrounds, traditional culture, literature, language and national characteristics in conjunction with the creation of Union characteristic by all citizens.

Respected voters and esteemed people,

While implementing the tasks for a federal union and internal peace, we must not forget the historical facts from which the Union emerged and has existed.

The Union of Myanmar was first created on the 1947 Panglong Agreement. The Panglong Agreement was signed to acquire the independence of the nation, together in cooperation on the basis of equality between the different frontier (hilly) areas and the plains. It could be found that the historic Panglong Agreement was signed on the understanding that the new Myanmar nation would be built on union system,

that the union will have political equality, and that full rights will be exercised for self-administration.

Owing to the Panglong Agreement, Myanmar was able to declare her independence on 4 January 1948. The commitments of Panglong have brought in a genuine national unity among national brethren. If one looks into that reality, it shows that national brethren have not created separate independent states, but instead pooled their rights together and created a Union.

It could be clearly seen that the whole of the frontier areas had not been integrated into the Union by force with the threat of arms, but joined the Union on their own on the basis of equality, the Panglong spirit, and the Panglong commitment.

Our party, the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, would carry on the historical duty for the implementation of the essence mentioned in the Panglong commitments, which is the basic foundation of the Union.

Respected voters and esteemed people,

In building a federal democratic union, national equality and self-administration rights play a vital role. Assessing the challenges actually encountered in the implementation of national equality and a federal union, the following are being found:

- (1) The process of peace building;
- (2) The process of democratic transition;
- (3) The process of building a federal union;
- (4) The historical legal rights of nationalities;
- (5) The development of states of the national races;
- (6) Finding solutions to armed conflicts;
- (7) Regarding the rights of the ethnic minorities.

The country spent over half a century under authoritarian rule, resulting in the absence of democracy for a long period. Thus, we are encountering in this period rivalry between the revolutionary spirit and the reform spirit, and head on collision on ideology of the security and defence oriented group and the civilian democratic government. At the same time, we are also facing a constitutional crisis that has ignored the desire and aspiration of the entire national races and people. Moreover, we are also experiencing an initial stage of democratic transition. A lengthy period of systematic destruction has resulted in the inability of performance by government organizations, democracy practice that is still not firm and solid, weakness in the rule of law, deep-rooted habits of bribery and



Party logo.

corruption, lack of media freedom, and incapable civil societies.

Weakness is also seen in major extraction of natural resources, citing development of the country; environmental degradation problem; controversial large projects; monopoly by business cronies over business projects; and lack of transparency.

Challenges are also seen, such as that of international pressure emerging from the Rakhine State issue, Myanmar being pushed into the global front due to geopolitical competition between China and Western countries, and rise in religious fanaticism and nationalists extremism.

Respected voters and esteemed people,

For all national races to be prosperous and peacefully co-exist in the Union is based on the application of certain political system. The most vital factor in building a federal union is to design Union characteristics, accepted by all concerned. In this connection, there are two kinds, the structural characteristics and the essence characteristics.

Structural characteristics are as follows:

- (1) All characteristics and symbols, signs and special emblems, figures and images owned and accepted by the people of the nation are to be utilized in all relevant places of the country.
 - (2) Relevant personal emblems, figures and images of certain states are to be recognized and utilized in the relevant states.
 - (3) With regards to places in the Union, all emblems, figures and images of the states are to be kept and displayed.
 - (4) Historical legacies, special days of commemoration, cultural events of diverse national races are to be mutually exchanged and accepted as valuable and worthy.
- Essence characteristics are as follows:

- (1) The building of democracy, equality, self-determination with full rights to create a Union and integrate as states in the Union.
- (2) The building of a strong system that checks and balances the legislative, administrative and judicial sectors, standing out separately and

functioning independently.

- (3) The building of a strong and sound interactive relations system between the Union and the states governments, and among the states governments.
- (4) Sharing the budget, resource management and utilization, for standard and equal development of all states.
- (5) The implementation of a clear and transparent federal administration system.

Respected voters and esteemed people,

The building of a federal union by an individual's endeavor and efforts would be very difficult. The Shan Nationalities League for Democracy believes that all national races that had built the Union must come together with collective leadership and responsibility in building a prosperous and peaceful Union.

Our SNLD party stands out as an honest and matured party until today and always upholding the aim for internal peace, harmony among national races, the peoples' needs, and the construction of a federal Union. We will go ahead with courageous steps for justice, liberty, equality and peace to take root and develop in this country. Our party will strongly step ahead to the future holding the historical task, and will try to leave a legacy with a firm foundation that guarantees in full national equality in a genuine federal union.

I would like to offer my firm promises here that if the respected people vote for our representatives of SNLD party as lawmakers, they are sure to serve the interests of the people.

Therefore, I take this opportunity in urging the respected people to proceed to the polling booth on the upcoming voting day and vote with a courageous manner for the development of the social life of the people and for the peace of the nation. Please vote with a decisive spirit.

In conclusion, I would like to call upon all to create a federal union enveloped with full happiness.

I wish all to come together in building the nation.

May sung khaa.

Translated by UMT (HK)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets PNO leaders, ethnic leaders in Kayah State

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with U Aung Kham Hti, Patron of the Pa-O National Peace Group at Kyauktalongyi in Taunggyi Township, Shan State yesterday, according to the news release of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief. At the meeting, U Nay Win Tun, a member of the panel of patrons of the Pa-O peace group, explained the efforts of PNO for peace and development in the region.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing expressed the Tatmadaw's commitment to achieving the eternal peace in the country, stressing the importance of the rule of law in the region.

The duty for prevalence of the rule of law is to be carried out by the regional authorities and police force and the defence duty of the country is to be carried out by the Tatmadaw, said the Senior General.

The Senior General also explained the efforts of the government and the Tatmadaw to gain eternal peace in the country, pledging to provide aid to the de-



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meeting with U Aung Kham Hti, patron of the PNO peace group.
PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

velopment of the Kyauktalongyi region.

He also discussed with the leaders of PNO peace group requirements for elimination of drug in the region and promoting education standard of the local

people. At the meeting, the Senior General presented gifts to U Aung Kham Hti and cash donated by the families of the Tatmadaw to the board of trustees of Maha Witha Buddha Gaya Pagoda in Kyauktalongyi.

Similarly, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with ethnic leaders in Kayah State at a local command in Loikaw.

Also present at the meeting were senior military officers, representatives of KNPP, KNG, KN-

PDP and peace makers U Paw Lu Chan, U Khi Yae and responsible officials.

At the meeting, the Senior General said all are responsible for peace and stability and development of Kayah State, urging organizations, political parties, social organizations and ethnic armed organizations which have not yet returned to the fold of the law to participate in bring about the peace and stability of the region.

The purpose of the reason why peace making efforts are made is to pave the way for all ethnic armed groups to enjoy the democratic rights as the country is walking on the path to democracy. He continued to say that only when all ethnic armed groups sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, will the country enjoy the eternal peace. Representatives of the ethnic armed groups explained the regional development works and peace making efforts. The Senior General presented gifts to the attendees and the meeting ended, according to the news release of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief.—MNA ■

Area settlement, amassing military power should be avoided to prevent armed conflicts while building trust: JMC-U Chairman

DURING the 18th meeting of the Union-level Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC-U) held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Yangon yesterday, JMC-U Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae called for all sides to avoid area settlement and amassing military power so that armed conflicts can be circumvented while everyone is working to build trust among each other.

