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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 27 June 2019

## Seized drugs worth over \$300 mln burnt to mark International Drug Day



NAY PYI TAW observed International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking at Myanmar International Convention Centre II yesterday.

President U Win Myint delivered a speech on the occasion.

(The full-text of which is covered on Page 4 of today's GNLM issue).

Next, a message from

President U Win Myint addresses the 2019 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNSG was head by UNODC's Regional Representative Mr. Jeremy Douglas at the event, and Vice President U Myint Swe conferred prizes on the winners of the short novel, article composition and singing contests to mark the event.

Following this, CCDAC Chairman and Union Minister, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, conferred prizes on winners of the poem, photography and computer poster competitions. A video showing the performances of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) was played.

The President then took

documentary photos with the attendees and winners of the various competitions.

After the ceremony, the President viewed the photo exhibitions, drug samples, manufacturing machinery and testing equipment on display and observed a drug testing demonstration inside the convention centre.

Also present at the ceremony were Vice President U Myint Swe, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Sein Win, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Dr Myint Htwe, Dr Win Myat Aye and U Kyaw Tin,

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It is important to take drugs related problems not as a crime but as a health issue. On one hand, effective and pragmatic measures for treatment need to be undertaken.

President U Win Myint



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## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Chinese Ambassador



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat greets Chinese Ambassador Mr. Chen Hai in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

**SPEAKER** of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat received Chinese Ambassador Mr. Chen Hai at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they openly exchanged views on strengthening the friendly bilateral re-

lations between Myanmar-China governments and parliaments, improving all-round strategic partnership through Paukpaw relationship, Myanmar's internal peace and reconciliation processes, China-Myanmar Economic Corridor which is part of the Belt

and Silk Road and legislative processes.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Tun Tun Hein and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw's office.—MNA ■

*(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)*

## Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Chinese Ambassador



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than meets with Chinese Ambassador Mr. Chen Hai in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

**AMYOTHA** Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Mr. Chen Hai at the Amyotha Hluttaw's guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to

strengthening the friendly Paukpaw relationship between Myanmar and China, promoting cooperation between the two legislatures, collaboration on Myanmar-China Economic Corridor project, implementing of the Kyauk phyu Deep Sea Port Project through co-

operation, and rendering assistance for Myanmar's internal peace process.

Also present at the meeting were Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw office.—MNA ■

*(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)*

## Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives Project Assistant Professor of PARI

**PYITHU** Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein received a delegation led by Mr. Kensuke Yamaguchi, Project Assistant Professor at the University of Tokyo Policy Alternatives Research Institute (PARI) yesterday at his office in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on and openly discussed

matters related to Japan's assistance for narrowing Myanmar's urban-rural developmental gap, electricity and energy sector development, agricultural technology and environmental conservation, Hluttaw representatives and parliamentary staff capacity building, and legislative processes of Hluttaw.

Also present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Electricity and Energy Development Committee Chairman U Kyi Moe Naing, Secretary U Soe Myint (a) U Aung Zaw Myint, member U Tha Aung and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—MNA ■

*(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein meets with Project Assistant Professor of PARI Mr. Kensuke Yamaguchi in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Yangon Region Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Aung Soe Moe presents prize to the award winner student of the competition. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

## International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking Art Contest held

**ART**, cartoon, poster and graphic design contest marking International Day against Drug abuse and Illicit Trafficking was held at Yangon Drug Elimination Museum yesterday morning.

At the event, Yangon Region minister for security and border affairs Col Aung Soe Moe delivered key note speech.

Then, the message sent by chairman of Central

Committee for Drug Abuse Control, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe for International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was read by secretary of Yangon Region Committee for Drug Abuse Control, Head of Yangon Region Police Force, Police Brig-Gen Myo Min Htike.

Afterwards, Yangon Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, ministers for Yangon

Region Government, the Region Chief Judge U Hla Aye, the Region Advocate General Daw Khin Myo Kyi, the Region Deputy Mayor U Soe Lwin and officials awarded the winner students of the competition.

Then, Region Deputy Speaker, ministers for the Region Government and officials went around to see the works of students and pictures of confiscated drugs in 2018 -2019.

There were 3,975 drug cases in the Yangon Region in 2019. The seizures which include 22 types of drug and are worth K 163, 022. 4206 million were destroyed by fire. In region-level competitions of art, cartoon, poster and computer graphic, 93 out of 746 contestants won prizes, and in central-level competitions, 56 out of 746 contestants won prizes. ■

*(Translated by Alphon-sus)*

# Seized drugs worth over \$300 mln burnt to mark International Drug Day

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Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, Deputy Ministers, members of the Hluttaw Bill Committee, foreign Ambassadors and Military Attachés, representatives of UN entities and INGOs, members of the CCDAC, CSOs, invited guests and other officials.

Activities related to In-

ternational Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was carried out all over Myanmar yesterday, with illegal drugs confiscated within the 2018-2019 period burned in public viewing in Yangon, Mandalay and Taunggyi. The total estimated value of the burned drugs come at K451,746.37742 million (approx. US\$301.1642517 million). —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



President U Win Myint, Vice President U Myint Swe and officials inspect a drug machine on display at the commemoration event of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking held in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

## Investment Promotion Committee launched

THE Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations formally launched the Investment Promotion Committee (IPC) at a ceremony held in Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by U Thaug Tun, Union Minister for Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (MIFER), Deputy Ministers, U Aung Hla Tun, Ministry of Information, U Kyaw Myo, Ministry of Transport and Communications, U Set Aung, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Permanent Secretaries of Ministries concerned, representatives of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and participants from various departments, the private sector and the media.

U Thaug Tun, Union Minister of MIFER and Chairman of the IPC speaking on the occasion noted the important role of the IPC and stressed that the success of the committee and its 5 task forces would help to ensure Myanmar's economic growth. It would

also create a fair and prosperous society by promoting quality investment. A project that aims to contribute to the enhancement of domestic industrial competitiveness of Myanmar was also introduced at the meeting. These endeavors reflect the government's efforts to promote a responsible investment environment.

Mr. Masayuki KARASAWA, Chief Representative of JICA, U Thant Sin Lwin, Acting Director General of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) and Mr. Kazuo Mishima, JICA Team Leader also made presentations on the IPC and JICA's new projects. The presentations were followed by discussions among the participants.

Over 150 representatives of the IPC, the five Task forces, the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC), JICA, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UMFC-CI), development partners, and the media attended the meeting. —MNA



Union Minister U Thaug Tun addresses the launch event of Investment Promotion Committee held in Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA



### Presidential directive on combating drug



To implement our obligation, and promote awareness on the immediate dangers of drugs among the youths and students through educational talks and exhibitions on a sustained basis;



To encourage community based initiatives and campaigns to raise awareness on the dangers of drugs at the grass root level;



To support and implement social-reintegration programmes for drugs users and lend a helping hand to those who are in need through counselling and therapy;



To report and provide information on drugs and drug trafficking, especially detailed information and intelligence on major drug syndicates, and drug producers;



To provide information on officials who are turning a blind eye on drug cases and corrupt officials, so that we can take action against them; and



To urge the Regional and State governments, and administrative bodies at all levels to abide by the policy that "There will be no excuse on drugs matters".



To urge the legislative, judiciary and administrative bodies, the media and civil society to take part in the building of drugs-free society through the public health-care, inclusive and fair approach

'Excerpts from President U Win Myint's speech delivered at the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking commemoration held on 26th June 2019'.



# Statement by the President on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

26 June 2019

*Your Excellencies, Vice President, Union Ministers, Union Attorney General, Deputy Ministers, Ambassadors and Military Attaches`, Representatives from the UN Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations, Members of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, Representatives from the Civil Society and Community based organizations, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

**A very Good Morning. Auspiciousness to you all !**

## **Distinguished guests,**

The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking has been observed annually all over the world since 1987, and today marks 32nd occasion. Illicit drugs can break down health and social fabrics, and the basic economy of the people and link to terrorist activities, money laundering, illicit financial flows, bribery and corruption and transnational crimes in the country. Profits generated from illicit drugs trade can also breed armed insurgencies and terrorist activities.

Every Nation and every Government has been trying to resolve the emerging threats of drugs related problems through various ways and means, utilizing their own available resources. Myanmar has also given special attention on drug related problems as a national responsibility and has been cooperating with the UN Agencies, International and Regional organizations, NGOs and CBOs in various sectors.

It is found out that 5.6% of the world population, amounting up to 275 million, has been addicted to drugs at least once in their lifetime and 31 million desperately need medical treatment and health care. According to the statistics of the Ministry of Health and Sports in 2018, there are around 93,000 injection drug users in Myanmar, and as a consequence, the drugs related communicable disease such as HIV, Hepatitis C and Tuberculosis have been increased.

As we need a comprehensive, inclusive and balanced approach to resolve the drug related problem, we have adopted a new Drug Control Policy in 2018. Accordingly, the national strategic plan will be drafted in order to effectively implement the Drug Control Policy on a nationwide scale. Most importantly, we need effective policy implementation to address this daunting challenge.

## **Distinguished guests,**

A hotline office was established on 22 June 2018 so that the people can file complaints and report drugs related information and thus effective actions have been taken to certain extent. However, there is a need to have more information on large scale production, distribution and trafficking. People are therefore encouraged to provide information to this office in a

To create a drug-free youth among the upcoming generation of students, priority must be given to strictly ban easy access to and selling of drugs, including cigarettes, in the vicinity of school environment.



President U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

safe and discrete manner. Drug Enforcement Police has, up to present, conducted 25 special operations in hotspot areas and significant amount of heroin and other drugs have been seized.

