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Children's Literary Festival, Book Exhibition, and Sale (Tachilek) kicks off

OPENING ceremony of Children's Literary Festival, Book Exhibition and Sale jointly organized by Information and Public Relations Department, Basic Education Department and Tachilek District Management Committee was held at Tachilek Basic Education High School in Maka Ho Khem Ward yesterday morning.

First, former President U Htin Kyaw, Union Ministers Dr Pe Myint, Dr Myo Thein Gyi and Nai Thet Lwin, Shan State Chief Minister Dr Linn Htut, state minister for development affairs U Sai Son Sai, state minister for Bama ethnic affairs Dr Aung Than Maung and outstanding students cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the Children's Literary Festival, Book Exhibition and Sale event.

Next, former President U Htin Kyaw, Union Ministers, State Chief Minister, students and officials took commemorative group photo.

Afterwards, the second part of the opening ceremony was started in the school hall by students singing Children's Literary Festival theme song.

Former President U Htin Kyaw delivered a speech saying the day will be a memorable and happy day for children in Tachilek.

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State Counsellor receives Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with German Ambassador Mrs Dorothee Janetzke-Wenzel in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Mrs Dorothee Janetzke-Wenzel, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, who has nearly completed her tour of duty in Myanmar at 10 am on 25th June 2019 at the Min-

istry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the pro-

motion of bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Germany, particularly in education, culture and trade sectors.— MNA ■

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Union Minister attends CLMVT Forum in Bangkok, Thailand

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Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint gives the speech at the CLMVT Forum 2019 at Renaissance Bangkok Ratchaprasong in Bangkok. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister attends CLMVT Forum in Bangkok, Thailand

UNION MINISTER for Commerce Dr Than Myint attended CLMVT Forum 2019 at Renaissance Bangkok Ratchaprasong Hotel in Bangkok. Commerce and Trade Ministers from Laos, Cambodia and Thailand also attended the forum.

Prime Minister of Thailand Prayut Chan-o-cha delivered his key note speech at the forum. Union Minister Dr Than Myint discussed under the topic of “Region Of Endless Opportunities” at Minis-

terial Conversation-CLMVT. The discussion covered how to make use of the opportunities” arising from current situations of international trade by close collaboration among countries.

Q and A section followed. Officials, experts, business people from Cambodia, Laos, Viet Nam and Thailand attended the forum.—MNA

(Translated by Alphon-sus)

Union Minister for International Cooperation receives Chinese Ambassador

U KYAW TIN, Union Minister for International Cooperation, received Mr Chen Hai, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People’s Republic of China to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on 25 June 2019 at 3pm at the Ministry of International Cooperation, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the enhancement of bilateral relations

and cooperation, promotion of cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, jointly holding the commemorative activities to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of Myanmar-China diplomatic relations in 2020, Chinese government’s continued assistance for peace process and for promoting peace, stability and development in Rakhine State and ASEAN’s constructive assistance for the Repatriation of displaced persons.—MNA



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin meets with Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai at the Ministry of International Cooperation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Day 1 of Children’s Literary Festival sees high turnout



Children’s Literary Festival in Tachilek is crowded with students and people on the first day. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Children’s Literary Festival, held at the Makar Ho Khan Basic Education High School in Tachilek Township, registered a high turnout until the closing time of 5 pm on the first day.

At the festival, school children presented action songs and Kyaukse Traditional Elephant Dance group gave their performances.

There were origami, coloring, drawing, block toys and team building game competitions.

At the first day literary talk program author Mg Lin Yeik gave a talk under the title of “Reading Habit” and author U Zayar “Youth and Dream”.

Authors U Aye Maung Kyaw, Mg Zayar and Mg Lin

Yeik discussed under the topic of “Youth and Future”

There were booths displaying traffic rules, dangers of drug, human trafficking, Shan, Akha and Lahu culture, agriculture, ASEAN countries, math quiz, arts and science, general knowledge and knowledge of HIV.

There were also gallery by Kengtung Technological University and Computer University.

Furthermore, there are books that came out in 2018 are on display and children’s book shops. Refreshment was served to student at the festival by departmental, civilian organizations and donors.—MNA

(Translated by Alphon-sus)

Children's Literary Festival, Book Exhibition, and Sale (Tachilek) kicks off

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Children's Literary Festivals are beneficial as well as memorable for children. In the world, country and people that read develops more. Therefore, the government is holding Children's Literary Festivals with an aim to increase the literary experience and knowledge of the children who are the future leaders of the country.

As of date Children's Literary Festivals were learnt to be held at the Union level in 9 locations and state/region level in 48 locations. The main aim of the festival is for the children to be happy, enjoy reading and develop life-long learning thoughts. The other aim was to know the benefit and essence of working together and participating in the Children's Literary Festival.

From reading, children will get to know things that they hadn't known. Children who are future leaders must enjoy reading and consider literature as a friend. Parents



Former President U Htin Kyaw delivers the speech at the opening ceremony of Children's Literary Festival in Tachilek yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

and teachers are required to support and encourage for that thought to be instilled in the children. Parents and teachers

are required to have reading rooms for the children, establish libraries for children, children to read and have access

to good books.

On the part of the authors and writers, they are requested to write appropriate, knowledgeable and thought strengthening books for the children. The role of printers and publishers who'll print and distribute such literatures and books to the children is also important.

Printers are to use papers, colors and pictures that raise the curiosity and interest of the children as well as print affordable books. Distributors are take reasonable profits and ensure that the books were within reach of the children.

Furthermore, as Children's Literary Festival include discussions and talks that develop and strengthen the children's knowledge and thought process as well as activities and sports competitions that

develop and strengthen their physique, through participating and cooperating together with others their spirit of cooperating and working together will be enhanced. Having story telling competition in ethnic national languages is a very good point. Ethnic nationals live together in our country and all were our siblings. To understand one another requires understanding the traditions of ethnic nationals.

In an age where technology develops, children were using internet. Elders and parents are to ensure that children use the internet properly. Just as books and literatures are friends, internet is also a good friend if properly used.

Parents and teacher are urged and requested to help and support children to read good books and literature to become good future leaders for the country's development said the former President.

In his speech to the event Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint said three years had passed holding Children's Literary Festivals. Three years ago it was a novelty but now it had become a festival well known to all. Our aim was for the people to have an understanding that there's to be literature activity related to children in our country. That was why these festivals were held.

Children's Literary Festivals were held at Union level and state/region level. Tachilek is believed to be a town enthusiastic and keen on literature. Literary talks were held every year in Tachilek. I personally participated and two such talks said the Union Minister.

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Former President U Htin Kyaw visits the booth exhibiting documentary photos on destruction of poppy plantation in Shan State at the opening ceremony of Children's Literary Festival in Tachilek. **PHOTO: MNA**



Shan ethnic school children entertain the visitors with traditional dance at the Children's Literary Festival in Tachilek yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Akha ethnic women dance troupe performs at the Children's Literary Festival in Tachilek yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Vice-Senior General Soe Win receives Chinese Special Envoy, Senior Mediator of Foreign Affairs Dept of Switzerland separately

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win received Mr Sun Guoxiang, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China at the parlour of Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, they discussed the matters related to efforts for peace and ceasefire during the second period of the unilateral ceasefire of the Tatmadaw and signing the Nation-

wide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA with the ethnic armed organizations which have not yet signed the NCA.

Similarly, Vice-Senior General Soe Win received Dr. Julian Thomas Hottinger, Senior Mediator of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland yesterday afternoon. At the meeting, they exchanged views on peace making efforts of the Tatmadaw, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA ■

(Translated by GNLM)



Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets with Chinese Special Envoy Mr Sun Guoxiang. PHOTO: C-IN-C OFFICE

UAGO concludes law officers' refresher course No. 31



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo delivers the speech at the ceremony to conclude law officers' refresher course No.31. PHOTO: MNA

THE refresher course No. 31 of the law officers of the Office of the Union Attorney General concluded yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Speaking at the event, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo urged the law officers to carry out their duties in accordance with the Union Attorney-General Law and by laws as prosecution and court

procedures are very important for the rule of law and judiciary sector.

To develop the fair judiciary system, the rights of plaintiffs and defendants are to be ensured in accordance with laws, the UAG said.

He also urged the law officers to have right concept and morality while avoiding bribery and observing the

code of ethics of the civil servants.