The chairman said that these acts can breed suspicion and gave warnings to avoid any measures that can trigger conflicts.

The 18th meeting of the JMC-U will discuss the implementation process of the results from the previous 17th JMC-U meeting, review the excursion to Norway to study its peace process, assess the fund proposal for FY 2018-2019, discuss ceasefire implementations conducted during the time period between the 17th and 18th JMC-U meet-

ings, the operations of the Local Civilians Monitoring (LCM) Groups, and matters relating to enforcing ceasefire agreements.

The first day of the 18th JMC-U meeting was initiated with opening speeches by the JMC-U Chairman, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Vice-Chairman (1) Saw Issac Po, and Vice-Chairman (2) Sai Myo Thant.

In his opening speech, the JMC-U Chairman reiterated that the purpose of the JMC is to monitor, evaluate and verify, and to solve conflicts.

He said the main objective among them is solving conflicts, which can be accomplished through acquiring mutual agreements, conducting regular meetings, and emergency meetings if necessary, and to implement agreed rules and regulations when resolving conflicts.

He urged avoiding armed conflicts as they bring negative consequences for the concerned organization and local residents



The first day of the 18th meeting of the Union-level Joint Monitoring Committee in progress in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

involved. He said the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) contains facts that military forces have agreed to follow to reduce armed conflicts. He said the representatives of the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) are all aware of the mutually agreed upon facts and principles to reduce armed conflicts and it is up to everyone to ensure they are being followed.

The Chairman said that current ongoing conflicts are the result of area settlement and amassing of military power. He said Chapter 3-Section 5(B) of the NCA clearly indicates that all parties have to avoid provocative acts and both direct and indirect libeling towards other parties. He called for all sides to take on the view of working for the good of the nation, and said

mutually positive gestures will follow accordingly.

Next, JMC-U Vice-Chairman (1) Saw Issac Po delivered his opening speech, saying that the JMC-U is almost reaching its third year of inception and that he believes it is due to the shared mindset of everyone that the JMC members have been steadfast. The success of the JMC depends on everyone in attendance, he said.

This was followed by an opening speech from civilian group representative member and JMC-U Vice-Chairman (2) U Sai Myo Thant, who said that the JMC will have its share of disputes as it is a tripartite by nature

Attending the first day of the 18th JMC-U meeting were ten government representatives, eleven EAO representatives, and six civilian representatives.

The 18th JMC-U meeting will be held from 12 to 14 September. — Ye KhaungNyunt ■

Disaster prevention, preparedness is better than cure

RISING costs from natural disasters over the last three decades have urged the Asian governments to invest more in disaster preparedness to lessen damage from calamities.

Myanmar ranked 42nd in 171 countries of the world that are most at risk to natural disaster and ranked 15th highest in the world for a lack of readiness in responding to natural disasters.

It is obvious that we need to be ready to resist and respond to natural disasters. If we want to overcome the challenges posed by natural calamities, more needs to be done.

More needs to be done if Asia is to overcome the challenges posed by natural calamities.

Myanmar needs to find a system or a scheme which can provide a sustainable solution to preventing losses caused by disasters instead of annually providing aid to farmers in the aftermath, said Vice President U Henry Van Thio at the meeting with authorities and associations in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday to seek ways for reducing the impacts of the disasters.

“ Myanmar needs to find a system or a scheme which can provide a sustainable solution to preventing losses caused by disasters instead of annually providing aid to farmers in the aftermath.

in 2018 would be supplied with seeds and inputs, such as fertilizer, worth billions of kyats in a timely manner so that they can get back on their feet in terms of food security.

The meeting was held to seek ways for effectively dealing with the agricultural sector, which is largely hit by disasters every year, and for providing remedies to the country's basic production sector.

We should think about which per cent of the total spending for natural disasters goes to preparedness and prevention and which per cent should be spent on response.

Because, a new study on impacts of disasters shows that every investment in prevention would bring four to seven times savings in terms of reduction in damage.

In some countries, it is found that only 4 per cent of the total spending for natural disasters goes to preparedness and prevention while 96 per cent is spent on response.

Our investments also should go to technology, innovation, advanced information and vigilant local governments and the public for disaster preparedness as they are playing an important role in alleviating the effects of disasters and in reducing risks from calamities.

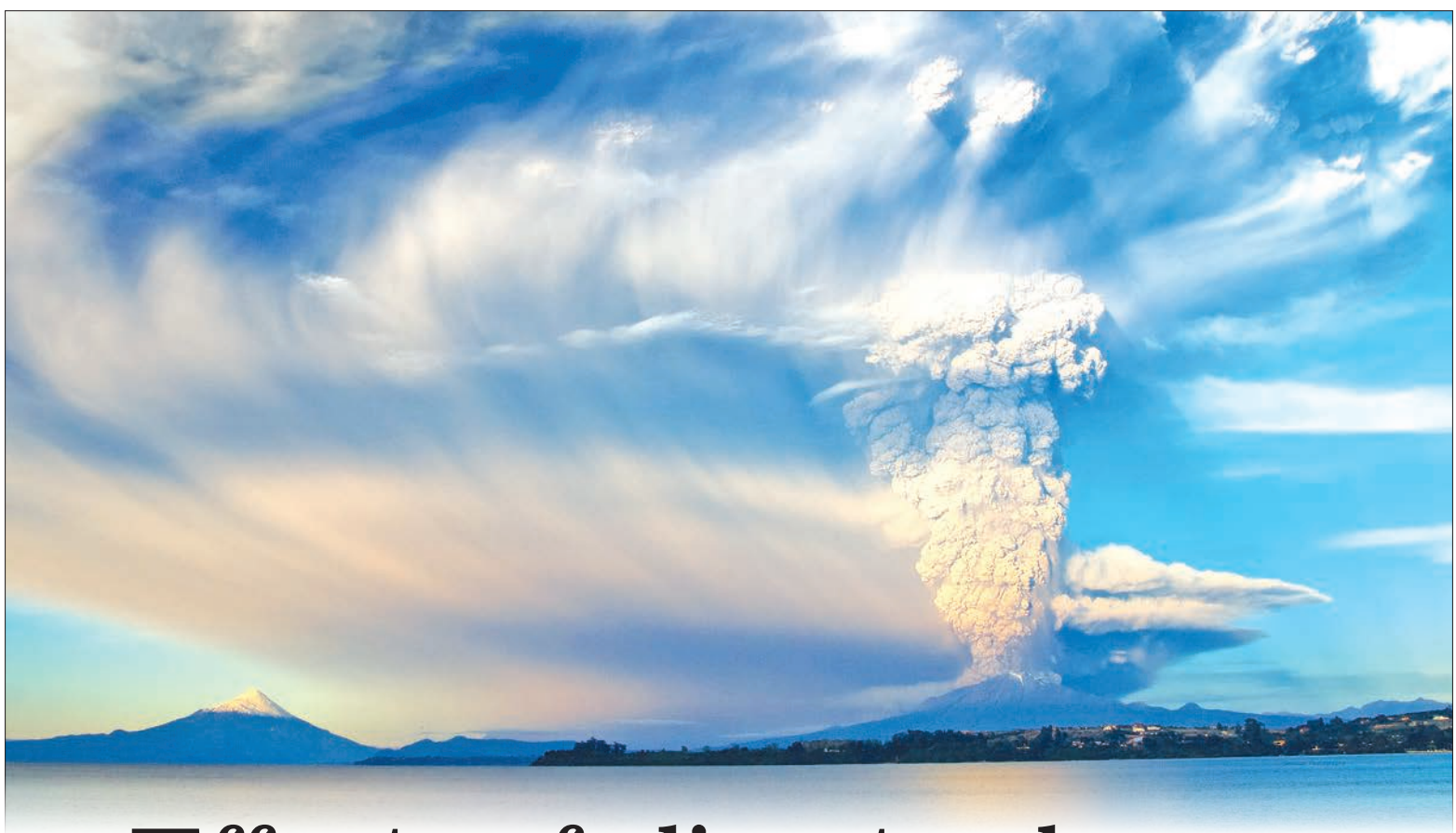
I HAD written over a dozen or so articles related to climate change. In those articles, I had persistently pointed out what the causes are behind the climate change, the imminent threats and dangers that our Earth, human beings and all living things could be subjected to. At one time, I thought there was nothing more to write about it, which I even mentioned in one of my articles. However, I was totally wrong, because almost nearly every day new findings and discoveries about the effects of climate change are emerging.

