

## NATIONAL

Senior General meets PRC CMC member,  
Chief of the Joint Staff Department

PAGE-2

## NATIONAL

Third workshop on draft national strategy  
to close IDP camps held in Nay Pyi Taw

PAGE-4

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## GDP is expected to expand 7.6% in 2018-2019 FY President U Win Myint attends Finance Commission meeting 1/2019



President U Win Myint, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio attend the Finance Commission meeting 1/2019 at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

**P**RESIDENT U Win Myint, Chairman of the Finance Commission, addressed the Finance Commission meeting 1/2019 held yesterday morning at the Presidential Palace.

The meeting was attended by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Finance Commission Vice-Chairmen, Vice-Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Commission Secretary Union Minister U Soe Win, Commission members the Union Attorney General, the Union Auditor General, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, and Chief Ministers from states and regions and officials.

President U Win Myint said the Finance Commission meeting 1/2019 was held for the Commission to discuss and approve fiscal year 2018-2019 supplementary budget request by Union, States and Regions governments and fiscal year 2018-2019 Union Supplementary Budget Allocation Bill. After discussion and approval, both would be sent to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Additional budget allocation was a request for additional funds when the original budget allocated for expenditure was insufficient and it was not possible to transfer fund within the original budget allocation frame.

The requested amount must be only for the shortfall over the original amount allocated earlier. It would be a heavy gaffe for the

budget requests could be spent only after it was approved and enacted in the Union Supplementary Budget Allocation Law

Severe action will be taken against those who invite tenders that are not in conformity with the rules and regulations, and those who take advantage of loopholes in the tender system for their own benefit.

President U Win Myint

requesting department and organization if the funds requested were not used and returned.

Furthermore the additional

so the additional budget requests should be for works originally requested and could be completed within the same period.

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) would increase only when the country's production, consumption, investment and trade increased. GDP Growth Rate in Myanmar for fiscal year 2018-2019 was expected to be 7.6 per cent. The economy was affected by local and foreign investments and government budget usage.

Government expenditures were the major driving force toward GDP increase. Therefore, departmental organizations need to spend on works that benefit the people than spend for spending's sake or for show.

**SEE PAGE-3**

## INSIDE TODAY

**SPECIAL ARTICLE**

MoE's reforms: Working on educational development plan on 12 priority sectors

**PAGE-9,10**

**NATIONAL**

Rakhine State Peace & Stability Supporting Committee hears voices of Rakhine communities to solve conflicts

**PAGE-4**

**LOCAL NEWS**

72-year-old successfully summits Phonkanrazi Mountain

**PAGE-12**



## Senior General meets PRC CMC member, Chief of Joint Staff Department

Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who was in the People's Republic of China (PRC) on a friendly visit was welcomed by Gen. Li Zuocheng, member of China's Central Military Commission (CMC) and Chief of the Joint Staff Department with a Guard of Honor at the Ba Yi Building, Beijing yesterday afternoon.

After the ceremonial welcome the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief met with China CMC member and Chief of the Joint Staff Department in the meeting hall of the Ba Yi Building.

At the meeting matters relating to cooperation between the two militaries in training and health sectors, cooperation in counter terrorism and stability of the border region between the two countries and increasing the friendship between the two militaries were cordially discussed and views exchanged.

Next Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief met with General



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives the salute of the Guard of Honour at Ba Yi Building in Beijing, China. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

Xu Qiliang, Vice Chairman 1 of China's CMC and discussed strengthening the friendship between the two militaries.

Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief met Mr. Song Tao,

Head of the International Department of the Communist Party of China at the China Communist Party Central Committee, International Department meeting hall yesterday.

During the meeting status of establishing development of Myanmar and mutual benefits from cooperation between the two militaries, China's support and participation in develop-

ment of Myanmar and internal peace, development in Myanmar possible only after having peace and stability, level wise friendly visits and mutual visits between the two militaries were discussed.

After this meeting the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and party were hosted to a luncheon by the Head of the International Department of the Communist Party of China. In the evening the party led by the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief was hosted to a dinner by China CMC member and Chief of the Joint Staff Department.

Earlier in the morning the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and party paid homage to the Buddha tooth relic at Lingshuang Temple, according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA

*(Translated by Zaw Min)*

## MNOC members hold first coordination meeting 1/2019

A first coordination meeting 1/2019 of Myanmar National Olympic Council (MNOC) members was held at Nay Pyi Taw Wunna Theikdi Stadium Olympic Hall yesterday morning.

At the meeting MNOC Chairman Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe spoke of including sports in the school curriculum for the development of sports among school age youths and the important matter and requirement of employing physical exercise coaches in schools.

Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health and Sports will soon jointly organize a conference on sports and spoke further on the benefit of holding regular sports competitions in state and region schools that'll produce healthy and strong sports personnel. As Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and Myanmar Fire Services Department had a tradition of good sports personnel, all were to discuss toward producing good sports personnel said the Union Minister.

Systematic processes were to be designed to increase physical and sports exercises and activities in every ministry, offices, departments, workshops, schools and universities. Performances of sports federations

will be systematically reviewed and assistance provided while systematic implementation from all sectors will be conducted toward the development all sports said the Union Minister.

Next MNOC Secretary Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein, Department of Sports and Physical Education Director General U Myo Hlaing and Director U Khun Gya Aung explained about sports sector development.

This was followed by Deputy Minister for Defence Rear Admiral Myint Nwe, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung

Hla Tun, Deputy Minister for Office of the Union Government U Tin Myint, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun and Ministry of Planning and Finance Deputy Director General U Khin Maung Lwin discussed and suggested on ministry wise works conducted.

Later in the afternoon the Union Minister attended a course completion ceremony on contagious disease prevention and site survey 9-month course jointly organized by World Health Organization, US CDC, USAID, U.S President's Malaria Initiative, World Bank

Group, ADB and URC at Thinhaha Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the event the Union Minister delivered an opening speech and on behalf of the course attendees, two explained about the result of field research conducted at villages in Rakhine State, Sittway Township.

Afterwards the Union Minister and officials presented course completion certificates to course attendees and observed the record of works conducted by course attendees during the course. — MNA

*(Translated by Zaw Min)*



Myanmar National Olympic Council (MNOC) holds its first coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar Gazette

### Appointment of Permanent Secretary

The Union Government has appointed U Aung Naing Oo, Director-General of the Union Minister's Office of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, as Permanent Secretary of the same ministry.

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“ I would firstly like to address the three branches of the sovereign power of the State, who have been entrusted with power according to the Constitution, to exercise mutual respect, understanding, and trust as they collaborate for the good of the people. Additionally, I wish to urge the media sector, which serve as the ears and eyes of the public, to understand the seriousness of their duties and to hold in high regard the public sector that they serve.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018)

“ May we all be able to build the peaceful, modern, prosperous and genuine Democratic Federal Republic which is the dream of the fathers of our independence and which is what our people desire.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of NLD Government on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018)

## GDP is expected to expand 7.6% in 2018-2019 FY

### FROM PAGE-1

Additional budget request by union level departments and organizations were assessed initially by the Ministry of Planning and Finance and was further assessed by Vice President U Myint Swe. Similarly additional budget requests by states and regions were assessed by Vice President U Henry Van Thio.



Vice President U Myint Swe.

Requests for supplementary budget allocation in fiscal year 2018-2019 were mainly due to deficit from exchange rate fluctuations, land compensation, salary, wages and travel allowances for staff, tax due to the Government, commercial tax and government expenditures.

Deficit from exchange rate fluctuation was for payment of principal and interest of foreign loans. Therefore, foreign currency usage must be properly managed and controlled. As foreign currency income declines, local currency must be used more while more efforts must be made towards obtaining foreign currencies.

As budget was allocated based on revenue, requests for supplementary budget were assessed and permitted if deficit was not increased, the work could be completed within the fiscal year and the work directly benefits the country and the people.

Furthermore, huge differences between actual and allocated expenditure showed the inability of the relevant department and organizations in conducting its works according to set aims.

Union level departmental organizations and

state/region level departmental organizations needed to collect revenue in excess of target whenever possible and to use expenditure only where it was truly required. Expenditures should be used according to financial rules, regulations and procedures and must be expended systematically and effectively while preventing waste and misuses.

Next, Finance Commission Vice-Chairman Vice-President U Myint Swe said the supplementary budget requested for fiscal year 2018-2019 totals K 2,635 billion of which K 971 billion was for ordinary expenditure, K 467 billion was for capital expenditure, K 211 billion was for debt expenditure, K 709 billion was for investment expenditure and an additional expenditure of K 277 billion for departments and organizations conducting works outside of the Union budget with other accounts.