Also present at the ceremony were Office of the UAG's deputy attorney general, permanent secretary, directors-general, deputy directors-general, directors, trainers and trainees of the UAG Office.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Commemorative stamp to be issued for month of Waso

MYANMAR Posts of Ministry of Transport and Communications will issue a special commemorative stamp to mark the month of Waso portraying its symbols of Buddhist ordination festival and Pone-Nyet flower.

The sales of the special stamp will be launched at post offices in states and regions at 9:30 am on 2nd July, 2019 (1st Waxing of Waso 1381 ME).

As a special program, Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, Yangon Post Office and Mandalay



Post Office will stamp post mark and date on the commemorative stamps and First Day Covers bought on 2nd July 2019.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

UEC holds meeting with political parties in Kachin State

UNION Election Commission held a meeting with political parties in Kachin State and civil society organizations related with the elections sector at Kachin State General Administration Department yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Member of Union Election Commission U Nyunt Sein, Acting Chairman of Kachin State Election Commission U Ma Lan Kan Pan, chairmen of district and township election commissions, election officers and representatives of political parties and representatives of civilian organization.

At the event, UEC member U Nyunt Sein said that they are prioritizing to develop a precise list of eligible voters,

so that the citizens, who have right to vote, will not miss the chance to do so. They are also prioritizing that woman, the disables, first time voters and internal migrant workers do not miss their right to vote.

He urged the political parties and civil society organizations to help the voter list collecting groups get precise list and give people knowledge of election.

Then, township election officer U Tun Aung Khin discussed the 2019-2020 grand strategy of Union Election Commission and developing the list of voters. A general round of discussion followed.—MNA ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)



UEC member U Nyunt Sein delivers the speech at the meeting with political parties in Kachin State and civil society organizations related with the elections sector yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Children's Literary Festival, Book Exhibition, and Sale (Tachilek) kicks off

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In holding this event, local elders were found to participate enthusiastically. Elders and parents are urged to hold the two days Children's Literary Festival so that children can participate. The aim of this festival was to produce happy, good natured, knowledgeable youngsters who are sociable, who can work together with others and are kind and understanding towards others. This in fact is establishing the future of our country. As such all are urged to support and assist the holding of Children's Literary Festival for the children whenever there's an opportunity added the Union Minister.

Later Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi also spoke of the importance of peace for the country as only through peace can there be development. The basic for peace and development is education and thus efforts were made toward providing quality education. It is also important to live and do things peacefully, work together and to learn the official language.

Therefore it is important to



Ethnic dance troupe performs at the opening ceremony of the Children's Literary Festival in Tachilek. PHOTO: MNA

encourage the inclusion in the regional curriculum the history, geography, culture and economy of the ethnic nationals in the region. Support will be provided toward including geography, history, culture and economy of the region in the regional curriculum at the six levels of fourth to ninth standards.

Bright and outstanding youths must be nurtured toward becoming competitive internationally. It is important that these youngsters are outstanding in the subjects they are interested. To be outstanding and competi-

tive internationally, their English language skill is important.

In the 20th century the ability to speak, read and write well in English allows a person to stand tall internationally. In the 21st century this had changed. Being technically learnt with English doesn't ensure international cooperation, working together and to have good economic relation. It is important to learn the language of neighboring countries as well as the language of the country that is economically strong in the region, said Dr Myo Thein Gyi.

Following this Union Min-

ister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin said children are very simple and are at an age where they can be colored in any color. Depending upon the path they took, their lives will become good or bad. Therefore parents, teacher and elders need to teach good traditions and practices so that the children are on a good path. While they are being taught and guided, a path must be created on which they can read good literatures, obtain good habits, becomes good, cultured and knowledgeable.

Libraries must be estab-

lished in every village. Parents and teachers were responsible to guide and train their children with care while the state is responsible to nurture the youngster to be loyal to the country and the people. That was why festivals like this were being held. Through this, children can be prevented from taking the wrong path due to social media or to become weak in education from addiction to games. The Children's Literary Festival will create happiness for the children as well as opportunities to obtain knowledge.

Shan State Chief Minister Dr. Linn Htut then said in an effort to develop the basic socio-economic lives of ethnic nationals living in Shan State participating in the all-round development of the children who are the invaluable gem of the country's future is implementing our state's development.

Following the speeches, cultural dance troupes perform traditional dances and the opening ceremony concluded. —Aung Min Han ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)



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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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International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking message by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe

AS today being International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking countries all over the world were holding events to commemorate the day and as of 2019 this is the 32nd time that it had been held. First I would like to wish that all our citizens may be free from the menace and threat of drug.

Drug problem has been threatening the health and socio-economic life of people in the world while causing transnational crimes, terrorist attack, armed revolution and insurgency using income from the drug trafficking and eroding regional stability and the rule of law.

About 5.6% of the world population or 275 million had used drug at least once during a one year period. Out of this 31 million were addicted to drug and require medical treatment. Due to this, cost of treatment and rehabilitation were rising as well as for administering justice and for imprisonment of offenders. Due to drug abuse by youth, families face social and economic problems affecting a country's development.

Prevention plays one of the main roles in resolving the drug problem. To educate the danger of drug and for youth to follow it must start from primary, middle and high school age to those obtaining education in universities. In order to spread knowledge and information about the danger of drug, starting from 1998 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking Day open to all competitions on short stories, articles, poem, song, photograph, computer generated poster and theme were conducted to encourage the participation of all while painting, cartoon, poster and computer arts competitions

were held for primary, middle and high school level students. Competitions were held simultaneously in states and regions and union, state and region leaders themselves presented awards to the winners of the competitions.

The Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control was established in 1976 with 16 members from the relevant line ministries. Ten Working Subcommittees were also established under the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control. In addition, Drug Control Committees were established at State, Region, District, Township, down to Wards and Village to fight against drugs at the grassroots level.

While conducting prevention of drug abuse and providing treatments, eradication of illicit production and trade of drugs was also conducted. To increase the momentum of the eradication works, Drug Activity Special Complaint Department was formed at the Office of the President on 22 June 2018 under the instruction and guidance of the President to facilitate the reporting of drugs information by the public. Reports and information provided were systematically received and substantial amount of heroin and other drugs were exposed and seized. Anti-Narcotics Police Force had conducted operations in areas where many drug cases occur and to date 25 operations were conducted. The drug eradication efforts of Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and Anti-Narcotics Police Force were announced weekly starting from 18 July 2018. To raise the capacity of the eradication works, the State had permitted funds and supported modern equipment increasing the effectiveness of the eradication works.

According to records of illicit poppy cultivation and production, in 2017 poppy was cultivated on 41,000 hectares of land and 550 metric tons was produced. In 2018 poppy was cultivated on 37,380 hectares of land and 520 metric tons was produced. As such cultivation was reduced by 9.1% while production was reduced by 5.45%.

Although there was a reduction in cultivation and poppy production on one hand, on the other hand there were increases in illicit drug seizures and production. Instead of producing drugs from poppy, synthetic drugs were increasingly produced from chemicals and

company from France, to export coffee to European countries.

Support and assistance toward conducting livelihood and livestock raising projects in townships of poppy cultivating regions, health care services for the raised livestock, education and information talks and courses on raising livestock, bee-keeping and honey production works were conducted. Through conducting such support services and alternative development works for opium farmers, illicit cultivation and poppy production will be reduced.

On educating young students, subjects on preventing usage of drugs were taught while

In 2018 a total of 10,849 patients were treated.

Drug addicts are being rehabilitated through rehabilitation camps and community-based support and projects, which help them recover mentally and physically, so that they can be reintegrated back into society.

The government is cooperating with neighboring countries, countries in the region, ASEAN countries, countries outside the regions, BIMSTEC member countries and Greater Mekong Sub Region countries. Furthermore it is mutually cooperating with Myanmar based United States' DEA, Australia's AFP, Thailand's ONCB and China's NNCC and conducting drug prevention and eradication works.

A new comprehensive Drug Control Policy was drawn up and announced in 20 February 2018. The 1993 Drug Law was reviewed and amended on 14 February 2018. A new National Drug Control Strategic Plan was drawn up to implement the new policy. Based on that plan State/Region wise work plans that were appropriate for each state/region were to be drawn up and implemented by the state/region themselves.

