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Second Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular session holds fifth-day meeting

By Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

THE Second Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular session held its fifth-day meeting at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday where asterisk-marked questions were raised and answered, a motion tabled and the Hluttaw informed about receipt of a bill from the Amyotha Hluttaw.

Asterisk-marked questions

The first question of the day was raised by U Sai Ngaung Hsai Hein of Maukmai constituency who asked whether there was a plan to make the owner name registered in the car registration booklet to be taken as evidence in a law court for the legal ownership of the car. Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo said this was not possible at the moment but the department considers the discrepancy between the present owner and the registered owner of the car as a problem to be overcome. This could not be done by the



Second Pyithu Hluttaw holds 5th-day meeting of its 10th regular session in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

ministry alone and that they were coordinating with relevant departments. Once the coordination and discussions were completed the registered

ownership and address of the car will be true and correct explained the Deputy Minister.

Dr. U Maung Thin of Meiktila constituency next asked the law under which the Ks 6,426 million from the special fund of the Office of the President was being used to monitor social media, to what extent the monitoring was conducted, what sort of action would be taken, whether the action was in accordance with existing laws under the Constitution and whether it was in accordance with the policy regarding the usage of the spe-

cial fund from the Office of the President.

Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo answered that although the Ks 6,426 million fund to purchase equipment and machineries for the Social Media Monitoring Team was not included in the fiscal year 2017-2018 budget, it was an emergency requirement for State security, rule of law, peace and tranquility works. The Office of the President submitted this matter to the Union government to utilize this fund in accordance

with the Union Budget Law and upon receiving agreement it was submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting and followed up accordingly. The formation of the Social Media Monitoring Team-SMMT, monitoring and controlling were in accordance with the Constitution as well as existing laws while the purchase of equipment and machineries were in accordance with the policy regarding the usage of the special fund of the Office of the President, explained the Deputy Minister.

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The formation of the Social Media Monitoring Team-SMMT, monitoring and controlling were in accordance with the Constitution as well as existing laws.

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Deputy ministers answer asterisk marked questions at fifth-day ...

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Questions raised by U Myo Zaw Oo of Lewe constituency, U Oo Tun Maung of Ponnagyun constituency, U Zaw Min Thein of Laymyethna constituency, U Myo Zaw Aung of Kawlin constituency and U Maung Maung Oo of Insein constituency were answered by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung and Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo. **PHOTO: MNA**



Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo. **PHOTO: MNA**

Motion to expand and reorganize the Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division into a Department

After the question and answer session, U Aye Naing of Dagon Myothit (South) constituency

tabled a motion urging the Union Government to expand and reorganize the Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division under the Forest Department into a full separate department in order to conserve world and Asia natural heritage sites as well as



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. **PHOTO: MNA**

natural reserve areas around the country, rare wild animals and species without affecting the rights of the local people.

U Aye Naing explained further on the benefit of expanding and reorganizing the division and the motion was supported

by U Nay Htet Win of Sinbaungwe constituency.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced Hluttaw's agreement to discuss the motion after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker also announced

that Hluttaw representatives who wish to discuss the motion should enroll their names.

Receipt of Trademark Copyright Bill

Following this, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the receipt of the Trademark Copyright Bill which has been returned with amendments from the Amyotha Hluttaw.

A Bill Committee report on the bill was then read by committee secretary U Kyaw Soe Lin and the Speaker requested Hluttaw representatives who want to table an amendment motion to register their names.

The sixth-day meeting of the tenth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw will be held on 27 November it is learnt.

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Second Amyotha Hluttaw's tenth regular session holds fifth-day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin

THE Second Amyotha Hluttaw's tenth regular session held its fifth-day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, an amendment bill was discussed, and a report was read out before the Hluttaw.

During the session, U Soe Thane of Kayah Constituency 9 asked the government about its plans for making the use of Myanmar currency compulsory for all transactions across the country, to make the Kyat stronger and to curb illegal hoarding of money.

Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, U Bo Bo Nge, replied that the CBM is making efforts to raise the value of the Kyat and prevent dollarization. The bank is making extensive use of dollars in the market

to bolster the Kyat, he added.

The government has allowed the opening of currency exchange counters in all the states and regions of Myanmar. However, it has been found that cash payments are being made using foreign currency at hotels, restaurants, private schools established by foreign investors, for flat rentals to foreigners, and in souvenir shops," he said.

"In the ministries, dollars are being used for land leases and joint venture investments. That's why the Ministry has reissued relevant orders to the union ministries, states, and regional governments, city development affairs committees in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, and Mandalay," said U Bo Bo Nge.

Under Section 63 of the Central Bank of Myanmar Law and Section 8 of the Foreign Exchange Management law,



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. **PHOTO: MNA**

for transactions and payments, ordinary account holders are permitted to pay only in Myanmar currency, and not foreign currency.

"If needed, payments can be made in foreign currency with the permission of the CBM. We have found that consumers find it easier to make payments in dollars than in Myanmar currency. If they do not abide by the laws, notifications will be made and implemented according to the laws.

In order to tackle the currency problem, cooperation between the states and regional governments is of great importance. Plans are under way to take action against those who don't obey the prescribed laws," he said.

U Wai Sein Aung of Rakhine State constituency 1 asked if the government plans

to start a Masters Degree in English at the Sittway University. The Union Minister for Education, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, said that plans are under way to start Masters Programs for those students who meet the eligibility criteria in the 2018-2019 academic year.

"On completion of their Masters Degree, they will have to pursue further studies in order to conduct lectures. The Ministry of Education will open a Masters Degree Programme in English at the Sittway University during the 2019-2020 academic year. For the purpose, the Ministry of Education has arranged for local English teachers to improve their English proficiency at the Yangon University," he said.

U Siang Awr of Chin State constituency 2 asked if the government has any plans to edit

and review scientific and technical terms and publish updated dictionaries. The Union Minister for Education replied that the Department of Higher Education and Universities' Printing Press and the Translation and Publication Department are working with academicians and education experts from different universities to update dictionaries.

The Union Minister also answered questions raised by Dr. Sai Hsai Kyauk Sam of Shan State Constituency 6 and U Mang Law Maung of Chin State Constituency 8.

Afterwards, Hluttaw representatives discussed the Literature and Art Copyright Bill, sent with amendments by the Pyithu Hluttaw. Daw Ei Ei Pyone of Ayeyawady Region constituency 8 and Dr. Pyae Phyo of Ayeyawady Region's Constituency 7 participated in the discussion. Later, Amyotha Hluttaw bill committee member Dr. Myo Aung read out and explained the Occupational Safety and Health Bill, sent with approval and amendments by the Pyithu Hluttaw. The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker then asked representatives who want to discuss the bill to register their names.

The sixth-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's tenth regular session will take place on 27 November.

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Union Minister for Education, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi.



Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, U Bo Bo Nge.

PRC Embassy provides humanitarian supports to displaced persons in Kachin State

EMBASSY of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in Yangon provided humanitarian supports to displaced persons in Kachin State yesterday morning.

At the ceremony held in Myitkyina City Hall, PRC Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang said that during the day's trip the embassy is providing Ks 160 million worth of rice, cooking oil and materials such as blankets, Ks 12 million worth of medicine to displaced persons in the three townships of Sumprabum, Putao and Machanbaw. It is expected that this efforts could raise the socio-economic and health care situation of the

people said the Ambassador.

Next, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye and Peace Commission Chairman Dr. Tin Myo Win delivered speeches followed by State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung saying words of appreciation.

Afterwards Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, Peace Commission Chairman Dr. Tin Myo Win, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung presented food and support materials for displaced persons and medicines for Kachin State Free Medical Treatment Foundation which



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, Peace Commission Chairman Dr. Tin Myo Win, Kachin State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung and officials attend the ceremony to provide humanitarian aid by the Embassy of China in Yangon to displaced people in Kachin State. **PHOTO: MNA**

were accepted by representatives of the displaced persons.

Following this, Kachin State Chief Minister presented a certificate of honour to the Ambassador of China.

A representative of the displaced people and officials

from Kachin State Free Medical Treatment Foundation then expressed words of thanks and posed for a commemorative group photo.

The ceremony was attended by State government ministers, state level officials and

displaced persons.

Later in the evening Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, officials from state government and Ambassador of China visited a KBC displaced person camp. — MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)

Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar receives delegation from IMF



The Central Bank of Myanmar Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung holds talks with Ms. Loana Luca from IMF in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar received a delegation led by Ms. Loana Luca from Legal Department of the International Monetary Fund at the Central Bank of Myanmar, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting matters relating to opening foreign currency account abroad for foreign currency management, obtaining full export revenues and easy entry of foreign investment were discussed.

— MNA ■
(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

China-Myanmar scholarship awards presented in Nay Pyi Taw



A ceremony of China-Myanmar Scholarship awards for 2018 held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE China-Myanmar Friendship Scholarship Project for 2018 was held at the Royal Ace Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. The awards have been instituted jointly by China's Embassy to Myanmar and the Ministry of Education.

At the event, a video about the China-Myanmar scholarship award program was screened. The Chinese Embassy's Minister Counsellor Ms. Li Xiaoyan @ Daw Nwe Kalyar and Dr. Aye Myint, the Director General of the Department of Technical, Vocational Education and Training (Ministry of Education), delivered speeches.

Afterwards, they presented scholarship awards to repre-

sentatives of China-Myanmar Friendship Schools and educational organizations.

Later, teacher Daw Soe Soe Lwin of No. 9 Basic Education Middle School (Hline-thaya) gave a speech on behalf of China-Myanmar Friendship Schools. Student Ma Htoo Nay Chi Lwin of No. 7 Basic Education High School (Zabuthiri) spoke on behalf of students receiving the scholarship awards.

Students from basic education high schools in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, performed songs and dances at the ceremony and officials presented them gifts.

The China-Myanmar scholarship award program was

started in 2016, and a total of 20 China-Myanmar Friendship Schools have been constructed till date. In addition, a scholarship program was implemented from 2017 under which Ks850 million in assistance has been provided to China-Myanmar Friendship Schools, educational organizations, and over 4,000 students till date.

The China-Myanmar scholarship award program was implemented with an aim to provide scholarship to outstanding students in Myanmar and to support students whose families cannot afford to send them to school. — MNA ■

(Translated by Thandar Aung)

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

Workshop for YBS entrepreneurs held

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA) held its third workshop for YBS entrepreneurs at the YRTA meeting hall on 20 November. The workshop was conducted in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The workshop focused on vehicle maintenance, driver behavior and driving skills, said U Aung Nyi Nyi Maw, a member of the YRTA.

"Through this workshop, I would like to urge YBS bus line companies and other bus line in charges to apply the results emerging from the workshop. A motor vehicle's fitness, driv-

ing skills of the drivers and their attitude are important for passengers," said U Aung Nyi Nyi Maw.

Very few YBS companies have vehicle repair workshops, said Mr. Seki Yosui, the deputy team leader of JICA Bus Project. "I found out for the first time that YBS buses are operating through car companies, and only some of them have vehicle repair workshops," he said.