The supplementary budget allocation requested was found to be about 10.66 per cent of the initial amount and the increases were mainly due to increase in foreign exchange rate and raising the pension allowance of pensioners who retired before 1 April 2018 to the pension allowance rate of

pensioners retiring from January 2019.

Priority were given toward special cases like supplementary budget allocation required for Rakhine State; salary, wages, awards, travel allowance and interest payments; and land and crop compensation for land and crop within projects and works conducted according to government policies.

To ensure that there were no return of unused funds and to raise the capacity in budget estimation, of the K 3,263 billion supplementary budget requested by departments and organizations, only K 2,635 billion was permitted.

Therefore, the initial expenditure of union level departments and organizations for fiscal year 2018-2019 was Ks 24,724 billion and the present supplementary budget requested amounting to Ks. 2,635 billion included Ks 39 billion for states and regions. Revised expenditure will be Ks 27,188 billion. The initial revenue was K 19,946 billion and the revised revenue will be K 21,868 billion. At the time when revisions was made GDP was K 105,726 billion and as the net deficit was Ks 5,320 billion, GDP to deficit ratio was 5.02 per cent said the Vice President.



Vice President U Henry Van Thio.

Afterwards Finance Commission Vice-Chairman Vice-President U Henry Van Thio said supplementary budget requested by states and regions for fiscal year 2018-2019 were assessed based on the revenue collected, allocation from tax collected and initial estimates. Expenditures were assessed and reduced according to set rules and regulations on assessing and reducing supplementary budget requests.

Expenditures that can be incurred through fund transfer and fund that should be requested only at the time when the accounts were drawn up were assessed and reduced. If expenditure was not included in the initial estimate, the supplementary budget requests were assessed and reduced according to the situation. Expenditures that did not support development much were assessed and reduced.

As per the assessment of the K 224.697 billion supplementary budget requested by states and region K 103.597 billion was reduced and the supplementary budget amount became K 121.1 billion. If this was permitted the initial estimate for fiscal year 2018-2019 was K 1,793.645 billion and the revised es-

timate will be K 1,832.64 billion resulting in an addition union funding support of K 38.995 billion.

The Vice President requested the Commission to review and approve the K 121.1 billion assessed fiscal year 2018-2019 supplementary budget allocation for states and regions and the revised union funding support of K 38.995 billion.

Financial Commission secretary Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win then explained about fiscal year 2018-2019 union supplementary budget, revised budget and the Union Supplementary Budget Allocation Bill while Financial Commission members Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, state and region chief ministers discussed in support of the bill. In delivering his concluding speech the President said the union government, state and regional governments were required to use the supplementary budget precisely according to laws, rules, financial regulations and procedures and must be audited systematically by internal audits and the Office of the Union Auditor General.

Calling tenders for construction and procurement works were to be conducted quickly during

the fiscal year and delays or not calling for tenders would result in unused and excess funds. Furthermore the supplementary budget permitted was to be used within a three to four months period and if a supplementary budget was requested for works that could not be completed in that time frame would result in unused and excess fund. If the supplementary budget was not used or was used without benefiting the people it would mean the respective department or organization lacks capacity or had erred in its work.

He said in the New Year speech delivered last year, the habit of not using the budget was told to be changed. Project expenditures were to be estimated to the nearest actual amount and calculated reflecting the prices and rates of the region and time. The capacity to evaluate huge projects and producing progress reports were to be raised and developed. Severe action will be taken against those who invite tenders that are not in conformity with the rules and regulations, and those who take advantage of loopholes in the tender system for their own benefit, said the President. This warning was given again so tender rules and processes should be followed accurately.

Works need to be done by the Union Government toward controlling the deficit amount and the difference between initial and revised GDP to deficit ratio. The budget was to be estimated as accurately as possible and it would best if there were no requests for supplementary budget allocations. — MNA ■  
(Translated by Zaw Min)

## Rakhine State Peace & Stability Supporting Committee hears voices of Rakhine communities to solve conflicts

RAKHINE State Peace and Stability Supporting Committee held a meeting with Rakhine associations in Yangon Region yesterday to seek ideas for ceasing conflicts in the state.

Speaking at the meeting at the Yangon Region Government, U Aye Tha Aung, Chairman of the committee and Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, said the committee would record the discussion in the meeting with Rakhine communities and would meet personnel who can give suggestion for ceasing existing conflicts in Rakhine State.

“After reviewing the suggestions and information collected in the meetings, the committee will submit a paper suggesting long lasting solution for conflicts and bringing peace to Rakhine State,” said U Aye Tha Aung.

He also pledged to provide aid to the people displaced by armed conflicts in Rakhine State, adding that the government is preparing to help them.

He also disclosed that the committee would provide aid

mainly to the IDPs in Mrauk U and Kyauktaw in their coming visit.

The committee has planned to meet responsible personnel and experts during the visit to seek ways for helping the IDPs return their homes before the rainy season so that they can resume their cultivation.

The committee will also meet with representatives from political parties, townsenders and social organizations and collect the information.

Following his address, representatives of the Rakhine associations in Yangon Region made suggestions and Vice Chairman of the committee Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint and members of the committee Deputy Minister U Tin Myint of the Office of the Union Government, Yangon Region Rakhine Affairs Minister U Zaw Aye Maung, Rakhine State Hluttaw Representative U Maung Maung Ohn and U Nyi Hla Nge took part in the discussion.

The meeting came to an



Chairman of the committee and Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung delivers the speech at the Rakhine State Peace and Stability Supporting Committee in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

end with concluding remarks by Chairman of the Committee U Aye Tha Aung.

Present at the meeting were representatives from Rakhine

Thahaya Association, Arakan League for Democracy (Yangon), Rakhine Literature and Cultural Group, Rakhine Women's Association (Yangon), Arakan National

Party (Yangon), Scholar Institute, Arakan National Network, Pyo Pin Institute and invited guests.— MNA / (Translated by Tun Tun Naing)

## Third workshop on draft national strategy to close IDP camps held in Nay Pyi Taw

A THIRD workshop on draft national strategy to close IDP camps was held at Horizon Lake View Resort, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the workshop, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye said the workshop was to improve the draft

national strategy to close IDP camps in Kachin, Kayin, Shan and Rakhine states and to draw up a strategy that was in accord with practical situation and Myanmar's situation. Government was placing much emphasis toward peace and development in the country. A country couldn't develop with-

out peace.

People in unstable regions where there was no peace moved to secure and stable regions where there was peace and government was providing aids and assistance to them.

It was important for those who had lived in IDP camps for long to resettle back in their

places of origin and live out a living. Emphasis was also placed for them to have dignified lives while staying in the IDP camps.

The arrangement to resettle them needs to include security and rights toward an opportunity to eke out a living. Some IDP camps in Rakhine and Kachin states were closed and resettled. This was conducted according to the wishes of the camp personnel.

Works were conducted for people to freely develop through social protection means according to the ministry's policy of establishing a society where there were basic human rights, was in line with democracy norms, live dignified lives, and was all inclusive. By suggesting and implementing the draft strategy, trust of the people in the remaining IDP camps will be obtained. A draft strategy where there were the same principal for all IDP camps was drawn up but thoughts need to be provided toward appropriateness toward differing situation on

the ground.

The Union Minister concluded his speech by thanking all who participated in drawing up the draft strategy to close IDP camps, officials at respective states, local and foreign partner organizations.

Next UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Kut Ostby delivered a greeting speech and the Union Minister posed for commemorative group photo with workshop attendees.

The opening ceremony of the workshop was attended by Deputy Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, directors general, invited representatives from ministries, state governments and UN organizations.

Workshop attendees then discussed and raised questions on draft national strategy to close IDP camps and Disaster Management Department Director General responded and answered to the discussions and questions raised. — MNA



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye delivers the speech at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop on National Strategy for the Closure of IDP Camps in Myanmar held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

(Translated by Zaw Min)

## Dai-ichi Life Insurance gets green light to enter Myanmar

DAI-ICHI Life Insurance Co. has become one of five foreign insurers to obtain initial approval to enter the Myanmar market via a wholly-owned subsidiary.

Upon the approval from the Ministry of Planning and Finance dated Friday, Dai-ichi Life is expected to set up a subsidiary to start operations in the Southeast Asian country.

Dai-ichi Life won in-principle approval along with Hong Kong-based AIA Co., Bermuda-registered Chubb Tempest Reinsurance Ltd., Manufacturers Life Insurance Co. of Canada and Prudential Hong Kong Ltd., the ministry's Financial Regulatory Department said.

Myanmar in January announced the opening of its insurance sector to foreign firms and released terms and processes to give license approval.

In addition to the five for-

ign companies, the Myanmar government is also expected to grant licenses to five other Japanese insurers by mid-May to operate via joint ventures in which their shareholdings are limited to up to 35 percent, according to the regulatory body.