In 2017, there were 41,000 hectares of poppy cultivation in Myanmar, producing 550 metric tons of opium. Poppy Cultivation dropped to 37,300 hectares in 2018, producing 520 metric tons of opium, a decrease of 9.1 % in cultivation and 5.45 % in production respectively.

However, the drugs problem escalated with the increased production of psychotropic stimulant tablets, ICE, and precursor chemicals have been trafficked illegally from the borders of neighboring countries. Seizures of psychotropic drugs also increase drastically. On the other hand, the increased production of stimulant tablets could unavoidably increase of the demand and the drug users among the younger generation. Consequently, values and ideals of the youth have been impacted dramatically.

As drugs endanger and pose vulnerability to the new generation, it is vital to enhance a comprehensive endeavour to eradicate the drug menace by the public as a national duty. As you may recall what I have stated last year on the same occasion that “if we do not collaborate and successfully combat the drug problem today, Myanmar will face a severe and drastic situation in the coming decade.” The menace of drugs is slowly eroding our society, ruining the lives of our youth and destroying the dignity and future of our country. In this regard, I earnestly urge all stakeholders to join us in our efforts to fight against drugs.

## **Distinguished Guests,**

In addition to the efforts of the Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Information and relevant government departments, we will enhance cooperation and collaboration with the private media and the civil society to raise awareness among the public in a comprehensive manner.

We will also scale up our cooperation with the CBOs, CSOs and the general public at large to implement prevention, treatment and rehabilitation measures for drugs users.

We are fully aware that no single country alone can resolve the drug related problems, and we need to enhance cooperation in prevention and trafficking of drugs with neighboring countries.

To create a drug-free youth among the upcoming generation of students, priority must be given to strictly ban easy access to and selling of drugs, including cigarettes, in the vicinity of school environment. It is also imperative that State and Regional Governments must collaborate with students, parents and teachers and work closely with the CBOs.

It is also necessary for the public to report to the State and Regional Committees for Drug Abuse Control on drugs trafficking and drug related trade taking place in their respective communities. As we embrace the local communities and the public to have closer cooperation through performance review and recommendations, we look forward to bring about effective and concrete changes in our endeavours with greater success.

## **Distinguish Guests,**

This year’s theme selected by UNODC for the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is “Health for Justice, Justice for Health”. It is important to take drugs related problems not as a crime but as a health issue. On one hand, effective and pragmatic measures for treatment need to be undertaken. On the other hand, legislative and judiciary bodies need to work together to realize objective in an effective manner.

Before Concluding, I wish to state that our Government is striving all out efforts to reduce and eradicate the drug menace through effective cooperation and collaboration among government agencies. It is also imperative for the public to join hands and work together as a national duty and obligation of every citizen.

## **In conclusion, I wish to urge all of you:-**

- to implement our obligation, and promote awareness on the immediate dangers of drugs among the youths and students through educational talks and exhibitions on a sustained basis;
- to encourage community based initiatives and campaigns to raise awareness on the dangers of drugs at the grass root level;
- to support and implement social-reintegration programmes for drugs users and lend a helping hand to those who are in need through counselling and therapy;
- to report and provide information on drugs and drug trafficking, especially detailed information and intelligence on major drug syndicates, and drug producers;
- to provide information on officials who are turning a blind eye on drug cases and corrupt officials, so that we can take action against them; and
- to urge the Regional and State governments, and administrative bodies at all levels to abide by the policy that “There will be no excuse on drugs matters”.

Last but not least, I strongly urge the legislative, judiciary and administrative bodies, the media and civil society to take part in the building of drugs-free society through the public health-care, inclusive and fair approach.

*Thank you.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Senior General receives outgoing German Ambassador

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received German Ambassador Mrs Dorothee Janetzke-Wenzel, who has finished her tour of duty, at the parlour of Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed collaboration between two countries, progress towards

amending the Constitution, progress of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong-Union Peace Conference, peacekeeping efforts in the country, and the need for international organizations to understand the real situation of Rakhine State, according to a news release from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. —MNA  
(Translated by Alphonsus)



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with German Ambassador Mrs Dorothee Janetzke-Wenzel at the Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

## Union Minister for Education meets with teaching staff of schools in Southern Shan State



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi delivers the speech at the meeting with teaching staff in Kengtung, Southern Shan State on 25 June. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi attended met with the teaching staff of basic education schools in the meeting hall of B.E.H.S No. 2

Kengtung, Shan State on 25 June.

In his opening address at the meeting, Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said that educa-

tion reform measures played a vital role in the country. The ministry is implementing the KG+12 System based on the basic information, research and

reports. It was needed to strive for making it a success through the cooperation. He also urged the teachers to work for training the school children to have skills for critical thinking, creativity, cooperation, good communication, problem-solving using the observation, fair and peaceful coexistence.

He also called on the teachers for educating the students about the drug abuse, getting rid of excessive alcohol consumption, a healthy lifestyle, reducing road accidents, reproductive health and game addiction.

The Union Minister also called for encouraging sports and conservation and promotion of the ethnic culture and languages at schools.

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi also stressed the importance of official Myanmar language.

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi stressed the important role of parents, people, Hluttaw Representatives and

State government in making the qualified education system a success.

Next, Union Minister replied the queries raised by the teachers in attendance and coordinated at the meeting.

Afterwards, Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and party proceeded to the Kengtung University, where he met with rectors, deans, pro-rectors, professors (head of departments), faculty members and officials.

At the meeting, they discussed matters concerning teaching, administration and betterment for higher education system.

Then Dr Zaw Wai Soe, Chair of Rectors Committee explained about the work procedures of the committee.

Following this, Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and officials clarified the conditions of higher education sectors and coordinated the meeting to fulfill their requirements.—MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

## Union Peace Commission Chairman meets Chinese Special Envoy

DR TIN MYO WIN, Chairman of the Union Peace Commission, met with Mr Sun Guoxiang, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, at the National Reconciliation and Peace Center in Yangon yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to Myanmar's peace process and

ceasefire, and plans for holding dialogue to sign the Bilateral Ceasefire Agreement with KIO, MNTJP, PSLF and ULA.

Also present at the meeting were Union Peace Commission Deputy Chairman U Thein Zaw, Secretary Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo (Rtd) and U Thet Naing.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Union Peace Commission Chairman Dr. Tin Myo Win meets with Chinese Special Envoy Mr Sun Guoxiang in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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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.

# Seven Myanmar workers in China taken to hospital with wild mushroom poisoning

SEVEN Myanmar migrant workers have been admitted to the hospital after being poisoned by wild mushrooms in a village in Yunnan Province, China.

The victims are identified as U Tun Tun Oo, 36, from Thanze Village in Sedoktara Township, Magway Region, U Tun Lin, 43, Maung Tin San Lin, 18, and Ma

Thein Thein Win, 28, from Yebokalay Village, Pwintbyu Township, U Supar, 26, from Kaunggyi Village, Pwintbyu Township, Ma Su Myat Khaing, 23, from Htoopauk Village in Pwintbyu Township, and Ma K Zin Thwe, 18, from Kyaukkongyi Village in Pwintbyu Township.

The migrant people working

at the sugarcane field ate the poisonous mushrooms on 20 June.

"They cooked mushrooms foraged near the sugarcane field for lunch and dinner and they are facing this fate," said Aung Kyaw Lin, their neighbourhood.

They were taken to a local hospital after they are found poisonous from the mushrooms.

The victims were transferred to Muse People's Hospital with the assistance of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Myanmar at 3 pm yesterday.

They will be transferred to Mandalay General Hospital. In June, 2018, seven migrant workers in China died of mushroom poisoning. ■ (Translated by GNLM)

## Grade 2 skilled worker certificates to be issued to poultry workers

By Aye Yamone

THE Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department is planning to issue Grade 2 skilled worker certificates to poultry workers from 2019-2020 fiscal year.

The National Skills Standards Authority has drawn up the norms for issuing the certification after scrutinizing the skills of poultry workers. The NSSA has conducted preliminary experimental tests to check if poultry workers meet the prescribed norms.

"We plan to construct a settlement center in Insein to conduct both theory and practical tests. Then, we will issue the certificates after examining their skills at the center. We expect to issue the certificates within the 2019-2020 fiscal year," said Dr. Win Oo, the Deputy Director of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

"The norms for skilled labour in the breeding sector have already been formulated since June, 2018. The draft norms for skills have been set



A labourer feeds egg layers at a farm in central Myanmar.

PHOTO: GNLM

with the assistance of GIZ. And the draft has been submitted to the NSSA on 19 February," he said.

"Upon obtaining the skilled worker certificate, poultry workers will be able to demand wages which are offered to their counterparts with the same skills," said Dr. Win Oo at the Myanmar Livestock Federation on 25 June.

"Our workers will have confidence in themselves when foreign investments enter our country with the introduction of Asia Free Trade in the near

future. Then, they could say that they have proven ability as they are holding this certificate," he added. According to the Employment and Skill Development Law enacted on 31 August, 2013, the Myanmar Labour Skills Norms Specifying and Defining Committee shall formulate, add to, and amend the skills standards, recognize and register private vocational training schools, conduct assessments in accordance with the employment skills standards, register the skills assessment department, hold labour

skills competitions, and implement the fund-raising process.

The committee was formed with ministers, private entrepreneurs, principals of vocational training schools, and experts.

"It (the certification) will benefit both poultry entrepreneurs and poultry workers. For example, poultry entrepreneurs may not know the skills of prospective workers, but they may appoint them to run their businesses.