The YRTA has formulated four main policies for YBS operations, carried out in cooperation with the JICA. The policies include making YRTA supervision of buses more efficient, handling complaints

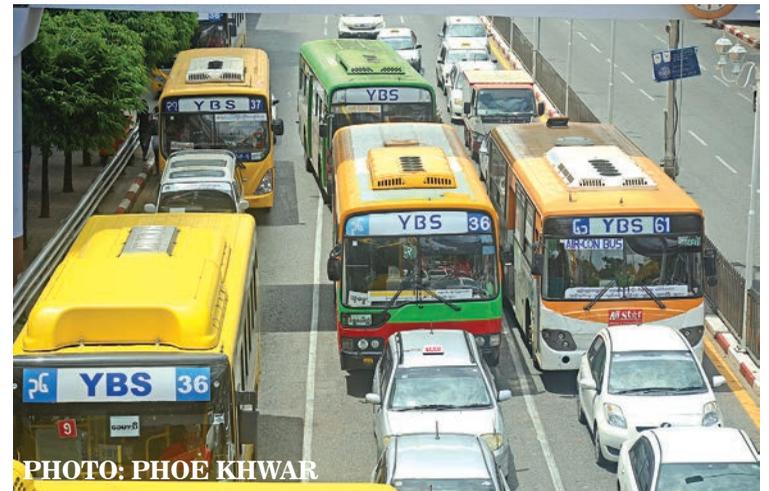


PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

properly, conducting workshops, and ensuring safe and smooth transport to passengers, said Yoshihiko Takami, a vehicle maintenance specialist with JICA's project for improving the

public bus service in Yangon.

Currently, there are over 100 bus lines operating under YBS with over 4,500 buses plying daily in the Yangon region. ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Tourism Promotion Festival held on Chaungthar beach

TO develop tourism on Chaungthar beach, the Tourism Promotion Festival was inaugurated on the beach in front of the Golden Beach Hotel on 19 November.

The three-day festival is being conducted by the organizing committee of the Chaungtha hotel zone beach festival.

The opening ceremony of the festival was attended

by U Hla Moe Aung, the Chief Minister of the Ayeyawady Region government, the Regional Hluttaw's Speaker and officials, government secretary, officials from the concerned regional departments, U Zaw Lin Tun from the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (DHT), the deputy director from the DHT's Patheingyi branch office, staff from the DHT's Chaungtha branch

office, the hotel zone chairman and secretaries, hoteliers, general managers and staff from hotels in the Chaungtha region and invited guests.

At the ceremony, U Hla Moe Aung delivered the opening speech, while Chaungtha zone chairman U Kyaw Khine explained the objective behind the festival. Afterwards, famous vocalists performed before the

guests.

The Tourism Promotion Festival, which ends 21 November, will feature traditional boxing matches. Men and women are expected to compete in the matches. A total of 40 stalls have also been set up at the festival venue by vendors selling local products and souvenirs. —GNLM ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Awareness meet on reducing plastic use in Bagan hotels

A meeting to raise awareness on and reduce use of plastic at hotels in the Bagan hotels zone was organized at the Nyaung U Thante hotel, Nyaung U Township, on 19 November. The meeting was jointly conducted by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, the Myanmar Responsible Tourism Institute (MRTI), Thant Myanmar, and the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP).

At the event, the Deputy Director of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism Department delivered the opening speech. Later, a representative from MRTI detailed the negative impact of the tourism industry on the environment, U Win Thein Aung from the Bagan Plastic Campaign explained the group's activities to reduce plastic use, and U Thang Tan from the Thara-

pa hotel explained how the Tharapa has transformed into a green hotel by cutting plastic use. The general manager of the Nyaung U Thante hotel also spoke about the hotel's participation in Thant Myanmar.

Afterwards, participants discussed raising awareness on why use of plastic bottles and bags must be reduced and how it can be done. They also spoke about promoting the use of lo-

cal products and lacquerware products instead of plastic.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism Department, the Nyaung U district General Administration Department, the MRTI, Thant Myanmar, and the UNEP General managers and staff from the Bagan hotels zone also took part in the event. —GNLM ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Clash at mining company in Kachin State, one killed

MIGRANT workers reportedly clashed with security personnel at a mining company at Nanhmaw Village in Phakant, Kachin State, on Monday, resulting in the death of one worker.

A group of 1,500 workers reportedly threw stones at security staff and set fire to a car and a two-storey staff quarter around 3 pm on Monday after security staff tried to prevent them from entering the company's mining block before the permitted time.

The security personnel fired warning shots to disperse the crowd. A 25-year-old miner, identified as Maung Aye Chan, alias Aye Than, was killed in the shooting. His body has taken to the Phakant Township People's Hospital for an autopsy.

The fire was brought under control by 5:15 pm. The migrant workers scavenge jade stones at the mine. —Win Naing (Kachin Mye) ■

(Translated by JT)



Chinese enterprises growing in Myanmar



Workshop on Communication and Cooperation between Chinese Enterprises and NGOs in Myanmar held in Yangon.

PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG SOE

OVER 300 Chinese companies are investing in Myanmar in the garment, real estate and construction, information and communication technology, agriculture, tour and services, and power sectors, according to the Myanmar-China Friendship Association.

“After President Xi Jinping announced the One Belt One Road initiative in 2013, Chinese

investments in Myanmar have increased year on year, with several projects in the pipeline, including the Kyaukphyu deep-sea port project, the oil and gas pipeline, and railway projects. More Chinese entrepreneurs have been invited to invest in Myanmar,” said U Sein Win Aung, the chairman of the Myanmar-China Friendship Association. The association held a workshop for Chinese investors

and non-governmental organizations at the Grand United Hotel in Ahlon Township on 19 November. During the workshop, U Sein Win Aung urged Chinese companies to comply with the investment laws and rules while expanding their investments and businesses.

The Myanmar-China Friendship Association will help Chinese companies network with businesses listed with the Republic of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, he said.

The association aims to promote cooperation between China and Myanmar in politics, economy, culture, technology, sports, health, and tourism to increase mutual understanding and friendship between the countries.

—Myint Maung Soe ■

(Translated by Ei Mon)

Myanmar-Viet Nam trade sees 13% rise in mini-budget period

TRADE between Myanmar and Viet Nam in the mini-budget period (between April and September this year) reached US\$426 million, up by \$48.7 million or 12.9 per cent from the same period last year, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

During the same period last year, bilateral trade between the two countries was valued at \$377 million, with imports totalling \$81.6 million and exports worth \$295.9 million.

Compared with the corresponding period last year, the value of Myanmar’s exports to Viet Nam increased by over \$50 million. Imports from the South-

east Asian country decreased slightly, by \$3.4 million.

Viet Nam’s trade with and investments in Myanmar are increasing every financial year. Data from the Commerce Ministry indicates that bilateral trade between Myanmar and Viet Nam hit a record high of over \$710 million in the last fiscal year, the highest in seven years. According to the ministry, trade between the two ASEAN member states totalled \$494 million in 2016-2017 FY, \$346 million in 2015-2016 FY, \$321 million in 2014-2015 FY, \$281 million in 2013-2014 FY, \$155 million in 2012-2013 FY, and \$143 million in 2011-2012 FY. Myanmar exports minerals, and

agricultural, forest, and marine products to the ASEAN member state. The country’s imports from Viet Nam include auto parts, computers and related accessories, construction materials, steel, plastics, foodstuff, pharmaceuticals, and other chemical products.

According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Viet Nam’s investments in Myanmar during the mini-budget period exceeded \$50 million with inflows into three projects. Viet Nam made investments worth \$20.8 million in Myanmar in FY2017-2018.—Shwe Khine ■ (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

China’s demand for peanut increases in Mandalay

CHINA’S decision to restrict importation of rice, sugar, corn, and some agro products last month has led to a suspension of trade. But, recently, a high volume of peanut purchases by Chinese merchants has been witnessed in the Mandalay market.

“Due to last month’s trade suspension, goods meant for export to China are piling up in warehouses. But lately, Chinese merchants have been visiting villages to purchase peanuts. Lately, they are buying all the peanuts that the growers can supply,” said U Soe Win Myint, a depot owner from Mandalay.

With the increase in demand, the price of red peanuts has risen from Ks2,700 to Ks3,000 per viss (1.6 kg).

At present, it is peanut har-

vest season in Magway, Kyaukpadaung, Taungdwingyi, and Natmauk, while in upper Myanmar, Madaya, Singu, Htigyaing, Pakokku, and Yesagy towns, the planting season has begun.

“The prices will not drop as some growers are purchasing peanuts to plant them, and there’s a high demand from Chinese merchants. Peanuts have a steady yield. Growers are happy with the regular demand at a high price,” said U Soe Win Myint.

While the Mandalay pulses market has cooled at present due to low demand from China, a high demand from China has pushed prices of black sesame seeds to a high of Ks270,000 per three-basket bag.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House) ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Customers shopping peanuts displayed in the Mandalay market.

PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)

Japan-Myanmar trade exceeds US\$1 billion in mini-budget period

THE value of trade between Myanmar and development partner Japan topped US\$1 billion in the mini-budget period (April to September this year), according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

During the mini-budget period, Myanmar’s exports to Japan totalled \$760.97 million, while imports reached \$334.86 million.

Myanmar’s exports to Japan include garments, marine products, rice, black sesame, green

grams, and rubber. Its imports include machines and machine equipment, electronic equipment, fertilizers, chemical products, medicines and automobiles.

Bilateral trade between the countries stood at \$1.92 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, \$2 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, \$1.84 billion in the 2015-16 FY, \$2.3 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$1.8 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$1.49 billion in the 2012-2013 FY, and \$822 million in the 2011-2012 FY.