The five Japanese companies are two life insurers — Taiyo Life Insurance Co. and Nippon Life Insurance Co.'s regional arm Nippon Life Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd., and three nonlife insurers — Sampo Japan Nipponkoa Insurance Inc., Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co. and Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co.

After nearly half a century of monopoly under the state-backed Myanmar Insurance Co., the government started reforming the insurance sector in 2013 by granting licenses to local firms, while 33 foreign firms have been allowed to set up representative offices since then.—Kyodo News

## Exports surge to \$7.99 bln in first half of current FY

MYANMAR'S exports touched a high of US\$7.99 billion between 1 October, 2018 and 29 March, 2019, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

The figure is up by \$656 million from the \$7.3 billion earned from exports in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year. Of the seven export groups, shipments of agricultural, livestock, fishery, and finished industrial goods showed an increase, while those of minerals, forest products, and other goods declined.

Export values were registered at \$1.69 billion for agro products, \$274.3 million for livestock, \$429 million for fishery products, \$498.6 million for minerals, \$90.5 million for forest products, \$4.45 billion for manufactured goods, and \$552 million for other goods.

Myanmar's export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. Export earnings from the CMP



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

(cutting, making, and packaging) garment businesses are rising, while the country's reliance on natural resources such as natural gas and jade is lessening.

"The Ministry of Commerce is focusing on export promotion in order to reduce the trade deficit. The Ministry has adhered to its reforms policy since 2011. Moreover, a series of reforms for

liberalization and transparency through policy development have been introduced for creating a more viable trade environment," the Permanent Secretary had said at the Myanmar Global Investment Forum 2018 held on 12 September, 2018 at MICC II in Nay Pyi Taw. — Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat



## Times City

The Times City Complex, which will be inaugurated soon, will have a Financial Centre for foreign investment banks, an International Commerce of Chambers Organization Center for international investment groups, house law firms of legal advisor groups at the Times City Office Tower. Organizations interested in renting office space will get a special price and discount, and are invited to visit the Times City Information Centre, located at the intersection of the Hanthawady and Kyundaw roads.

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## Myanmar, Bangladesh sign joint communiqué, issue joint press release after border meet

A CEREMONY to sign a joint communiqué and issue a joint press release on 6<sup>th</sup> BGP (MP-F)-BGB Senior Level Border Conference was held at Royal Ace Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The event was attended by Myanmar Police Force Police General Staff Police Brig-Gen Myo Than and Police Force personnel, officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Union Government Office, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population from Myanmar side and Border Guards Bangladesh Director General Maj-Gen Md. Shafeenul Islam, ndc, psc and officials from Bangladesh side.

The joint communiqué on border area security and rule of law works covering illegal drug trade, terrorism, prevention of illegal border crossing, exchange of citizens who had served their prison terms, conducting regular flag meets at battalion commander level and camp level,



Police Brig-Gen Myo Than and Border Guards Bangladesh Director General Maj-Gen Md. Shafeenul Islam exchange documents at the signing ceremony. **PHOTO: MNA**

holding a first meeting of Maung-taw-Teknaf border liaison offices, timely exchange of news and information related to security of the border region and rule of law, continuing coordinated patrols along the border line of the two countries, implementing trust building works to increase

cooperation between the border forces of the two countries was signed and a joint press release issued. 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of senior officials from the Myanmar-Bangladesh border forces will be held at Dhaka, Bangladesh in October 2019. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Min)

Comparison table for foreign tourist entry from international airports and border gates

Sr	International airports and border gates	March 2018		March 2019		Remark
		Tourist	Business	Tourist	Business	
1.	Yangon Airport/ Sea Port	39232	19871	58772	16541	
2.	Mandalay Airport	7476	4704	25058	4394	
3.	Nay Pyi Taw Airport	48	318	1665	387	
4.	Myeik Airport	116	14	0	0	
5.	Tachilek	537	197	7547	161	
6.	Myawady	1496	414	1598	2100	
7.	Kawthoung	2413	111	935	71	
8.	Hteekhee	56	21	66	20	
9.	Tamu	87	0	238	18	
10.	Reedhorda	0	0	53	1	
<b>Total</b>		<b>51461</b>	<b>25650</b>	<b>95932</b>	<b>23693</b>	

Comparison table for foreign tourist entry from international airports, sea ports and border gates

Sr	Month	2017-2018 Financial Year			2018-2019 Financial Year		
		Tourist	Business	Total	Tourist	Business	Total
1.	October	46693	21253	67946	52647	21005	73652
2.	November	63529	21828	85357	77498	21482	98980
3.	December	63522	19619	83141	82474	19538	102012
4.	January	61123	20485	81608	93125	18689	111814
5.	February	57450	18581	76031	100145	23949	124094
6.	March	51461	25650	77111	95932	23693	119625
<b>Total</b>		<b>343778</b>	<b>127416</b>	<b>471194</b>	<b>501821</b>	<b>128356</b>	<b>630177</b>

MYANMAR GAZETTE

### Head of service organization appointed

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Thant Zaw, Deputy Director-General, Department of Prevention and Investigation under the Anti-Corruption Commission as Director-General of the same department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

### One more political party applies for registration

REGISTRATION of political parties are being scrutinized by the Union Election Commission (UEC) and Union Betterment Party (UBP) UEC to register itself as a political party on 8 April 2019.—MNA

### Public Announcement for remonstrations

UNION Betterment Party (UBP) headquartered at No. A-3, Yaza Thingaha Road, Pobbathiri Township, Ottara District in Nay Pyi Taw, submitted its application for registration as a political party to the Union Election Commission in accord with the Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 8-4-2019. In their application they mention that they will use the party's name, the flag and the emblem as described hereunder.

In accord with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules, it is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party's name, flag and emblem may submit a complaint along with the supporting evidence within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement. —Union Election Commission



Flag of Union Betterment Party (UBP)



Emblem of Union Betterment Party (UBP)


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# Let's work together to create a successful digital economy

SCIENCE and technology play a major role in a country's development. The present moment is one of transition to the Fourth Industrial Revolution, or Industry 4.0, where manufacturing systems exchange data and information using automation systems.

The spheres of science, technology, and innovation need to gather momentum so that Myanmar does not get left behind.

Our approach to the Fourth Industry Revolution must be based on innovation, sharing, and leadership.

We must remain aware that the approach is concerned not only with youths, but all people. At the same time, we must invest in human resource development as much as possible to achieve success in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

For the development of science, technology, and innovation, efforts of not only experts, but people at the grassroots also need to be recognized and encouraged.

For the development of science, technology, and innovation, efforts of not only experts, but people at the grassroots also need to be recognized and encouraged.

It is also required that we make arrangements to increase the participation of youths in the fields of innovation and invention, as well as create opportunities for such activities.

When we come across new technological skills, we must face them bravely, and we must reform our education system so that it gives us practical life skills and helps us adapt to a changing world.

Meanwhile, emphasis must be placed on transferring technology from innovation to manufacturing. If full technology copyrights are granted to them, there would be more innovators. For this to happen, we all need to work for the establishment of technology transfer rules and regulations.

The move would also support the country's successful transition towards an inclusive digital economy, and support the expansion of e-commerce.

Myanmar is now in the midst of a series of ambitious liberalization measures intended to open up new sectors to foreign competition and regional collaboration, making the country an attractive destination for FDI moving forward.

It is common knowledge that science, technology, and innovation play a major role in implementing the digital economy, pillars, and strategic work processes of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan 2018-2030.

Therefore, the works included in the aims of the Science, Technology and Innovation Law, enacted on 25 June, 2018, need to be implemented.

Only then can the country be poised, within the region and internationally, to achieve our aims and sustainable development.



# MoE's reforms: Working on educational development plan on 12 priority sectors

More schools have been opening in the states and regions year by year, and private schools have been permitted to function in accordance with the by-laws. The number of private schools has risen from 585 earlier to 896 in 2018-2019 Academic Year.

Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi

By Khin Yadanan  
PHOTO BY JULY MOE  
(MYANMA ALIN)

WIND of change is blowing in the trail of educational reform in the functioning of the Ministry of Education during the three year period of the incumbent government.

The National Education Strategic Plan has been drawn for (2016-2021), and nine sectors such as the basic education, the technical and vocational education, the informal and lifelong learning, the higher learning, the teacher's training and etc. are implementing and functioning

In line with the aims and objectives of the National Education Strategic Plan, the education policy has been laid down to have access to education by all students at school going age; to ensure that no student is being left behind in the enrollment; and that to ensure there is no dropped out kids in schools.

With the creation of new ideas for lifelong learning, the Ministry of Education is working hand in hand with the people during the three year period of the incumbent government.

The Ministry of Education is working on educational development plan on 12 priority sectors, and implementing the tasks as follows.