Now, only if applicants can produce the certificates, we will recruit them, and thus, we can be assured that at least they have the required skills for poultry farming," said Dr. Kyaw Htein, Vice Chairman 1 of the Myanmar Livestock Federation.

Poultry workers must have at least 6 months' experience and recommendations from related employers to obtain the skills certificates.

Around 50,000 poultry workers are working in commercial-scale poultry farming businesses in Myanmar, according to the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## Long staple cotton to be grown on 12,570 acres of land in Meiktila Township

THE Meiktila Township Agriculture Department is planning to cultivate long staple cotton on 12,570 acres of land in the township in the 2018-2019 Financial Year, according to U Maung Maung Nyein, the head of the department.

Local cotton varieties including Shwetaung-8, Ngwechi-6, and 9 will be cultivated on 12,570 acres of land in Lanet-

aw, Yaycho, Hlepwe, and Wayone villages of Meiktila Township, he said.

"The Township Agriculture Department is expecting a yield of 800-1,000 viss (1 viss=1.6 kg) per acre, and so it is inspecting fields and conducting talks to raise awareness among farmers," said U Maung Maung Nyein.

To boost yield, the Township



A cotton plantation in Meiktila. PHOTO: CHAN THAR (MEIKTILA)

Agriculture Department is also distributing cotton seedlings to

farmers. — Chan Thar (Meiktila)  
(Translated by La Wonn)

# US Independence Day celebrated at Lotte Hotel in Yangon

UNION MINISTER for Office of the State Counsellor, U Kyaw Tint Swe, and wife Daw Yin May Tun attended the US Independence Day celebration held at Lotte Hotel in Hline Township, Yangon, yesterday.

The event was opened with the national anthems of Myanmar and the US.

Next, American Ambassador Mr. Scot Marciel and the Union Minister delivered separate remarks, and took a commemorative photo with

everyone in attendance. The Ambassador and his wife then treated the guests to a dinner reception.

Present at the event were Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Peace Commission Chairman Dr. Tin Myo Win and wife, Deputy Ministers U Aung Htoo and Dr. Ye Myint Swe, foreign Ambassadors, attachés, UN representatives and invited guests. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe delivers the speech at the celebration to mark the US Independence Day at Lotte Hotel, Yangon, yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint meets with staff from the Information and Public Relations Department in Kengtung. PHOTO: MNA

# Union Information Minister visits Kengtung IPRD Office

DR PE MYINT, Union Minister for Information, visited the Information and Public Relations Department in Kengtung on 25 June.

He inspected the children's reading room, library, mini museum and hall used for community-based activities at the IPRD office.

He then met with staff of the Kengtung MRTV retransmission station, Joint-state IPRD, District IPRD and Kengtung Sub-Printing House.

The Union Minister instructed staff to adapt to the changing situation and technologies when disseminating news and conducting educational programmes, and to continue learning and improving themselves to develop the overall capabilities of the organization. He then listened to staff reports and provided suggestions and solutions where necessary. —MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

# Drug seized at Yangon International Airport

ABOUT 2000 g of heroin was found in the luggage belonging to Win Thu Naing at Yangon International Airport 1:30 am on 23 June. It was found while the luggage was passing X ray machine. It was known that Win Thu Naing is from Nyi Naung ward in Wundwin Township.

According to interrogation, he said that he came to contact with Hla Kying (who quit local flight attendant job in 2019 March) through his school mate Ye Min from No 5 Ward in Kengtung Township. Hla Kyaing handed over the heroin to him at Yangon International Airport and asked him to take it to Hong Kong.

Due to Win Thu Naing tes-

timony, Hla Kyaing lodging in the premise of Zay Kabar resident in Mingalardon Township was raided. During the raid, 1800 g of ICE, cabin crew ID card to assess Yangon international Airport, three passport with his name, one passport with the name of War War Ei Shwe@ Shan pa and Nissan Sunny motor car were caught.

The link led to raiding of room number 303 of Royal Platinum Hotel in Bahan Township, where she was found with Yon Hay Man Oo, in which 0.4 g of ICE and 5 g of ketamine were caught.

It was reported one of the suspects Ye Min had already left for Hong Kong on 22<sup>nd</sup> June

and they were commissioned to sell by a Nepali Mr. Aashish Gurung. He was arrested Platinum Square Hotel in Bahan Township.

Their network bought and brought the drugs form Tachilek to Yangon to smuggle them to Hong Kong. Ye Min, who had left for Hong Kong, was arrested when he reentered Yangon International Airport on 25<sup>th</sup> June.

Win Thu Naing, Hla Kying, War War Ei Shwe@ Shan Pa, Yon Hay Man Oo, Ye Min, Mr Aashish Gurung are being prosecuted according to law at Mingaladon Police Station and Bahan Police Station. ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)



Detainees and seizures from them. PHOTO: MPF

# Let's build strong children through reading

**T**HE incumbent government has organized nine children's literary festivals at the state level and 48 at the region and state level in three years, and the festivals reflect its efforts towards promoting children's and youth literature.

The move is aimed at helping our children, the future leaders of our country, gain knowledge through reading, and instilling the spirit of cooperation among them through participation in games at the festivals.

In the world today, countries with high reading rates are developed. Why? Perhaps because reading helps us look at and cherish our diversity and differences and the versatility of

By understanding the unique cultures in our country and around the world, children can also learn about the diversity in our country and the history of our country and the world so that they do not repeat the same mistakes.

life. Both children and adults can gain a better understanding of other cultures, their own feelings, and creativity through reading.

By understanding the unique cultures in our country and around the world, children can also learn about the diversity in our country and the history of our country and the world so that they do not repeat the same mistakes.

By understanding the unique cultures in our country and around the world, children can also learn about the diversity in our country and the history of our country and the world so that they do not repeat the same mistakes.

“Through reading, children get to learn new things. Children, who are our future leaders, must enjoy reading and consider books as friends, and parents and teachers are required to lend their support and encouragement so that this thought is instilled in children,” said former President U Htin Kyaw in his opening remarks at the Children's Literary Festival, held on 25 June in Tachilek.

Parents and teachers must have reading rooms for children and establish libraries for children so they can read and have access to good books.

Besides, literary festivals provide knowledge about children's and youth literature to families, enthusiasts, and professionals to enable and support literacy and an understanding of the world.

Authors must write appropriate, knowledgeable, and thought-strengthening books on different topics for children, who have fresh minds and make use of all their unexplored skills in reading and in writing.

Children who read a lot have a deeper insight on different topics and through reading, they can broaden their horizon and explore what is not known to them.

When reading becomes a hobby, children will avoid walking on the wrong path, swayed by social media, and will find opportunities for a better future.

To reach that goal, we need to set up libraries in every village, and parents and teachers must bring children there. Helping our children will build the future of our country. Let's build strong children through reading.



By M.M.So

# Fighting Corruption: A New Perspective

**I**T was the title of the 7<sup>th</sup> ICAC Symposium jointly organized by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, People's Republic of China and the World Justice Project (WJP) in Hong Kong in May 2019. Eminent speakers of different positions and from different backgrounds made contributions to the Symposium's title on moving towards combating corruption through innovative ways. Panel discussions took place under four plenary sessions at the 3-day Symposium.

The interesting topics include 'Corruption and the rule of law: Insights from the 2019 WJP Rule of Law Index', 'Understanding the legal fundamentals in dealing with corruption', 'Inclusive coalition against corruption', 'The future of fighting global corruption and fraud', 'Responding to new challenges in a low corruption culture', 'Tackling corruption with transformative efforts', 'The power of the ordinary citizen in combating corruption', 'Effective corruption prevention through information technology', 'Corruption in 2030: What will it look like and how will we have beaten it', 'Shifting norms against corruption: Naming and Faming honest government officials', 'Evolving strategies to sustain zero tolerance towards corruption with public support – a showcase of Hong Kong', among others. Some anti-corruption agencies in the region even shared true stories of bribery and corruption cases as their best practices in tackling corruption.

The WJP, in its address on Corruption and the Rule of Law, presented insights from the Rule of Law Index 2019. The Index covers 126 countries around the world and each country's rule of law performance is measured across 8 primary Factors – (1) Constraints on Government Powers, (2) Absence of Corruption, (3) Open Government, (4) Fundamental Rights, (5) Order and Security, (6) Regulatory Enforcement, (7) Civil Justice and (8) Criminal Justice – disaggregated into 44 sub-factors by conducting household surveys on the experiences and perceptions of the general public and in-country experts.

In the 2019 Overall Rule of Law scores and rankings, Myanmar scored 0.42 with the global ranking of 110/126. Scores range from 0 to 1, where 1 signifies the highest score and 0 signifies the

lowest possible score. Factor 2: Absence of Corruption is measured using 4 sub-factors: (i) government officials in the executive branch do not use public office for private gain, (ii) government officials in the judicial branch do not use public office for private gain, (iii) government officials in the police & military do not use of public office for private gain and (iv) government officials in the legislative branch do not use public office for private gain, considering three forms of corruption: bribery, improper influence by public or private interests and misappropriation of public funds or other resources. The global rank of Myanmar in Factor 2: Absence of Corruption stood at 60/126 and in Factor 1: 95/126, Factor 3: 114/126, Factor 4: 123/126, Factor 5: 88/126, Factor 6: 85/126, Factor 7: 122/126 and Factor 8: 116/126.

It is learned that the Index is a diagnostic tool to help identify a country's strength and weakness in order to capture adherence to the rule of law. The list of the household coverage and polling methodology (generally face-to-face or online) for the General Population Poll in all 126 surveyed countries and the list of academics and practitioners who had contributed in making the Report were also organized in the Report.