The Myanmar Investment Commission has permitted five Japan-listed enterprises to bring in foreign direct investments of \$134.6 million, according to statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

In addition to this, Japan has contributed nearly 30 per cent of the total FDI, estimated at \$441 million, in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone since its establishment in the 2014-2015 Fiscal

Year.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is offering loans such as the ODA loan and the two-step loan to bring about socio-economic development in Myanmar. JICA and Myanmar have signed loan agreements for several development projects such as the Agriculture Income Improvement Project, the Project for the Development of Finance for Small and Medium Enterprises, the Housing

Finance Development Project, the Yangon-Mandalay Railway Improvement Project (Phase II), the Regional Development Project for Poverty Reduction (Phase II), the Agriculture and Rural Development Project, the Power Distribution System Improvement Project in Major Cities, the Greater Yangon Water Supply Improvement Project, and the Yangon Circular Railway Project, among others.—GNLM ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Office of the President

Press Release No. 24/2018

12th Waxing of Tazaungmone, 1380 ME
(19 November 2018)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 25 August 2018 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

No	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal action taken
1	Information received of sales of illegal drugs by Maung Gyi living at No. (D-11), Group D, Mashika Htaung Ward, Phakant Tsp, Kachin State.	On 15-11-2018, police searched Maung Gyi's house at No. (D-11), Group D, Mashika Htaung Ward, Phakant Tsp. Police arrested Maung Gyi, 58, together with '88/1' psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Phakant) MaYa(Pa) 244/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of sales of illegal drugs by Tun Yin from Pain Inn Village, Ma Oue Kone Village, Indaw Tsp, Sagaing Region.	On 11-11-2018, police searched Tun Yin's house in Pain Inn Village, Ma Oue Kone Village, Indaw Tsp. Police arrested Tun Yin, 59, together with Khatpon. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Indaw) MaYa(Pa) 126/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of Aung Htwe from Nyaung Kone Village, Pinlebu Tsp, Sagaing Region, selling illegal drugs.	On 13-11-2018, police searched Aung Htwe's house in Nyaung Kone Village, Pinlebu Tsp and arrested Aung Htwe, 64, together with heroin. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Pinlebu) MaYa(Pa) 143/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of Bo Lan from Ngar Pyae Inn Village, Indaw Tsp, Sagaing Region selling illegal drugs.	On 14-11-2018, police searched Bo Lan's farm in Ngar Pyae Inn Village, Indaw Tsp then police found Bo Lan's brother, Phoe Lone, 46, together with heroin, opium and WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Indaw) MaYa(Pa) 128/2018 under Section 19-A/20 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of Than Tun and his wife, Myint Kyi from Tin Thar Village, Kalay Tsp, Sagaing Region selling illegal drugs.	On 14-11-2018, police searched Than Tun's house in Tin Thar Village, Kalay Tsp. Police discovered Than Tun, 50, together with heroin. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (Myaukcee) MaYa (Pa) 11/2018 under Section 16-C/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of Pyithu Sein from Out Lake Village, and Ma Nyo Nyo Win from Thiri Myaing Village, Bokpyin Tsp, Taninthayi Region, selling illegal drugs.	On 11-11-2018, police searched Pyithu Sein's house in Out Lake Village, Bokpyin Tsp. Police discovered Pyithu Sein, 45, together with opium powder. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Bokpyin) MaYa(Pa) 37/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, police searched Ma Nyo Nyo Win's house in Thiri Myaing Village, Bokpyin Tsp. Police discovered Ma Nyo Nyo Win, 40, together with WY psychotropic tablets and opium powder. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Bokpyin) MaYa(Pa) 38/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7	Information received of Pyu Kyaung from Thiri Myaing Village, Bokpyin Tsp, Taninthayi Region, selling illegal drugs.	On 11-11-2018, police searched Pyu Kyaung's house in Thiri Myaing Village, Bokpyin Tsp. Police didn't find Pyu Kyaung but Thu Zin Maung, 28, and Aung Kyaw Aye, 26, together with speciosa and ICE. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Bokpyin) MaYa(Pa) 39/2018 under Section 16-C/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8	Information received of selling illegal drugs in No (2) Ward, Toungoo Tsp, Bago Region.	On 13-11-2018, police searched Zin Ko Ko's house at No (2/1657), Tayzar Khin Oo Street, No (2) Ward, Toungoo Tsp. Police discovered Zin Ko Ko, 24, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (Toungoo) MaYa(Pa) 15/2018 under Section 16-C of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

9	Information received of Myo Thet Paing from Fire Ward, No (5) Ward, Chauk Tsp, Magway Region, selling illegal drugs.	On 15-11-2018, police were patrolling at San Thawdar Win Restaurant in Gwaycho Village, Chauk Tsp then police arrested Phyto Thu Aung (a) Tay Gyi 22, together with '88/1' psychotropic tablets. Further investigation led to the arrest of Myo Thet Paing (a) A Thay Lay, 24, in Fire Ward, No (5) Ward. A case has been opened against two suspects with MaMaSa (Chauk) MaYa(Pa) 5/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law. Further investigation led to search at Myo Thet Paing's house then police discovered Si Kway (a) Aung Lin, 24, together with '88/1' psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against two suspects with MaMaSa (Chauk) MaYa (Pa) 6/2018 under Section 16-C/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.
10	Information received of selling illegal drugs on the hill in Group (10), Ward 4, Kutkai Tsp, Shan State (North).	So far the cases have been opened as of last weeks, 20 men and 3 women have been arrested, together with heroin and stimulant tablets. On 11-11-2018, further investigation led to patrol at the gate of Kutkai Tsp and police discovered with Chain Yote Kyaung, 25, from Ho Neint Village, Kutkai Tsp, together with '88/1' psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Kutkai) MaYa (Pa) 125/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far 389 cases have been opened as of 17-11-2018, and 509 men and 95 women have been arrested with seizures of 5,422.86 g of heroin, 25.01 g of ICE, 38,399.41 g of opium, 329.6 g of low-quality opium, 12,063.28 g of speciosa, 7,273.99 g of crushed leaves of poppy, 170,775 stimulant tablets, 3,696.03 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 217.4 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 1.65 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 12 firearms, 194 different bullets, and 1 grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the ministry will report on further exposed cases.
4. In addition to the investigations and arrests conducted on drug related complaints mentioned above, the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force have also carried out separate investigations on drug complaints, search and arrests at border gates, and searches of vehicles acting upon given information.

During the previous week, multiple arrests were made in the border regions and joint-surveillance gates. At Kyauk Sakhan Checkpoint in Momauk Tsp, Kachin State, one Crown car was stopped for investigation then one man and one woman were arrested with 948 g of heroin and one car. In Ward 5, Lwejel Tsp, one man was arrested with 1,060 stimulant tablets. In Han Htet Village, Mansi Tsp, on the road to Han Htet-Man Thar, one Pajero car was stopped for investigation then one man was arrested with 3,900 stimulant tablets and one car. In Manthar Village, one man was arrested with 1,316 stimulant tablets. In Tharyar Kone Village, Phakant Tsp, two men and one woman were arrested with 6,003 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. In Phapyin Village, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man was arrested with 11,400 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. In Pinlone Village, Mohnyin Tsp, one man was arrested with 1,890 stimulant tablets. In Lebo Village, Katha Tsp, Sagaing Region, one man was arrested with 1,350 stimulant tablets and 6 g of heroin. On the road of Tayote Tan, Myeik Taung Village, Myeik Tsp, Taninthayi Region, one motorcycle was stopped

for investigation then one man was arrested with 9,550 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. At the checkpoint of Padaung Tsp, Bago Region, one Mitsubishi Pickup car was stopped for investigation then two men were arrested with 1,800,000 stimulant tablets and one car. Further investigation led to seizures of 1,549,600 stimulant tablets, one Toyota Vigo car and one Landcruiser car from warehouse in Myothit Ward, Insein Tsp, Yangon Region. In Setmu Leyar Ward, Phayargyi Tsp, Bago Region, one man was arrested with 11,530 stimulant tablets and 40 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder. At Thayawady Market in Zay Ward, Thayawady Tsp, one woman was arrested with 2,176 stimulant tablets. At (16) mile Kyauk Chaw Checkpoint, Patheingyi Tsp, Mandalay Region, two women were arrested with 50,000 stimulant tablets from Lashio-Yangon express car. In Chanmyatharsi Ward (North), Mahaangmye Tsp, one man was arrested with 29 bottles of Diazepam then further investigation led to the seize of 4,940 bottles of Diazepam, 960 tablets of Diazepam, 190 bottles of Tramadol, 400 capsules of Tramadol and 1,215 tablets of Alprazolam in clinic, Haymar Zala Ward, Chanayethazan Tsp. At platform No (1), Mandalay Railway Station, two women were arrested with 6,000 stimulant tablets. In Dawna Bwar Ward, Aungmyethazan Tsp, motorcycles were stopped for investigation then one man and two women were arrested with 3,800 stimulant tablets and two motorcycles. Near Taungle Village, Thabeikkyin Tsp, on the road Moemeik-Twinngge, one man was arrested with 6,510 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. On the road to Taunggyi-Myeikhtela, Yinmarpin Village, Tharzi Tsp, one Mark-X car and one Hilux car were stopped for investigation then three men and one woman were arrested with 22,520 stimulant tablets and two cars. In Sittway Tsp, Rakhine State, there have been three arrests and three men were arrested with 116 stimulant tablets. In Kyaukpyu Tsp, there have been two arrests and five men were arrested with 67 stimulant tablets. In Aung Ywar Village, An Tsp, one man and one woman were arrested with 59 stimulant tablets. In Myothit Ward, Kyauktaw Tsp, one man was arrested with 42 stimulant tablets. In the Nef River, Ngarkhueya Area, Maungtaw Tsp, police were patrolling in the Nef River near the mouth of Sapel Pinyin Creek then one boat was stopped for investigation but suspects jumped out of the boat and swam away. 19,500 stimulant tablets were discovered on the boat. In Pathein Nyunt Ward, Mingala Taungnyunt Tsp, Yangon Region, one man was arrested with 119 stimulant tablets then further investigation led to the arrest of one man with 1,191 stimulant tablets. In Phawt Kan Ward, Insein Tsp, one man was arrested with 1,097 stimulant tablets. In Lan Thit Lan Street, Nanttharkone Ward, one Hijet car was stopped for investigation then two men were arrested with 2,000 stimulant tablets and one car. Further investigation led to seize of 1,391 stimulant tablets from the convict's house. In Yaythapyay Village, Taunggyi Tsp, Shan State, on the road Taunggyi-Minepyin, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man was arrested with 1,900 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. Near Oriental Toll gate, Muse Tsp, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man was arrested with 11,600 stimulant tablets and

one motorcycle. In Lwelsitone Village, Tachilek Tsp, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man was arrested with 20,000 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. In Nant Nhone Village, Lashio Tsp, one woman was arrested with 1,170 stimulant tablets. In San Phyat Village, 2,850 liters of 1-PHENYL-2-PROPANONE were discovered from a Canter car stopped for long time without the driver on the road of Mandalay-Lashio. Near the Loisansit Mountain in Kutkai Tsp, on the road of Kutkai-Kaungkhar, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man was arrested with 2,145 stimulant tablets, 11 g of heroin and one motorcycle. Near (80/4) Milepost, Nawngkhio Tsp, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man was arrested with 7,930 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. In Kunlong Tsp, on the road of Holi-Nantkyune, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man was arrested with 5,910 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. In Kunhing Tsp, on the road to Wein Lone Village, one man was arrested with 2,600 stimulant tablets. In Pakham Village, Mongphyat Tsp, two women were arrested with 3,400 stimulant tablets and 1,200 g of opium. In Kyone Village, Pindaya Tsp, on the road of Aungban-Ywangan-Han Myintmoh-Mandalay, two motorcycles were stopped for investigation but the suspects drove away. Police arrested one suspected man with 64,500 g of opium and two motorcycles. In Mayankone Ward, Myaungmya Tsp, Ayeyawady Region, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man was arrested with 2,276 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. There have been two confiscations of ammunition. In Sipain Village, Mabein Tsp, Shan State, police searched at a house 6,000 stimulant tablets, 0.5 g of heroin and one air rifle buried behind of the house, were discovered. In Kuntaw Village, Koelan Area, one man was arrested with 168 stimulant tablets, two percussion lock firearms and 85 bullets.