(1) Early Childhood Care and

Development.

(2) All citizens must have access to primary education; must have the better education opportunity to under privileged students.

(3) School curriculums with different ethnic national languages must be created with the super-

(6) Teaching aids and materials for the less developing regions must be filled up for the easy access of primary education to all citizens.

(7) The students with poor learning must have the opportunity for study at vocational schools



Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi.

vision of state and region governments and the ethnic nationalities' languages and cultures must be elevated.

(4) The ratio of teachers and the students must be appropriate in the schools.

(5) The skills and teaching abilities of the teachers must be uplifted.

for better livelihood.

(8) The universities must have the rights to draw international standard curriculums independently.

(9) The technical and vocational schools must have the equal rights to develop along with the universities.

(10) All the educational ar-



Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi inspects teaching activities for Literacy Campaign in Pakokku District in 2018.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi engages with the students at Basic Education Post Primary School in Kalar Kone Village-tract, Hmawby and B.E.M.S (5), a B.E.H.S branch in Hlinethaya, Yangon Region, on 25 January 2019.

rangements must not be a burden to the parents and the community. (11) The budget allocated by the government and the private sectors must be utilized in transparency and in effective way.

(12) All the implementation must be based on accurate and correct data and information.

The budget for education is increasing year by year and that 2018-2019 fiscal year is allocated with MMK (2.175) trillions.

### Changes in Basic Education

Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi explained that not only the factors on the number of students but also the convenience of travelling and commuting to schools have been considered in opening more basic education schools.

More schools have been opened in the states and regions year by year, and that the private schools have been permitted to run their operations in line with the by-laws. The number of private schools was 585 in the past and now it stands at 896 in 2018-2019 Academic Year.

School development funds have been provided to basic edu-

cation schools as well as monastic educational schools, and it now stands at MMK (58,129.788) million in 2018-2019.

Underprivileged students have been provided with educational funds and that (16,022) students have received funds in 2016-2017.

In collaboration with the World Bank, (5,376) students and (1,280) students with disabilities, total of (22,678) from (116) townships of remote areas have been provided with funds.

Buildings, schools and structures for students and relevant staff members of education have been constructed and the budget incurred was MMK (132,829.105) millions in the past and now MMK (251,475.878) million in 2018-2019.

The number of students was also increased from (8.9) millions to (9.14) millions in 2018-2019. The number of teachers also increased from (368,709) to (404,444) in 2018-2019.

Rote learning system has been reforming into new learning system of the 21st century with the new curriculums which emphasizes the concept of thinking, the innovation, the participation

and cooperation, the smooth interaction, the concept of problem solution, and the ability of peaceful coexistence from the year 2016-2017. In the implementation tasks, JICA assisted for KG + 12 grades new educational system, and the ADB and EU assisted middle and high school system

provided at the states, regions, and townships respectively, according to the union minister:

In coping with the new curriculums, the teachers have been imparted with the new concept of teaching. Due to the new teaching and assessment procedure, the primary

beginning 2016-2017. The classes such as the KG, the Grade -1, the Grade -2, the Grade -3 and Grade -6 have been equipped with new curriculums. With a view to enable the teachers to cope with the new teaching, the central level training have been provided, and that multiplier training courses are to be

many students have learned the skills in the participation and in the question and answer abilities.

Assessment and evaluation system has been examined with the achievement of learning for the four occasions, and that the question types for the matriculation examination have been changed

from rote learning method to meaningful learning.

The changes and reform have been resulted with success as more students passed the assessment and evaluation in their learning. The number of students that appeared in the matriculation examination have stood at (0.85) millions in 2019. In felicitating ethnic nationalities languages at schools, total of (5,161) teaching assistants from the local area have been appointed in December 2017.

In uplifting and inspiring various ethnic nationalities' languages, literatures, cultures, and traditions, more funds have been awarded to (12,248) basic education schools; to (54) various ethnic nationalities' languages; to (28,783) school teachers including professionals in 2018-2019.

### Reform in informal and lifelong learning

Works are in progress in the reform tasks for informal learning and lifelong learning for those students who are deprived of regular schoolings by offering them such as that of vocational training and that of income generating training along with the encouragement of reading habits with impetus.

Informal education for the primary school level as well as middle school level have been provided in (81) townships, and subsequently embraced (28,146) students for primary levels and (191) students for middle schools levels in 2018-2019.

With a view to uplift the elderly literacy rate, (4,482) teaching circles have been staged in (11) districts deployed with (5,703) teacher, where (44,062) adults have become literate.

Technical and vocational sectors Over three years period of the new government, many tasks have been implemented such as that of opening more schools; that of opening regular course; that of skill course; that of appointing more teachers; that of job related trainings; that of building structures; that of providing teaching aids; that of providing educational funds; the of cooperation between the government and the private sectors.

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# MoE's reforms: Working on educational development plan ...

## FROM PAGE-9

From 2016 to 2018, motley assortment of schools have been expanded and commissioned such as NVTI vocational courses; ELPS English courses; technical courses from Sea Lion Co. Ltd., and that of the School of Industrial and Education (SITE).

Additional teachers have been beefed up in schools with (665) teachers over the three years, and that (278) news teachers are to be appointed in 2018-2019.

Total of (60) schools and centers have been opened for Government Technical College; for Government Technical High School; and for Technical Enhancement Centers, accommodating (19,676) students.

Various and different short term vocational skills starting from mobile repair course to facial makeup beautifying course numbering (23) categories have been imparted to the trainees.

In cooperation with the government and the private sector, related vocational training seminars were conducted in major cities. As a result, from the basic sewing and cloth making course to the blacksmith and ironwork course have been conducted. In this regards, (42) times of courses have been implemented for (1,907) persons.

The companies involved in the training courses are the Total E and P Myanmar; Mottama Gas Transportation Company Limited (Yadanar Project); Wolistic Interest through health - Myanmar (WITH).

With the cooperation of KOICA, the TVET Teacher Training Institute-TTTI is to be instituted in Yangon, where the course on Electronic Technology ; Electrical Power Technology ; Mechanical Technology ; and Automobile Technology would be imparted.

Other foreign organizations namely UNESCO and The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) are to provide various courses as Myanmar Centre in collaboration with KOICA; JICA; SDC; Swiss contact; GIZ; ADB; and EU.

Moreover, hotel and tourism services training courses are to be conducted in the near future with the assistances of the private organizations and partner organizations in major cities.

In getting assistances from Official Development Assistance (ODA), a plan has been approved for establishing Japan- Myanmar



Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi addresses the ground breaking ceremony for TVET Teacher Training Institute (TTTI) in Yangon on 19 May 2018.

Aung San Vocational Training Institute (JMASVTI).

The TVET Forum was held on 15 and 16 July 2016 at the Myanmar Convention Center (2) in Nay Pyi Taw and the ASEAN Regional Technical and Vocational Education and Training Conference 2017 was held on 13 and 14 June 2017.

The Organizational of the TVET Seminar was held on 3 December 2018 and that Workshop on Operationalization of UNEVOC Centre in Myanmar was held on 4 December 2018 with the assistance of UNESCO and GIZ.

### Reform in higher education sector

Total of (134) universities, degree colleges, and colleges are being commissioned in 2016 to 2018.

Over the three years period of the new government, total of (4,269) deputy-directors general, professors, assistant professors, associate professors, lecturers and assistant lecturers have been promoted, and that (64) part time faculty members have been recruited. The number of faculty members stood at (21,699) in 2015-2016 and increased to (22,533) in 2017-2018.

Accommodations and hostels have been arranged for the convenience of the students in (46) universities and colleges.

The number of students attending at day and the distant education students has increased in three years' time.

Classes for Marine Science (1) and Fisheries and Aquaculture have been offered beginning December 2018.

Masters' courses for Engineering and Architecture have been reopened in 2016-2017 and that (243) students are attending the classes.

Out of (134) universities, degree colleges and colleges,

total of (142,884) students have been conferred with diplomas, degrees, masters' and doctorates in the year 2018.

In strengthening the research works, more funds are being allocated year by year, and that the current fiscal year is honored with MMK (532.954) millions. Moreover, the faculty members have contributed with (3,841) research papers in 2018.

Total of (4,425) representatives have been dispatched to foreign countries to obtain Masters' and doctorates as well as attending seminars and courses.

Total of (85) foreign professors and professionals have visited Myanmar and imparted knowledge and lectures in 2018.

Various functions and fairs related to education have been arranged up to (80) events in 2017-2018. Moreover, cooperation and collaboration are being made on educational matters with Free University of London and British Council.

The 19th ASEAN University Games was held from 10 to 19 December 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw.

Those students who obtained the Diploma in Teaching Education (DTEd) would have the opportunity to further pursue B. Ed; BA; and B Sc (Education).