The 2018 WJP Rule of Law Index revealed Myanmar's ranking of 100/113 with the same score of 0.42.

## Presentations and Discussions

The Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Affairs Office, National Commission of Supervision, People's Republic of China disclosed the unrelenting anti-corruption drive under National Commission of Supervision in implementing zero tolerance on corruption, adding that the comprehensive ways include enhanced supervision and oversight, regular inspection in provinces and putting equal emphasis on detecting and addressing problems. They had 1.5 million

corruption cases in 2017-2018 and punished 58000 persons. China has continuously carried out Sky Net campaigns through which over 5000 fugitives were brought back and recovered over RMB 13 billion criminal assets. As for international cooperation, China has many Extradition Treaties and more than 20 bilateral MOUs. Suggestions on building consensus and transforming political commit-



Corruption can occur on different scales. GRAPHIC: BT

ment to action, seeking mutual legal assistance and concluding extradition treaties as synergies for international cooperation to achieve All-Win results were discussed.

The National Centre for Governance, Integrity and Anti-Corruption, Malaysia stressed the importance of the political will for the way forward in the fight against corruption. Malaysia to be known for integrity and not for corruption, the government of Malaysia under the new administration has identified 6 priority areas namely political governance, public sector administration, public procurement, legal and judicial, law enforcement and corporate governance under their National Anti-Corruption Plan 2019-2023.

The Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) from Indonesia talked about the real challenges in international cooperation on multi-jurisdictional investigation and prosecution, commenting that the reality took time and ineffective to combat fast-moving corruption cases.

The C4 (Centre to Combat Corruption and Cronyism) from Malaysia discussed the critical role of citizens, stressing the power of ordinary citizens in fighting corruption. In urging the citizens to speak up and be heard, the creation of MyCleanCity Mobile Application to submit complaints was briefly introduced to the participants. It is interesting to learn that the C4 has worked on a mechanism to keep track of the govern-

ment's promises on the National Anti-Corruption Plan.

Tunisia High Level Authority on Financial and Administrative Control pointed out the drop of its rank of 59 in 2010 from the previous score of 73 in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index as awakening call to fight against corruption. The reason was that among other causes for the revolution in 2011, inequality and corruption were drivers of Tunisia's revolution as political and social stability accounted for around 53% of the total effects of corruption.

ICAC discussed about evolving strategies of the preventer, embracing technology for the future. With regards to corruption prevention, suggestions on initiatives include corruption prevention groups at top level, cross-sector strategy for collaboration, working with regulators and licensed operators, capacity building and up skilling, direct contact with the public by having e-government services, automated processing and service delivery, reliability, fairness, openness, transparency, internal audit and embracing IT for corruption prevention.

OECD Working Group on Bribery statistics on foreign bribery as of December 2016 showed 443 individuals and 158 entities sanctioned under criminal proceedings during 1999 to 2016 and 125 individuals sentenced to prison. Another 121 individuals and 235 entities were sanctioned for other offences related to foreign

bribery such as money laundering and a number of 53 individuals and 95 entities had been sanctioned under administrative and civil proceedings for foreign bribery. Also 500 investigations in its 29 States Parties took place during that period. It was found out that the four main sectors involved in foreign bribery cases were the ex-

The high-level commitment to tackle corruption in accordance with the Anti-Corruption Law, without favouring anyone, with only considering for the interests of the people and the country, is regarded as the mission of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

tractive (19%), construction (15%), transportation and storage (15%) and information and communication (10%) sectors.

The following solutions were put up: educating politicians and calling them to responsibility; production of young anti-corruption fighters should never stop; building and using public support is important; understanding that without strict application of the rule of law equally against all perpetrators there will be no respect for preventive measures; achieving positive results in the fight against corruption to enhance citizen's trust into their

governments, which will have positive consequences in many other areas; understanding that governments, private sector and the NGOs share the responsibility for fighting corruption; not only talking about fighting corruption but also doing it; and changing terminology from 'fighting corruption' to 'increasing integrity'.

When addressing the Symposium on 'Corruption in 2030: What will it look like and how will we have beaten it', Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity, who plays a specialist role in Australian Government's anti-corruption framework, discussed technological liberalization, quality of government, and enforcement and commitment environment as major challenges for control of corruption. On how to succeed, some thoughts such as political integrity; increased, speedier international enforcement action; education, shared values and social mobilization; deeper collaboration between enforcement agencies, media and CSOs were shared.

'Shifting norms against corruption: Naming and Faming' honest government officials' is an interesting topic as well. It is more on integrity. Under the practice of 'Integrity Idol' in Nepal,

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honest government officials are named and rewarded as integrity officials. The benefits of celebrating good people can translate individual integrity into a shift in organizational cultures. It is noted that Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, South Africa, Mexico have this kind of practice in their countries.

Different areas such as what the governments will need to do more for corruption prevention and combating, how to develop and sustain zero tolerance on corruption with public support, how should investigative journalists must do in hunting corruption, the

power of the citizens in combating corruption, the role of business in fostering a culture of integrity, the internal audit's role in preventing fraud and corruption, the role of the private sector to advance commercial transparency, corruption prevention through information technology, availability of more online options from permits and customs clearance to procurement and taxes, mechanism for safe coverage bad actors and commercial digitization are also covered in the panel discussion.

The perspectives of the Key-note Speakers, Panel Chairs and the Panelists and the inter-active discussions have brought new ideas and thoughts on preventing and combating corruption on both policy side and operation side. It has created a new platform for sharing ideas and learning experiences in the global fight against corruption.

## A glimpse on ACC Myanmar

The high-level commitment to tackle corruption in accordance with the Anti-Corruption Law, without favouring anyone, with only considering for the interests of the people and the country, is regarded as the mission of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Fighting corruption is a never-ending task and anti-corruption policy is not just about guessing, it is about doing. On law enforcement side, there are some worse case scenarios recently being taken into action under the Anti-Corruption Law. Action speaks louder than words!

As for our prevention side, our inclusiveness approach means public sector, private sector, business sector and covering not only older generation, but also younger generation as well. The tangible result of developing corruption-related awareness lessons beginning from primary school level can be witnessed by the handing-over of 40,000 copies of Teachers' Guide on Integrity Education for primary school level to the Union Ministry of Education last year. This year we have embarked on a program on youth integrity. It kick-started at the university level very recently in June in Nay Pyi Taw by organizing the first 1-week Youth Integrity Camp 2019 in cooperation with the Union Ministry of Education and UNODC.

We have started engaging the business sector and the private entities to develop their own Code of Conduct/Ethics with the aim to control and deter bribery and

corruption on the supply side. The misconception of paying gifts as business culture needs to stop and embed the practice of ethical, responsible business and corporate social responsibility.

Under the Regional Project of Promoting a Fair Business Environment in ASEAN, we are organizing workshops on business integrity across the country. So far this program has covered 6 States/Regions – Yangon, Magwe, Bago, Ayeyawady, Mon and Kayin. It is a cooperation program among Commission, UNDP and respective State/Region Governments and has planned to cover the remaining States and Regions by 2020/21.

The Commission has introduced the concept of Corruption Prevention Units (CPUs) to be evolved at Union Ministries in order to monitor internal bribery and corruption to be able to take action under the Civil Service Personnel Law and Regulations or refer cases to the Commission which can then start investigation and take action as necessary under the Anti-Corruption Law. The CPUs will also be responsible for corruption risk assessment to find out risk areas in their related fields as an early intervention approach.

Educative talks are being held at union and sub-union levels to better understand the nature of corruption and its causes and consequences. In our awareness-raising program, we also talked about Anti-Corruption Law and its severe punishment provisions.

Educating the general public the negative impact of corruption is essential and also very important where a culture of tea-money or small facilitation payments is generally accepted and justified. In order to change this rooted culture, we need to transform our society to practise a culture of integrity with our relentless joint efforts.

According to UNDP assessment of the anti-corruption infrastructure of Myanmar, 2017, corruption risk-prone areas were perceived as public procurement and financial management, the judiciary, land administration, human resource management in the civil service, natural resource management, revenue collection and remittances, education, health, nepotism, lack of transparency and accountability in the management of civil servants as well as the lack of adequate compensation package.

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# Union Minister receives GEN, ILO Liaison Officer separately

UNION Minister Dr Win Myat Aye received delegations of Gender Equality Network and the Liaison Officer of ILO Myanmar, Mr Rory Mungoven, separately at his office on 25 June.

During the meeting with Gender Equality Network, they discussed latest development of The Prevention and Protection

of Violence against Women Law, extending the work of CSOs included in Myanmar Woman Committee, how CSOs can contribute to writing Universal Periodic Review and CEDAW review, and gender equality work to be implemented by GEN in 2019.

During the meeting with Mr Rory Mungoven, they discussed collabo-

ration of ILO in bringing about social development and harmony among the different people in Rakhine State, creating job opportunities and conducting vocational trainings mentioned in recommendation on Rakhine State with UEHRD project, and the effort of ILO in bringing about full labor rights.—MNA ■  
(Translated by Alphonsus)



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye and Liaison Officer of ILO Myanmar, Mr Rory Mungoven pose for documentary photo at the Minister's Office. PHOTO: MNA

## Fighting Corruption: A New Perspective

### FROM PAGE-9

If we look at TI's (Transparency International) survey on ranking a country's level of corruption of public sector based on perception with scores from 0 (most corrupt) to 100 (clean/least corrupt), Myanmar's rank under CPI (Corruption Perception Index) for 2018 was 132 out of 180 countries with the score of 29. This is a change in score of (-1) from previous score of 30 and the drop in previous rank from 130/180. When we compare the 2016 Index with that of 2015, you may note some progress where Myanmar's score marked a six-point (+6) over 2015 score and also a rising trend from 2012, before the enactment of the Anti-Corruption Law in 2013, where the rank stood at 172/176 with the score of 15 in 2012. Between 2012 and 2018, our score has improved by (+14).