There have been 252 cases being opened between 11-11-2018 and 17-11-2018, and 311 men and 39 women have been arrested. Seizures were made of 1,491.77 g of heroin, 18.2 g of ICE, 66,131 g of opium, 3,597,814 stimulant tablets, 46.72 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 375.5 g of marijuana, 359.5 g of opium blocks, 960 tablets of Diazepam, 4,969 bottles of Diazepam, 1215 tablets of Alprazolam, 400 capsules of Tramadol, 190 bottles of Tramadol, 2850 liters of 1-PHENYL-2-PROPANONE, 49 tablets of Buprenorphine, one air rifle, two percussion lock firearms and 85 bullets.

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

Contacts

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

MSME Master plan to be released next month

By May Thet Hnin

THE MSME Master Plan, a practical framework for the development of Myanmar's micro, small, and medium enterprises, has been drawn up and will be released next month, said Daw Aye Aye Win, the director-general of the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection.

The master plan will be implemented between 2019 and 2030. It has been in the making for a period of six months, with assistance from Germany. Now, it is in the final stages and a finished plan will be released soon.

"The SMEs have been found following informal practices. They are following manual

processes, but such practices are far from practical. To build a smart business and strengthen business performance, SMEs will be set up in line with the master plan," said Daw Aye Aye Win.

The master plan has been developed with a view to promote the capacity of micro-, small-, and medium-sized businesses, increase their access to finance, knowledge sharing, digital transformation, create a happy and healthy working environment, improve supply chains, and formulate better policies.

The plan will focus on support for the formation of value-added chains for local products and for calculating net

profit, number of SMEs across the country, and labor force.

"Online training and mentoring programmes will be offered to help small and medium enterprises grow. While the relevant department has been providing support, and both the government and development partners have come together to help SMEs get better financial access, some SMEs have been slow to adopt best practices. They also need to increase capacity so they can manage well and expand their businesses globally," she said.

At present, SME development action plans are being drawn up by the region and state SME departments.

The SME Development

Department is endeavouring to get technical assistance from international organizations and link businesses with more markets. It has been holding business-matching events in collaboration with its Korean, Japanese, and Malaysian counterparts. The department is planning to level up efforts to connect local businesses with their counterparts in European countries.

At present, the SME Development Department has joined hands with the Matrix Institute for potential financial access and quality assurance for SMEs. It recently trained its seventh batch of SME entrepreneurs in Magway and Ayeyawady regions. Next, it plans to unveil an

online learning site for SMEs entrepreneurs on 1 December.

The SMEs are the backbone of the country's economy. Currently, most businesses are facing a slew of challenges concerning capital, technology, market share, and skilled workers, said entrepreneurs.

There are 53 branches of the SME Development Department providing services to SMEs in the regions and states. SME education programmes have covered more than 40,000 entrepreneurs.

While SMEs constitute over 90 per cent of the businesses in the country, only 70,000 of them are currently registered.

(Translated by Ei Mon)

El Niño event looms, authorities must prepare to limit impact

AN El Niño event is expected to develop from November this year, according to international weather and climate forecasting centres. While the resulting weather conditions are not expected to be as intense as in 2015-2016, Myanmar can expect a warm and dry summer next year. It is imperative that local governments prepare to limit the impact of any El Niño recurrence.

According to weather experts, El Niño brings extreme temperatures and poses severe problems, including unusual rainfall patterns, acute water shortage, and diseases for a country.

A prolonged drought can compromise not only freshwater supplies and food security, but can also have a cascading impact on public health, the economy, and food distribution.

In mid-November, an above normal sea surface temperature was recorded near the Equator in the East Central Tropical Pacific Ocean. As per forecasts, the mean sea surface temperature is expected to rise from November to January, and give rise to weak to moderate El Niño conditions over the Central Tropical Pacific Ocean.

The El Niño conditions will prevail till May 2019 and then gradually decrease, according to international weather and climate forecasting centres.

The percentage of El Niño condition is likely to be 84% during November, December, and January. It may likely to decrease 75% (January-February-March), and 57% (March, April and May), according to the Pacific Ocean Sea Surface Temperature Monitoring Centre.

Myanmar experienced El Niño weather in 2015-2016 winter and 2016 summer. The 2015-16 El Niño was one of the strongest ever recorded, and had an impact on global temperatures, with 2016 entering the record books as the warmest year.

The World Meteorological Organization has said that while it does not expect the anticipated El Niño to be as strong as it was in 2015-2016, but it will still have a considerable impact. It also said advance prediction of the event can help save lives and reduce economic losses considerably.

An El Niño recurrence this year would mean drier-than-normal conditions during the post-monsoon season in Myanmar. Therefore, it is important to take necessary measures to guarantee the socioeconomic status of the people, including farmers, as agricultural output and fishery exports are likely to be affected by an El Niño weather event.

The people of Myanmar must work with the regional governments and non-governmental organizations to limit the impact of a new El Niño effect.

By Prof. Dr Aung Tun Thet

AS a man of over 70, I have thought about my life considering comparatively with Myanmar Politics. I have gone through five political periods: first parliamentary democracy led by Prime Minister U Nu; I remember it at that time, I was a student. First I attended Lady Paw Htoon's nursery school; the school principle was English and her husband was Sir Paw Htoon, a Rakhine national. Then he was Prime Minister during pre-war years. The late brother and me went to the same school. We had lunch at my mother's cousin; my aunt's husband was Col. Kyi Han. His two nephews, Thaug Kyaw Nyein and Aung Kyaw Nyein, were two sons of Deputy Prime Minister U Kyaw Nyein. Then my father worked in the War Office as Myanmar's Tatmadaw's first war secretary.

Remembrance

I was too young to remember all, but I still remember the location of the school; it is situated on Pyidaungsu Avenue right in front of the Children Hospital. Then we moved to the English Methodist High School, now State High School No.1, Dagon. Some of boyhood friends still keep contacting me. Besides, democratic systems, economy was given top priority for the private sectors. Economic, social, educational and health systems improved; economy kept going on despite pre-war years and insurgency.

My father took up the post of military attaché in Thailand; we, seven siblings, had to follow him to Bangkok. We continued to study there for three years, but elder brother of my father advised us if we continued studies in Bangkok, we might find difficulties with our educational systems. So we returned home to Yangon to continue our study in our former school.

Nowadays, there are a lot of challenges local or abroad and from all directions. Unity is essential at this time with an effort with a block of brick and a grain of sand.

Myanmar Politics and I



File photo shows Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet delivers the speech at a forum in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

I failed in Myanmar in the entrance test, which has still stood as a remembrance up till today. I was allowed to attend the school at fifth grade by the headmaster at my father's urge on a probationary period. Political changes occurred in the country at that time; caretaker government took power and my father was forced to retire from the Tatmadaw. He became a political victim; I am not willing to say why. He worked in an umbrella factory owned by his elder brother. During that time, new townships appeared near Yangon; three satellite townships—Thaketa, south and north Okkalapa—appeared.

I joined the University after passing the matriculation. In my second year, the Revolutionary Council took power and practiced the Socialist Economic System. All the businesses were nationalized

including the factory where my father worked. What I noticed was that economy was falling gradually, putting the people in a tight situation.

The regime had been in conflict with university students since 1962. Students became more and more active in politics. After graduating I became a tutor at the University of Economics and joined the Burma Socialist Program Party as a member.

In those days, the whole economy was under complete control of government. People were on daily rations; they tried to economize on everything as much as they could.

Central control system became too big for people to have little freedom. I took part in the Workers' Day and Peasants' Day rallies, making me dog-tired. I had to do it like it or not; the government would hold some grudges and anger against me. Luckily I got relieved of onerous duties for six years because I was awarded a state scholarship and went to England for further studies. Selling goods on flouring black market made the economy worse, making the public to be at their wits' end.

Doing research

On the other hand, a privi-

There are no challenges, but opportunities exist. Let us strive for a pleasant, advanced and tranquil life in our country.

leged class appeared who had special rights or advantages to buy things, clothes and beverages and sell them on black market to gain huge profits. The people had sought several ways to find their survival. There was a political unrest in universities and colleges off and on. There was a loss of trust between superiors and subordinates. Upon my arrival from abroad, I struggled to survive by joining the cooperative activities. At the same time, I tried to survive in the university campus by doing research and later I also joined the Health Department. Finally the Burma Socialist Program Party took power and ruled the country.

But the essence was the same: changing military uniforms

put up a resignation letter on the day of acceptance since I really wanted to work in UN organizations. In 1987 I was offered a big UN post from Bangkok; finally I missed the job because of the Minister's negligence and big political shadow.

The economy has opened up under the SLORC regime; it has widened its horizon after shutting down by the BSPP government. I became a secretary of the National Health Committee; I attended International meetings on behalf of the Ministry. After serving two years as the Secretary-General, I was offered a job by the New York-based the UN children fund. The Minister was not willing to let me go; finally I was allowed to go with the help of higher authorities. Although I got involved with the SLORC, I had no implications whatsoever in the SPDC Government after back in Myanmar in 2008. I worked for UN office in Yangon as an advisor. I took part in activities for helping the victims of Cyclone Nargis.

Serving as an advisor

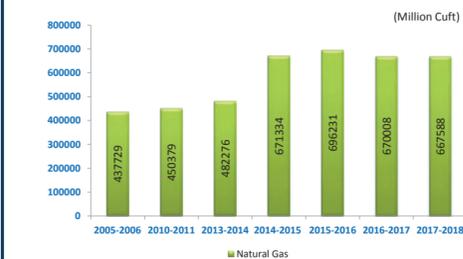
I became active in the National Economic and Social Advisory Council after 2010 elections; I also served as an economic advisor to the President. At the same time, I worked with private sectors, serving as an advisor for the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI). I gave a lot of advice to companies. Frankly speaking I was pleased that the NLD took power after 2015 elections. I have become more active in several tasks and welcome a democratic government as an ordinary citizen. I am not willing to take up politics though I am really interested in the affairs of our country.

I want to serve the country with my own profession and pay off all debts I owe to my country.

Nowadays, there are a lot of challenges local or abroad and from all directions. Unity is essential at this time with an effort with a block of brick and a grain of sand. We should not stand idly by at this time. We have overcome a lot of difficulties to survive in different periods of our life. There are no challenges, but opportunities exist. Let us strive for a pleasant, advanced and tranquil life in our country.