The current distant education system is to be revamped and modified with a view to enhanced the quality education.

### Cooperation with International Organizations

With the aid and assistances of the UNESCO, more reliable data and information collection would be made through Education Management Information System (EMIS) with a view to establishing baseline data for the whole country.

Other capacity building courses have been imparted to educational staff members and officers. The plans included

Equipping Youth for Employment Project -EYE with the assistance of ADB.

With the assistance of the Australian Government, the Myanmar Education Quality Improvement Program (My-EQIP) is under implementation.

In collaboration with the EU, the plan namely "Financial and Social Inclusion in Myanmar" is being carried out.

As part of capacity building for the teachers, the "Teacher Mentor and School Cluster Supporting Program" is being implemented with the World Bank, in addition to the "Early Grade Mathematics Assessment - EGMA" and the "Early Grade Reading Assessment-EGRA."

An essential summary report on the "Public Finance for Children in Education Budget Brief Development" has been released in Myanmar language and English language.

Among the achievement and success of the Ministry of Education, the "Seminar on Strengthening TVET in Myanmar within the Framework of SDG4" and the "Access to Education Policy

Dialogue" have been noted into records with credit.

Some reports and disseminations have been compiled and released in cooperation with the UNICEF on the theme "Out of School Children Initiative-OOSCI", with a view to reducing the number of such children in the country.

One of the salient researches being undertaken was the "South East Asia Primary Learning Metric (SEA-PLM)".

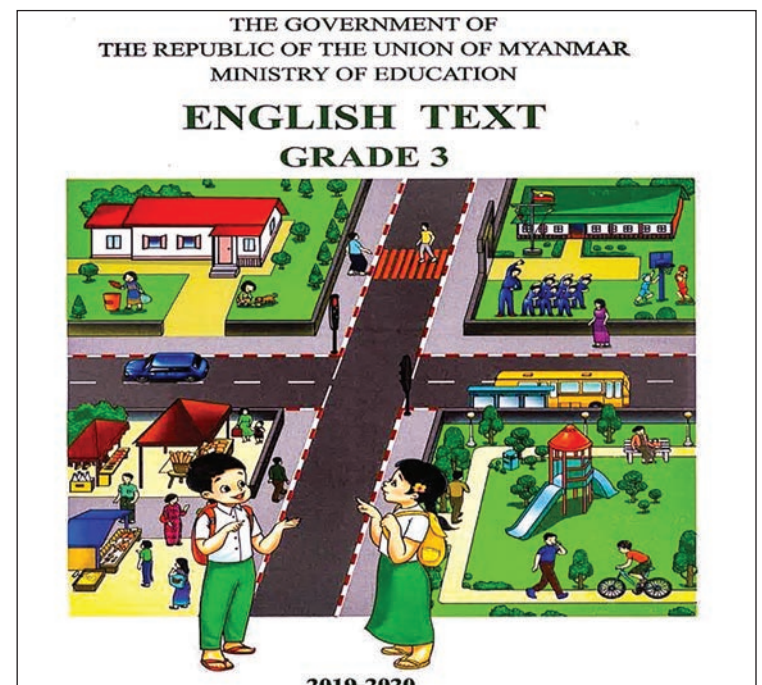
Understanding the requirements and needs in performances and abilities of the staff under the Ministry of Education, an appropriate and systematic Human Resource Development Plan (HRD Plan) has been crafted.

In line with the aim and objective of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, the Ministry of Education is implementing reforms systematically and effectively with transparency despite the challenges on various issues in achieving and arriving at the desired goals to the best of the abilities.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)



Primary basic education teachers undertaking special training course for using Grade-2 text books on April and May in 2018.



English Text for the curriculum.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Office of the President  
Press Release No. 14/2019  
4<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Tagu, 1380 ME  
(8 April 2019)

## 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 6 April 2019 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

No	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal actions taken
1	Information received of Maung Shein, who lives in Paukkaung Village, PhaungpyinTsp, Sagaing Region, distributing and seeling narcotic drugs.	On 4-4-2019, police searched Maung Shein, aged 58, son of U Tha Myint, and seized him with heroin in the village. A case has been opened him with MaMaSa (Phaungpyin), Ma Ya (Pa) 50/2019 under Section 16(c) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of Htoo Paing and Ma Nge, who lives in Ward 5, NyaungUTsp, Mandalay Region, distributing and selling WY Stimulant Tablets.	On 3-4-2019, police searched the house of Htoo Paing (a) Ar Man, aged 24, son of U Khin Maung Soe, and Ma Nge (a) Chaw Su Win (a) Chaw Lay (a) Ma Wat Ma, aged 30, daughter of U Moe MyintAung, and seized them with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa(NyaungU), MaYa(Pa) 1/2019 under Section 19(a)/20(a)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of selling illegal drugs near the State Agricultural Institute, Ward 1, Kyaukme Town, Shan State (North)	So far, one case has been opened files as of last weeks, a man had been arresting, together with stimulant tablets. On 31-3-2019, police seized Shwe Than, aged 42, son of U Su Sein Tha, with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened him with MaMaSa(Kyaukme) MaYa(Pa) 16/2019 under Section 19(a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, police seized Maung Shwe, aged 21, son of U Paw San Tun, with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened him with MaMaSa(Kyaukme), Ma Ya (Pa) 17/2019 under Section 16(c) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Police seized Toe Toe (a) Aung Toe Myint, aged 28, son of U Thein Maung, and Kyaw Hlaing (a) Appana, aged 44, son of U Maung Maung, with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa(Kyaukme) MaYa(Pa) 18/2019 under Section 19(a)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of Ma Moe (a) Mi Moe, who lives in ParHlyal Ward 1, Tachilek Tsp, Shan State (North), distributing and selling narcotic durgs.	On 3-4-2019, police seized the house of Ma Moe (a) Mi Moe (a) Ei Moe Win, aged 39, daughter of U Kyaw Soe, and seized Ma The The Ei, aged 26, daughter of U San Win, together with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened two of them with MaMaSa (Tachilek) MaYa (Pa) 48/2019 under Section 16 (c)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of WaToak (a) Ba Nae, who lives in Partimargone Village, Tachilek Tsp, Shan State (North).	On 4,4,2019, police searched the farm hut of Haw Tae (a) WaToak (a) Ba Nae, aged 27, son of U Law Phar, and seized Zaw Htoo, aged 27, son of U Sein Maung, together with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened both of them with MaMaSa (Tachilek) MaYa (Pa) 49/2019 under Section 19 (a)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far a total of 593 cases have been opened files as of 6-4-2019. A total of 934 people, including 782 men and 152 women had been arrested with seizures of 5,871.92 g of heroin, 73.67 g of ICE, 38704.74 g of opium, 329.6 g of low-quality opium, 18,879.27 g of speciosa powder, 7,833.19 g of speciosa, 1.5 liters of opium tincture, 229525 stimulant tablets, 6,424.22 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 513.26 g of

opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 23.45 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 16 firearms, different kinds of 257 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.  
Acting on a tip-off, police seized ownerless 44 stimulant tablets that had been hidden in the charger plug between the mileposts 269/1 and 269/2, Yangon-Mandalay Road, Thabyechaung Village, TatkonTsp, Nay Pyi Taw. Police arrested a man with a seizure of 2,160 stimulant tablets, 3 g of heroin and one motorbike on Mawhan-Taungseinlay Raod, MohnyinTsp, Kachin State. A woman was seized with 810 stimulant tablets and 0.9 g of heroin in Mamon Village, Phakant Tsp. A man was arrested with 130 stimulant tablets in Thayetpin Village, Loikaw Tsp, Kayah State. A woman was seized with 160 stimulant tablets in Paekatar Village, Hpa-an Tsp, Kayin State. Two men were arrested with 100 stimulant tablets in Naungyapae Village. A man was arrested with 170 stimulant tablets in Asin Village, Ye Tsp, Mon State. A man was arrested with 277.5 g of marijuana and one motorbike on Belin-Natgyithwar road, near Kazine Village, BilinTsp, Mon State. A man and a woman were arrested with 26 stimulant tablets and 0.5 g of marijuana in Maung Ni Village, Maungtaw Tsp, Rakhine State. A man was arrested with 17 stimulant tablets and one g of marijuana in Gonenar Village. A man was arrested with 10 g of crushed stimulant tablets in Ywarthikay Village. A man was arrested with 164 stimulant tablets in Latha Village. A man was arrested with 36,100 stimulant tablets between Thancha and Kondai Villages, Buthidaung Tsp, Rakhine State. Acting on a tip-off, police seized a man and a woman with a seizure of 817 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Sittway Town, Rakhine State. A man was seized with 1,965 stimulant tablets on Taunggyi-Pinpat road, near Konchaung Village, Taunggyi Tsp, Shan State. A woman was seized with 2,000 stimulant tablets in Kangyi Ward. A man was arrested with 4,500 g of opium blocks on Kalaw-Pinlaung-Aungpan Road. Two men were arrested with 10,000 stimulant tablets in Ward 3, Kunhing Town. A man was arrested with 1750 stimulant tablets, 11.2 g of heroin and one motorbike in Aye Chan Myay Street, Ward 10, Lashio Town. A man and a woman were arrested with 170 stimulant tablets in Swansaw Ward, Muse Town. Upon acting on a tip-off, four men were arrested with 3,000 stimulant tablets and 4,300 g of opium in Mansar Ward. Two men were arrested with 20 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Wankan Village, Kengtong Tsp. A man was arrested with 1,407 stimulant tablets and 100 g of opium in Panyaung Village. A woman was arrested with 14,157 stimulant tablets in Parsat Ward, Tachilek Town. A man was arrested with 1800 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Saykham Ward. A man was arrested with 200 g of crushed stimulant tablets and one motorbike at Hlwetlaylan inspection gate. A woman was arrested with 593 stimulant tablets in Ward 1, Katha Town. A man was arrested with 1,380 stimulant tablets and one motorbike on the Ayeyawady River Bridge, Htigyaing Tsp. Police searched some 1,910 ownerless stimulant tablets in the field in Ward 4 while people were clearing the land. Two men were arrested with seven stimulant tablets, 47 g of opium and 2.5 g of low-quality opium in Makyee gone Village, Bamauk Tsp. A man and a woman were arrested with 10 Alprazolam Tablets at 8-mile inspection gate on Kalay-TiddimRaod, Kalay Town. Upon acting on a tip-off, police seized 400 Alprazolam Tablets at the accused's drug store. A man was arrested with seven Buprenorphine Tablets in Mawlaikkalay Village. Two men were arrested with 200 stimulant tablets, 44 g of heroin and one motorbike in the street near Paygone Village, Homalin Tsp. A man was arrested with 277 stimulant tablets and one powered schooner near Maai Village, Myeik Tsp, Taninthayi Region.

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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.

**72-year-old successfully summits Phonkanrazi Mountain**

DR. MAUNG MAUNG GYI, a veteran photographer, successfully reached the top of the 11,900-foot Phonkanrazi Mountain, located in northern Myanmar's Putao town, ahead of his 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

"I climbed the mountain to mark my 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Another reason was that I like taking photographs. I trained for six months before the trip. I have climbed over 3,000-foot mountains — Seinkhanauk and Myakhanauk near Mandalay Region. Additionally, I have climbed up and down the Ban-bway and Kyauksin waterfalls. This was my training in climbing," said Dr. Maung Maung Gyi.

Three other photographers, U Soe Hlaing, Kyaw Zaw Lay, and Hlaing Min Aung, joined Dr. Maung Maung Gyi on his climb. They reached the top of the Phonkanrazi Mountain with the help of 14 mountain guides. The trip took 10 days — from 4 to 13 March — due to extreme weather conditions.

A photo exhibition featuring the natural scenic beauty of



Dr. Maung Maung Gyi and mountaineers have reached the summit of Phonkanrazi mountain in Putao.

**PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG SOE**

Putao and Phonkanrazi Mountain was held at Yangon Gallery in the People's Park, along with a congratulatory event for the mountaineers.

Dr. Maung Maung Gyi is

from Hsipaw Town in northern Shan State. He was born on 31 March, 1947. He is currently residing in Mandalay.

Putao is receiving an increasing number of travellers.

The government is planning to get some places in Putao listed as UNESCO Natural World Heritage sites. —Myint Maung Soe

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

**Kayin State Investment Committee okays wholly foreign-owned hotel project**

THE Kayin State Investment Committee endorsed one hotel service project with foreign direct investment of US\$2.59 million at a meeting held on Friday, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

The committee has issued more than eight endorsements

so far, including for two foreign projects. Investments are primarily flowing into the hotel services and manufacturing sectors in the state.

There is potential for investment in the manufacturing, agriculture, mining, electricity and energy, hotels and tourism, transportation, and logistics sec-

tors in Kayin State.

The DICA, under the Ministry of Planning and Finance, opened its regional office in Hpa-an Township in Kayin State on 6 October, 2016 with the aim to provide and promote regional investment promotion activities and incorporation of companies and related businesses.

According to the Myanmar Investment Law, the region and state investment committees are authorized to endorse investment proposals with a capital of not more than \$5 million (K6,000 million). —GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

**Eye on exports, MRF plans to inspect rice mills, warehouses**

THE Myanmar Rice Federation is planning to inspect rice mills and warehouses of companies which will export rice to China under a government-to-government agreement, according to a press release issued by the federation.

China's food safety inspection mechanism — the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine (AQSIQ) — checks the quality of rice, and inspects rice mills and warehouses of companies be-

fore approving their shipments.

If Myanmar companies pass China's quality standards, they will be allowed to send their goods to China. The Myanmar Inspection and Testing Services Ltd, a recognized enterprise under the Ministry of Commerce, also conducts commodity inspections. After the inspections, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation issues certificates allowing companies to export goods to China.

The Myanmar government is endeavoring to increase China's quota limit for rice imports to 400,000 tons. China had granted a quota of 100,000 tons to Myanmar in 2016.

China has been clamping down on illegal trade, prompting its dealers to halt trade, resulting in a drop in rice exports through the Myanmar border channels.

About 50,000 tons of rice meant for export to China has piled up at Muse gate, prompting

merchants to halt supply of rice to the gate, said U Min Thein, vice chair, Muse rice depot.

Between 1 April, 2018 and 15 February, 2019, Myanmar exported 2.115 million tons of rice and broken rice, worth an estimated US\$699.46 million.

Of the 3.6 million tons of rice shipped by Myanmar, half was sent to China through the border gates. —GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

# Additional statistical bulletin on drug...

**FROM PAGE-11**

A man was arrested with 120 stimulant tablets and 20 g of speciosa powder in Pulaw Tsp. Two men were arrested with 307,000 g of speciosa powder near the Sautlwin Creek, Mawtaung Town. Three men and one woman were arrested with 38 stimulant tablets in 16/6 Ward, Bago Town, Bago Region. Two men were arrested with 1570 stimulant tablets and two motorbikes in Chanmyathazi Tsp, Mandalay Region. A man was arrested with 5910 stimulant tablets and one motor vehicle near the Leigyi Bridge, Mogok Tsp. A man and a woman were arrested with 200 stimulant tablets, 990 g of ICE, 2.5 g of marijuana and one motor vehicle at 16-mile inspection gate, Patheingyi Tsp. Upon acting on a tip-off, 442 stimulant tablets and 18 g of marijuana were seized at the accused's house in Ward 13, South Okkalapa Tsp, Yangon Region. A man was arrested with 127.33 g of marijuana and one motor vehicle on Mogaung Raod, Ward 15, Yankin Tsp, Yangon Region. Upon acting on a tip-off, police found 690 g of marijuana at the accused's house. A man was seized with 243 stimulant tablets on Laydaungkan Road, Tamwaylay Ward, Tamway Tsp, Yangon Region. A man was arrested with 4000 stimulant tablets, 6.4 g of ICE and one motor vehicle on Laydaungkan Road. A man was arrested with 126 g of marijuana in Kyisu West Ward, South Dagon Tsp, Yangon Region. There has been one seizure of ammunition. A man was seized with 15 stimulant tablets, one short fire-

arm, 44 22-mm cartridges, one barrel shotgun with its six cartridges, one percussion lick firearm, 40 lead balls and one tin of gun powder, in Kywel Talin Village, Yebyu Tsp, Taninthayi Region. There has been one seizure involving a foreigner. A Malaysian man was arrested with a seizure of 0.4 g of ICE in his luggage at the Terminal 1 of the Yangon International Airport, Mingaladon Tsp, Yangon Region. There have been 185 cases being opened between 31-3-2019 and 6-4-2019. A total of 245 people, including 218 men and 27 women, were seized with 437.353 g of heroin, 999 g of ICE, 1,00086 stimulant tablets, 210 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 1,244.43 g of marijuana, 4,883.33 g of opium, 4,821.2 g of opium blocks, 2.5 g of low-quality opium, 307,020 g of specopsa powder, 410 g of Alprazolam Tablets, 7 Buprenorphine Tablets, three firearms, 50 cartridges, 40 lead balls and one tin of gun powder.

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](mailto:antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm)

**INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER**

Sealed tenders are invited by Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports for the supply of Medical Equipments in the (2018-2019) Budget year.