According to the 2019 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking theme of "Health for Justice, Justice for Health" there's to be more cooperation between the judiciary and health toward handling the drug problem. As the drug problem is threatening the entire human race all of our citizens are urged to participate and cooperate in resolving it as a personal duty. ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Drug addicts are being rehabilitated through rehabilitation camps and community-based support and projects, which help them recover mentally and physically, so that they can be reintegrated back into society.

precursors. Using of such drugs was also on the rise and demand was far from falling. This need to be noted and the participation and cooperation of the people is required. Only then can the goal of a drug free nation be reached.

To raise the livelihood of the opium farmers the Union government is cooperating with international organizations and acquiring technical supports to conduct Alternative Development (AD) Projects. To create markets for the products of AD Projects, particularly coffee, an MOU was signed with Malongo, a

other education and information works were conducted consistently without interruption.

Prevention and educating in advance is effective toward reducing drug usage so easy, fast and effective methods of informing and educating students, youth and the whole people of the danger of drug were being used by Ministry of Education and Ministry of Information.

On the health care side, 29 major treatment departments, 56 sub-departments and 55 methadone clinics were used to provide treatment to drug addicts.

Union Minister U Soe Win receives Chinese Ambassador Mr. Chen Hai

UNION MINISTER for Planning and Finance U Soe Win received Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to China-Myanmar Economic Corridor cooperation, pro-

moting of bilateral trade and economic cooperation, agriculture cooperation, tourism sector and development of Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone.— MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win holds talks with Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Rule of law is first priority in Phakant for rehabilitation of migrant miners

JADE from Phakant is well-known across the world. Tax from jade has greatly benefited our country. But, the area where jade is mined faces deadly landslides every year, which kill dozens of miners. Over 50 jade miners were buried in a mudslide recently. The disasters have prompted the authorities to enforce safety rules for miners.

The law does not allow anyone to settle in mining areas without permission. People, including internal migrant workers, must avoid hunting jade stones at the risk of their lives.

Amid concerns about accidents in the rainy season, the government has declared a three-month moratorium on jade mining in Phakant, Kachin State from July to August.

... the government is planning to allow migrant miners to work in small-scale mining blocks for their safety, and they, in turn, must follow the safety rules and precautions.

Besides, the government is planning to allow migrant miners to work in small-scale mining blocks for their safety, and they, in turn, must follow the safety rules and precautions.

Experts have also suggested raising awareness about the risk factors in mining areas with regard to landslides. Such a programme would be aimed at disseminating knowledge among mine workers and the local authorities.

For their safety, migrant miners must avoid squatting in at-risk areas and relocate to safer areas. At the same time, mining companies must

follow the suggestions for safe dumping from a technical point of view, according to one expert.

Meanwhile, we must also consider the impact of environmental degradation in Phakant area. Since companies use lots of heavy machinery in their jade mining operations, the environment in Phakant has been deteriorating.

Phakant gets an average rainfall of over 60 inches and has been experiencing high temperatures due to deforestation. A plan for re-forestation in the area must be adopted.

Another problem besieging Hpakant is drug addiction among miners. All are obliged to ensure their rehabilitation.

The rule of law is most important in Phakant. The participation of migrant miners, local people, and businessmen is critical to maintaining peace and rule of law in the area.

For rehabilitating migrant workers and conserving Phakant's environment, we must relocate migrant workers, enforce rules for mining companies, grow plants in expired mining blocks, ensure smooth flow of the Uru River to prevent floods in the rainy season, and encourage production of finished jade products.

UEC pledges to make 2020 General Election free & fair

By Shin Min

The Union Election Commission is striving to make the upcoming 2020 General Election impartial and free. The following is an interview with UEC member U Myint Naing on the progress and tasks they are undertaking in this regard.

Q: Could you tell us when the draft voters' list be published, how you compile a comprehensive voters' list, and ensure IDPs and migrant workers are included?

A: We work closely with the Ministry of Office of the Union Government and the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population to ensure the voters' list is comprehensive.

We started collecting population lists and data from the third week of this June. We review the compiled lists and then convert it into the voters' list in line with established Hluttaw election laws. Then we put up notices for voters' list where the commission orders us to.

Here, we also include IDPs, migrant workers, and guests in a given constituency into the voters' list, in line with set procedures.

Q: How many election objections are still left for the UEC to go through, and how many have you settled?

A: Since the 2018 byelections, there have been two election

objections and we have settled both of them. However, one of them has made an appeal.

Q: We know there were constituencies that couldn't hold elections due to security reasons. Will most of these be able to contend in the coming elections?

A: It was back in 2015. We couldn't hold the general elections in seven townships due to security reasons. However, we were able to hold the 2017 byelections in two townships from those seven; Mongshu and Kehsi. We are currently aiming to have all constituencies participate in the 2020 general elections.

Q: There have been suggestions to the UEC to conduct voter education in the ethnic languages of each region. Could you elaborate on that and how you will reach out to remote areas?

A: Yes, we did manage to have our voter education posters in ethnic languages during both the 2017 and 2018 byelections.



UEC member U Myint Naing

We have also included voter and civil education in the Union Election Commission Strategic Plan (2019-2022). This will support our efforts to improve voter education across Myanmar.

Q: You once said all political parties should participate in the 2020 General Elections within the boundary of the law to ensure it is free and fair. Then there was the open letter from 26 political parties in 24th May and the UEC re-

sponded to that as well. Can you give us your perspective on this matter?

A: The UEC has, of course, vowed to make the 2020 General Elections free and impartial within the boundary of the law, transparent, trustworthy, and truly reflect the will of the people.

We request the political parties, Hluttaw representatives and all officials involved to adhere to laws, rules, regulations and ethics in place.

Q: The management of the

election sub-commissions are equally important in the electoral process. Is there anything the UEC has particularly done to strengthen the township commission offices?

A: We appoint one of members each to the states and regions and they hold regular meetings with all stakeholders in the elections. This is done more than once and will serve to further strengthen the managerial process of the sub-commissions.

Q: We know that the UEC will organize discussions for po-

litical parties according to a set timetable. Could you tell us the earliest time for meeting with them and how you will encourage the public to participate in the elections?

A: We are now beginning meetings with political parties at the state/regional levels. It won't be long till the UEC holds a meeting with all of them. We will hold the meetings more than once if necessary.

We have a strategic plan to ensure the 2020 general elections are successful. If we follow each step of that plan then everything will go along smoothly. We have already designated 2019 as the year for compiling the voters' list.

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to tell the public?

A: Like I've said before, the UEC will ensure the 2020 General Elections are free and impartial by working in line with the five principles mentioned earlier. I kindly request public to actively participate in the elections.

Translated by Pen Dali

Governments Must Support Health-Based, Holistic Solutions to Overcome Drug Abuse, Secretary-General Stresses in Message for International Day



PHOTO: AFP

FOLLOWING is UN Secretary-General António Guterres' message on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, observed on 26 June:

The world drug problem is one of the most challenging issues we face. It has wide-ranging impacts on the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities, as well as on the security and sustainable development of nations. Therefore, preventing and addressing drug challeng-

es in all their complexity is essential to delivering on a fundamental global pledge, enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals: to leave no one behind.

National priorities may differ, but the international community shares a common goal to protect people's security and well-being, while striving for the progress and dignity of all. I welcome the theme of this International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking — "health for justice, justice for health" — underlining the impor-

tance of a holistic approach involving health, human rights, criminal justice and social service institutions. This comprehensive response guided the drug policy launched by my Government when I was Prime Minister of Portugal two decades ago.

Earlier this year, at the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Member States committed to "working together for rights- and health-based responses to drugs so that people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity". I call on all

Governments to live up to this pledge. This means cracking down on drug trafficking and those who profit from human misery, including by enhanced international cooperation and intelligence-sharing across the entire drug supply chain. It also means human rights-based, gender- and age-sensitive prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services for drug use and HIV, offered without stigma or discrimination. It also means law enforcement approaches that protect people from violence and criminal exploitation.

Families, schools and communities play a crucial role, especially in supporting youth who may be affected by drug abuse with terrible and long-lasting consequences. Let us work with and for young people to prevent drug use and help young people lead healthier lives and navigate life choices with strength and resilience.