(Translated by Arakan Sein)

Production of Natural Gas



Source : Planning and Statistics Branch, Ministry of Electricity and Energy (Minister's Office)
Information Unit : Central Statistical Organization

EARTHQUAKE NEWS (Issued at 02:00 hour MST 20 November 2018)

A Slight earthquake of magnitude (4.2) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (15) miles southwest of Mawlaik), latitude 23.48°N, longitude 94.25°E, depth (11) kilometers about (51) miles south of Tamu seismological observatory was recorded at (01)hr (33)min (09)sec MST on 20 November, 2018.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued on Tuesday 20 November 2018)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Taninthayi Region and weather has been partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing and Yangon regions, Kachin, Southern Shan and Mon states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below November average temperatures in Yangon Region, Northern Shan and Rakhine states, (2°C) below November average temperatures in Mandalay and Magway regions, Southern Shan State, (2°C) above November average temperature in Kayin and Mon states and about November average temperatures in the remaining regions and states. The significant night temperatures were (3°C) in Haka, (6°C) each in Hsipaw, Heho and Ramthlo and (8°C) each in Nawngkhio, Loinin, Tiddim and Mogok, (9°C) each in Namsam, Pinlaung and PyinOoLwin. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Launglon (0.59)inch, Dawei (0.35)inch, Myeik and Kawthoung (0.04)inch each.

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (13:30)hrs MST today, the low pressure area over South Bay of Bengal and adjoining Equatorial Indian Ocean now lies over Southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Equatorial Indian Ocean still persists. It may further intensify into a depression during next (24) hours. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Southwest Bay and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

SPECIAL: According to the observations at (13:30) hrs MST today, the Low Pressure Area over the Gulf of Thailand still persists. It is forecast to move Westwards and likely to reach South Andaman Sea during next (36)hrs.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF 21 November 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region, scattered in Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Southern Shan, Rakhine and Kayah states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Tanintayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)mph. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6-9) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Tanintayi Coasts and about (2-5) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Isolated scattered rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 November 2018: Generally fair weather.
FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 November 2018: Partly Cloudy.
FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21 November 2018: Generally fair weather.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting



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

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting on International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Bill and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Bill at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D, second floor meeting hall, yesterday morning.

The two Hluttaws were in disagreement over the Inter-

national Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Bill and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Bill.

The meeting was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Joint Bill Committee Chairman U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein, Joint Bill Committee deputy chairman, secretary, joint secretary and committee members,

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission members, officials from Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Ministry of Health and Sports, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Union Attorney General Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—

MNA ■
(Translated by Thandar Aung)

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker opens Gwa Township OSS



Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and State Minister for Social Affairs Dr. Chan Tha cut ribbon to open One Stop Shop (OSS) in Gwa Township. **PHOTO: THIHA SITHU**

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung attended the opening ceremony of Gwa Township One Stop Shop (OSS) and opened it yesterday afternoon.

At the ceremony, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Rakhine

State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and State Minister for Social Affairs Dr. Chan Tha opened the Gwa Township OSS by cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

Afterwards Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and party inspected the OSS and

observed the services provided. At the OSS applications for all departmental services can be made and the public can make enquiries to Gwa Township administrator at telephone 09772963301.—Zin Oo (Myanma Alinn) ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Appointment of Ambassador agreed

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr. Joseph Anthony Cotter as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ireland to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Bangkok.

Mr. Joseph Anthony Cotter was born in May 1957. He received Honours Leaving Certificate from Midleton CBS in 1974. He has served in Department of Land Registry, Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, and Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism from 1957 to 2002. He joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in May 2006 and served in Development Cooperation Division as Principal Officer. He has also served as Irish Ambassador to Zambia and Namibia from 2009 to 2012. Since 2014, he has been serving as Ambassador of Ireland to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Yemen and Iraq. He is married with one daughter.—MNA ■

Talk about prevention of violence against women held in Mandalay

THE Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information and Action Aid Myanmar jointly organized an awareness talk about the prevention of violence against women at the ward administrator's office in Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay City yesterday morning.

Action Aid is an international non-governmental organization whose primary aim is to work against poverty and injustice worldwide. First, Action

Aid Myanmar's legal aid committee members Daw Khaing Zin Latt and Daw Khin San Aye gave talks under the title of "Prevention of Violence against Women" and an official from the Information and Public Relations Department disseminated knowledge about the benefits of reading.

The event was also attended by IPRD staff, officials from Action Aid Myanmar, residents and guests.—Than Zaw Min (IPRD)/MDN ■

Myanmar export/import status from April to August 2018

FOR August 2018 total export of Myanmar was US\$1,623.08 million consisting of \$1,144.17 million regular export and \$478.91 million border export. The total import during the month was \$1,787.03 million of which \$1,449.90 million was regular import while \$337.13 million was border import. The total trade volume was \$3,410.11 million and trade deficit was \$163.95 million.

From April to August 2018 Myanmar regular export value was \$4,935.13 million and bor-

der export was \$2,271.15 million totaling \$7,206.28 million of export. During the same period Myanmar regular import was \$7,002.40 million and border import was \$1,228.58 million totaling \$8,230.98 million. The total trade volume from April to August 2018 amounted to \$15,437.26 million and the trade deficit was \$1,024.70 million according to monthly export/import status report of Central Statistical Organization.

—MNA ■
(Translated by Zaw Min)

New barricades at US-Mexico border as migrant caravan arrives

TIJUANA (Mexico) — Huge metal or concrete barricades and walls of concertina wire went up on Monday on both sides of a bustling US-Mexico border crossing as a caravan of US-bound Central American migrants pours into Tijuana, the last stop before California.

US authorities went so far as to briefly close the San Ysidro Port of Entry altogether — it is one of the busiest land border crossings in the world — as the new barriers were set up, triggering total gridlock for vehicles and pedestrians going from Tijuana across into San Diego.

“It was as if time stopped. Nothing is moving. Neither cars, nor people, nor my business,” said Armando Lopez, who sells newspapers, cigarettes and candy on the Mexican side.

US Customs and Border Protection “suspended operations to safely place impediments at the port of entry that would restrict access to a large group attempting to run through the border crossing,” the agency said in a statement, referring to the migrant caravan.

President Donald Trump has characterized the caravan’s journey as an invasion, making it a central plank of his anti-immigrant platform.

The thousands-strong group set out more than a month ago from Honduras, fleeing poverty and gang violence and sometimes forcing its way across borders as the migrants head toward the US.

Some 3,500 migrants have arrived so far in Tijuana and another 3,000 are expected to start flowing in as of Tuesday. Most of those making the trek are Hondurans.

The big question is whether, once they are all together, they will try to cross over as they did from Guatemala into Mexico — by force — or opt instead for the long and tedious process of requesting asylum in the US.

Economy in danger

After putting the new barriers in place at the border crossing, the authorities reopened it partially to northbound traffic.

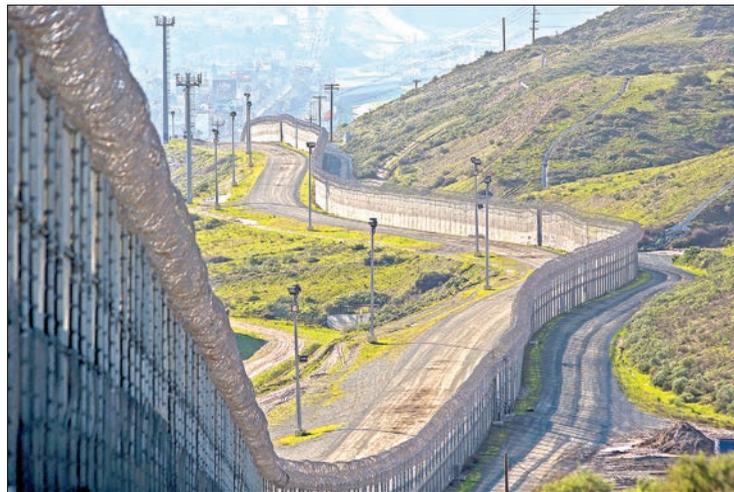
On the Mexican side, too, metal barricades and concertina wire were put up. Federal police and soldiers patrolled the area.

“I am OK with these defenses,” said Arturo Gonzalez, a 35-year-old American who was losing his patience as he sat in his black pickup truck waiting to get into California.

He works as a janitor in a school in the US but lives in Mexico because the rent is cheaper here. “Because of those Hondurans, we are paying the price. They should be thrown out,” Gonzalez said.

Walking swiftly through the pedestrian conduit toward California, Ana Maria Gutierrez, who is Mexican, was in a hurry to get to her job as a nurse in a psychiatric facility in San Diego.

“They do not realize the impact of closing the border,” she



Multiple layers of steel walls, fences, razor wire and other barricades are viewed from the United States side of the US-Mexico border on 26 January, 2017 in San Ysidro, California. PHOTO: AFP

told AFP.

“It is not just the economy that is in danger of dying out. We are talking about the lives of people and families,” Gutierrez said before showing her papers to the US border authorities and entering California.

“Bad hombres”

Mexico and the United States share a border that stretches along more than 3,000 kilometers (1,800 miles) of desert and is crossed by undocumented travelers, drugs and weapons.

But a million people also cross over legally each day, while trade across the frontier totals a million dollars a minute, according to government figures. At the San Ysidro port alone, 70,000 vehicles make their way into California each day, as do 15,000 students and 25,000 workers.

Trump has sent about 5,800

troops to the border to forestall the arrival of the caravan. During the campaign leading to his election in 2016 he referred to Mexican migrants crossing over as rapists and “bad hombres.”

Trump has also issued a new order under which people who do not cross at official points of entry can no longer apply for asylum. This was challenged in court and a judge Monday night temporarily barred the Trump administration from enacting the ban.

At another border crossing, between Laredo, Texas and Nuevo Laredo, US soldiers have also set up many reels of concertina wire. Amelia Prados, a Mexican who works in a bank in Tijuana, said the migrants were simply seeking to escape violence and find a better life.

“The United States is defending itself from a danger that does not exist,” she said. — AFP ■

News in Brief

Italy orders seizure of migrant rescue ship Aquarius: MSF

ROME (Italy) — Italy has ordered the seizure of the migrant rescue ship Aquarius for alleged illegal waste treatment, Doctors without Borders (Medecins Sans Frontiere MSF) said on Tuesday.

The vessel, chartered by MSF and the SOS Mediterranee charity and currently docked in the French port of Marseille, is suspected of passing off 24 tonnes of potentially toxic waste as ordinary waste, Italian media reported. — AFP ■

Two dead, four missing, in Portugal marble quarry collapse

LISBON (Portugal) — At least two people were killed on Monday and four were reported missing in a landslide that collapsed part of a road running through a marble quarry in southeast Portugal, emergency services said.

“The two victims are quarry workers,” civil protection spokesman Jose Ribeiro told journalists of the accident in Portugal’s Borba region, well known for its marble quarries.

The four individuals reported as missing were in two cars travelling along the road that collapsed into a crevice 50 metres (164 feet) deep. — AFP ■

Police officer injured in Brussels knife attack

BRUSSELS (Belgium) — A Brussels police officer was injured in a knife attack in front of the city’s main police station early Tuesday, a spokeswoman said.

The attack took place on the second day of a state visit to Belgium by French President Emmanuel Macron with memories of the Paris and Brussels attacks running high.

An assailant stabbed the officer outside the central police station at 5:30am (0430 GMT), police spokeswoman Ilse van de Keere told AFP.