Today, there are still many who are totally unaware of what causes climate change. The worst are those people, including some authoritative persons, who deny there is a climate change plaguing the world or who deny it was caused by humans. As for that second group of people, their denial must be based on political or economic reasons, but surely they are not ignorant, so I don't intend my articles to make them change their stances. However, as for the first group, who are unaware, should be educated about the causes and the consequences of the climate change that is progressing at an alarming rate and how human beings are causing them.

Before proceeding to write about those new findings and discoveries, I would like to recall some salient points about climate change, which I had mentioned time and again in my articles. I am doing it for the benefit of those who are not yet familiar or are unaware of them. These points are necessary to be known by every human being, so that they may be able to contribute towards countering climate change.

Salient points on climate change from my articles

Since the time of the Industrial Revolution that begun in the 18th century, when steam-powered engines that burn wood or coal to heat the boilers came into existence, our planet was exposed to the excess of greenhouse gases—carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane and a few other gases. These are called the greenhouse gases, because they envelope the earth and act like a greenhouse. They prevent the sun's radiations from being reflected back into space, causing temperatures to rise, which is the main cause of the global warming. This global warming, in turn, affects the climate phenomena that has been going on naturally to deteriorate. That is a brief description of how climate change happens. With the invention of internal combustion engines which use diesel, kero-



Effects of climate change worse than thought about

By Khin Maung Myint

sene or petrol, global warming worsened as more and more greenhouse gases were emitted.

The consequences of climate change are in a variety of ways. Extreme temperatures cause desertification, drying up of streams, creeks, rivers, ponds and lakes, severe droughts, depletion of grasslands and grazing grounds for animals, both domestic and wild, more frequent and severe wildfires depleting large swaths of forests, disappearance of wildlife habitats, more frequent and stronger storms, flooding, melting of icebergs from around the world causing ocean level rises, depleting habitable and arable lands, effecting agricultural and fishery industries and endless number of other adverse effects.

Few decades ago, the above-mentioned consequences of climate change were not as visible as today. People didn't seem to be concerned with it, though some climatologists ardently tried to point out the consequences of the looming catastrophes of climate change all along. However, in the past few decades, the effects of climate change became more noticeable. The United Nations had to get involved in the fight against climate change. Starting from 1990 with the first United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held for the first time in Berlin, the United Nations had held such

conferences every year at different venues around the world. The Paris conference, called the COP21, must be credited as the most productive and managed to pass some resolutions in connection with the control of climate change. COP22, held in Marrakesh, Morocco, should also be credited for being able to ratify the resolution that was laid down in Paris the previous year, to come into force.

According to the Paris Accord, the signatories to the ratification must endeavour to maintain the temperature rise at 1.5° Celsius or lower, above the average temperatures of the pre-Industrial Revolution period. To achieve that goal, the signatories must endeavour to reduce greenhouse gases, especially the carbon dioxide emissions, by substituting fossil fuels with renewable or green energy, such as hydro, solar and wind energy. Also, they must create carbon sinks to absorb the carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by growing more trees and forest conservation. During the COP21 held in Paris, the tiny Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan was commended as the most forested country in the world, with over 80 per cent of the country covered with forests.

New findings and predictions
Due to relentless ongoing researches of scientists from around the world, we learn more and more about the effects and consequences of climate change. The latest findings and predictions for the future are emerging in the international medias almost every now and then. To cite one very interesting finding related to the effects of climate change on the civilizations, a group of scientists unanimously came to the conclusion that the Maya Civilization, that flourished between 1800 B.C to A.D 250 in South America, came to an end due to severe droughts brought on by climate change. Also, their findings applied to the collapse of the Ancient Egyptian Civilization and those of some Mesopotamian civilizations. Their findings are quite tangible.

As for the predictions for the future, scientists had warned that if emission of the greenhouse gases cannot be reduced, and if temperatures cannot be maintained at 1.5° Celsius or lower, the climate change will worsen. Icebergs around the world are melting at an alarming rate even now. If the temperature rise cannot be brought down from the present level, the melting of ice will worsen. The consequences of which will be the rise in ocean levels, submerging the low lying areas causing tiny islands to disappear. The disappearance of tiny islands is already happening. Such situations will drive populations to move inland. Lands that are inhabitable and arable will become scarce and social unrests will follow. Even now there are exodus of migrations from af-

fects areas, especially from Africa. The worst case scenarios will be armed conflicts breaking out everywhere.

The latest prediction is, if the climate change cannot be put under control, the world landscape will become unrecognizable in 100 years' time from now. This could be true. Because even now, many landscapes are changing around the world due to desertification, ocean levels rising, tiny islands disappearing, coastlines receding, and many other minor changes around the world are already happening.

A ray of hope or disaster?

While many findings and predictions are pointing to a doomed world because of the temperature rise, one encouraging finding and a prediction based on it appeared out of the blues. Some scientists had found that for over a hundred days in the past year the sun was flawless, meaning there was no sign of solar activity, an indication that the sun is cooling down somewhat. The sun's heat reaching the earth will be gradually reduced, if the sun enters a long period of inactivity. This phenomena could lead to a "mini ice age" or the "little ice age", like the one that happened in around the 17th century. With the consequences of temperature rises looming, this may be a ray of hope, but may also be a disaster, because many lives perished during the last "little

ice age". Anyhow, in the beginning of that predicted "little ice age", I hope there will be some reprieve for the warming globe for quite some time, before the adverse consequences of the cold climate hit us in full force. Some climatologists are of the opinion that the "little ice age" could be upon earth as early as 2030, but some are skeptical and shrugging off that idea as just a myth.

Conclusion

Having laid bare the facts, causes, consequences and the counter measures to be taken in the fight against climate change, it's up to us, humans, to take more responsibility in shaping our destiny. At least, if people become aware of the climate change taking place and accept that human activities are the main causes, it will be quite helpful. Hopefully, it will be enough in helping to counter it. Also, it is to be hoped that some authoritative persons come to their senses and accept this fact and stop denying and participate in the fight against climate change by honouring the ratifications signed by their predecessors at the UNFCCC held in Marrakesh and successive agreements reached at the annual conventions.