In CPI Regional Analysis on Asia and the Pacific, Transparency International recommended that although many countries in the region have reforms aiming in

the right direction, a gap existed: a robust and comprehensive strategy focusing on the entire anti-corruption system including legal infrastructure and punishment, proper enforcement of rules, prevention mechanisms and citizen-engagement. For good or for bad, Myanmar has not been mentioned in their Analysis.

While we are focusing our fight against corruption unilaterally, at the same time, we are strengthening our external relations with other similar agencies and also UN agencies for technical assistance where we have limited resources and expertise. We join with other States Parties in the global fight against corruption and related transnational crimes under the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). We have also joined the South East Asia Parties against Corruption (SEA-PAC). Bilateral MOUs on cooperation in anti-corruption that we have concluded with Viet Nam, Thailand, Lao PDR and South Korea have created

new platforms to enhance cooperation in preventing, combating and to share experiences and practices in corruption. As corruption has become an increasingly cross-border crime in its new forms especially in this digital era, international engagement is as important as unilateral law enforcement.

### Conclusion

As a learning anti-corruption agency in the region in terms of freshly-reorganized Commission, the 7<sup>th</sup> ICAC Symposium has enlightened us in bringing broader thoughts and ideas to advance our efforts in eradicating corruption.

This year marks the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of ICAC Hong Kong. Even after 45 years, ICAC has not stopped its fight against corruption. They are thinking of innovative ways in this area as there are emerging threats associated with corruption. The ICAC Commissioner Mr. Simon Peh in his message to the 7<sup>th</sup> Symposium has said that Hong Kong's experience and its success in combating corruption and promoting integrity

through a three-pronged strategy have provided a unique context for anti-graft campaigners across the world. It is learnt that their robust anti-corruption regime, transparent regulatory systems, holistic community education and independent judiciary have served to keep corruption under effective control in Hong Kong.

The Anti-Corruption Commission Myanmar reaching its 6<sup>th</sup> year has many challenges. We are used to practising conventional ways in the prevention and combating, but should consider using some innovative ways such as 'Integrity Idol' - 'naming and faming' instead of 'naming and shaming' - as a paradigm shift, bearing in mind whether it is workable or not. The e-government system and make every public service delivery online to prevent bribery and corruption will be very supportive also. But with the strong political will and the participation and cooperation of all stakeholders will add synergies to our concerted efforts in eradicating corruption.

Times change, but the mission continues!

## Myanmar's export, import status from October to April in 2018-2019 FY

MYANMAR'S normal export the for the month of April in Fiscal Year 2018-2019 was \$641.64 million while border export was at \$807.89 million, amounting to \$1,449.53 million. The normal im-

port volume for the same period was \$1,252.23 million while border import was at \$244.90 million, amounting to \$1,497.13 million.

Therefore, the total trade volume for April in

2018-2019 FY was \$2,946.66 million while trade deficit was at \$47.60 million.

Myanmar's normal export from October to April in 2018-2019 FY was \$5,258.32 million of which \$4,445.38 million

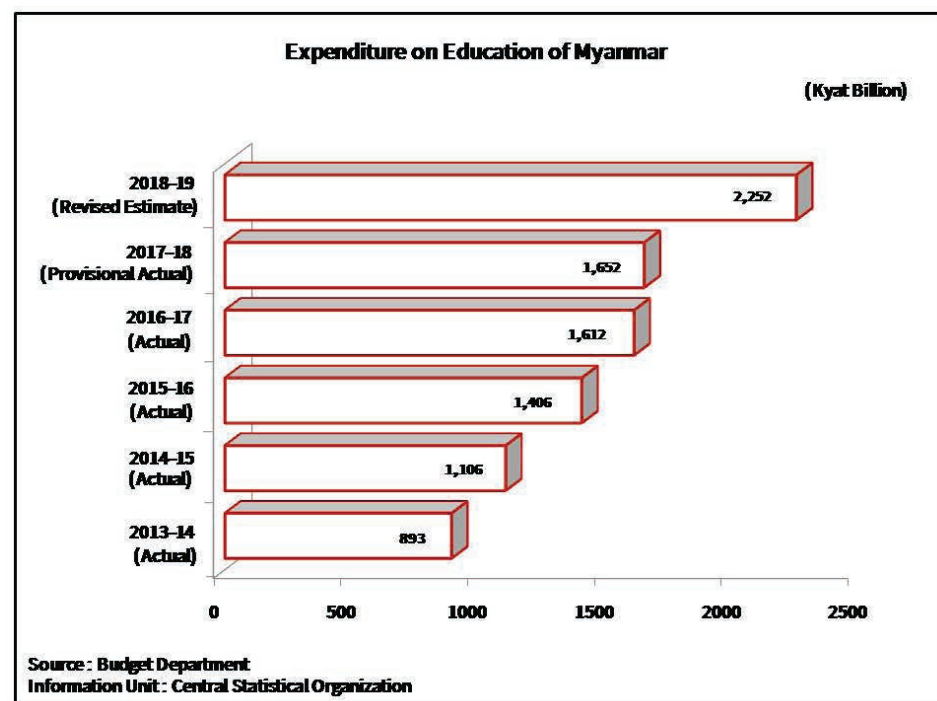
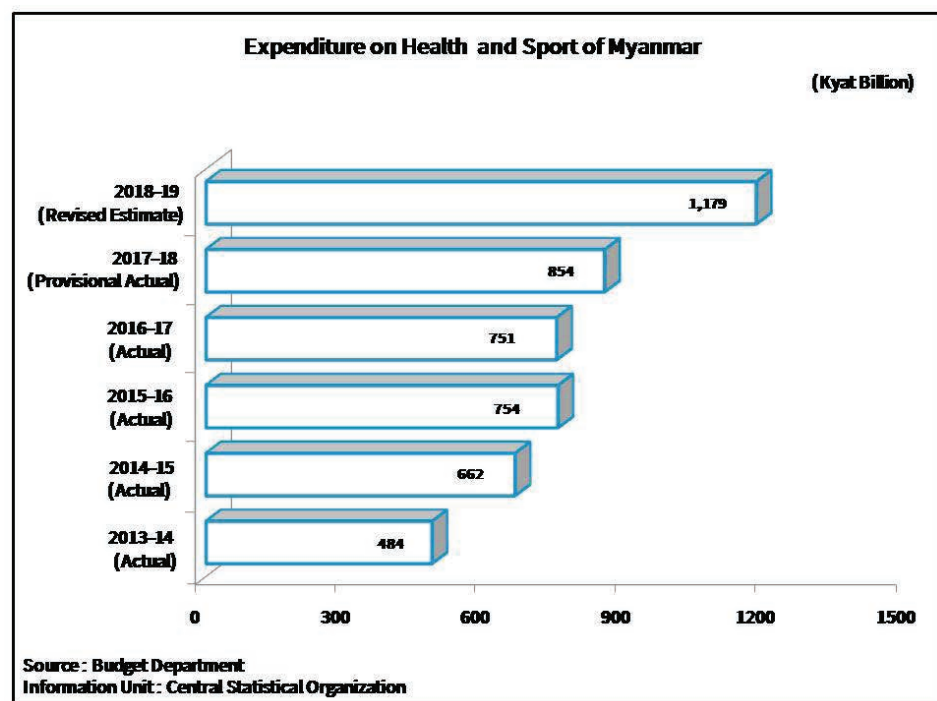
was through border export. The total export volume for the period was \$9,703.70 million. The normal import volume for the same period was \$8,609.92 million and border import was at \$1,693.41. The to-

tal import value for that period has come up to \$10,303.33 million.

Therefore, Myanmar's total trade volume for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 from October to April was \$20,007.03 million and the

total trade deficit was at \$599.63 million according to monthly reports from the Central Statistical Organization.—MNA ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



# Pulse prices cool on the back of low Indian demand

By Nyein Nyein

LOW demand from India has pulled down the price of pulses in the domestic market, said U Min Ko Oo, secretary, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

The prevailing price of mung bean is K860,000 per ton. Old pigeon peas are priced at K940,000 per ton, while newly harvested pigeon peas are fetching K1,050,000 per ton.

“The price of pulses jumps based on demand from India. As the Indian demand has cooled this week, the price of mung beans has decreased from K870,000 to K860,000 per ton,” said U Min Ko Oo.

India has not yet responded to Myanmar’s request on



Merchants evaluate quality of pulses at the Mandalay wholesale market. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

mung bean purchase. But, it has announced an import quota of 150,000 tons each for mung beans and green gram, and 200,000 tons for pigeon peas. “There is still no response

to our request on mung beans. India has only declared an import quota of 500,000 tons for mung beans, green gram, and pigeon peas,” said U Min Ko Oo.

A delegation of pulses and beans traders, led by the Union Minister for Commerce, had met with Indian officials at the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Expo and Summit, held in February in New Delhi. At the meeting, they had asked India to purchase 400,000 tons of mung beans, according to the Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

At present, in addition to India, Myanmar beans are purchased by Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Dubai, Malaysia, Indonesia, China (Taipei), Japan, and European countries. But, the vol-

ume of demand is low, according to the association.

“The Ministry of Commerce has been conducting a series of discussions to sell Myanmar beans through Government-to-Government pacts. Additionally, the ministry has been exploring more external markets,” said U Aung Htoo, the Deputy Minister for Commerce.