“A police officer was stabbed and slightly wounded” and taken to hospital, she said.

“His colleagues retaliated by firing shots at the attacker who was subdued” but whose life is not in danger. — AFP ■

Multiple victims after shots fired at Chicago hospital: police



Chicago Police officers monitor the area outside of the Chicago Mercy Hospital where a gunman opened fire in Chicago on 19 November, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

CHICAGO (United States) — A gunman opened fire Monday at a hospital in the US city of Chicago, police said, adding that there were reports of “multiple victims” including a wounded officer in “critical condition.”

“Reports of shots fired in the vicinity of 26th and Michigan near Mercy Hospital. Avoid area. Heavy police response incoming,” Chicago Police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi tweeted. At least “one possible offender” had

been shot and there were “multiple” other victims, he added.

“A #ChicagoPolice officer has been shot in the active shooter incident at Mercy Hospital. He is in critical condition but receiving excellent care. Please send your prayers,” Guglielmi later added. TV footage showed people filing out of the hospital into a parking lot with their hands in the air.

“We were going about our business and waiting for our results and then I heard shots fired,” an unnamed witness told the local CBS affiliate.

“I turned around to my right and I see a man shooting someone on the ground, shot him multiple times.

“And then almost immediate-

ly an officer was already coming in an SUV and he exchanged fire at them and then reloaded and shot the person on the ground again and then he made his way into the hospital and more shots were fired.”

The shooting came less than two weeks after a gunman killed 12 people in a California music bar packed with college students.

That rampage followed the worst anti-Semitic attack in modern US history, when a gunman opened fire on worshippers at a synagogue in the US city of Pittsburgh on October 27. The incidents have added to the growing outcry over gun safety in the United States, where there have been more than 300 mass shootings this year. — AFP ■



Chinese President Xi Jinping (c) shakes hands with Philippine government officials shortly after arriving at Manila international airport on 20 November, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Xi visits Philippines to cozy up to historical US ally

MANILA (Philippines) — Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in the Philippines on Tuesday for a key state visit to a long-time US ally, aiming to boost blossoming ties with potentially billions in backing for mega-projects.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has proven a willing recipient of Beijing's attentions, declaring shortly after his election in 2016 his nation's "separation" from former colonial master the US.

Since then Beijing has promised billions of dollars in investment and loans for major infrastructure that the developing nation of 105 million deeply needs, but over two years later nearly none of it has arrived.

Xi landed in Manila to a red-carpet welcome at the airport for the first visit from a Chinese president in 13 years, which Manila hopes will finally net those investment deals.

China has dispersed tens of billions of dollars in loans since 2013 as it expands its political influence globally, countering the American hegemony that characterised the post-World War II order, especially in Asia.

Duterte has enthusiastically embraced Xi, even setting aside a key 2016 ruling from an international tribunal that declared as without basis Beijing's expansive claim over the waterway.

At the same time, the

mercurial leader has declared an end to what he characterised as the Philippines' submissive relationship with the US, even calling then-US president Barack Obama a "son of a whore".

But relations have been warmer since Donald Trump became president and dropped American criticism of Duterte's anti-drug crackdown that has killed thousands.

The dispute over the resource-rich South China Sea, a key transit route for billions in trade, led to a freeze in Manila-Beijing relations, which thawed with Duterte's pivot.

Duterte taken for a ride?

China subsequently pledged \$24 billion in loans and investments, but just a tiny portion has come through, prompting critics to say Duterte was tricked.

Meanwhile, others have warned of a "debt trap" citing China's lending record with the rest of the developing world.

Filipino analyst Richard Heydarian said China's pledges induced Manila to "soft-pedal" on the South China Sea issue, but Beijing failed to hold up its end of the bargain.

"We know there was a geopolitical calculation," he told AFP. "What is the incentive to rush if Duterte has been giving them whatever they want?"

Filipino Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno con-

ceded last week the delays were partly due to China's unfamiliarity with the Philippine bidding process on big infrastructure projects, but didn't hide his wish for things to accelerate.

"The visit of the head of state of China will put pressure on the team (in Beijing)," Diokno added.

Gregory Wyatt, director for business intelligence at PSA Philippines Consultancy, said big projects face many barriers in the Philippines, like right of way issues, regulatory approvals and political dissent.

"The foreign investment has come, the infrastructure loans have not," he added.

Chinese investments in the Philippines surged more than five-fold in the first six months of the year after a 67 per cent expansion last year, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said during a Manila visit last month.

Two-way trade also topped 10 per cent over both periods, he added.

Chinese investors poured money into online gaming, real estate, service providers and stakes in existing Filipino firms, but not into large-scale infrastructure or manufacturing, Wyatt said.

While there was support in government for the latter, "that doesn't mean that every bureaucrat, local politician, and the general public enthusiastically jumps on board", Wyatt said.—AFP ■

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

MYANMAR

South East Asia Disaster Risk Management Project

Project ID. P160931

Assignment Title: Component 3 Preparation of Detailed Engineering Designs and Bidding Documents for the seismic retrofitting of 20 buildings in Yangon, and Construction Management and Supervision of the Works

Reference No. C3 CS1-2

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the South East Asia Disaster Risk Management Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds to finance the Works for seismic retrofitting of 20 buildings in Yangon and the cost of Consulting Services.

The Consulting Services ("the Services") shall consist of two stages: Stage 1 covering Detailed Design; and Stage 2 covering Contract Management and Construction Supervision. A single proposal (technical and financial) covering both stages will be requested. Separate contracts will be awarded for each stage with award of the contract for Stage 2 being conditional on satisfactory performance on Stage 1. Stage 1 shall include carrying out a risk assessment of the targeted buildings, detailed structural analysis and engineering designs for the retrofitting of 20 buildings (all of which are of heritage significance), preparation of an environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) in conformity with an existing Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF); detailed cost estimates; prioritization of retrofitting works; proposals for procurement packaging and preparation of Bidding Documents for a number of priority bid packages using World Bank Procurement Guidelines and Standard Bidding Documents. Stage 2 shall cover Contract Management and Construction Supervision of the works including assisting Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) with overall coordination, including during the Defects Liability Period of the works.

The duration of services for Stage 1 and Stage 2 are estimated at about eleven (11) months and twenty-four (24) months respectively excluding Defects Liability Period. The Defect Liability Period is expected to be 12 months.

The budget available for the priority seismic retrofitting works is approximately US\$18 million.

The Yangon City Development Committee with the Engineering Department (Buildings) (EDB) will be implementing the Project and now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. **Interested Consultants must provide specific information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.**

The short listing criteria: (1) At least 10 years of experience in the field of seismic structural analysis and design and retrofitting of existing structures; (2) At least 3 projects of similar scope and nature; (3) Substantial experience in developing construction documents, bidding documents and plans; (4) Substantial experience in the management of large construction projects, including supervision of construction activities and contractual financial management processes; (5) Prior experience in developing and monitoring effective QA programs and compliance records; (6) The ability to interact with a varied set of stakeholders, ranging from government partners to the private design community; (7) Experience developing and delivering capacity and knowledge transfer programs; (8) Proven experience in carrying out similar assignments within the past 5 years.

Interested Consulting firms are **requested to provide specific information and past project examples** to demonstrate their ability to meet each the shortlisting criteria above. Individual CV's of proposed 'team members' need not be supplied at this stage (individual team members will be evaluated at RFP stage) and will not be taken into consideration. **Proven ability to undertake seismic analysis, detailed seismic design (for retrofitting) and project/construction management** activities are of critical importance and must be clearly demonstrated. **Examples of past project experiences (including contract reference and scope undertaken) should be provided.** Failure to do so may result in Consulting Firms not being evaluated.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants [under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants] by World Bank Borrowers* dated January 2011 and revised in July 2014. ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub consultancy to enhance their qualifications. The "association" may take the form of a joint venture or a sub consultancy. In case of a joint venture (JV), all members of the JV will be evaluated jointly for the purpose of short listing and shall be jointly and severally liable for the assignment and shall sign the contract jointly in case of award is made to that JV. Interested consultants should clearly indicate the structure of their "association" and the duties of the partners and sub consultants in their application. Unclear expression of interests in terms of "in association with" and/or "in affiliation with" and etc. without indicating the status of the partnership and designation of the lead partner may not be considered for short listing.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines. Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours [9.30 a.m to 4.30 p.m, Monday to Friday].

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) **by Wednesday, December 12, 2018 before 12.00 pm (midday)**

**Engineering Department (Buildings)
Yangon City Development Committee**

Contact Person: Daw Hnin Ei Win

Position: Section Head Engineer

Engineering Department (Buildings)

4th Floor, 10 Storeyed Office Building,

Corner of Sepin Street & 34th Street,

Kyauktada Township, Yangon

Postal Code - 11182

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Tel: +95 1 374366

E-mail: ycdcedb@gmail.com and

cc ycdcedb@ycdc.gov.mm

Humanity faces simultaneous climate disasters

PARIS (France) — By century's end, many parts of the world may have to cope with up to six climate catastrophes at once, ranging from heat waves and wildfires to diluvian rains and deadly storm surges, researchers warned on Monday.

"Human society will be faced with the devastating combined impacts of multiple interacting climate hazards," said co-author Erik Franklin, a researcher at the University of Hawaii's Institute of Marine Biology. "They are happening now and will continue to get worse," he told AFP.

Overloading the atmosphere with carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases has unleashed a maelstrom of life-threatening forces.

It begins with rising temperatures, which — in normally dry regions — lead to drought, heatwaves and deadly wildfires, such as those ravaging California. In wetter climes, the

result is heavy rainfall and flooding. Over the oceans, global warming creates larger superstorms whose destructive power is enhanced by rising seas.

Up to now, scientists have mostly studied these climate change impacts one-by-one, obscuring the possibility — and soon the likelihood — that human communities will be hammered by more than one at a time, the study found.

Last year, for example, Florida experienced extreme drought, record-high temperatures, more than 100 wildfires, and Hurricane Michael, the most powerful storm to ever hit its Panhandle.

"A focus on one or few hazards may mask the impacts of other hazards, resulting in incomplete assessments of the consequences of climate change on humanity," said lead author Camilo Mora, a professor at the University of Hawaii.—AFP ■



'Human society will be faced with the devastating combined impacts of multiple interacting climate hazards,' said Erik Franklin, co-author of the new study. **PHOTO:AFP**

Celebrating First with Eliminating Usage of Single-Use Plastics



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

PAN PACIFIC Hotel Groups picked up trashes and single used plastic items recently to mark its first anniversary in Yangon.