Tender documents are available during office hours at the Procurement and Supplying Division, Department of Medical Services office No (4), Ministry of Health and Sports Commencing from (11.4.2019). Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office, not later than (16-5-2019), 15:00 hour, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraph/telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information please contact the Phone No.067-3411510, 067-3411544, Procurement and Supply Division Office, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports.

Procurement and Supply Division  
Ministry of Health and Sports

**Transferring Distributor for Registered Products**

We **Limin Chemical (Myanmar) Co., Ltd** would like to change distributor of the following products, (registered by **Limin Chemical Co., Ltd** to Pesticide Registration Board, Myanmar), to **Myanmar Shwe Thein Trading Co., Ltd**. If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide Registration Board, Department of Agriculture from here to next 14 days.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No
1	Mancynil 72 WP	Cymoxanil 8%   Mancozeb 64% WP	Provisional	P2017-4027
2	Farmerfose 80 WP	Fosetyl-aluminium 80% WP	Provisional	P2017-4028

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**CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE**

**M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (034 N/S)**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (034 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-04-2019 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 INTERASIA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE**

**M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (914W)**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (914W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/T.M.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)  
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE**

**M.V KALLIROE VOY. NO. (913S)**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KALLIROE VOY. NO. (913S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)  
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE**

**M.V MITRA BHUM VOY. NO. (005 N/S)**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MITRA BHUM VOY. NO. (005 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-04-2019 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 LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE**

**M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY. NO. (613 N/S)**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY. NO. (613 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE**

**M.V LE HE**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V LE HE (V.140) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of WILMAR 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.

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## Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye attends the National Consultation Workshop for Beijing Platforms for Action+25 Country Report

A WORKSHOP on the National Consultation Workshop for Beijing Platforms for Action+25 Country Report was held, yesterday, at the Mingalar Thiri Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw, where Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye attended and delivered an opening speech.

In his opening speech at the workshop, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye said that Myanmar attended the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, and established the Myanmar National Committee on Women — MNCW in 1996, as an effort to play an active role in women's empowerment, and later the MNCW has been reformed, in cooperation with departments and CSOs, according to the

State's policies.

The National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW) (2013-2022) has based on 12 Priority Areas of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action – BPFA and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and which has set up for working committees that aimed at implementing the process.

The national-level review on Asia-Pacific Regional implementation would be conducted at the Asia Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Beijing + 25 in November 2019. The review of global implementation would be carried out at the Commission on the Status of Women meeting in March 2020.



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye delivers the speech at the National Consultation Workshop for Beijing Platform for Action+25 Country Report in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

As for the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs, concerted efforts would be needed to make the review of the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW) while implementing the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP). Thus

participants were urged to make open discussion on the positions of women and their empowerment.

Then participants took part in the discussion on the process of the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, measures on 12 Priority Areas of the Beijing

Declaration and Platform for Action, women and careers, women and leadership, women and healthcare, women and preventive measures on violence against women and implementation process.—MNA

*(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)*

## Indian Culture resonates in Yangon

“CELEBRATION of Foundation Day Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)” was organized by the Embassy of India yesterday.

U Kyi Min, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture and wife and Ambassador of India Shri Saurabh Kumar and wife lighted the candles to launch the event.

Over 300 guests including the diplomatic corps, Indian communities and media attended the event.

At the event, artistes entertained the visitors with traditional songs, dances and fashion shows from India's 12 states.

The central idea behind this programme is “Unity in Diversity”.

ICCR was founded on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1950 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, who was independent



Deputy Minister U Kyi Min addresses the celebration of Foundation Day of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). **PHOTO: YE HTUT**

India's first Education Minister. Its objectives are to actively participate in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes pertaining to India's external cultural relations; to foster and strengthen cultural relations and mutual

understanding between India and other countries; to promote cultural exchanges with other countries and people; and to develop relations with nations.—Yi Yi Myint

*(Translated by Tun Tun Naing)*

## Smart Island catches visitors' attention

THE Smart Island has received a large number of bookings from travelers wishing to explore the island during the Thingyan holidays, according to tour agencies.

The Smart Island is famous for its beautiful white sand beach and pebbles beach with crystal clear waters, underwater views, coral reefs, and various species of aquatic animals.

It is spread over 545.06 acres of land and dense forests. Popular beaches at the island include the 4,000-ft-long pebble beach in the northern part, and three white sand beaches, each measuring 600 feet, in the southern part. The two-faces island is located in the eastern part, Padan island in the western part, and other untouched beaches can be seen from the island, according to the Myeik Region Tourism Entrepreneurs Association. The Smart Island is located 68 miles from Myeik, and is a two-hour speedboat ride from Myeik jetty.

“The island is hosting more visitors than previous years. With the development of tourism, the number of tour businesses and speed boats are increasing. The most popular island is the Smart Island with two-faces, where a varieties of activities can be done such as

exploring coral reefs and underwater diving. It is just a 15-minute walk to the sand beach and pebble beach. Therefore, most of the visitors go to the Smart Island for activities,” said U Myint Than, a spokesperson with the Mergui Dolphin tour agency. “The Myeik archipelago trip has become popular in the high season and bookings have been made ahead of the Thingyan festival. There are plans to operate small speedboats and large speedboats, which can accommodate 200 passengers, to Smart island, Lay Kyunn island and other islands,” according to a tour operator.

“There are 35 tour agencies and 40 speedboats offering trips to the Myeik archipelago. At its meeting, the Myeik region's Tourism Entrepreneurs Association has directed that speedboats be inspected to check whether they are carrying life jackets and medicine boxes, and if they have installed communication equipment. A supervision committee will be formed to check passenger safety during the Thingyan festival and the police will cooperate with them,” U Thein Swe Myint added. — Khine Htoo (Myeik-IPRD)

*(Translated by La Wonn)*

## Palin Kanthar elephant camp attracting many visitors

THE Palin Kanthar elephant camp, located in Palin Kanthar village, five miles from the NyaungU-Pakokku road beside the Ayeyawady River, is crowded with visitors ahead of the Thingyan festival.

The camp was opened on 28 April, 2018. At the time, it had six elephants, and now there are eight elephants — four males and four females — at the camp. The fee for elephant rides is K5,000

for local visitors and K10,000 for foreigners. The elephants are given a bath every morning and evening at the camp.

Normally, the camp hosts more than 100 visitors, and a large number of visitors can be seen during weekends and holidays. Food items for elephants such as sugarcane, watermelon, and corn are sold at a price of K1,000 per plate at the camp.

The Myanma Timber Enter-

prise is providing regular treatment to elephants. The objective of the elephant camp is to conserve the wild animals, create job opportunities for local residents through elephant-based tourism, promote tourism, observe elephants, and create a recreational space for locals and tourists. There are currently 20 elephant camps in Myanmar. — Tin Hlaing (Meiktila)

*(Translated by La Wonn)*

# Pearls of wisdom: Japan's cultured farms still glisten

SHIMA — In Japan's picturesque Ago Bay, a couple sits in a little hut picking out oysters from a net, cleaning them carefully one-by-one before replacing them gently back in the water.

Their hope: in several months, these oysters will produce a glistening white pearl from a cultured farming technique invented in Japan that is in decline as experts die out in the ageing country.

Cultured pearl farming was first commercialised in Ago Bay and spread throughout the world. There are still dozens of farms plying the trade there, which look from the sky like a series of rafts floating between the steep coast and a string of tiny islets.

In 1893, an Ago Bay local called Kokichi Mikimoto became worried the oyster pearls avidly sought in his waters were becoming extinct.

So he began introducing artificial foreign bodies into the

oysters in a bid to replicate the natural process in which they secrete thousands of layers of nacre when a grain of sand or shell finds its way inside the pearl pocket.

After several setbacks — including a bacterial virus that decimated his crop — Mikimoto finally hit the jackpot: one day in July 1893 a semi-spherical pearl appeared, clinging to the oyster.

A decade or so later, he had refined his method to produce a perfectly round specimen and immediately patented his technique — the cultured pearl.

Success was not immediate — several viewed the cultured pearl as a vulgar replica of the “natural” variety — but eventually Mikimoto built a global empire and Japan became the reference for the small pearls known as “Akoya.”

Around the same time, two other Japanese, Tatsuhei Mise and Tokichi Nishikawa, applied for a patent.



Japan has produced around 20 tonnes of farmed pearls annually over the past 10 years, bringing in around 16.6 billion yen, and is aiming to reach 20 billion yen by 2027. PHOTO: AFP

## Top five percent

The Sakaguchi family has been crafting these valuable pearls between three and 10 millimetres in diameter for three generations. Kasuhiro, 73, and Misayo, 68, are now supported by daughter Ruriko.

“Our job is to look after the oysters as well as we can for three to four years,” explained the energetic 43-year-old Ruriko, sporting an apron and headscarf.