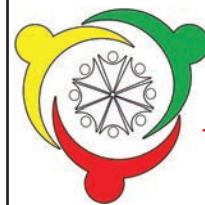
Lately, to be more precise, from 4-9 September, there was a UNFCCC event being held in Bangkok, Thailand. From my point of view, the choice of Bangkok as a venue for such convention, though not an annual event, since it is scheduled to be held again from 2-14 Dec at Katowice, Poland (COP24), is very appropriate. Bangkok and its surroundings are inundated almost every year due to sea level rises, coastlines had receded noticeably and flooding in downtown areas, suburbs and countryside are becoming more severe. Bangkok is literally sinking. The choice of Bangkok as the venue for the convention at this time of the year must be to showcase what climate change is capable of doing. At the time of writing this article, the convention in Bangkok is still ongoing and no full report has emerged. However, let us hope that it will be able to produce some viable agreements that will be helpful in the fight against climate change.

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Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons



Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day

13th September

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

2018 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day's Objectives

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



Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 14:00 hrs M.S.T on 12-9-2018)

Flood condition of Sittoung River

According to the (13:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Sittoung River has exceeded by about (1½) feet at Madauk above its danger level. It may fall about (½) foot from the present water level during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Flood condition of Thanlwin River

According to the (13:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River has exceeded by about (2) feet at Hpaan above its danger level. It may fall about (1) foot from the present water level during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Madauk and Hpaan Township, to take precaution measure.

Ninth regular session of Second Pyithu Hluttaw holds 17th-day meeting

FROM PAGE-2

Reports, motions discussed, approved

The Pyithu Hluttaw then proceeded to either read, discuss, or approve reports submitted and motions tabled.

Firstly, U Soe Thura Tun, Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee, read the committee's report and the Speaker called for MPs interested in discussing the report to enroll their names.

Secondly, U Khin Maung Than, Secretary of the Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee, submitted the committee's report to receive approval from the Hluttaw. The Hluttaw proceeded to approve the report.

Thirdly, U Pe Than of

Myebon constituency discussed the report from the Pyithu Hluttaw's Hluttaw Rights Committee and committee secretary Dr. Hla Moe responded to the discussion.

Fourthly, U Thaung Htay Lin of Patheingyi constituency tabled a motion for the Hluttaw Rights Committee's report and the Hluttaw proceeded to approve the motion.

Fifthly, Dr. Wai Phyto Aung, member of the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee, tabled a motion to amend to the Health and Occupational Safety Bill submitted by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population. The Hluttaw proceeded to approve the motion.

Sixthly, Bill Committee member U Wai Hlaing tabled a motion for the Pyithu Hluttaw to approve the amendments

to the Bill making second amendments to the Labour Dispute Settlement Law. The Hluttaw proceeded to approve the motion.

Seventhly, U Nay Myo Tun, member of the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee, and U Tin Ko Ko Oo of Bilin constituency tabled a motion for the Pyithu Hluttaw to approve the amendments to the 2018 Gambling Bill submitted by the Pyithu Hluttaw Public Affairs Management Committee. After some deliberation, the Hluttaw proceeded to approve the motion.

MPs discuss combating illegal trade

Afterwards, U Myo Zaw Aung of Kawlin constituency tabled a motion urging the Union Government to formulate a master strategic plan to

combat the illegal trade practices that are critically damaging the nation's economic development. The motion was discussed by U Lone Jone San Mai of Sumprabum constituency, Daw Ni Ni May Myint of Taungup constituency, U Soe Aung Naing of Kyonpyaw constituency, U Myint Han Tun of Budalin constituency, U Tin Htwe of Waw constituency, U Win Myint Oo (a) U Nay Myo of Nyaungshwe constituency, U Kan Myint of Thayet constituency, U Ohn Khin of Pulaw constituency, and Daw Cho Cho Win of Mawlaik constituency.

U Ohn Khin of Pulaw constituency discussed that the production of high-quality end products should be promoted, otherwise illegal trade will enter the country one way or another. He called

for monitoring of quality assurance and tax levying, using reasoning and enforcing rule of law in economic practices.

Daw Cho Cho Win of Mawlaik constituency discussed that a variety of regional products in the country are a target of illegal trade and called for the rules and regulations and policies to be scrutinized. She said poor enforcement of the rule of law engenders corruption, and the yearly trade deficit increase is contributed by the unequal ration of high imports to low exports from the country. She said the entire country needs to rally together to combat illegal trade practices.

Following, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win explained that the key ministries related to

illegal trade are the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the Ministry of Home Affairs, with the other ministries sharing indirect relevance. He said the Myanmar Police Force, under the Ministry of Home Affairs, inspects imports and exports for illegal trade and acts in accordance with The Essential Supplies and Services Law, The Export and Import Law and other existing laws. He said the Customs Department, Department of Trade, Internal Revenue Department, Department of Forestry, and the Road Transport Administration Department all collaborate together to conduct joint investigations in border trade camps and along trade routes, in the quest to combat illegal trade. — Min Min Zaw ■

Notification on Use of the Myanmar Companies Online (MyCO) Registry and the Myanmar Companies Law 2017

1. The Myanmar Companies Law 2017 came into effect on 1 August 2018 and the Myanmar Companies Online (MyCO) registry has been established to support its implementation (www.myco.dica.gov.mm). The Myanmar Companies Online (MyCO) registry permits the electronic registration of companies in accordance with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017 and provides reliable and up-to-date information on all registered companies.
2. Under the new MyCO registry, a company will receive an electronic receipt of any documents submitted to the Registrar and no other documents will be issued. The MyCO registry contains information on companies which can be easily searched by the public. Detailed company information will also be available for purchase on the MyCO registry shortly. All forms and applications used under the previous law, for example, Shareholding Details (Form 6), Directors List (Form 26), Annual Return (Form E), can no longer be used under the Myanmar Companies Law 2017.
3. Government ministries have been informed of the key changes in the Myanmar Companies Law 2017 and changes to the procedures in a briefing on 3 July 2018. By the letter of the Ministry of Planning and Finance dated 10 August 2018 (Ref MOPF-1/3/35(6596/2018), concerned ministries and agencies have been notified of these changes and provided with User ID and passwords to enable them to obtain company information on the MyCO registry.
4. Accordingly, companies are informed that old forms specified in paragraph 2 above are no longer required to be submitted to Government departments, banks and other organisations and where necessary, company registration certificates can be used for company activities and company information can be found on the MyCO registry.

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration

Rakhine State Government signs MoU with Embassy of India

A SIGNING ceremony for a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for 15 tractor, 15 harvesting machines to be donated to Rakhine State Ministry for Agriculture, Livestock, Forest and Mine and 40 sets of computer to be donated to the University of Computer Studies was held at Sittway Hotel in Sittway yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, State Ministers, and departmental officials, officials led by Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr. Vikram Misri and farmers.

First, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu delivered the opening speech.

Next, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu delivers the opening addresses at the MoU signing ceremony between Rakhine State Government and Embassy of India, Yangon, in Sittway. **PHOTO: MNA**

Vikram Misri, explained about the aim for the donation along with signing the MoU.

Afterwards, a representative of the farmers

expressed his words of thanks.

The MoU was signed and exchanged by Rakhine State Minister for Agriculture, Livestock,

Forest and Mine and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr. Vikram Misri, in the presence of the Rakhine State Chief Minister. —Win Min Soe (IPRD) ■

Myanmar-Bangladesh conduct coordinated patrol

A coordinated patrol between Myanmar and Bangladesh was conducted at the border mile posts 46 to 47 from 11 am to 12 noon on 11 September.