The volunteers from the groups have gathered twice to clean parks, picking up plastics and single used straws, bottles and food containers, said the press release of the Pan Pacific. They used those bot-

tles and formed "1st" related message as : First Anniversary of Pan Pacific Yangon, First to support "Responsible Tourism" and eliminate the usage of all Single-use plastic and Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

They groups have pleaded to eliminate all single-use plastics by 2019 to do our part for the environment. — GNLM

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (114 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (114 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

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

Date : 20th November, 2018

Invitation for Bids

IDA, Credit No : 5727-MM

Contract Title : Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers for Mandalay and Adaptation Villages in Sagaing, Magway, Rakhine, Shan (North), Shan (South), Kayah, Bago (East), Bago (West), Naypyitaw, Mon, Kayin, Ayeyarwaddy and Yangon for National Electrification Project

Reference No: MOEE-NEP/C1-W9/18 & MOEE-NEP/C1-W12/18

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-W9/18 for Mandalay and MOEE-NEP/C1-W12/18 for Adaptation Villages in Sagaing, Magway, Rakhine, Shan (North), Shan (South), Kayah, Bago (East), Bago (West), Naypyitaw, Mon, Kayin, Ayeyarwaddy and Yangon.

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Installation of Distribution Lines and Transformers MOEE-NEP/C1-W9/18 for Mandalay and MOEE-NEP/C1-W12/18 for Adaptation Villages in Sagaing, Magway, Rakhine, Shan (North), Shan (South), Kayah, Bago (East), Bago (West), Naypyitaw, Mon, Kayin, Ayeyarwaddy and Yangon in the following locations.

The number and identification of lots comprising this installation bidding MOEE-NEP/C1-W9/18 process for Mandalay is:

Lot 1: Mandalay/Kyaukse/Pyin Oo Lwin District—57 villages

Lot 2: Kyaukse/Myingyan/Nyaung-U District- 51 villages

Lot 3: Meiktila/Yamethin District - 40 villages

The number and identification of lots comprising this installation bidding MOEE-NEP/C1-W12/18 process for Adaptation Villages in Sagaing, Magway, Rakhine, Shan (North), Shan (South), Kayah, Bago (East), Bago (West), Naypyitaw, Mon, Kayin, Ayeyarwaddy and Yangonis:

Lot 1: Sagaing&Monywa District (Sagaing Region) - 61 villages

Lot 2: Yinmabin&Shwebo District (Sagaing Region) - 49 villages

Lot 3: Kanbalu/Katha & Kalay District (Sagaing Region) - 29 villages

Lot 4: Magway/Minbu/Pakokku/Thayet District (Magway Region) & Kyaukphyu District (Rakhine Region) - 64 villages

Lot 5: Lashio/Kyaukme & Muse District (Shan (North) Region) - 21 villages

Lot 6: Taunggyi/Loilen/Langkho District (Shan (South) Region) & Loikaw District (Kayah Region)- 37 villages

Lot 7: Bago&Taungoo District (Bago (East) Region) /DakKhi Na & OkeTha Ra District (Naypyitaw Region) - 80 villages

Lot 8: Mawlamyine&Thaton District (Mon Region) /HpaAn/ Kawkareik&Myawaddy District (Kayin Region) - 61 villages

Lot 9: Pyay&Tharyarwaddy District (Bago (West) Region) - 129 villages

Lot 10: Patheingyi/Hinthada/MyaungMya & Maubin District (Ayeyarwaddy Region) - 41 villages

Lot 11: Eastern/Southern & Northern District (Yangon Region) - 33 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 **20th December, 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**
Country: **The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**
Telephone: **+95 67 3431175**
Facsimile number: **+95 67 3431176**
Electronic mail address: nep.pmomoep@gmail.com

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**
Country: **The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**
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Telephone: **+95 67 3431175**
Facsimile number: **+95 67 3431176**
Electronic mail address: nep.pmomoep@gmail.com

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (106 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (106 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (015 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (015 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTER ASIA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185



US model Gigi Hadid walks the runway at the 2018 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show on 8 November, 2018 at Pier 94 in New York City. **PHOTO: AFP**

Flagging Victoria's Secret announces new lingerie CEO

NEW YORK (United States) — US lingerie giant Victoria's Secret announced on Monday that it had appointed fashion executive John Mehas as new lingerie CEO, hoping to boost its ailing fortunes.

Mehas will take over in the New Year, replacing Jan Singer, who resigned with the brand under fire for slumping sales, idealized glamazonian femininity and reluctance to put larger and transgender models on the catwalk.

His appointment was announced as Victoria's Secret parent company L Brands reported third-quarter results with a net loss of \$42.8 million compared to net income of \$86 million last year.

"Our number one priority is improving performance," said L Brands chairman and chief executive officer Leslie Wexner.

"Our new leaders are coming in with a fresh perspective and looking at everything... our marketing, brand positioning, internal talent, real estate portfolio and cost structure," he added.

"I am confident that, under John's leadership, Victoria's Secret Lingerie... will continue to be a powerhouse and will deliver products and experiences that resonate with women around the globe."

Mehas comes to Victoria's Secret, the lingerie market leader in the United States, from Tory Burch, where he is currently president.

He previously led Club Monaco for 13 years as president and CEO. He has also worked at The Gap and the department store chain Bloomingdale's.

Singer had been on the

job since September 2016. No reason has been publicly announced for her departure.

Earlier this month, Victoria's Secret marketing director Ed Razek provoked uproar on social media for telling Vogue that there was no need for transgender or plus-size models in this year's fashion show.

"No, I don't think we should. Well, why not? Because the show is a fantasy. It's a 42-minute entertainment special," he said.

Razek subsequently issued a public apology. Victoria's Secret hired some of the world's most famous models and filmed their annual fashion show in New York on 8 November. It will be aired globally next month.

In the United States, the show provoked ire for its uniform use of slender models at a time when US women feel increasingly empowered by the #MeToo movement and with lingerie brands that promote all shapes and sizes — such as Rihanna's new Savage X Fenty line — making inroads.

Heidi Zak, co-CEO of one such rival brand, ThirdLove, published an open letter in The New York Times saying she was "appalled" by Razek's "demeaning comments."

"You market to men, and sell a male fantasy to women," she said.

"Women wear bras in real life as they go to work, breast-feed their children, play sports, care for ailing parents and serve their country," she wrote.

"Haven't we moved beyond outdated ideas of femininity and gender roles? It's time to stop telling women what makes them sexy — let us decide." —AFP

'I want to thank me,' rapper Snoop Dogg on getting Hollywood star

LOS ANGELES (United States) — Rap great Snoop Dogg thanked himself on Monday as he received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame just days before the 25th anniversary of his debut album "Doggystyle."

"I want to thank me for believing in me," the 16-time Grammy nominee said after the star was unveiled on the famed walk.

"I want to thank me for doing all this hard work. I want to thank me for having no days off. I want to thank me for never quitting. I want to thank me for always being a giver, and trying to give more than I receive. I want to thank me for trying to do more right than wrong. I want to thank me for just being me at all times," the West Coast hip-hop legend known for his wry sense of humor added.

Snoop — real name Calvin Broadus — rose to fame in 1992 when he was featured on Dr Dre's solo debut album "The Chronic." He has since sold over 35 million albums worldwide.

He also is a regular star of films, from "Scary Movie 5" (2013), to "Starsky and Hutch" (2004) and "Training Day" (2001). His television appearances include many chats with his friend Martha Stewart.

"Doggystyle," released on 23 November, 1993, debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 and sold more than 11 million

copies worldwide through November 2015.

His other well known works include "Gin & Juice," "Who Am I? (What's My Name?)," and "Drop It Like It's Hot."

Attending the ceremony on Monday were talk show host Jimmy Kimmel, record producer Quincy Jones and fellow rapper Dr Dre. —AFP



Rapper Snoop Dogg attends the ceremony honoring him with a Star on Hollywood Walk of Fame, on 19 November, 2018 in Hollywood, California. **PHOTO: AFP**

Unrealistic to compare shelf-life of heroes and heroines: Preity Zinta



Preity Zinta. **PHOTO: PTI**

MUMBAI — Preity Zinta says if female actresses devote as much time as their male counterparts to the film career, it would be possible for heroines to have a longer shelf-life.

The 43-years-old actress said the fact that the society is still patriarchal makes it tough for women to pursue their careers and same is the case with movie stars.

"If a female actress dedicates that many years then she would also (get that kind of stardom). Lot of actresses get married, have children, take a break. I personally took quite a few years of break. One has to compare apples to apples. You can't compare apples to oranges. The moment

an actress gets married and has children she is taking care of the children, she is out of circulation," Preity told PTI in an interview.

"Having said that, it is a patriarchal society but the real test of time will be with newer bunch of actors who is getting married and still working, to see how things go. It is unrealistic to compare heroes and heroines as their lifespan is different," she added. The actress believes the approach towards women has changed both on- and off-screen today.

"Who would have thought 'Veere Di Wedding' with all women do Rs 90 crore (business)? Nobody. It is the most exciting time for an actor like me as well. There are interesting roles out there and

I would not like to do what I did 20 years ago. I want to grow and do progressive roles." Expressing her views on India's #MeToo movement, which has seen many a stalwart such as Nana Patekar, Alok Nath, Sajid Khan, Subhash Kapoor, Vikas Bahl, Subhash Ghai, Anu Malik and Rajat Kapoor fall, Preity said Bollywood is "very safe" for women. "People treat you the way you want to be treated. If I am ready to say I am ready to do anything, then why would a guy not do anything. But when I say this is my work, keep it all professional... No guy has ever misbehaved with me. Having said that, I don't want to talk about ignorance, I became successful in my first attempt, 'Dil Se', 'Soldier' became blockbuster, 'Kya Kehna' became a game changer.

"All these films were commercial hits. Nobody messes with you as now you have already succeeded. You can be a 'no nonsense' girl but if you are not successful, maybe there are people in position of power who can misuse it. But if you are not willing to fly with it, no one is going to force themselves (on you), that's what I think, maybe there are some creepy people," she said. —PTI

NASA picks ancient Martian river delta for 2020 rover touchdown

TAMPA (United States) — NASA has picked an ancient river delta as the landing site for its uncrewed Mars 2020 rover, to hunt for evidence of past life on Earth's neighbouring planet, officials said on Monday.

Even though the Red Planet is now cold and dry, the landing site, Jezero Crater, was filled with a 1,600-foot (500-metre) deep lake that opened to a network of rivers some 3.5 to 3.9 billion years ago.

"The delta is a good place for evidence of life to be deposited and then preserved for the billions of years that have elapsed since this lake was present," Ken Farley, Mars 2020 project scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, told reporters on a conference call.

Experts believe the 28-mile (45-kilometre) wide basin could have collected and preserved ancient organic molecules and other signs of microbial life.

At least five different kinds of rocks, including "clays and carbonates that have high potential to preserve signatures of past life," are believed to lie in the crater, just north of the Martian equator, the US space agency said in a statement.

Carbonate rock is produced by the interaction of water, atmospheric gases and rock, and leaves clues about habitable environments, said Farley.

Scientists have debated where to land the rover for the past four years, and whittled down their decision from more than 60 possible sites.

The \$2.5 billion rover is planned to launch in July 2020, and land in February 2021.

Mars 2020 is designed to land inside the crater and collect samples that will eventually be returned to Earth for further analysis, perhaps by the later 2020s.