“From harvesting the young oysters, introducing the graft,

right up to extracting the pearl,” she added, as she dragged oysters from the net for inspection.

The whole delicate operation rests of the insertion of a nucleus — a small round polished ball made out of shellfish — and the “graft”, a piece of donor mantle tissue from another oyster.

Over a period of several months, the oyster reacts to the foreign bodies by secreting thousands of layers of nacre which form the pearl. The pearls are harvested in December, when the

water is around 15 degrees, said Ruriko. “Below this, the pearl will lack strength. Above that, it will lack shine,” she explained.

It is a thankless task. Of the 100,000 oysters harvested annually, half die immediately after the operation. The vast majority produce either mediocre pearls or nothing at all. Only around five percent of the oysters harvested will result in pearls of sufficient quality to adorn the windows of chic jewellers far away in Tokyo.— AFP ■

# China lowers tariffs on computers, bikes, other goods

BEIJING — China on Monday announced it will lower tariffs on some consumer goods ranging from computers to furniture and bicycles as Beijing faces worldwide scrutiny over its trade practices.

Beijing and Washington have slapped tariffs on more than \$360 billion in two-way

trade in their simmering trade spat while Europe has recently indicated it will take China to task for alleged unfair trade policies.

China's tariff rate on imported goods like books, computers, food, furniture and medicines will drop to 13 per cent starting Tuesday, the State Council's tar-

iff commission announced.

The goods had been taxed at a 15 per cent rate, official news agency Xinhua reported.

The border tax slapped on other imported goods like sporting goods, fishing supplies, textiles, electronic appliances and bicycles will also be lowered to 20 per cent from 25 per cent, according to Xinhua.

Top EU leaders will meet Chinese Premier Li Keqiang this week at a summit in Brussels, but their hopes of winning solid commitments on trade look set for disappointment.

President Donald Trump on Friday said talks with Beijing were making progress toward ending the trade war between the world's two top economies, but he again stopped short of predicting success.

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin engaged in trade talks with a Chinese delegation led by Vice Premier Liu He from April 3-5 in Washington.— AFP ■



Photo taken on 8 November, 2018 shows the container terminal operation area at Tonghai Port in Nantong, east China's Jiangsu Province. PHOTO: XINHUA

# Boeing shares fall as 737 Max trouble continues

NEW YORK — Boeing shares extended losses on Monday as the aircraft maker continued to struggle with the trouble of its 737 Max jet involved in two recent deadly crashes.

The stock plunged as much as 5 per cent to a low of 371.86 US dollars apiece during the session, before closing down 4.4 per cent at 374.52 dollars per share, the biggest drag on the Dow.

The company announced Friday after the end of the market trading that it would cut 737 Max aircraft production by nearly 20 per cent, a signal that the ongoing issues surrounding the plane are not going to be resolved soon.

Boeing decided to cut 737 production to 42 airplanes per month, down from 52, starting in mid-April, according to the company.

Bank of America Merrill Lynch downgraded the Dow component from “buy” to “neu-

tral” on Monday and slashed its outlook on Boeing, saying the plane manufacturer's recent troubles with the 737 Max are worse than expected.

“The reputational loss from these events could erode long-term market share and pricing power of the 737 MAX,” BofA analyst Ronald Epstein said in a note to clients.

The move came after two deadly crashes over the past six months both involving 737 Max aircraft and killing a combined 346 people. Questions have been raised about its safety, leading to a global grounding of the jet.

Investors were anxious that the troubles will be a hit to Boeing's 2019 earnings due to fewer-than-anticipated deliveries.

Despite all those issues, Boeing shares are still up 16 per cent year to date. The aircraft maker is set to report earnings for its latest fiscal quarter on 24 April.—Xinhua ■

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## Paralympics: IPC to meet with two Koreas on potential unified teams

TOKYO — International Paralympic Committee President Andrew Parsons said Tuesday his organization will meet with North and South Korea's Paralympic representatives soon to discuss an ideal form for their participation in the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games, including the possibility of unified teams.

If the two Koreas form any unified teams at the Tokyo Games or march together at the opening or closing ceremonies, it will be a first for them to do so in any Summer or Winter Paralympics.

"We are still discussing with the two National Paralympic Committees...So sooner rather than later, we will be meeting with them," Parsons told Kyodo News in a telephone interview.

Asked about the sports in which the nations may field unified teams, Parsons said it will depend on the availability of athletes and the qualification process.

"These are the kind of details that we need more information from the two national Paralympic committees to be able to even start the discussion on the feasibility," he said.

Regarding the Olympic Games in Tokyo, the International Olympic Committee has agreed that the two Koreas can enter unified teams in qualifying competitions for women's basketball, women's hockey, mixed judo and rowing.

"As soon as we get some kind of agreement, we will announce to the media," Parsons said.

Parsons also expressed his great expectations for the influence of sports in a variety of areas including in social and political fields, where sports can sometimes ease tensions and mend ties.

"I think sports can help bring together (the) two countries that have been in a difficult relation-

ship for years and decades. I think it's one of the roles sports can play," he said, adding it will be a "positive discussion" when the three parties meet.

"So let's wait for the meeting," Parsons said.

At the March 2018 Pyeongchang Paralympics in South Korea, in which two North Korean athletes competed as wildcard entries, a joint march by the two Koreas had been planned for the opening ceremony but was canceled at the last minute.

At the preceding 2018 Winter Olympics, however, the two Koreas entered the Pyeongchang opening ceremony under the blue and white unified flag.

During last October's Asian Para Games in Jakarta, the two Koreas marched together at the opening ceremony under a unified flag and competed in swimming and table tennis events as "Korea." — Kyodo News ■



Fans from North Korea wave Korean Unification Flags during a hockey game at the Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympics, February 12, 2018. PHOTO: AFP



Chelsea coach Maurizio Sarri on the touchline during a Premier League match away to Huddersfield on 11 August. PHOTO: AFP PHOTO

## Chelsea coach hints it will be hard to keep Hazard

LONDON — Chelsea coach Maurizio Sarri has dropped a big hint that his side's Belgian international forward Eden Hazard could be on his way to Real Madrid over the summer.

Speaking to the press after a Hazard masterclass took Chelsea to a 2-0 win over West Ham United with his 18th and 19th goals of the season, Sarri was asked about the future of the player whose contract is up at the end of the 2019-2020 season.

Real Madrid are thought to have identified Hazard as their top target as they look to rebuild after the disasters of this season and when Sarri was asked if Chelsea could afford to lose him, he replied, "from a technical point of view, no, it's impossible to find another Hazard."

"At the moment there isn't another Hazard, his level is so high. You'd have to find two players to make the level of Hazard. So I hope Hazard can stay here,

otherwise we'll have to try something different," he said.

The problem facing Chelsea is that with Hazard so far failing to sign a new contract, he could leave for nothing in July 2020, while selling him now would bring in a considerable transfer fee.

"I'm sure the club doesn't want to sell him. But, of course, we all have to respect his decision. He will be entering the last season of contract and, if he wants to have another experience, we'll respect that. We'll try, of course, in any way to convince him, but it's not easy," the coach said.

Real Madrid are thought to be prepared to pay around 100 million pounds, (around 130 million US dollars) for Hazard, but Sarri commented that even if Hazard has just one year left on his current deal, that was "too cheap in this market." —Xinhua ■

## Qatar aims to build \$20 bln sports industry

DOHA — Qatar wants to build a \$20 billion sports industry by 2022 as it seeks to develop new markets amid regional political tensions, an economic official in the emirate said Sunday.

Yousuf Mohamed al-Jaida, chief executive of the Qatar Financial Centre, said he expected the target to be reached within three years -- without specifying how the figure was reached or giving its current value.

Jaida said there would be "a major expansion of sports in terms of targets and in terms of focus".

Although well-known for hosting sporting events — and Qatar is likely to bid again to host the Olympics — Jaida said the new approach would go further.

The development of the industry would focus not only on hosting, but increased use of Qatari sporting medical and

training facilities considered among the best in the world.

One of the ways, he added, would be to cash in on the growing international reputation of the country's expensive sports' training centre, the Aspire Academy, who had officials present at the launch Sunday.

Aspire is used by an increasing number of teams — including Bayern Munich and Qatari-owned Paris Saint-Ger-

main — and is a hothouse for many of the local players who recently helped Qatar win the Asian Cup.

"We're doing this in coordination with Aspire and if you look at the infrastructure that they put together it's massive, it's world class and I think we can build upon their success," said Jaida.

The QFC is a government-backed business body

that aims to attract domestic and international investment into Qatar. Jaida admitted that the new approach had been driven because of political tensions in the Gulf.

"The strategy came about because of the geo-political situation," he said.

Since June 2017, Qatar has found itself isolated from neighbouring former allies in a bitter political dispute.—AFP ■