The Myanmar patrol was led by Police Inspector Zaw Lin Aung from No.5 Border Police sub-division (Aung Thabyae), Area 1, Maungdaw Township, and the Bangladesh patrol was led by officer Naib Subedar Md. Abdul Hannan of No. 11 Border Guards Bangladesh

(BGB). Similarly, on the same day, another patrol between Myanmar and Bangladesh was conducted at the border mile posts 31 to 34 from 10:30 am to 11:35 am. The Myanmar patrol was led by Police Captain Aung Myo Zaw Lwin from No.1 Border Police sub-division (Taung Pyo), Area 3, Maungdaw Township, and the Bangladesh patrol was led by officer Naib Subedar Md. Ragfiqul Islam of No. 34 BGB.—MNA ■



PHOTO: POLICE FORCE

Second Amyotha Hluttaw's ninth regular session holds 17th-day meeting

FROM PAGE-2

Assembly reads two bills, discusses one

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced that the Pyithu Hluttaw has sent back with amendments the Literature and Art Copyright Bill that the Amyotha Hluttaw has approved of. He called for MPs interested in discussing the bill to enroll their

names.

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Brig-Gen Tint Lwin read the committee's report on the Large-Sized Bridge Bill.

The Speaker then called for the Hluttaw's approval on each paragraph of the bill.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin tabled for the bill to be approved and was seconded by U Mya Min Swe of Mag-

way Region constituency 9.

The Speaker then called for the deliberation of the Hluttaw and soon announced the Hluttaw has approved the bill.

Afterwards, U Thein Swe, Chairman of the Amyotha Hluttaw Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertaking Vetting Committee, and committee member U Phayay Ye (a) Myint Than Tun read and submitted

to the assembly the committee's report on the proposals and questions submitted during the eighth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw.

The Speaker then called for MPs interested in discussing the report to enroll their names.

The 18th-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 17 September. —Aung Ye Thwin ■



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DAEWOO PRECIOUS RESOURCES COMPANY LIMITED (In Members' Voluntary Winding-up)

Notice of the Final Meeting and Dissolution

Under Section 208 of the Myanmar Companies Act, Daewoo Precious Resources Company Limited was placed into Members' Voluntary Winding-up on 9 February 2018.

Now that the liquidation process has already been completed, the Company will be finally wound-up shortly under section 208E of the Myanmar Companies Act.

As required by Section 208 (E) (2) of the Myanmar Companies Act (1914), notice is hereby given that final liquidation General Meeting will be held on 12 October 2018 at 9:00 am at No.(64/B), First Floor, Shwegon Plaza, Komin Kochin Road, Bahan Township, Yangon Region.

(Maung Maung Aung)
Liquidator

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Vice President U Myint Swe delivers speech at....

FROM PAGE-3

It was needed to keep the momentum going forward, and as for us to double our efforts so as to elevate bilateral trade between China and ASEAN countries to 1 trillion U.S dollars and to reach an investment volume to 150 billion U.S dollars by 2020.

Moreover the year 2018 has been designated as ASEAN-China Year of Innovation (YOI). With the theme of "Jointly Building the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, Forging the China-ASEAN Community of Innovation," this year's expo will feature a host of exhibitions, forums and exchange programs, aimed at lifting the friendly cooperation between China and ASEAN to a new level. We welcome the schemes and on-going process of ASEAN-China Year of Innovation (YOI), and to implement the joint declaration on "Science, technology and innovation" at the ASEAN-China summit made by China which will be held in November 2018.

We are in need of striving to make renovation and making the best use of opportunities utilizing trading, digital economy, technology and fourth industrial revolution. At the same time, we should find ways to promote the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership aiming to cooperate with the new fields including science, digital and tech-



Vice President U Myint Swe observes the opening ceremony of the 15th CAEXPO, CABIS yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

nological advancement. We can promote trading and investment through cooperation among the people. Myanmar and China has shared the longest border areas and we also know the importance of "The Belt and Road Programme" and attended the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation that was held in May 2017. In order to succeed in this programme, it is of great importance to maintain great relationship and peaceful environment between the countries. We are also much obliged to China for assisting to implement the schemes for the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025, including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Maritime Silk Road Bank that can enhance the maritime trade network,

ports, harbours, shipping and basic infrastructure. As for Myanmar and China, cooperation is being made to construct the strategic and comprehensive Kyaukpyu deep sea port project. China is assisting Myanmar's peace process and national reconciliation programme, and we are going to maintain good relationships. We pledged to maintain the ASEAN-China the ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership and provide support to build the 21st century Maritime Silk Road. The Vice President U Myint Swe concluded his speech by pledging to cooperate closely between ASEAN countries and China.

Following this, after leaders of delegations from ASEAN countries have delivered their speeches the 15th CHINA - ASEAN

EXPO (CAEXPO) and CHINA-ASEAN BUSINESS & INVESTMENT SUMMIT (CABIS) were formally declared to be open. Then Vice President U Myint Swe and party went to the exhibition booth where the Myanmar National booth was displayed and saw the performance of Kayin National Dance. In the afternoon, Vice President U Myint Swe met with media personnel from news agencies and answered questions regarding bilateral relation, economy and trade. Afterwards, Vice President U Myint Swe and party visited the China-ASEAN information Harbour. Later in the evening, they went to Myanmar Consulate General in Nanning, China, and met with embassy staff and their family members. —MNA

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

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date : 12th September, 2018

Invitation for Bids

IDA, Credit No : 5727-MM

Contract Title : Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers for Shan (East), Shan (South), Shan (North) & Bago (East), Naypyitaw For National Electrification Project

Reference No : MOEE-NEP/C1-W4/18&MOEE-NEP/C1-W5/18

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for **Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers MOEE-NEP/C1-W4/18 for Shan (East), Shan (South), Shan (North) and MOEE-NEP/C1-W5/18 for Bago (East), Naypyitaw.**

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for **Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers MOEE-NEP/C1-W4/18 for Shan (East), Shan (South), Shan (North) and MOEE-NEP/C1-W5/18 for Bago (East), Naypyitaw in the following locations.**

The number and identification of lots comprising this installation bidding MOEE-NEP/C1-W4 /18 process for Shan (East), Shan (South), Shan (North) is:

Lot 1: Taunggyi District	- 44 villages
Lot 2: Taunggyi District	- 31 villages
Lot 3: Taunggyi District	- 38 villages
Lot 4: Taunggyi District	- 45 villages
Lot 5: Loilen/Langkho/ Monghsat/Kengtung District	- 58 villages
Lot 6: Lashio District	- 44 villages
Lot 7: Muse District	- 33 villages
Lot 8: Kyaukme District	- 42 villages

The number and identification of lots comprising this installation bidding MOEE-NEP/C1-W5/18 process for Bago (East), Naypyitaw is:

Lot 1: Taungoo District	- 94 villages
Lot 2: Taungoo District	- 102 villages
Lot 3: Taungoo District	- 54 villages
Lot 4: Taungoo District	- 64 villages
Lot 5: Det Khi Na and Oke Ta Ra District	- 70 villages

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

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

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

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 29th October, 2018, (10:00 A.M.) - Myanmar Time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below.

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

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

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

Myanmar Global Investment Forum continues

MYANMAR Global Investment Forum held by Myanmar Investment Commission and Hong Kong-based Euromoney Institutional Investor (Asia) continued at the Myanmar International Convention Centre (II) (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Ministry of Commerce's Permanent Secretary U Yan Naing Tun delivered a speech at the forum.