Perilous landing

But first, the rover has to make it to the surface intact and upright, dodging a field of boulders, sand traps and the edges of the delta.

Mars 2020 will use the same sky crane landing that successfully delivered NASA's unmanned Curiosity rover to a location called Gale Crater on Mars back in 2012.

Gale Crater, with its many layers of sediment, was chosen to tell the story of how Mars transitioned from a warm, wet planet

to the frigid and dusty one it is today.

The landing site of Jezero Crater is different because of its abundant carbonate rocks and what they can hopefully reveal about early habitability on Mars, NASA said.

Instead of having an analytical laboratory on board — like Curiosity has — Mars 2020 is designed to look at rocks on a finer scale, seeing what biosignatures are preserved.

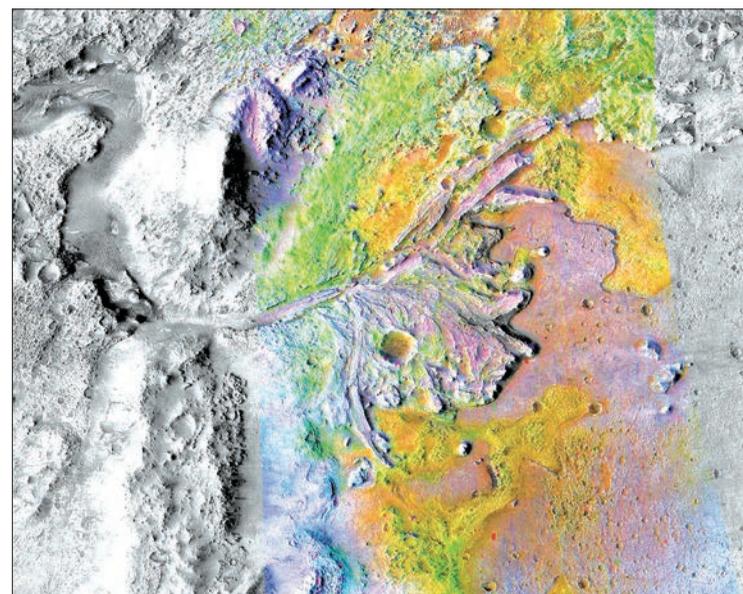
It will then pile them in a cache for further study back on Earth. A separate mission, yet to be defined, would bring the rocks back to Earth.

'Expand our presence'

Knowing more about the ability for life to exist on Mars in the distant past could inform us about how life evolved on Earth.

"Mars is one of four terrestrial planets in the solar system and it actually has the best record of what was going on in the first billion years of planetary formation," said Michael Meyer, lead scientist for NASA's Mars Exploration Programme.

"During the same time that life started on Earth, life could have started on Mars," he added.



This NASA file image released on 19 November, 2018 shows on ancient Mars, water carved channels and transported sediments forming fans and deltas within lake basins. Examination of spectral data acquired from orbit show that some of these sediments have minerals that indicate chemical alteration by water. PHOTO: AFP

"Mars had conditions more similar to Earth early on — in the first billion years — so what may have been happening in our solar system that allowed life to start on this planet may also be evident on Mars itself."

Certain features of the Earth — such as plate tectonics which roil the terrain periodically — and flowing water which washes away ancient artifacts, actually make the search to understand early microbial life easier on Mars than on Earth.

"Because there are so many ancient rocks on the surface of Mars, this information is more accessible," said Meyer.

Robotic rover missions are an important part of human space exploration because these tools also help inform NASA's efforts to send people to the surface of Mars sometime in the coming decades.

"Mars is really the obvious place, after the Moon, to go and expand our presence in deep space," said Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator of NASA's science mission directorate.

NASA has vowed to send people to Mars by the 2030s, but industry experts say it could take longer — at least 25 years from now — before humans could survive on the Red Planet. —AFP ■

MDMA drug makes you nicer, but not naive: study

PARIS (France) — MDMA, the main ingredient in ecstasy, makes humans more likely to cooperate — but only with trustworthy people — researchers said Monday in the first study into how the drug impacts our willingness to help others. Despite its status in Britain as a Class A drug, MDMA is widely consumed due to the heightened sense of energy, empathy and pleasure it arouses in users. It contains neurotransmitters — chemical messengers for the

brain — that are known to be linked to behaviour and mood, but scientists currently understand very little about how these affect social interactions.

Researchers at King's College London studied 20 healthy adult men who were given a typical recreational dose of MDMA or a placebo pill and then asked to complete a set of tasks while images of their brain activity were taken with an MRI scanner.

One of the mind exercises they were given was the Pris-

oner's Dilemma — an example of so-called "game theory" in which an individual is asked to choose between cooperating or competing with another, unknown person. Both players get an equal share of the points on offer if they choose to cooperate, but if one player chooses to compete they get all the points, while the other player gets nothing. They however risk getting nothing if the other player chooses to compete.

The team found that participants on MDMA were more willing to cooperate than those given the placebo. But, to their surprise, the MDMA takers only became more cooperative with players they perceived as trustworthy, based on observations of the previous choices of the other player.

"We thought MDMA might make you think that other people are more trustworthy. And we were wrong," Mitul Mehta, from King's Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, told AFP. —AFP ■



A Bureau of Customs (BOC) personnel displays confiscated illegal drugs, known as Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), commonly referred to as ecstasy, at a press conference at the BOC headquarters in Manila on 14 September, 2016. PHOTO: AFP

Higher risk links between kidney disease, type 2 diabetes: Aussie report

SYDNEY — More than one-third of Australians with type two diabetes will develop chronic kidney disease (CKD), raising their risk of cardiovascular mortality to "exceptionally high," scientists said on Monday.

In an editorial published in the Medical Journal of Australia, Professor Vlado Perkovic, executive director of the George Institute for Global Health Australia, and Ph.D. candidate Dr. Brendon Neuen, said that even more concerning was that the relative likelihood of cardiovascular disease-related death is substantially higher for younger patients.

According to the report, it's worrying that the burden of type 2 diabetes in young people is rapidly increasing worldwide. In little more than a decade, the number of people aged 20-39 with type 2 diabetes has almost tripled, rising from 23 to 63 million.

At present, clinical trials aimed at reducing the risk of cardiovascular events and death in patients with CKD have proved unsuccessful.

The report called for a redoubling of efforts to increase the number and improve the quality of trials. "We also need to urgently identify treatments that slow the loss of kidney function and prevent cardiovascular disease in people with diabetes, especially those with established nephropathy," the scientists said.

Vlado and Brendon also suggested broader health strategies to prevent type 2 diabetes in the first place.

"We should embrace opportunities to take a lead role in advocating policies that recognize the environmental and behavioural drivers of diabetes and other chronic health conditions," they said. —Xinhua ■

Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe attends 1st FSD DG Cup men (Futsal) competition closing ceremony

UNION Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe attended the closing and prize awarding ceremony of 1st Fire Services Department Director General (FSD DG) Cup men (Futsal) competition held in Nay Pyi Taw, Wunna Theikdi Sports Stadium, Futsal ground 19 November evening.

At the ceremony, Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe presented the cup and prize money to

the winner Nay Pyi Taw Fire Services Department team.

Next, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Thu presented the second prize to Mandalay Region Fire Services Department team while Permanent Secretary and Fire Services Department Director General presented third prize to Sagaing Region Fire Services Department and fair play prizet. — MNA



AFF Suzuki Cup: Myanmar, Viet Nam match ends in draw



Myanmar's striker Aung Thu (red) tries to break through Viet Nam's defence at the AFF Suzuki group match at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 19 November. PHOTO: MFF

THE clash between Myanmar and Viet Nam ended with a 0-0 draw at the ASEAN Football Federation's (AFF) Suzuki Cup 2018 group play match at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

Myanmar lined up with Goalkeeper Kyaw Zin Htet, Zaw Min Htun, Nanda Kyaw, Soe Moe Kyaw, Win Moe Kyaw, Hlaing Bo Bo, Lwin Moe Aung, Htet Phyto Wai, Si Thu Aung, Maung Maung Lwin, and Aung Thu. Team Myanmar was led by head coach Antoine Hey.

Both teams played energetically from the kickoff, and the

scoreless result indicates their defence lines were strong. Both teams went all out to score, but the indecision of the strikers cost them goals at yesterday's match.

Myanmar dominated the first half, getting more goal chances than Viet Nam. Myanmar's Aung Thu and Maung Maung Lwin's passes and shots drove the crowds into a frenzy. Myanmar missed a goal chance at the 45-minute-mark as Aung Thu's free kick slipped a bit near the goal bar. The first half ended 0-0. Viet Nam were better with their tactical changes in the

second half. Myanmar's Aung Thu, Hlaing Bo Bo, and Maung Maung Lwin again threatened Viet Nam's defence line in the early minutes of the second half. Viet Nam returned the attack with speedy play, but Myanmar's midfielders and defenders soured Viet Nam's chances.

The match became more exciting as the clock ticked closer to the end, with both teams trying to score the opening goal. But neither scored.

In the last group match, Myanmar will play Malaysia next on 24 November.—Lynn Tit (Tgi)

Barca's Dembele should be 'more responsible', says Luis Suarez

SAINT-DENIS (France) — Luis Suarez, a three-time bit-er of opposition players, said on Monday that Barcelona teammate Ousmane Dembele should be "more responsible" after he reportedly missed training

following a marathon nocturnal video gaming session.

Dembele was dropped by the Spanish champions for last week's shock 4-3 home defeat to Real Betis following what coach Er-

nesto Valverde called a "sporting assessment".

But sports daily As reports that the Catalans are worried not only that he

might be addicted to gaming, but also that it might ruin his career at the club.

And Suarez, no stranger to disciplinary issues himself, says that the 21-year-old France international, signed for an initial fee of 105 million euros, needs to follow the more virtuous example set by some of

his Barca colleagues. "Ousmane knows that

trate more and be more responsible regarding certain things," the Uruguay striker told reporters ahead of his country's clash with France at the Stade de France on Tuesday.

"There are examples of professionalism at Barca that he can draw inspiration from. He'll continue to learn, with that self-confidence that will enable him to succeed at Barcelona."

Suarez has attracted controversy throughout his career. He was banned for biting playing during his time at Ajax — where he was nicknamed "Cannibal" by the Dutch press — and Liverpool. But he most famously took

a chunk out of Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini during Uruguay's final group game in the 2014 World Cup, throwing himself to the ground as Chiellini showed bite marks and Italy's players protested to the referee. Amid the chaos Uruguay won a corner and scored the winning goal that took them through and knocked 10-man Italy out.

Suarez was handed a record nine-game World Cup ban and barred from any football-related activity for four months by FIFA, meaning that he was unable to make his debut for Barca until late October that year.

In 2011 he was banned for eight matches by the Football Association for racially abusing Patrice Evra during a clash between Liverpool and Manchester United. —AFP ■



Barcelona's Uruguayan forward Luis Suarez. PHOTO: AFP

football is a privilege for every player, maybe he should concen-

pool.

But he most famously took