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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VI, No. 134, 14th Waning of Wagaung 1381 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Thursday, 29 August 2019

Constitution amendment debate continues on 17th day of Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

THE Joint Scrutinizing Committee's report on the Second Bill on Amending the Constitution was discussed on the 17th day meeting of Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 13th regular session yesterday.

The report was filed by 145 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw MPs, including MP Dr Maung Thin from Meiktila constituency.

Lieutenant Colonel Kyaw Min Hlaing, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative, said the process of the 45-member committee is still far away from the articles that need to be followed in the constitution amendment, and that it will take time to discuss the 3,765 recommendations before they are drafted into a bill.

He also suggested there are some differences in terms of essence and direction between the amendment of each paragraph as per provisions 433 and 435 under the State Constitution and the amendment of all provisions in the charter.

He then objected the committee's report with the remark that the need of efforts on amendment may vary from one paragraph to another and



Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 13th regular session is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

insisted the committee should follow the amendment provisions prescribed in chapter 12 of the Constitution and the rules of Hluttaw.

U Kyin Khant Paung, MP of

Chin State constituency 6, suggested that the charter amendment should follow amendment processes of each paragraph in the chapter 12 of Constitution.

The report was also debated by the Pyithu Hluttaw representatives Major Moe Myint Aung, Daw Mar Mar Khaing from Thaton constituency and Major Daw Thuzar Shwe.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat concluded the debate, and announced to inform the date for remaining procedures.

The speaker then sought approval of the Hluttaw for the substitution of Pyithu Hluttaw MP Daw Nan Kham Aye from Namtu constituency with Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Sai Sine Mai from Mongkai constituency for the constitution amendment committee.

Union Taxation Bill 2019

Dr Myat Nyana Soe, the secretary of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee, reported on findings and remarks of his committee regarding the Union

Taxation Bill 2019.

The Speaker then announced to file nomination of MPs who want to discuss the bill.

CRC-OPAC

U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, discussed about the possible ratification of Myanmar in the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (CRC-OPAC).

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The committee should follow the amendment provisions prescribed in chapter 12 of the Constitution and the rules of Hluttaw.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Constitution amendment debate continues on 17th day of Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

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The Minister remarked the ratification in the protocol could reinforce the ongoing efforts of Myanmar to protect and promote the child rights in line with international law and could reflect attempts of the country in the annual report of the UN Secretary General to the Security Council on the children and armed conflicts.

The Speaker then invited to file nomination of MPs who want to discuss the motion.

National Planning Bill and the Union Budget Bill

The MPs also discussed the principle and basic concepts on the National Planning Bill and the Union Budget Bill for 2019-2020 fiscal year.

MP Dr Thet Thet Khaing, Dagon constituency, discussed possible tax reduction, persuasion to tax payers, reduction of interest rates and the flow of currencies for stimulation of rapid economic development in the country.



MP Dr Thet Thet Khaing.
PHOTO:MNA

She also suggested the government to make logical response to the existing economic situation of the country by increasing state investment and public-private cooperation.

MP U Thaung Aye from Pyawbwe constituency discussed the departments concerned need to identify the remarkable gap between the estimated GDP of 2016-2017 fiscal year and the realistic results



MP U Thaung Aye.
PHOTO:MNA

before the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves the bill in line with procedures.

MP Daw Cho Cho from Ottwin constituency pointed out the proposed expenditure of Ministry of Electricity and Energy contributed 25.23 per cent in the list of government bodies for 2019-2020 fiscal year, and recommended the project implementation effectively and efficiently.



MP Daw Cho Cho.
PHOTO:MNA

She also concluded the significant increase of electricity charges is not a totally right solution to address problems in this sector, and suggested the department to do more in disclosing illegal use of electricity.

The principle and basic concepts of these bills were also discussed by Dr Hla Moe from Aungmyethazan constituency, U Tin Tun Naing from

Seikkyi/Khanaunganto constituency, Daw Yin Min Hlaing from Gangaw constituency, U Ye Htut from Sagaing Region constituency 5, Dr Lin Lin Kyaw from Myittha constituency, U Myint Naing from Rakhine State constituency 5, Major Zay Phyo of Tatmadaw representative from Pyithu Hluttaw, U Pe Than from Myebon constituency, Dr Khun Win Thaung from Kachin State constituency 11, Lt-Col Moe Kyaw of Tatmadaw representatives from Pyithu Hluttaw, U Bo Gyi from Chauk constituency, U Thein Tun from Thabaung constituency, U Kyin Khant Paung from Chin State constituency 6, Major Kyaw Kyaw of Tatmadaw representative from Pyithu Hluttaw, U Myo Zaw Oo from Lewe constituency and U Kyaw Ni Naing from Shan State constituency 11. The 18th day meeting of Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 13th regular session will be held on 30th August—Aung Ye Thwin and Aye Aye Thant ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Legal Translation Commission holds 5th meeting in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Legal Translation Commission held its 5th meeting at the office of Union Attorney-General yesterday morning.