In his speech, the permanent secretary said investment and trade are like two sides of a same coin. Today's Myanmar

Global Investment Forum is very significant for improving Myanmar investment environment and enhancing trade sector as well.

Since 2011, Ministry of Commerce has adhered to its policy reform and the win-win strategy of opening-up in the line with international rules and regulations, he said.

Moreover, a series of liberation and openness for policy development have been introduced for enhancing viable trade environment.

Among the changes, introducing the Negative

List of import goods, services policy liberation for wholesale and retail businesses, allowing foreign companies for trading of agricultural inputs, construction materials, medical equipment and value-added goods are paramount steps for trade sector development.

Reflecting such a series of liberation and openness in trade and investment facilitation, Myanmar's economy has been improving gradually. The percentage of trade contribution in GDP has also been increasing gradually.

Myanmar has been the beneficiary country of Generalized System of Preference (GSP) provided by preference giving countries. Myanmar has enjoyed EU GSP program since 2013 and the US GSP Program since 2016.

"Such condition has been a basic foundation for enhancement of trade sector, investment sector and production sector. Here, I would like to urge investors and exporters to utilize such opportunities effectively and efficiently" said U Yan Naing Tun.

SEE PAGE-13

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Myanmar Global Investment Forum continues

FROM PAGE-12

Ministry of Commerce has also been paying attention for export promotion in order to reduce trade deficits. The export volume of rice reached up to 3.59 million tons in 2017-2018, reaching the highest volume within past 70 years.

The total volume of trade has been increasing year after year. In 2016-2017, the volume of trade (VOT) was over US\$ 29 billion and it increases to about \$ 34 billion in 2017-2018, resulting net increase of \$ 4 billion within one year.

Regarding Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), as Myanmar has been an agro-based country, there have been a lot of potentials in Agriculture sector and Livestock breeding sectors.

Moreover, the country's CMP industry has emerged as a very prom-

ising one. The export value of CMP garment was only \$ 850 million in 2015-2016, but it significantly increased to three times within two years, reaching \$ 2.5 billion in 2017-2018.

Under a certain constraints and challenges, government and private sector have been working together to emerge better business environment and to integrate Myanmar into the global economy.

"I hope this forum is opportune for all of us to engage and exchange of ideas for emerging better business environment particularly investment facilitation," said U Yan Naing Tun.

Increasing FDI inflow contributes to the enhancement of trade, job opportunities and increase of GDP. Myanmar Investment Commission has prioritized for investment facilitation in Myanmar,



The second day of Myanmar Global Investment Forum held in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

providing equal opportunities for win-win situation.

"I am fully confident that, today's forum contributes to ample opportunities for all relevant stakeholders and enhancement of Myanmar's Trade Sector," said the Permanent Secretary.

Afterwards, the panel discussions were held in which the title "Financial sources and market opportunities" was led by moderator Mr. Jonathan Breen from Euromoney, the title

"Myanmar tourism sector" by Director and Principal of Asper Consulting Mr. Sebastien Moineau, and the title "The educational sector" by Asia Bureau Chief from Euromoney Institutional Investor Mr. Matthew Thomas.

In the today's Myanmar Global Investment Forum, not only panel discussions were held but also matters related to Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) were explained and discussed.—MNA ■

International Day of Democracy ceremony to be broadcast live on Saturday

The International Day of Democracy 2018 ceremony which will be held at Thabin Hall, Hluttaw compound in Nay Pyi Taw at 9:30 am on 15 September (Saturday), is to be broadcast live on Hluttaw (Parliament) Channel of Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV).—MNA ■

Electoral presentation from Kachin Democratic Party, Arakan National Party, Chin League for Democracy to be published in newspapers

Electoral presentation from the Kachin Democratic Party will be published in the 15 September issues, Arakan National Party in the 16 September issues and, Chin League for Democracy in the 17 September issues of the *Myanma Alinn*, *Kyemon* and *The Global New Light of Myanmar* daily newspapers.—MNA ■

Illegal drugs, gold items seized at Kyaingchaung checkpoint in Maungtaw

AUTHORITIES have seized 157,250 WY stimulant tablets, worth Ks 471 million, cash and gold items at Kyaingchaung checkpoint in Maungtaw Township on 10 September.

40,000 WY stimulant tablets, Ks 1 million of Myanmar currency notes, two pairs of gold earrings and one gold necklace were confiscated from a Lifan vehicle driven by Aung Kyaw Htay who lives in Three-mile Village and U Aye Tun and Ko Ko Win on board at noon on Monday.

Additional 10,000 WY stimulant tablets were seized while searching the motor cycle driven by Hein

Soe Thu from the behind of Lifan car, and 157,250 WY stimulant tablets and Ks 780,000 of Myanmar currency notes were confiscated while searching the motor cycle driven by Maung Maung (a) Maung Hla.

The suspects were being investigated. They told that a man from Maungtaw Town (under investigation) asked them to transport the tablets to the junction of Kha Maung Seik Village, with the paid Ks 150,000 per bag.

Police filed charges against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—MNA ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V AREZOO VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AREZOO VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-9-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V AS SOPHIA VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AS SOPHIA VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-9-2018 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA VOY. NO. (KHAD 0105N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA VOY. NO. (KHAD 0105N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-9-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V BANGSAOTONG VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BANGSAOTONG VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-9-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-3 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 BAY LINE SHIPPING PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CHANGING MANUFACTURER OF REGISTERED PESTICIDE

Bayer AG is notifying the change of manufacturer of below registered herbicide, under the Myanma Pesticide Registration Board, from **Bayer AG, Germany** to **BASF SE, Germany**. Any objection to this change can notify at Myanma Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein, Yangon within 14 days.

Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg. Type	Reg. Number
Basta 15 SL	Glufosinate-ammonium 150g/L	Full	F2014-402

Bayer Thai Co., Ltd. (Myanmar Branch), Phone: 01-382710

Vanished China star Fan last in 'social responsibility' ranking

BEIJING—China's highest paid movie star Fan Bingbing, who has not been seen in public since July, was placed last in an academic report ranking A-list celebrities on their social responsibility.

The 36-year-old actress has been a household name in China for years and tasted Hollywood success with a role in the 2014 blockbuster "X-Men: Days of Future Past".

Last year, she topped *Forbes* magazine's list of top-earning Chinese celebrities with income of 300 million yuan (\$43 million).

But she has gone quiet in recent months, following allegations of tax evasion.

In the report by Beijing Normal University published earlier this month, 100 Chinese stars including popular actor Jackie Chan and award-winning actress Zhang Ziyi were ranked according to their professional work, charity work and personal integrity.

But with a pass requiring a score of more than 60 percent, only nine celebrities made the cut, with Chinese actor Xu Zheng topping the list at 78 per cent.

Fan had a score of zero.

The report's authors said they studied the celebrities' be-



Fan Bingbing has not been seen in public since July, following claims of tax evasion. PHOTO: AFP

haviour to assess the extent of their social responsibility but did not elaborate how they arrived at the results, saying that the findings were based on "research and web-scraping".

The ranking has split fans online, with many jumping to Fan's defence.

"What kind of a report is this? Fan has done so much good work in the past!" one user wrote on the Twitter-like Weibo platform.

Fan has been unusually quiet in recent months—with no new posts to her normally active per-

sonal Weibo account since May — amid speculation about her whereabouts.