On this International Day, let us show our commitment to fulfilling our promise to ensure health and justice for all.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 21/2019

8th Waning of Nayon, 1381 ME
(25 June, 2019)

Appointment of State Social Affairs Minister

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 262 (f), article 264 (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 19 (c), section 82 (c) of Union Government Law and Section 8 (g), Section 56 (a) of Region or State Government Law, U Bo Bo Wai Maung (a) Saw Bo Bo, has been appointed as Kayin State Social Affairs Minister of the Kayin State Government.

Sd/-Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 25th June, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 26th June, 2019: Rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Lower sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions and Kayah State, Scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions, Chin and Rakhine States, Fairly widespread in Yangon Region and (Southern and Eastern) Shan, Kayin and Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4 – 8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Strong Monsoon over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26th June, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26th June, 2019: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26th June, 2019: Likelihood of Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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Office of the President

Press Release No. 24/2019

7th Waning of Nayon, 1381 ME
(24 June 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 22 June 2019 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

Sr.	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal action taken
1	Information received of Tin Win who lives in Paw Oo Ward, Taze Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 17 June 2019, police searched the house of Tin Win, 46, son of U Tike Wei, in Paw Oo Ward, Taze Township, and arrested him together with heroin and 'WY' and '88/1' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened him with MaMaSa(Taze) MaYa(pa)5/2019 under section 19(a) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of Soe Yan Naing who lives in 'Aye Nyein Shwe Sin restaurant', near the No 2 bridge, Pyithaya Village, Katha Tsp, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 21 June 2019, police searched 'Aye Nyein Shwe Sin restaurant', near the No 2 bridge, Pyithaya Village, Katha Tsp, and arrested Soe Yan Naing, 27, son of U Maung Maung Soe, together with heroin and 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened him with MaMaSa(Katha)MaYa(pa)47/2019 under section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of Win Tun Naing who lives in Thinwin Village, Mingin Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 22 June 2019, police searched the house of Win Tun Naing, 38, son of U Aung Nyunt, in Thinwin Village, Mingin Township, and arrested him together with heroin and opium. A case has been opened him with NaMaSa(Maukkataw) MaYa(pa)4/2019 under section 16(c) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of Kyaw Naing who lives in Yataung Village, Kyunsu Township, Taninthayi Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 16 June 2019, police searched the house of Kyaw Naing, 24, son of U Sein Win (a) Tha Pein, in Yataung Village, Kyunsu Township. He avoided his house and police arrested his sister, Mi San Win, 38, and husband, Khin Htay, 36, son of U Soe Tint, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets and a flintlock. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa(Kyunsu) MaYa(pa)12/2019 under section 16(c), 22(b) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law and MaMaSa(Kyunsu)(pa)24/2019 under section 19(f) of the Arms Act.
5	Information received of Naung Naung and Muttar who live in 'Naung Naung & brothers aircon, wiring and tyre workshop', compound of YBS 89, on the Ayarwon Road, No8 Ward, Thakayta Tsp, Yangoon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 19 June 2019, police searched 'Naung Naung & brothers air-con, wiring and tyre workshop', compound of YBS 89, on the Ayarwon Road, No8 Ward, Thakayta Tsp, and arrested Naung Naung (a) Kyaw Thura, 34, son of U Than Myint, and his brother Muttar (a) Aung Thura (a) Yargyi (a) YarYar, 28, with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened them with NaMaSa(Thakayta) MaYa(pa)30/2019 under section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far a total of 663 cases have been opened files as of 22 June 2019. A total of 1041 people, including 875 men and 166 women had been arrested with seizures of 6398.6184 g of heroin, 73.72 g of ICE, 39721.74 g of opium, 329.6 g of low-quality opium, 19399.27 g of speciosa powder, 7833.19 g of speciosa, 1.5 liters of liquid speciosa, 302633 stimulant tablets, 8309.22 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 513.26 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 28.45 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 17 firearms, different kinds of 257 cartridges 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.

Upon acting on a tip-off, in Kachin State, police arrested two men and a woman with 396 gram of heroin, in Kachinsu Ward, Myitkyina Tsp. Police arrested a man with 90 g of low quality opium in Hukaung Ward Tanai Tsp. Police searched a man with a motorcycle on the road of Many Village, Mansi Tsp and arrested him together with 2800 stimulant tablets and a motorcycle. Police searched a man and a woman together with a motorcycle on a road near Mineyaung Village and arrested them with 9500 stimulant tablets, 440 g of heroin and a motorcycle. In Kayin State, police searched a man on the road of MaukMauklar Village, Hpa-an Tsp, arrested him with 454 stimulant tablets, and acting on interrogating, police seized 1975 stimulant tablets from two men and three women in Kawpayan Village. Police arrested two men together with 495 stimulant tablets and a motor car on the road of No4 Ward, Myawady Tsp. In Mon State, police searched a motorcycle and a man in Binhline Ward, Thaton Tsp, and seized 194 stimulant tablets and a motorcycle from him. Police arrested three men together with 200 g of speciosa in Hnintkayin Village, Lamaing Tsp, and acting on a tip-off, a woman from the same village was arrested with 456 g of speciose and 0.0035 litre of liquid of speciose. Five men were arrested with 153 stimulant tablets in Zinkyaik Village, Zinkyaik Tsp. In Rakhine State, police searched a man with a motorcycle at the Kyi Kan Pyin inspection gate, Maungtaw Tsp, and arrested him with 19500 stimulant tablets and a cycle. A man together with 92 stimulant tablets was arrested in Chanthaya Village, Sittway Tsp. Police arrested two men with 10 stimulant tablets and four motorcycles in Makyemyaing Ward. Police searched two men with a cycle on the road of Htanmayit Ward, MraukU Tsp, arrested them with 3 stimulant tablets. A woman was arrested with 198 stimulant tablets in Anautpaing Ward, Pauktaw Tsp. Police arrested a woman with 135 stimulant tablets in Taung Ward and a man with 170 stimulant tablets in Myoma Ward, in Buthidaung Tsp. Police arrested three men and a woman with 150 stimulant tablets in Thanpin creek, Kyaukpyu Township. In Shan State, police searched a man and a woman with a motorcycle on the road of Yepu Village, Taunggyi Tsp, and arrested them together with 26000 stimulant tablets and a motorcycle. A man was arrested with 1370 stimulant tablets in Konkyaung Village, and another man with 2995 stimulant tablets, 380 g of heroin and 16.33 g of opium block in Taungni Village, Taunggyi Tsp. A man with motorcycle was arrested with 800 stimulant tablets on the road of Yayyar Village, Kalaw Tsp. A man was arrested with 6 stimulant tablets in Nyaungwaing Village, Pekhonn Tsp. Acting on interrogating, police arrested a man with 5720 stimulant tablets and a motor car in Pwekhonn Ward. Police searched a car with a man on the Loilem-Taunggyi road, near Hotint Village, Loilem Tsp, and seized 30000 g of Ketamine from that car. Police searched a highway bus on the Mongyai-Mongshu road, Mongyai Tsp, and seized 9750 stimulant tablets from a female passenger on that car. Police arrested a man with 900 stimulant tablets, 10 g of heroin and a motorcycle on the road of Lwellinkan Village, Namhkam Tsp. Police searched a man and a woman with motorcycle at the 80/4 mile post of Muse-Mandalay road, in Nawngkhio Tsp, and seized 2160 stimulant tablets, 20 g of heroin and a motorcycle from them. A woman was arrested with 3555 stimulant tablets in Tonsint Village, Hsipaw Tsp. police seized ownerless 1000 g of opium in the farm hut near Nantkwyum Village, Kunlong Tsp. In front of the Kungfaung police outpost in Kungtung Tsp, police searched a man and arrested him with 800 stimulant tablets and a motorcycle. Police seized 7397200 stimulant tablets, 46068 g of crush stimulant tablets poulder, 9673 g of heroin, 40180 g of low quality opium, 13000 g of caffeine, 10100 g of chemical poulder and instrument used in making narcotic drugs, and another case, police seized 550000 stimulant tablets, 66000 g of caffeine, 56 litre of hydrochloric acid, 252000 g of sodiumhydroxide, 6 litre of ethyl ether, instrument used in making narcotic drugs and three vehicles around the Punarko Village. Acting on a tip-off, police seized 26000 stimulant tablets a forest north of Arsawpwm Village, 12000 stimulant tablets, 40 g of heroin and 3500 g of chemical poulder near Arrwawphaya Village, and ownerless stimulant tablets, 180 litre of ethyl ether and 304 litre of hydrochloric acid in a ravine near Khargyar Village.