India’s move to restrict importation of pulses in August, 2017 has severely affected growers in Myanmar. In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, over one million tons of mung beans, pigeon peas, and green gram were shipped to foreign countries. But, they fetched only US\$713 million owing to the drop in price, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

# Value-added mango products penetrating foreign markets

MANDALAY mango processors are exporting value-added products to foreign markets, said U Kyaw Soe Naing, secretary, the Myanmar Mango Market and Technology Development Association.

Value-added mango products such as mango paste, frozen mango, preserved mango slices, wine, and dried mango are being increasingly processed and sent to countries that have signed an MoU with Myanmar — mainly Russia, Singapore, and China.

“Adding value to mango is helping us move beyond the domestic market and penetrate foreign markets. Mangoes from Paleik area were purchased and

sent to a processing factory in Nay Pyi Taw. Value-added mango products were shipped to foreign countries by Myanmar GP Company. Mango paste is used in making ice-cream, ice-pops, and juice. We will see higher export volume after end-July,” said U Kyaw Soe Naing.

Besides mango, value-added products will also be produced from palm, lime, grapes, and other fruits, he added.

Mango plantations cover 250,000 acres of land across Myanmar, and 200,000 acres can yield 700,000 tons of mangoes, if the yield per acre is estimated at 3.5 tons. Myanmar’s mangoes are primarily shipped to China,

and also to India, Bangladesh, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Japan.

Mango farm-owners need to follow Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). They also need to obtain GAP certification. The Agriculture Department has established criteria for long-term organic farming.

In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, Myanmar exported 50,000 tons of Seintalone (Diamond Solitaire) mangoes. The country aims to raise the export volume of Seintalone to 100,000 tons by 2020, according to online news released by the Ministry of Commerce. — Aung Phyto Kyaw/ Ko Htet ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Farmers packaging mangoes to sell at the market. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

# Fish breeders seek to import Rohu fingerlings from India

By Aye Yamone

THE Myanmar Fish Breeding Entrepreneurs Association (MFBEA) is pushing for imports

of Rohu fingerlings from India through a Government-to-Government (G-to-G) pact.

The MFBEA made its re-

quest to the Fisheries Department at the fisheries sector entrepreneurs’ regular meeting (11/2019), held on 28 June at the Myanmar Fisheries Federation in Yangon. “In India, they are raising Rohu species. Currently, they are breeding Rohu fingerlings. We want to know if we can import the Rohu fingerlings as it will be very convenient for fish breeders. Our entrepreneurs don’t have permission to import Rohu fingerlings. Only the Fisheries Department can grant the permission to import them under a G-to-G system,” said Dr. Myint Swe, the Vice Chairman of the Myanmar Fish Breeding Entrepreneurs

Association.

“Rohu fingerlings raised by the Freshwater Fish Research Department in India are 1.5 times larger than the Myanmar Rohu species. Myanmar also plans to implement new breeding technology for the fingerlings,” he said.

“If we have permission to import the fingerlings, bred using new technology, it will be good for us. India mainly focuses on breeding of Rohu fish, and so, they can raise the species. They also know whether their fish are infected with disease or not. India has imported fish breeding technology from Norway.

The new generation of Rohu

fish can be bred every three years. The weight of the Rohu fish has increased from 1 viss to 1.5 viss. If we can breed that kind of fish, we will benefit,” said U Win Kyaing, general secretary, Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

To import Rohu fingerlings from India, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation will have to submit a proposal, said U Hla Htay, the Deputy Head of the Yangon Region Fisheries Department. Moreover, fish breeders need to understand the breeding technology and the market before importing the species from India, he added. ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Photo: Phoe Khwar

# Final Day of Children's Literary Festival (Tachilek) attracts over 40,000 visitors

WITH the poem and story telling competitions in ethnic languages, the final day of the Children's Literary Festival in Tachilek attracted over 40,000 visitors yesterday.

Shan, Akha and Larhu ethnic school children took part in the primary and middle-school level competitions of poem and story telling in ethnic language.

"I am very happy to take part in this story telling competition. I will tell about the Fox Family story. I will also participate in this competition next year," said Ma Pyai Thin Cho, Larhu ethnic student.

Teachers expressed delight to see poem and story telling in ethnic languages, suggesting the government to include such kind of events in next festivals.

"Ethnic children are

very delighted to show off their skills in their own language. All ethnic people have their own culture. They all should participate in this events," said Daw Nan Sein Aye, a teacher.

"I am a bit excited to participate in this poem recitation competition. This is for the first time for me. I will recite the poem "The flower vendor" by Sayargyi Min Thuwun," said Maung Saw Muchar, Akha ethnic schoolboy.

Winners of the competitions were awarded officials and townsenders.

Authors Dr. Kyaw Swa Myint, Maung Myanmar and Maung Phoe San gave literary talks yesterday and the talks was crowded with the visitors. —Tachilek District IPRD

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Children's Literary Festival in Tachilek is crowded with students and people. PHOTO: MNA



Elephant dance troupe performing at the Children's Literary Festival in Tachilek. PHOTO: MNA



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



Students visit the Children's Literary Festival in Tachilek on the second day. PHOTO: MNA



Students participate in the painting competition held at the Children's Literary Festival on the second day. PHOTO: MNA



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (r) and French President Emmanuel Macron shake hands after a joint press conference in Tokyo on 26 June 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

## Abe, Macron agree to boost maritime security cooperation

TOKYO — Japan and France agreed Wednesday to step up cooperation in the field of maritime security, issuing a five-year road map for their partnership also dealing with issues ranging from global trade to climate change.

The road map was issued following a meeting between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and French President Emmanuel Macron, who is on his first visit to Japan since taking office two years ago.

“It is an important challenge for Japan and France to make the vast waters spanning from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific free and open as well as a foundation for the peace and prosperity of the region and the world,” Abe told a news conference with Macron following their talks at the prime minister’s office in Tokyo.

Tokyo and Paris are seeking to deepen maritime security and assist developing nations in improving infrastructure, amid China’s growing influence beyond Asia.

Macron said the two countries will hold the first comprehensive maritime dialogue in September.

Under the road map through 2023, Japan and France will beef up “strategic cooperation” between the Self-Defense Forces and the French armed forces, while also carrying out numerous other projects including those related to space, cyberspace and the environment. Abe and Macron reaffirmed their cooperation toward the success of the two-day

summit of the Group of 20 major economies in Osaka from Friday, during which topics ranging from marine plastic waste to reform of the World Trade Organization are set to be on the agenda. Macron will chair the summit of the Group of Seven industrialized nations in August.

Asked about the situation surrounding the Strait of Hormuz, Abe stressed the importance of securing freedom of navigation in the strategically important sea lane, functioning as a transport “node” connecting Europe and Asia.

“I and President Macron shared concerns about the rising tensions in the Middle East region and confirmed close collaboration to ease the tensions and stabilize the situation,” the prime minister said.

Earlier this month, two tankers, including a Japanese-operated one, were attacked near the strait, which the United States has blamed on Iran. Tehran has denied involvement.

French government officials had said Macron would take up the issue of the partnership between Renault SA and Nissan Motor Co. during his meeting with Abe. But a senior Japanese government official who attended the talks said the issue was not discussed. In the news conference, Macron said the strength of the 20-year-old alliance between Renault and Nissan “will not falter” and that as a Renault shareholder the French government hopes the partnership will remain long term. — Kyodo News

## Ex-Hong Kong leader Tsang cleared of misconduct conviction

HONG KONG (China) — Former HongKong leader Donald Tsang saw his misconduct conviction quashed by the city’s top court on Wednesday, the final twist to one of the financial hub’s most high-profile corruption cases.

Tsang was jailed in 2017 after being found guilty of failing to disclose his plans to lease a luxury flat from a major investor in a broadcaster, which was later granted a licence from the government while he was leader.

The 74-year-old, who held the leadership post of chief executive for seven years from 2005, was the most senior city official ever to be convicted in a criminal trial and the highest-ranking one to be put behind bars.

But on Wednesday he was exonerated by the Court of Final Appeal which quashed his misconduct in public office conviction, ending a seven-year legal ordeal.

Tsang, who was released from jail in January on health grounds, was not present in court for Wednesday’s verdict. But he issued a statement.

“Seven years of tangled legal battles have finally ended. My heart is filled with gratitude,” Tsang said, adding much of his savings had been swallowed up by the court cases.

The unanimous decision overturned two lower

court rulings which found that his failure to make a declaration of interest over the flat deserved steep punishment because of the high office he held.

The acquittal revolved around improper directions given by the trial judge to the jury over the misconduct charge, given jurors had cleared Tsang of a more serious bribery offence.

It is a major blow for the city’s anti-corruption watchdog which has long been accused by critics of being toothless and has now seen its most famous conviction collapse.

Tsang was HongKong’s second leader after the 1997 handover to China and was regarded as something of a safe pair of hands who carefully steered the financial hub through the global economic meltdown caused by the 2008 crash.

Tsang’s trial came at a time when residents were losing faith in HongKong’s leaders after a string of corruption cases fuelled suspicions over links between public officials and business figures.