The actress's troubles began when Cui Yongyuan, a former presenter for state-run China Central Television (CCTV), posted purported contracts online in May that suggested she had received under-the-table payments.

A statement released by Fan's studio said she was the victim of "slander" but did not dispute the authenticity of the documents Cui released.

So-called "yin and yang" dual

contract arrangements—with one contract for income declared to tax authorities and another kept secret—are reportedly used to evade taxes.

After the documents posted by Cui went viral, the state tax administration was reportedly investigating alleged use of such dual contracts in the entertainment industry in eastern Jiangsu province.

Although Fan was not mentioned by name, she has businesses registered in Jiangsu. —AFP ■

Snakes on a plate: Viet Nam's coiled cuisine

YÊN BÁI (Viet Nam) —With their meat served up in a wide array of dishes and blood added to rice wine, snakes make a reputedly satisfying—and nourishing—meal in Viet Nam.

Caught in the jungles of the north of the country, snake flesh is traditionally believed to help with cooling overheated body temperatures, relieving headaches and easing digestion.

Restaurants will cook it steamed or fried with lemongrass and chilli and serve it with a rice wine mixed with snake blood, said chef Dinh Tien Dung, who works at a restaurant in Yen Bai province three hours northwest of the capital Hanoi.

Holding a snake's head with one hand, Dinh Tien Dung slit its body near the head with a knife and squeezed blood out of it, dripping it into a cup of rice wine.

"We make use of every part of the snake except its head and its scales," said the 32-year-old.

Locals believe that only men over 50 should drink snake wine, as younger males are likely to experience "backache or impotence," said restaurant owner Duong Duc Doc. —AFP ■

Halle Berry to make directorial debut with 'Bruised'

LOS ANGELES—Actress Halle Berry is all set to make her directorial debut with the mixed martial arts drama "Bruised".

The 52-year-old Oscar win-

ner will also star in and produce the project, reported Variety.

The story follows a disgraced MMA fighter who has to face one of the rising stars of the MMA world and deal with the return of her 6-year-old son to the mother he deserves.

The film's script has been written by Michelle Rosenfarb.

Berry, who will be next seen in "John Wick 3", will work with the same team that executes fight choreography for the Keanu Reeves-starrer series.

Basil Iwanyk will also produce the film alongside Linda Gottlieb. —PTI ■



Actress Halle Berry. PHOTO: PTI

Amitabh Bachchan sends handwritten notes to Vicky Kaushal, Taapsee Pannu

MUMBAI—Megastar Amitabh Bachchan sent a handwritten note to Taapsee Pannu and Vicky Kaushal praising their performance in "Manmarziyaan".

The actors took to Twitter to share the picture of the note and a bouquet Bachchan sent them after watching the film.

Kaushal tweeted, "This means the world to me! Thank You @SrBachchan Sir for this hand written letter of appreciation and bouquet #Manmarziyaan."

The letter read how Bachchan has always admired his work for his "presence and versatility" and his performance has been "exceptional".

Pannu, who has previously shared screen space with Bachchan in "Pink", shared her photo - sprawled on the



Megastar Amitabh Bachchan. PHOTO: PTI

floor with the letter in her arms and the flowers by her side.

"Finally! THIS LETTER! A milestone achieved!" the actor, who is set to reunite with Bachchan in "Badla", tweeted.

The love triangle also stars Abhishek Bachchan.

In the past, actors such as Rajkumar Rao, Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh, Ayushmann Khurrana, Sushant Singh Rajput, Kangana Ranaut and Randeep Hooda have received letters from Bachchan. —PTI ■

Sharp's humanoid robot to guide tourists in taxis in Kyoto

TOKYO—Sharp Corp's RoBo-Hon, a small humanoid robot with artificial intelligence features, will accompany tourists in taxis in Kyoto and offer sightseeing guidance in Japanese, Chinese and English from 22 September; the service providers said on Tuesday.

Sharp, Kyoto-based taxi operator MK Co and travel agency JTB Corp said they have teamed up to provide the tourism package until 31 March next year to meet the growing demand for sightseeing using taxis amid the increasing number of travelers to Japan. In the package, which will be on sale from next Monday, passengers in taxis can learn

about the history and culture of the sites they are visiting from conversations with RoBoHon, a two-legged robot that can interact with users through AI besides having basic mobile phone functions such as voice service and camera.

Customers can also take the robot out of taxis with them to tourist spots to use as a guide. For the tourism package, however, the robot's mobile phone and email functions cannot be used.

It will cost 6,000 yen (\$53) per person if two or three passengers share one RoBoHon and 7,000 yen if one passenger uses the robot for a six-hour tour.

The tour will start from an



This photo shows Sharp Corp's RoBoHon, a small humanoid robot with artificial intelligence features.

PHOTO: Kyodo News

MK rendezvous point in front of JR Kyoto Station and its destinations will include Kiyomizu temple, Nanzen-ji temple and Shogunzuka Seiryu-den, a

wooden hall located on top of a mountain where visitors can get a panoramic view over Kyoto.

Sharp has been exploring the use of the robot phone, which

is about 19.5 centimetres tall and weighs 390 grams, for corporate use and tourism purposes since its launch in May 2016.—Kyodo News ■

New study finds key gene linked to blood cancer

TIANJIN—Chinese and American researchers have identified a gene that plays a key role in the development of blood cancer.

Myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) are a group of cancers in which immature blood cells in the bone marrow do not mature and therefore do not become healthy blood cells. About 30 per cent of MDS patients may develop leukemia, and there is no cure and the incidence is increasing with the global population aging.

It is believed that MDS are caused by gene mutations in blood-making stem cells in bone marrow. Previous studies

have found 40 to 60 gene mutations in MDS patients, but the mechanism of how these gene mutations function and their role in the development of MDS were unclear.

A research team, led by experts from the Institute of Hematology under the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and the Cincinnati Children's Division of Experimental Hematology & Cancer Biology, has identified a transcription factor HIF1A, encoded by the gene HIF1A in patient cells, that can regulate functions in blood-cell-making stem cells in bone marrow.

In experiments done on mice, researchers removed or inhibited the gene HIF1A, and they found that all MDS mice had prolonged survival and their health conditions were significantly improved, which confirmed that the role of the gene in developing MDS.

The research was recently published in the international journal *Cancer Discovery*.

Further study will focus on developing new drugs and therapies targeting HIF1A for MDS patients, according to lead researcher Xiao Zhijian.—Xinhua ■

Scientists find how bilingual speakers switch between two languages

WASHINGTON—Researchers revealed some new knowledge about what happened when we switched between different languages that may offer new insights into the nature of bilingualism. The study published on Monday in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* showed that the neural activity in that process was exclusively associated with disengaging from one language and then engaging with a new one.

"This research unveils for the first time that while disengaging from one language requires some cognitive effort, activating a new language comes relatively cost-free from a neurobiological standpoint," said the paper's senior author Liina Pyllkanen, a professor in New York University (NYU)'s Department of Linguistics and Department of Psychology. Previous research has linked language switching with increased activity in areas associated with cognitive control in the prefrontal and anterior cingulate cortices. However, it was unknown whether it is disengaging from the previous language or engaging in a new language that drives this activity.

This is largely because these two processes happen simultaneously when participants switch, say, from speaking Spanish to

speaking English, turning Spanish "off" and turning English "on" happen at the same time.

The researchers studied bilingual individuals fluent in English and American Sign Language (ASL), who often produce both languages simultaneously.