ACC holds workshop on governance, business integrity in Hpa-an

WITH technical help from UNDP, Anti-Corruption Commission held a workshop under the title of “Governance and Business Integrity” in collaboration with Kayin State Government yesterday morning, at Thiri Hpa An Hotel in Hpa-an, Kayin State.

At the event, State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint said that the state will cooperate with the commission in fighting corruption as national duty. It is unlikely that corruption can be fought off immediately but by reducing little by little and the public should be wise and ethical to accomplish the task. With collective effort, eradication of drug, littering and corruption will be expended.

Then, the Chairman of the Commission U Aung Kyi said that corruption or unethically practice under concealment at governmental departments and in business institutions and



Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint delivers the speech at the workshop under the title of “Governance and Business Integrity” in Hpa-an in Kayin State yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



has negative impacts on the rule of law and levels of democratic governance. It can also lead to violation of human right, destruction of credibility of governance and businesses, misuse of Public Fund, increase in prices and inequality.

Fighting corruption is not only the job of commission but of private businesses and organ-

izations and individual. To fight corruption, it is important to change oneself first to prevent unethically. Corruption is the basis of many crimes such as human trafficking, drug trafficking, wild animal smuggling, money laundering, smuggling, and illegal crossing at border points.

If governmental departments, businesses, civilian or-

ganization and the public collectively practice zero tolerance of corruption, many networks of crime can be eradicated, he said. Kayin State Minister of Planning, Finance, and Municipal U Than Naing discussed Under the topic of “Steadfast Governance”, representative of UMFCCI U Win Myint Aung, “steadfast business institutions”, Director of Anti-cor-

ruption Commission office Daw Aye Myat Mom, “Integrity in Civil Service”, Representative of Hpa An Businessmen U Saw Han Aye, “Honest Business People”, representative of Local CSO U Saw Kyaw Swar, “Honest CSO Sector” and Representative of UNDP “Possibility of Corruption”—MNA (Translated by Alphonsus)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

FROM PAGE-10

Police seized ownerless instrument used in making narcotic drugs in a ravine, west of Kyaboshae Village. Police seized 4083 stimulant tablets and 100 g of crush stimulant tablet powder hide in a ravine near Yepuhsan Village, Tachilek Tsp. Police searched a house in Arrdee Village but not found the house owner, and seized 5600 stimulant tablets, 252 g of heroin, 449 g of ICE, 1800 g of opium, a vehicle and three walkie talkies. Upon acting on a tip-off, police searched a motorbike and found a man with seizure of 50.5 g of heroin and one motorbike in Simaw Village, Bamauk Township, Sagaing Region. Police searched a motorbike and caught a man and a woman with a seizure of 232 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Kanyuntin-Singone street near Kanyuntin Township, Kawlin Township. Police caught a man together with 0.01 g of heroin, 15 g of opium and one motorbike in Myasein Village, Kalay Township. Police arrested a man with a seizure of 150 stimulant tablets, 3.5 g of opium and one motorbike on Tamu-Kalay road, Tamu Town. Police caught a man with a seizure of 297 g of heroin in Ywartha Village, Phaungpyin Township. A man and a woman were arrested with a seizure of 110 g of heroin in Authaung Village, Homalin Township. A man was caught with a seizure of 10,000 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Myatlay Street, Myitnge Ward, Myeik Town, Taninthayi Region. A man was arrested with a seizure of 190000 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Chanmyaythayar Ward. A woman was arrested with 1200 stimulant tablets in Zayarthiri Ward 3. Police caught two men with a seizure of 80 g of speciosa in Lamin Ward. Police caught three men and one woman with a seizure of 397 stimulant tablets, 4.5 g of ICE and 7 g of marijuana in Nauklei Ward. A man was arrested with a seizure of 597 stimulant tablets and one motorboat in Pahtaw Village, Kyunsu Township. Police found out ownerless 28 pacts of ICE that were wet and 30 pacts of ICE weighing 27100 g at the seafont near Thayetchaung, Launglon and Pulaw Townships. A man was arrested with 11 stimulant tablets and 4 g of marijuana in Ayechanthar Ward, Waw Town, Bago Region. A woman was arrested together with 195 stimulant tablets in Kyaungsu Ward, Thayawady Town. A man was arrested with 96 stimulant tablets in Zaygone Ward, Aunglan Town, Magway Region. Police caught a man with a seizure of 594 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Thabeikkyin Township. A woman was caught with a seizure of 600 g of stimulant tablets in Pauktabin Village. A man was arrested with a seizure of 200 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in the street of Kyaukse Town. Police caught a man together with 2310 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in near the Pauktaw traffic light. A man was arrested with 1753 stimulant tablets in Saehteik Htantaw Ward. A man from Ward 9 of Lashio Town and another man from Ward 19 of Hlaingthaya Township, Yangon were arrested with a seizure of 1075 stimulant tablets. A man from Sanpya Ward, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region was caught with 380 stimulant tablets. Police caught two men and one woman together with 24387 stimulant tablets, 101 g of ICE, 0.2 g of heroin and 100 g of marijuana in Tamyaylay Ward, Tamway Township, Yangon Region. A man from Ward 5, Yankin Township, Yangon Region was caught with a seizure of 330 stimulant tablets. A woman was seized together with 1580 stimulant tablets in Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region.

A man and a woman were arrested together with 5 stimulant tablets and 0.2 g of Crushed Ecstasy in Myittar Nyunt Ward, Tamway Township, Yangon Region. A man was arrested with 3000 stimulant tablets in at the corner of Thakin Tun Oat and Bo Pho Saw streets. A man was arrested with a seizure of 2980 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Alwan Swet Village, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region. A man was seized together with 185 stimulant tablets in Ward 7, Myaungmya Town, Ayeyawady Region.

There have been six seizures of ammunition. Three men were caught with a seizure of 23700 stimulant tablets, one percussion lock firearm, three detonators, two gun sockets and a Wish vehicle in Kyinti Village, Hsipaw Township, Shan State. Upon acting on a tip-off, police searched a house, where they found 2850000 stimulant tablets, 14400 g of heroin, a total of 15 guns, including, one pistol, one revolver, two .22 guns, one M-16 short gun, two carbines, one string gun, two revolvers, five 12-vault caliber guns, one string bullet caliber and 300 5.56 mm cartridges. Police seized 177 stimulant tablets, 9 g of crushed stimulant tablets, 6 9 mm cartridges and two carbine cartridges in Mae Kyaut (3) Village. Police searched a house in Puna Village, where they found 4000 g of Ephedrine, 14 5.56mm cartridges, 33 7.65mm cartridges, 50 9mm cartridges and 2 12-vault cartridges. Acting on a tip-off, police searched a house in Mae Kyauk (3) Village, where they found 4800 stimulant tablets, 2400 g of opium, one gun barrel and the part of the firearm. Police caught with a seizure of 40000 stimulant tablets, 5000 g of Ketamine, one pistol and its container.

There has been one arrest involving in the shooting. Upon acting on a tip-off, police tried to stop a motorbike and the rider attempted to escape. Thus the police fired him and he was caught with minor injuries and seizure of 11 g of heroin together one motorbike.

There have been 266 cases being opened between 16-6-2019 and 22-6-2019. The total number of 324 people, including 280 men and 44 women, were arrested with a seizure of 11271002 stimulant tablets, 46177 g of crushed stimulant tablets, 26467.9515 g of heroin, 39684.4 g of ICE, 35000 g of Ketamine, 79000 g of caffeine, 6293.4 g of opium, 40270 g of low quality opium, 80 g of speciosa powder, 656 g of speciosa, 0.0035 liters of opium tincture, 34.33 g of opium blocks, 173 g of marijuana, 360 liters of Hydrochloric Acid, 186 liters of Ethyl Ether, 4000 g of Ephedrine, 252000 g of Sodium hydroxide, 131600 g of Chemical Powder, 0.2 g of Ecstasy, 17 firearms, 407 cartridges, two cartridge containers, one barrel, part of the gun, three detonators, two gun sockets, three walkie-talkies and other accessories to produce narcotic drugs.

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

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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.