His successors CY Leung and current city leader Carrie Lam have found themselves beset by dismal poll ratings fuelled by the perception that they have embraced Beijing’s push in recent years to stamp down on freedoms and dissent within the semi-autonomous hub.—AFP ■

### CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0116 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0116 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-06-2019 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 ADVNACE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

### THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Climate Friendly Agribusiness Value Chains Sector Project Invitation for Bids

Date 27/06/2019 Loan/Grant No. and Title; Loan No. 3724-MYA, Grant No. 0617-MYA: Climate-Friendly Agribusiness Value Chains Sector Project

Contract No. and Title; GD-02 Vehicles (Lot 1- Micro Bus, Lot 2 – Double Cab, Lot 3 – Light truck)

Deadline for Submission of Bids; 26/07/2019, 15: 00 hours local time

1. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Climate Friendly Agribusiness Value Chains Sector Project (CFAVC), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to payments under the contracts named above. Bidding is open to bidders from eligible source countries of ADB. This contract will be financed by the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP). The eligibility rules and procedures of ADB will govern the bidding process.

2. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI), the Purchaser, invites sealed bids from eligible bidders who are authorized dealers and service agents of the vehicles in Myanmar. Bidders should have sold at least 5 vehicles (of the corresponding lot type) in Myanmar to date. Bids are invited for the following vehicles; a bidder can bid for one or more lots.

(i) GD-02 Vehicles Lot 1- Micro Buses; 2 numbers, one 9 seater, one 12 seater automatic transmission.

(ii) GD-02 Vehicles Lot 2 - Double Cabs; 2 numbers, minimum 2.8 liter engine capacity, automatic transmission.

(iii) GD-02 Vehicles Lot 3 – Light trucks; 6 numbers, minimum 2.6 liter engine capacity

3. Bidders may bid for one or several contracts, as further defined in the Bidding Document. Bidders wishing to offer discounts in case they are awarded more than one contract will be allowed to do so provided those discounts are included in the Bid Submission Sheet.

4. National competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB’s Single-Stage: One-Envelope procedure and is open to all bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.

5. To obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents, bidders should contact:

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Department of Agriculture

U Aye Ko Ko,  
Deputy Director General and Project Director CFAVC  
Building No.15, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar  
Phone: 0095-67-3410411, 0095-67-3410422, 0095-67-3410199  
Fax No.: 0095 67 -3-410581  
E-mail: cfavc.pmu.doa@gmail.com

6. To purchase the Bidding Documents in English, eligible bidders should

- write to the address above requesting the Bidding Documents GD-02 Vehicles, and
- pay a non refundable fee of Myanmar Kyat 150,000 to the office provided in paragraph 5.

The document will be sent by courier service within Myanmar and airmail for overseas delivery. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.

7. Deliver your bid:

- to the address provided at paragraph 5.
- on or before the deadline: 26/07/2019. 15: 00 hours local time and
- together with a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document.

Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of bidders representatives who choose to attend.

8. MOALI will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred

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# N Korea blasts Pompeo as obstruction to nuclear talks

SEOUL (South Korea) — North Korea denounced US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo as an obstruction to nuclear negotiations on Wednesday, days before President Donald Trump visits Seoul while talks with Pyongyang are deadlocked.

The process has been stalled since a second summit between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Hanoi in February collapsed, after they failed to agree on what the North would be willing to give up in exchange for sanctions relief.

The two sides have had minimal contact and Trump is due to fly to Seoul at the weekend for talks with South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

But a spokesman for the North's foreign ministry criticised Trump's top diplomat on Wednesday, calling recent comments by Pompeo "a manifestation of the most extreme hostile acts" against Pyongyang.

The top US diplomat told reporters this week the resumption of working-level talks with the



Talks have been stalled since a second summit between the US and North Korea collapsed in February. **PHOTO: AFP**

North was becoming "a very real possibility", adding: "Some 80-plus percent of the North Korean economy is sanctioned."

He immediately corrected himself, saying he had misspoken and the figure applied to the effect of US sanctions on Iran, but

the remarks were nonetheless deemed "reckless" by Pyongyang.

"If the US sanctions are affecting 80-plus percent of our economy, as Pompeo mentioned, the question is whether the US target is to raise it up to 100

percent," the foreign ministry spokesman said in a statement carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

Hostile comments and actions by US policymakers were hampering top-level efforts to

revive the stalled diplomacy, the spokesman added, so that it would be "difficult" to look forward to "the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula".

On Sunday, KCNA reported that Kim received a personal message "of excellent content" from the US president, just days after Trump said he received a "beautiful letter" from the North Korean leader.

Pompeo visited Pyongyang four times last year as Trump's top envoy to arrange his two summits with the North Korean leader.

But since Hanoi, North Korea has accused Washington of acting in "bad faith" and demanded the removal of top US officials.

Last month the North slammed National Security Advisor John Bolton, calling him a "war maniac" and "war monger".

Pyongyang, however, has refrained from insulting Trump, who has expressed confidence in his relationship with Kim and even claimed they had "fallen in love".—AFP ■

## US border chief quits amid outcry over child detainees

WASHINGTON (United States) — The acting head of the US Customs and Border Protection agency announced his resignation on Tuesday amid a public outcry over alarming detention conditions of migrant children in Texas.

John Sanders, appointed to the post just two months ago, said in a letter obtained by several US media outlets that he planned to step down as acting CBP commissioner on 5 July.

Sanders' departure coincides with the revelation of un-

sanitary detention conditions for children at an overcrowded Border Patrol facility in Clint, Texas, a sign of the increasing strain on resources due to soaring numbers of arrests at the US-Mexicoborder.

The conditions at the center in Clint were described by a team of lawyers, doctors and others who visited the facility about 20 miles (30 kilometers) southeast of El Paso. Nearly 250 children were transferred out of Clint on Monday but a CBP official said Tuesday that about 100 were be-

ing sent back there.

"The three-year old before me had matted hair, a hacking cough, muddy pants, and eyes that fluttered closed with fatigue," wrote Clara Long, a researcher with Human Rights Watch who accompanied the team.

"Children at Clint told us they don't have regular access to showers or clean clothes, with some saying they hadn't been allowed to bathe over periods of weeks and don't have regular access to soap," she said.

### 'Untenable position'

Sanders has led CBP since April, when President Donald Trump tapped CBP chief Kevin McAleenan to replace Kirstjen Nielsen as secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

In a message to staff, Sanders did not give a specific reason for quitting and officials told The Washington Post and The New York Times it was not clear if his resignation was directly related to the handling of underage migrants at the border.

Trump told reporters Tuesday he did not ask Sanders to step down but "knew there were going to be changes there." According to the Post, Trump plans to name Mark Morgan, acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), to replace Sanders. In an interview with CBS News on Tuesday, Morgan said he does not believe there is a "systemic problem" at detention facilities. "I just don't agree that it's egregious conditions, like a systemic problem," Morgan said. "Are there issues that we can improve and get better? Absolutely."

US law requires unaccompanied minors to be returned to their parents or transferred to Health and Human Services facilities within 72 hours.—AFP ■

## Soldier in Brazil's G20 delegation arrested in Spain with cocaine

MADRID (Spain) — A soldier travelling with Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro's advance team for the G20 summit in Japan has been arrested in Spain after 39 kilogrammes (86 pounds) of cocaine were found in his luggage, Spanish police said Wednesday.

He was arrested on Tuesday after the Brazilian military plane he was travelling in made a stop-over in Seville in southwestern Spain on its way to Japan, said a spokeswoman for Spain's Guardia Civil police force. "His suitcase contained only drugs," she added. A court ordered Wednesday that the soldier, accused of drug trafficking, be held in preventative detention. Bolsonaro, who has promised a tough stance on gangs which profit from drug trafficking, confirmed the arrest on Twitter on Tuesday, saying he had ordered Brazil's defence ministry to cooperate with Spanish police. "If the soldier is found to have committed a crime, he will be tried and convicted according to the law," he added. The summit of the Group of 20 major economies, the so-called G20, will take place on Friday and Saturday in Osaka in western Japan.—AFP ■



A temporary facility set up to hold immigrants at a US Border Patrol station in Clint, Texas. **PHOTO: AFP**

# China halts Canadian meat exports over false certificates

OTTAWA (Canada) — China asked Canada on Tuesday to suspend all meat exports after discovering false veterinary health certificates attached to a batch of pork, while Canadian federal police launched a criminal probe.

The allegations against Frigo Royal Inc. come amid frosty relations between the two nations following Canada's arrest of a senior Chinese telecoms executive on a US warrant and China's detention of two Canadian nationals in apparent retaliation.

In days, the US and China could also seek to relaunch talks to settle a trade dispute that may be key to resolving the Canada-China row.

China's embassy in Ottawa said a customs investigation — launched after the discovery of traces of a banned feed additive — revealed up to 188 false documents had been submitted to Chinese officials.

"In order to protect the safety of Chinese consumers, China has taken urgent preventive measures and requested the Canadian government to suspend the issuance of certificates for meat exported to China since

25 June," it said on its website.

"We hope the Canadian side would attach great importance to this incident, complete the investigation as soon as possible and take effective measures to ensure the safety of food exported to China in a more responsible manner," it added.

A Canadian government official confirmed that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) had been called in to investigate.

Meanwhile, according to Agriculture Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has reached out to its Chinese counterpart for more information about the allegations.

In a statement, she said the CFIA "has identified a problem with false export certificates that could affect exports of pork and beef products to China."

## 'National interest'

The agency, she added, "has taken steps to remedy the situation" while continuing to work with industry partners and Chinese authorities.

China is Canada's third-larg-

est market for pork.

Bibeau noted the issue "does not affect export certificates to other countries."

The official Xinhua news agency earlier this month said customs officials in the eastern city of Nanjing had found that recent pork shipments from Frigo Royal contained Ractopamine.

The feed additive, which boosts the growth of animals, is widely used in the United States but banned in the European Union and China.

Chinese customs this month increased inspections of Canadian imports in what observers said was more payback for the December arrest of Huawei chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou on a US extradition request related to alleged Iran sanctions violations.