"The fact that they can do both at the same time offers a unique opportunity to disentangle engagement and disengagement processes, that is, how they turn languages 'on' and 'off'," said the paper's lead author Esti Blanco-Elorrieta, a postdoctoral candidate at NYU.

Therefore, the researchers could ask the participants to go from producing both languages to producing only one, thus isolating the process of turning a language "off", or to switch from producing a single language to producing both, thus isolating the process of turning a language "on."

They used magnetoencephalography and observed bilingual signers/speakers who viewed the same pictures and named them with semantically identical expressions. The results showed that when bilinguals fluent in ASL and English switched languages, turning a language "off" led to increased activity in cognitive control areas while turning a language "on" was no different than not switching.—Xinhua ■

US teens prefer remote chats to face-to-face meeting: study

NEW YORK—American teenagers are starting to prefer communicating via text instead of meeting face-to-face, according to a study published on Monday by the independent organization Common Sense Media.

Some 35 per cent of kids aged 13 to 17 years old said they would rather send a text than meet up with people, which received 32 per cent. The last time the media and technology-focused nonprofit conducted such a survey in 2012, meeting face-to-face hit 49 per cent, far ahead of texting's 33 per cent.

More than two-thirds of American teens choose remote communication—including texting, social media, video conversation and phone conversation—when they can, according to the study. In 2012 less than half of them marked a similar preference. Notably, in the six-year span between the two studies the proportion of 13 to 17-year-olds with their own smartphone increased from 41 to 89 per cent.

As for social networks, 81 per cent of respondents said online exchange is part of their lives, with 32 per cent calling it "ex-

tremely" or "very" important.

The most-used platform for this age group is Snapchat (63 per cent), followed by Instagram (61 per cent) and Facebook (43 per cent). Some 54 per cent of the teens who use social networks said it steals attention away from those in their physical presence.

Two-fifths of them said time spent on social media prevents them from spending more time with friends in person.

The study was conducted online with a sample of 1,141 young people ages 13 to 17, from 22 March to 10 April.—AFP ■



England's striker Marcus Rashford celebrates after scoring during a friendly international football match between England and Switzerland at the King Power stadium in Leicester on 11 September, 2018.

PHOTO: AFP

Rashford gets England back to winning ways over Switzerland

LONDON—England manager Gareth Southgate recognised his side have vast room for improvement despite bouncing back from three consecutive defeats as a much-changed team edged past Switzerland for a 1-0 friendly win thanks to Marcus Rashford's winner.

However, the Three Lions again failed to hit the heights from their World Cup campaign, particularly in a poor first 45 minutes that provoked strong words between the players at half-time.

Southgate, though, did at least stave off an unwanted record of becoming the first England boss to oversee four straight defeats and further puncture the feel-good factor of a run to the World Cup semi-finals.

"It's not been a perfect week by any means but we finish with a win, which is important moving forward," said Southgate.

"We had a tactical problem to sort out and so many lads playing their first 45 minutes of the season," he added of the first-half display.

"It was a tall order to ask them to play against an excellent Switzerland side, they kept the ball well and we had to chase too much. There was plenty of room for improvement." The two teams could have met in the quarter-finals in Russia had the Swiss not limped out of the competition with a whimper to Sweden in the last 16.

England proved far too strong for the Swedes before falling short against Croatia in the last four, but it is Switzerland who have so far bounced back from their World Cup disappointment the stronger.

Vladimir Petkovic's side thrashed Iceland 6-0 to kickstart their Nations League campaign and were the better side for the first 45 minutes at the King Power.

"We could have been two or three nil down at half-time," said England full-back Danny Rose. "It's great we can all shout at each other and tell each other to improve like we did." — AFP ■

Ireland play out Poland draw after Keane controversy

WROCLAW (Poland)—The Republic of Ireland ended a controversial week with a 1-1 friendly draw in Poland on Tuesday as Millwall striker Aiden O'Brien scored on his debut.

Manager Martin O'Neill had to defend his assistant coach Roy Keane after a leaked recording appeared to reveal the former Manchester United captain swearing at midfielder Harry Arter and striker Jonathan Walters as they prepared for matches earlier this year.

Midfielder Arter, 28, has not played international football since.

Having been thrashed 4-1 by Wales in their Nations League opener last Thursday, it looked for much of the second half as though the Irish would secure a morale-boosting win, but Mateusz Klich grabbed a late equaliser for Poland in Wroclaw.

After a slow first 30 minutes, Arkadiusz Milik struck a long-range shot straight at Irish goalkeeper Darren Randolph as Poland struggled to break down a solid Ireland defence without Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski, who was rested despite sitting on 99 international appearances.

The visitors were almost the architects of their own downfall on the stroke of half-time, but after two failed efforts to clear a simple cross into the box, midfielder Grzegorz Krychowiak couldn't force the ball home.

Ireland finally managed their first shot on target early in the second half, with Bristol City midfielder Callum O'Dowda's speculative strike easily held by Wojciech Szczesny.

But that appeared to wake up O'Neill's side, and they grabbed a 54th-minute lead as the 24-year-old O'Brien met an O'Dowda cross to nod past a helpless Szczesny and into the net.

Poland continued to dominate possession without regularly threatening, but Klich played a neat one-two with Milik before slotting home in the 87th minute, despite Ireland calls for an offside flag.—AFP ■

Lukaku bags double as Belgium sweep Iceland aside

REYKJAVIK (Iceland)—Romelu Lukaku scored two goals as World Cup semi-finalists Belgium began their Nations League campaign with a comfortable 3-0 win away to Iceland on Tuesday.

Eden Hazard converted a 29th-minute penalty after a foul on Lukaku, with the Manchester United striker netting a quick-fire second before

adding a third in the closing stages.

Lukaku, also on the mark in Friday's 4-0 friendly defeat of Scotland, was brought down by a clumsy tackle from Sverrir Ingason and Hazard rolled the resulting spot-kick to the left of Hannes Halldorsson.

He then got himself on the scoresheet two minutes later by following up a rebound

after a powerful Vincent Kompany header was pawed into his path by Halldorsson.

Thomas Meunier struck the outside of the post on the hour, although Belgium ultimately transformed their dominance into a third with nine minutes to play as Lukaku slotted away a fizzing cross from Dries Mertens. — AFP ■

Barcelona, Girona support La Liga request for match in Miami

BARCELONA—Barcelona and Girona have both signed a request for their La Liga fixture in January to be played in Miami.

The formal request was submitted by La Liga to the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) on Monday, with the support of both Barca president Josep Maria Bartomeu and Girona president Delfi Geli.

The proposal asks permission that the game, originally scheduled as a home match for Girona at their Estadi Montilivi, be played at Hard Rock Stadium on 26 January.

A La Liga statement on Tuesday also said a "compensation package" on offer has been "welcomed" by 'Aficiones Unidas', an association of club fan groups in Spain.

The package is believed to include free flights for up to 1,500 Girona fans, as well as 5,000 tickets for the reverse fixture at the Camp Nou later this month.

As well as the RFEF, La Liga is likely to seek permission from the Spanish sports council and US Soccer Federation, as well as UEFA and CONCACAF, the governing bodies in charge of European and North American football respectively.

La Liga is discussing playing one game per season in the United States as part of a 15-year agreement struck with the media company Relevent. — AFP ■



Lionel Messi and Barcelona could face local rivals Girona stateside in January. PHOTO: AFP