Union Minister for Construction attends Canada Day Celebration in Yangon

THE Canadian Embassy held an event to mark the Canada Day at the Chatrium Hotel in Yangon yesterday evening.

First, the celebration began with the national anthems of Myanmar and Canada. Canadian Ambassador Ms Karen Macarthur and Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw gave opening remarks.

They then sliced the ceremonial cake to mark the Canada Day, and posed for the documentary photo together with dignitaries at the event.

Also present at the event were ambassadors, Chargé d'Affaires from other embassies in Yangon, UN Representatives and invited guests.— MNA
(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Union Minister U Han Zaw and wife, and Canadian Ambassador Ms. Karen Macarthur slice the ceremonial cake at the event to mark the Canada Day in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

MNA launches maiden Magway-Yangon flight

THE Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) launched its inaugural ATR 72-600 flight between Magway and Yangon at 8 am on 25 June at the Magway airport in Magway Region.

The ceremony to flag off the inaugural flight was attended by Magway Region Chief Minister Dr. Aung Moe Nyo and departmental officials. At the ceremony, Dr. Aung Moe Nyo and MNA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Captain Than Tun made the opening speeches.

Afterwards, Dr. Aung Moe Nyo, Regional Construction, Transportation, and Communications Minister U Tin Nwe Oo, Magway Region Administrator



Myanmar National Airlines's ATR 72-600 aircraft seen at the airport. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NATIONAL AIRLINES**

U Wai Zin Tun, and Captain Than Tun formally opened the inaugural ceremony by cutting the ceremonial ribbons.

MNA will operate Yan-

gon-Magway-Yangon flights twice a week on Tuesdays and Saturdays. The flight will leave the Yangon International Airport at 6:30 am and arrive at the Magway

airport at 7:45 am. The flight will leave Magway airport at 10:55 am and arrive at Yangon International Airport at 12:10 pm.

A round-trip ticket will cost K118,000 per person.

The Magway airport was constructed in 2000-2001, and opened in 2003. The airport's concrete runway measures 1,901 feet in length. The flight stopping area is 400x600 sq ft wide. The Magway airport was used between 2003 and 2008. But, due to low passenger numbers, operations at the airport were suspended for a few years. Now, MNA will operate flights twice a week from the airport. —GNLM

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Singapore emerges as largest FDI source in current fiscal

TWENTY-ONE Singapore-listed enterprises brought in capitals of US\$1.6 billion into Myanmar between October and May in the current fiscal year, making Singapore the largest source of FDI in the country, as per data from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Singapore is followed by China, with estimated capital of \$323.28 million in 82 projects.

During the last mini-budget period (April-September, 2018), Singapore was the largest source of FDI, with investments of \$724.4 million. Over the past eight months, a total of \$2.49 billion, including capital for expansion, has flowed into the country, and 170 businesses from China, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, China (Taipei), France, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the UK, Samoa,

and Seychelles have entered Myanmar.

Singapore has also topped

the list of countries with the largest FDI in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, followed by

Japan and Thailand. — GNLM
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

**Foreign Investment of permitted enterprises as of (31/5/2019)
(By Country)**

(US \$ in million)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Permitted Enterprises		
		No.	Approved Amount	%
1	Singapore	310	21331.116	26.59
2	China	344	20566.099	25.63
3	Thailand	126	11230.469	14.00
4	Hong Kong	200	8130.975	10.13
5	U.K.	95	4521.318	5.64
6	Republic of Korea	173	3961.292	4.94
7	Viet Nam	23	2163.603	2.70
8	Malaysia	66	1963.124	2.45
9	The Netherlands	24	1554.889	1.94
10	Japan	116	1199.199	1.49
11	India	30	763.567	0.95
12	France	21	550.230	0.69
13	U.S.A	20	432.796	0.54
14	Indonesia	16	274.530	0.34
15	Canada	20	203.594	0.25

SEZs attract 108 enterprises, capital of \$1.7 bln

MYANMAR'S Special Economic Zones have attracted 108 enterprises, including four domestic firms, along with capital of US\$1.7 billion as on May, according to data from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

The country is currently implementing three SEZs under the Special Economic Zone law — Thilawa, Kyaukpyu, and Dawei. Of them, Thilawa is leading with better infrastructure and successful businesses.

Singapore has topped the list of SEZ investors, with fund inflows of \$646.65 million, making up 37.9 per cent of the total investment, followed by Japan (\$531.28 million) and Thailand (over \$169.29 million). The Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, the UK, the UAE, Malaysia, Austria, China (Taipei), Panama, China, Brunei, Viet Nam, Australia, France, Switzerland, and the Netherlands have also invested in the SEZs.

According to Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Limited's 2017-2018 annual report, 97 per cent of plots in Thilawa Zone A



and 61 per cent in Zone B have been sold.

Companies in the Promotion Zone of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone account for over 75 per cent of the overall investment. Companies which produce goods for the domestic market are regarded as Promotion Zone companies, and get a five-year holiday on corporate tax. Companies which export at least 75 per cent of the production in value are registered as Free Zone investors, and are exempt from paying corporate tax for a period of 7 years after starting commercial operations. Companies involved in sectors such as logistics,

which support export-oriented manufacturing, can also be Free Zone companies. There are other tax incentives for Free Zone and Promotion Zone investors on imports of capital goods, raw materials, merchandise, and consigned goods and vehicles. More information on the tax system can be obtained on <http://www.myanmarthilawa.gov.mm>.

The manufacturing sector absorbs the largest share of foreign investments. Investments have also flown into the trading, services, transportation and logistics, real estate, and hotel sectors in the past few years. — Ko Khant
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Domestic gold price up on positive global cues

By Nyein Nyein

WITH gold surging in the global market, the price of the yellow metal in the domestic market has touched a high of K1,127,000 per tical (0.578 ounce or 0.016 kilograms), said U Myo Myint, the chair of the Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

The price of gold has increased currently on account of the global gold price reaching a high of US\$1,431 per ounce.

“At present, the domestic gold price is positively linked to the global gold price. But, there is a price gap of K20,000 between the global and the local gold market,” said U Myo Myint.

There are more sellers in the market than buyers, he said.

With global gold price climbing up, the domestic price is likely to continue its upward trend, he said

With global gold price rising, the domestic price has hit fresh peaks this year, reaching

K1,050,000 per tical from 17 to 29 January, remaining above K1,060,000 from 30 January to 7 February, above K1,070,000 from 8 to 18 February, and above K1,080,000 from 19 to 21 February. The domestic price hit a new peak of K1,110,000 on 21 June and continued rising to K1,127,000 on 25 June.

According to gold traders, in the month of January, the domestic gold price reached its lowest level of K1,043,400 on 1 January and the highest level of K1,061,000 on 31 January. It hit a low of K1,058,400 on 2 February and a high of K1,087,300 on 20 February. In March, the lowest price recorded was K1,048,600 (30 March) and the highest was K1,069,000 (21 March). In April, gold price touched a low of K1,037,200 on 24 April and a high of K1,054,700 on 11 April. The lowest price for gold in May was K1,035,200 (2 May) and the highest was K1,059,200 (14 May).
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V OSLO TRADER VOY. NO. (924S/926N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OSLO TRADER VOY. NO. (924S/926N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-06-2019 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 AREZOO VOY. NO. (SCY1062)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AREZOO VOY. NO. (SCY1062) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-06-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Myanma Port Authority

“Notice of High Tide”

Exceptionally high spring from 20.11feet to 20.70 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of July 2nd to July 6th 2019. Please be noted that it is not serious Level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected reach over 20 feet high above the datum in order to take precautionary measures to the Public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

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Hot Line :

09974424848

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (023 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (023 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-06-2019 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 BOX ENDEAVOUR VOY. NO. (925W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BOX ENDEAVOUR VOY. NO. (925W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-06-2019 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 PACITA VOY. NO. (040 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACITA VOY. NO. (040 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-06-2019 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.