Beijing had previously detained two Canadians — former diplomat Michael Kovrig and businessman Michael Spavor — and blocked Canadian agricultural shipments worth billions of dollars.

It later accused Kovrig of espionage and alleged that Spavor provided him with intelligence.



Chinese embassy in Ottawa said a customs investigation revealed that up to 188 false certificates had been provided to Chinese officials through "Canadian official certificate notification channels". **PHOTO: AFP**

Asked if the meat ban was in retaliation to Meng's case, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said on Wednesday that ensuring food safety is the responsibility of the government and that Chinese authorities acted in accordance with the law.

"As for the Meng Wanzhou case you mentioned just now, I think our position is very clear. We ask Canada to take China's solemn concerns seriously and immediately release Ms. Meng

Wanzhou to let her return to China safely," Geng told reporters in Beijing.

US President Donald Trump last week told Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau he would raise the case of the detained men with Chinese President Xi Jinping when the pair meet in Japan on Saturday at the Group of 20 summit.

The meeting will be first since trade talks between the world's two largest economies broke down last year.—AFP ■

# Iran 'never seeks war' with US, says Rouhani

TEHRAN (Iran)— Iran "never seeks war" with the United States, President Hassan Rouhani said as he sought to rein in soaring tensions between the two archfoes.

"Iran has no interest to increase tension in the region and it never seeks war with any country, including (the) US," the president said, quoted by state news agency IRNA on Wednesday.

Rouhani was speaking by phone to his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron, as Tehran and Washington engaged in an escalating war of words following Iran's shooting down of a US drone last week.

"We have always been committed to regional peace and stability and will make efforts in this respect," the Iranian president told Macron.

US President Donald Trump said he pulled back from retaliatory strikes on Iran at the last minute, rejecting Tehran's claim that the aircraft was in its airspace.

But pressure mounted this week with Trump announcing sanctions on Iran's supreme



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani blamed the United States for regional tensions. **PHOTO: AFP**

leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and top officials.

General Hossein Salami, commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, mocked the latest sanctions as an "irrational" reaction to the loss of the sophisticated drone.

The new measures are the latest against Tehran since Trump pulled out of a landmark nuclear accord between Iran and world powers.

Khamenei said Wednesday that the Islamic republic remains unbowed by pressure exerted by the United States and its "insults".

"The Iranian nation seeks dignity, independence and progress; that's why pressures by cruel enemies do not affect Iranians," Khamenei said in a speech to a crowd in Tehran.

"The graceful Iranian nation has been accused and in-

sulted by the world's most vicious regime, the US," he said, quoted by his office.

"The Iranian nation won't give up over such insults," said Khamenei.

Rouhani blamed the United States for regional tensions and said if Washington had stuck to the deal "we would have witnessed positive developments in the region".

Iran announced in May it would suspend two of its pledges under the 2015 deal, giving the agreement's remaining supporters two months to help it circumvent US sanctions.

On Tuesday, Tehran's top security official, Ali Shamkhani, said Iran would "forcefully" reduce further commitments from 7 July.

Tehran's compliance had been based on European promises to support Iran's economy — which have failed to bear fruit — Rouhani told Macron.

Iran previously announced it would stop observing restrictions on its stocks of enriched uranium and heavy water agreed under the deal.—AFP ■

# Oman says to open embassy in Palestinian territories

MUSCAT (Oman) — Oman said Wednesday that it has decided to open an embassy in the Palestinian territories in support of the Palestinian people, in a first for a Gulf Arab state.

The announcement coincides with a US-led economic workshop in Bahrain to unveil a Middle East peace plan which is not expected to recognise an independent Palestinian state.

"In continuation of Oman's support for the Palestinian people, the Sultanate of Oman has decided to open a diplomatic mission at the level of embassy in the State of Palestine," the foreign ministry said on Twitter.

A delegation from the foreign ministry will travel to Ramallah, the seat of the Palestinian Authority, to take the necessary measures to open the embassy, it said.—AFP ■

## Myanmar youths showcase talent at Japan Fun Cup

TWO young Myanmar footballers — Pyae Phyo Aung and Nay Lin Htet — helped their team, the Asian Eleven U-18, win Japan's Fun Cup on 22 June at the J-Village Stadium in Fukushima, according to a statement released by the Myanmar Football Federation.

Pyae Phyo Maung was selected as a striker for the Asian Eleven U-18 team, while Nay Lin Htet was selected goalkeeper. They took part in a friendly match against Japan's Tohoku selection team, said a source with the MFF.

In the friendly match, the Asian Eleven U-18 team played as well as Japan's Tohoku selection team, with none of the teams scoring till the final whistle.

In the penalty shootout for deciding the winner, the Asian Eleven U-18 team beat Japan's Tohoku selection team by 6-5.



The Asian Eleven U-18 team, comprising two Myanmar footballers along with youngsters from ASEAN, celebrate their victory over Japan's youth team. **PHOTO: MFF**

During the penalty shootout, Myanmar's Pyae Phyo Aung scored one goal, helping take the Asian Eleven team's tally to 6. Meanwhile, Myanmar's Nay Lin Htet managed to successfully block a shot by the Japan team, securing the Asian Eleven team's victory.

The Japan Fun Cup, organized by the Japan Foundation Asia Center, aims at promoting closer relations between ASEAN and Japanese youth players and helping ASEAN youths gain international match experience, according to the tourney's organizers.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

## MFF launches coaching course in Pyinmana

WITH the aim of promoting coaching skills in Myanmar, the Myanmar Football Federation has launched a football coaching course from Tuesday, said a source with the MFF. The opening ceremony for the coaching course was held on 25 June at the Thuka Soe Grand Ballroom in Pyinmana.

The ceremony was attended by governmental officials, MFF joint general secretary U Tin Myint Aung, Pyinmana Football Association Chairman U Kyaw Min Tun, and other invited guests, including Dr. Khin Maung Nyo.

At the ceremony, governmental officials, U Tin Myint Aung, U Kyaw Min Tun, and Dr. Khin Maung Nyo made the opening speeches. Certificates will be awarded to trainees at a ceremony after the completion of the course, said officials. The course will end on 30 June and a total of 25 attendees are attending the course, officials added. The course is being conducted by experienced coaching trainers U Tin Nyein and U Khin Tun Oo, said the source with the football federation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

## Germany fear for Olympic spot as Europeans dominate World Cup

PARIS (France) — Germany coach Martina Voss-Tecklenburg admitted Wednesday that she fears for her side's place in the 2020 Olympic Games due to the overwhelming success of European teams at the Women's World Cup.

Voss-Tecklenburg, 51, watched on from the stands in Rennes on Tuesday night as the Netherlands beat Japan to become the seventh European country to reach the World Cup quarter-finals.

With only the three best European teams at the World Cup earning qualification for next year's Olympics in Tokyo, there is now even more at stake than usual in the latter stages of the tournament. "Even the semi-final may not be enough now, if four European teams get there," said Voss-Tecklenburg on Wednesday, with an eye on Olympic qualification. Japan's defeat means that holders USA are now the only non-European team left in the

tournament. The Americans remain favourites, but face a tough clash with hosts France in the last eight on Friday.

Should France win, there would be four European semi-finalists, and the usually meaningless third-place play-off would be transformed into a nerve-racking Olympic decider.

Voss-Tecklenburg had begun the tournament targeting a last-four place, and this week piled the pressure on her players to book their ticket to Tokyo. "It would be really important for this team to get to the Olympics," she said.

"Tokyo will be very important for everything that we have before us in the next four or five years." Voss-Tecklenburg, whose team play old rivals Sweden in their quarter-final tie in Rennes on Saturday, said that she was not surprised at the success of European teams.

"It just shows how far things have come in the last few years," she said. — AFP ■



With elements of judo, karate, boxing, Greco-Roman wrestling and more, sambo was created to train the forces of the Soviet Union and is still taught in the Russian army. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Sambo: Russia's Olympic dreams for homegrown martial art

MINSK (Belarus) — With elements of judo, karate, boxing, Greco-Roman wrestling and more, sambo was created to train the forces of the Soviet Union and is still taught in the Russian army.

As a sport, dating back to 1930, it has caught attention this month at the European Games in Minsk.

Now its backers are targeting the Olympics.

The history of sambo — the name of which comes from a contraction of the Russian phrase "self-defence without weapons" — is closely tied to that of the USSR.

For decades, trainer Anatoly Kharlampiyev was held up as the father of the sport, said to

be a combination of pre-existing Slavic combat forms.

It was only in 1982, three years after Kharlampiyev's death, that the role of former soldiers Victor Spiridonov and Vasily Oshchepkov was made public.

Oshchepkov was a judo specialist who had studied in Japan and later trained Red Army soldiers, and was well aware that sambo owed much to Asian martial arts.

But in Stalin's USSR, everything that came from abroad was subject to suspicion.

Oshchepkov was arrested for spying for Japan, sent to the Gulag and executed in 1938.

In Russia, star fighters in Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) —

another popular discipline in the country — all say they came to the sport via sambo.

Unlike the combat version used in the military, the sport of sambo is not violent and relies on restraining rather than striking opponents.

President of the International Sambo Federation Vasily Shestakov has reportedly said he hoped the sport would be included in the Olympics.

Last November, IOC officials granted sambo temporary IOC recognition, bringing it a step closer to becoming an Olympic sport one day.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, a martial arts enthusiast, has long championed the sport. — AFP ■



Germany's coach Martina Voss-Tecklenburg is concerned that a semi-final place may not be enough for her team to secure Olympic qualification. **PHOTO: AFP**