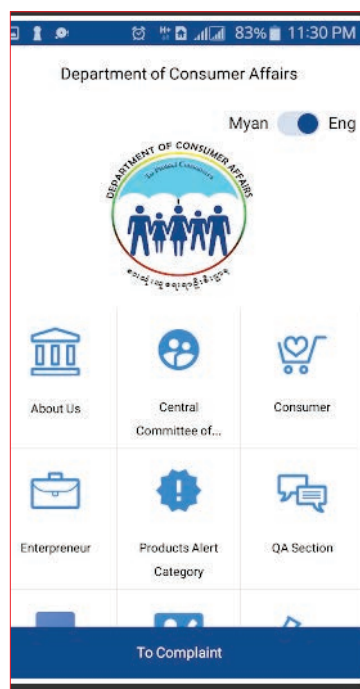
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Department of Consumer Affairs taking care of consumers and businesses

Naing Oo (DOCA)

MINISTRY of Commerce Department of Consumer Affairs has been safeguarding consumers' rights, providing remedies and solution to any harm or damages caused to the consumers and ensure product and service safety. Consumers' access to safe products and services were assured in accordance to international norms



set. Required laws were enacted, up to date instructions and notifications were issued. Only then can the 50 million consumers of the country lead a full life term free from harmful consequences of harmful products and services.

While caring for consumers on one hand Department of Consumer Affairs was also driving businesses on the other hand toward providing their products and services not only to the local market but also to the international market at international standards and norms. Only then can the consumer lead a full life term free from harmful consequences of harmful products and services while businesses develop.

The department personnel were serving in all states and regions as well as in remote areas to conduct consumer protection works.

Cooperation of the public at its own volition

Consumer protection work can be successfully only when the public cooperate at its own volition. Only with the cooperation and participation of local consumer protection organi-

zations, NGOs and related departmental organizations can this work be conducted at an increasing momentum. Consumers and businesses are our own people and citizens. They are dependent on one another. If one faces difficulties, it'll affect the country as a whole. It'll hinder the development of the country.

Services and products are to be provided according to the amount of money paid. Even small matters that'll harm the consumers need to be avoided. Enacted laws, notifications and instructions need to be followed.

The department had conducted talks that are beneficial to the consumers. Inspections conducted and educations provided. Remedial actions were demanded in cooperation with relevant ministerial departments for any harm, damage or hurt caused to the consumers. Due to these actions a certain level of success had been achieved. Consumers now know and demanded their rights. Businesses also no longer produce products or provide services irresponsibly. They provide safe products and services responsibly and dutifully at the set norms and

standards.

Amendment bill to the law drawn up

Amendment bill to 2014 Consumer Protection Law had been drawn up to strengthen and make it more comprehensive in protecting the consumer. It is expected to be enacted soon. Consumer Information and Complaint Centres (CICCs) were opened in states, regions and districts for the consumer to make complaints with ease for any damage and harm caused by a product or service. Cooperation and contact were made with international organizations to raise the consumer protection



Customer shops for food at the Ocean supermarket in Yangon. PHOTO PHOE KHWAR

works.

As a latest attempt toward increasing consumer protection, complaints and compensation for harm and damages caused by a product or service can be made via mobile applications starting from 27 February 2019.

The mobile application can be used in either Myanmar or English language. Consumer complaints can be made with forms included in the application. With this, complaints can reach Consumer Affairs Department directly in a short time and with ease. The application will provide information about the department, central committee for consumer protection, notifications and instructions regarding businesses, consumers, products and servic-

es, question and answer session with consumers and business persons, consumer protection news and activities, addresses of CICCs and Consumer Protection Law.

Remedial actions available in short time

In addition to making arrangements for consumers to file complaints on damages, losses, dissatisfactions via state, region, district and township Consumer Affairs Department offices, telephones and Consumer Affairs Department website www.doca.gov.mm/complaint/ the application provided now can allow consumers to file complaints and obtain remedial actions in a short time, at a wider scope and with ease. However, at the moment this application can be used only with



The Asia Foundation releases Myanmar Business Environment Index 2019

NEW tool measures economic governance for private sector development

The Asia Foundation on 11 June, 2019, released the Myanmar Business Environment Index 2019 (MBEI) as a diagnostic tool to better understand the local business environment. The government of Myanmar has recognized the importance of private sector development, yet many Myanmar enterprises continue to face a challenging business environment. The MBEI, funded by UK Aid through the DaNa Facility, serves as the first step for providing Myanmar's Union and state/region governments with the evidence base to pursue widespread decentralized economic governance reforms.

The MBEI reflects the views of private enterprises across Myanmar based on a nationwide survey of 4,874 businesses in the services and manufacturing sectors. The study measures 10 components of good economic governance and provides insights and analysis that government

may use to further improve Myanmar's business environment. The report focuses in particular on the experience of Myanmar's many domestically-owned small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), aiming to identify constraints in Myanmar's business regulatory environment and provide a tool for identifying reform opportunities that encourage growth.

"MBEI represents the voice of private businesses from across Myanmar," said Diana Fernandez, deputy country representative for The Asia Foundation in Myanmar. "The new tool is designed as a resource for the Myanmar government to assist in making decisions about how to improve Myanmar's business environment at the local level."

"We know that inclusive economic growth is the most powerful tool we have to address poverty and create a prosperous society," said Tom Coward, team leader for the Inclusive Growth team of the UK's Department for International Development.

"A growing and thriving

private sector is at the heart of this," Coward added. "We want to create an environment where responsible business is regulated in a way that means it can invest and grow, and which will create jobs and economic opportunities for the people of Myanmar."

Key Findings

- 85% of Myanmar businesses have at least one documented proof of formalization; in most cases it is an operating license from the township or City Development Committee.

- Regulation and administrative procedures for businesses after they have become legal to operate are not terribly burdensome by international comparison.

- Many SMEs in Myanmar are in sectors that could be impacted by environmental harm and therefore show a strong preference for a clean environment.

- Recruitment of qualified workers, particularly technicians and managers, is a major challenge for businesses in Myanmar. Quality of infrastructure is

a severe concern for businesses, particularly with respect to road and electrical infrastructure.

- Critical documents for business planning, such as local budgets, are often unavailable to the average business owner.

"The MBEI demonstrates that Myanmar's states and regions each have different strengths and weaknesses with respect to the business environment, and it serves as an added source of information for government on how to pursue reforms," said Jon Keesecker, project manager for the Myanmar Business Environment Index.

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Informed by six decades of experience and deep local expertise, our work across the region addresses five overarching goals—strengthen governance, empower women, expand economic opportunity, increase environmental resilience, and promote regional cooperation. The Asia Foundation. ■

More Myanmar people plan to open bank accounts and use cashless methods of payment – Visa Study

THE Study found Myanmar people are more interested in getting financial products than last year. They were also having improved perceptions towards banks on safety, trust and facilitating payments.

On 25 June, 2019 Visa, the world's leader in digital payments, revealed key findings from its Consumer Payment Attitudes Study (the "Study"), an in-depth report examining the perceptions, attitudes and behaviours Myanmar people have towards payment and emerging payment methods.

The Study was conducted using face-to-face interviews in Myanmar of 504 people across Yangon, Patheingyi, Mandalay and Magway to understand the financial and payment habits and attitudes of the urban population of Myanmar. Fieldwork for the study was done in September 2018.

Lillian Wang, Country Manager for Visa Myanmar, said: "As one of the earliest investors in Myanmar, Visa is proud to have conducted the study and to share



Lillian Wang, Country Manager for Visa Myanmar. PHOTO SUPPLIED

the results with the industry and the community at large. It is important that Myanmar people understand the opportunities that banking and electronic payments can bring to improve the livelihood of the people as well as accelerate the country's journey towards a digital economy."

According to the Study, 41 per cent of respondents said they now own bank accounts, compared to 34 per cent last year. Further to this, 70 per cent of those surveyed who are currently without a bank account plan to open one this year. The Study also found a significant increase in use and in-

terest in owning payment cards, such as prepaid and credit cards. Currently, 26 per cent of people surveyed use or own payment cards, compared to only 3 per cent in the previous year. In addition, seven in ten people said they plan to own payment cards compared to only two in ten people in the previous year.

The key motivators to getting a payment card are "to be in tune with the times" and "to access a simpler form of payment". Respondents also cited that it is safer to carry cards than large amounts of cash and it's more convenient as they would not have to deal with small change.

Attitudes towards banks also continue to improve. Four in five people surveyed (82 per cent) said that they agreed that banks are safe and secure, compared to 68 per cent from the previous year. A further 77 per cent said banks are a convenient way of managing their personal finances.

Even though Myanmar people rely heavily on cash for daily transactions — one in four people surveyed have tried going cash-

less and all of the people surveyed believed Myanmar has the potential to become a cashless society within the next 15 years or less.

The Study also showed that Myanmar people are interested in using emerging forms of payment, such as contactless payments — whereby people can make payments by tapping their payment card or phone on point of sales terminal, instead of swiping or inserting their cards. Nearly half of the Myanmar people surveyed said they would like to use this form of payment.

"The appetites expressed by Myanmar people to adopt digital forms of payment are encouraging. We believe that we are on the right track and it is important to help more consumers and merchants understand and embrace the benefits of electronic payments. At the same time, we are committed to innovate and collaborate with all stakeholders in the payment industry and beyond as we continue our journey towards transforming Myanmar into a less-cash society," Lillian concluded. GNLM ■

Android phones. The application can be obtained by typing and searching for DOCA Myanmar in Google Play Store or clicking the link and downloading from Facebook.com/DOCA.NPT.

At this situation businesses are to provide products and services that are according to business ethic not only to the local market but also to international market in order for the country to develop in a balanced way while relevant departments, organizations and consumers are to assist by ensuring that safe and reliable products and services were received and to obtain remedial actions, assistance and report about products and services if any harms or damages were caused. (Translated by Handytips) ■

AFF pledges support for joint ASEAN 2034 World Cup bid

THE ASEAN Football Federation on Monday pledged its support for an ASEAN initiative to launch a joint bid for hosting the World Cup in 2034, according to the AFF website.

The AFF is the governing body for the sport in the South-east Asian region.

“The ASEAN Football Federation welcomes the announcement that the political leaders in the region have pledged their support for ASEAN launching a joint bid to host the 2034 FIFA World Cup,” said AFF President Major General Khiev Sameth.

“It has always been our stand that ASEAN, which is collectively the third largest economy in Asia and the seventh largest in the world, has the potential to host a successful FIFA World Cup. A FIFA World Cup hosted by ASEAN will generate economic and sporting benefits for this region, and will also strengthen bonding among the 640 million people,” said the AFF President.

On Sunday, ASEAN Chairman Gen Prayuth Chan-o-cha had said that the 10 ASEAN



FIFA World Cup Trophy. PHOTO: AFP

member countries have agreed to launch a joint bid to host the FIFA World Cup in 2034. The idea was proposed to regional leaders at the 34th ASEAN Summit in Thailand on Sunday.

“I wish to inform the ASEAN people that today the leaders have supported the shared wish of ASEAN to launch a joint bid to host the FIFA World Cup in 2034,” Gen Prayuth, who is also the Prime Minister of Thailand, had said.

The idea of co-hosting the World Cup was first mooted by Japan and South Korea, who

went on to successfully stage the event in 2002. Asia will host the World Cup again in 2022 in Qatar. Last year, FIFA awarded the 2026 World Cup to another joint bid from Canada, US, and Mexico.

Major General Sameth said: “The AFF will engage our stakeholders and look into the possibility of making a bid for the hosting rights, while taking into account key factors, including pre-determined minimum requirements for hosting the competition, timelines, and other considerations.” — Kyaw Khin

Kayin State youth football tournaments to be held in August in Hpa-an

THE Kayin State chapter of the Grassroots Football Festival 2019 and the MPT U-14 Football Tournament 2019 will be held in Hpa-an in August, according to a meeting held yesterday at the Kayin State government’s office.

Speaking at the meeting, the Chief Managing Officer of the Myanmar National League, U Suu Aung, said the Grassroots Football Festival and the U-14 Football Tournament will be jointly organized by the Myanmar Football Federation, Myanmar National League, and MPT. The jointly organized tournaments began in 2018 and will be held until 2020 across regions and states.

In 2018, youth football tournaments were held in eight regions and states. This year, tournaments will be held in two more regions and states, taking the total to 10. For 2019, Kayin State will be the first venue where the Grassroots Football Festival and the U-14 football tournament will be held, he added. He then spoke on matters

related to arrangements for the tournaments. U Suu Aung also gifted an MNL jersey to Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nang Khin Htwe. Then, the Chief Minister gave words of thanks.

The meeting concluded after commemorative group photos were taken.

Also present at the meeting were Kayin State minister for planning, finance and development committee, social welfare minister U Bo Bo Wai Maung, secretary of the Kayin State government, officials from the State government office, assistant managing director of state education office, MNL’s representatives, officials from the State health office and the State sports and physical education department, MPT’s Kayin State manager U Ko Ko Aung and officials from Hpa-an TFA.

The MFF-MPT Grassroots Football Festival 2019 is scheduled to be held on 20 and 21 August in Hpa-an, while the MPT U-14 Tournament 2019 will take place from 21 to 29 August. —Kyaw Khin

‘Excited’ Ewan will make Tour de France debut in Brussels

PARIS (France)— Australian Caleb Ewan will make his Tour de France debut in the opening stage in Brussels on 6 July after being included in the Lotto Soudal team on Tuesday. “It’s going to be a dream come true for me,” said Ewan in a team video.

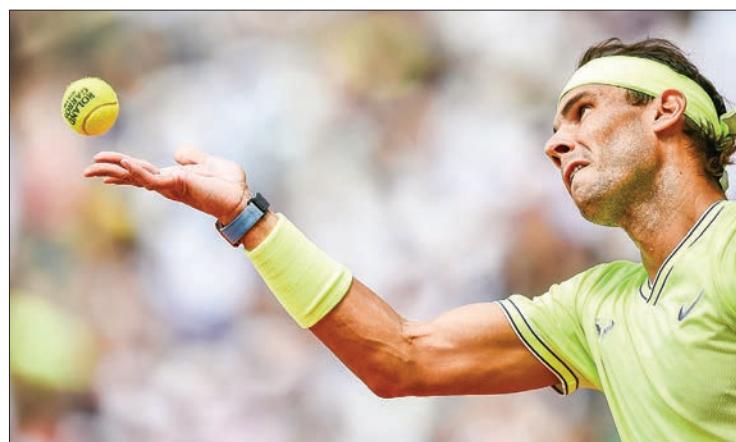
“I’m excited about the first stage being a sprint because it’s an opportunity for us sprinters to take the yellow jersey. It’s going to be so exciting to be in a Belgian team starting the Tour de France in Belgium.” The 24-year-old sprinter won stages on the Giro and the Vuelta in 2015 and

added two more stages for Lotto in the Giro in May. His lead-out men in Italy, Belgian Jasper de Buyst and German Roger Kluge, were also in the team unveiled on Tuesday. Ewan seems to be still wrestling with some of the Tour basics. “It’s going to be a tough four weeks,” he said before correcting himself. “Or three weeks.” The eight-man team is completed by Thomas De Gendt, who has said he wants to ride in all three grand tours this year, and four more Belgians Tiesj Benoot, Tim Wellens, Jens Keukeleire and Maxime Monfort. — AFP ■



Caleb Ewan won two stages in the Giro in May. PHOTO: AFP

Nadal says Wimbledon seeding system disrespects world rankings



Rafael Nadal attacks the Wimbledon seedings system which places him behind his rival Roger Federer. PHOTO: AFP

MADRID (Spain) — Rafael Nadal has complained about Wimbledon’s seeding system after the Spaniard was placed at number three, behind Roger Federer, for next week’s grand slam in London.

The other three major tournaments all match their seeding to the official world rankings but Wimbledon uses its own formula to dictate the order, combining ranking points with form in grass-court competitions.

It means Nadal will be seeded three and Federer two at the All England Club this year, despite their positions being the reverse in the rankings list.

“Wimbledon is the only tournament of the year that does it like this,” Nadal told Spanish television channel Movistar on Monday night.

“Obviously it would be better to be two than three but if they think I have to be three I will accept three and fight to win the

matches I have to win.

“Having said that, the only thing that doesn’t seem right about this issue is that it is only Wimbledon that does it. If they all did it, it would seem more correct.

“It’s not only about my particular case. There have been many occasions when players have played well all year on all surfaces but Wimbledon does not respect the ranking they have earned. “And for this reason they get more complicated draws.”

Nadal is yet to play an official match on grass this year while Federer warmed up for Wimbledon last week by winning his 10th title at the grass-court tournament in Halle.

Federer and top seed Novak Djokovic will be at opposite ends of the Wimbledon draw, separated until the final, but Nadal is guaranteed to have either Federer or Djokovic in his half, and could meet them in the semis. — AFP ■