U Tun Tun Oo, the Union Attorney-General, presided over the meeting, and confirmed that the fourth meeting of the commission could finalize publication of five legal books in

near future as these documents have been translated from English to Myanmar.

The commission has already published two Myanmar language legal books and two more books are expected to come out soon thanks to the collaborative efforts of committee members.

He also added the commis-

sion is now translating 13 legal books into Myanmar language and the remaining 43 books will be continued after completing the ongoing assignment.

The meeting was attended by the members of commission and invited guests, and it will be in progress on 29 August.

—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo addresses the meeting of Legal Translation Commission in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO:MNA

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint leaves for Timor-Leste to attend 20th Anniversary of Referendum

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint and Director-General U Ye Naing are seen off by officials at the Yangon International Airport. PHOTO:MNA

AS the Special Envoy of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint left Yangon for the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste yesterday to attend the 20th Anniversary of the Referendum of Timor-Leste in Dili.

The Union Minister flew to Dili, Timor-Leste, via Sin-

gapore and Bali of Indonesia and will attend the 20th Anniversary of the Referendum of Timor-Leste held in Dili on 30 August.

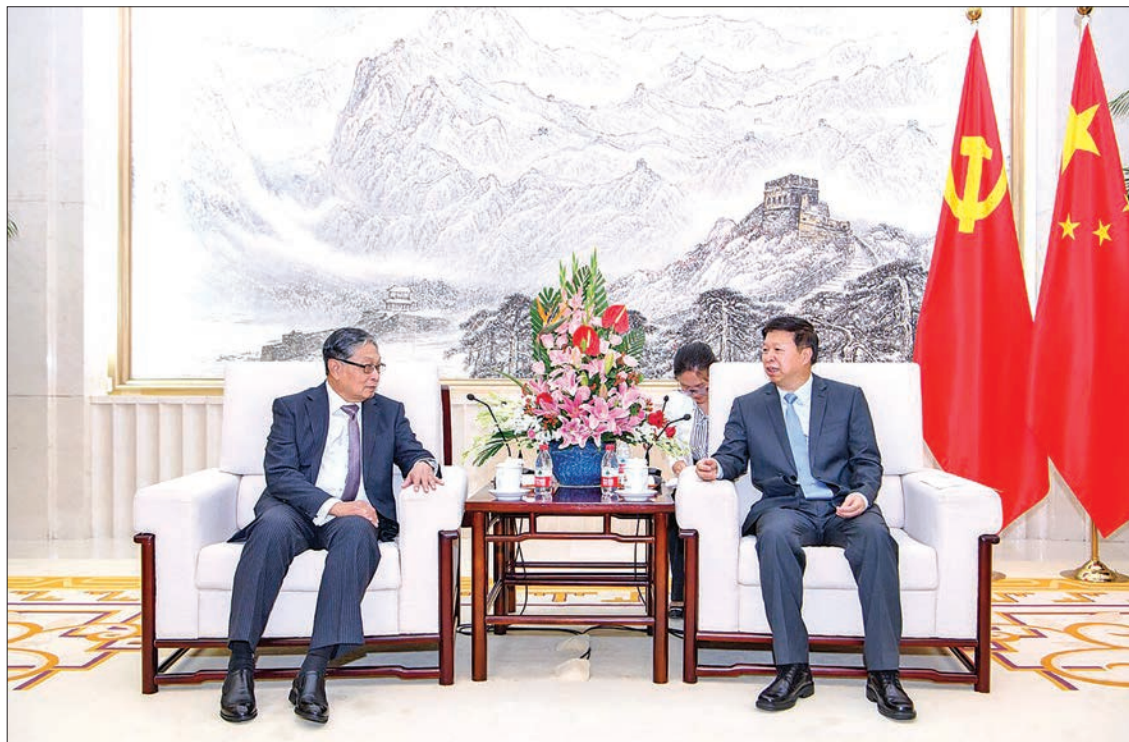
The Union Minister was accompanied by U Ye Naing, Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department.—MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)

Union Minister for Office of the State Counsellor visits China

U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, visited China from August 27 to 28, 2019. In the evening of the 27th August, he called on Mr Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. They exchanged views on matters of mutual interests to further promote the Pauk-phaw

relations. They reiterated the desire of both countries to cooperate with each other in all sectors and to intensify them during the forthcoming 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between two countries. In the evening, the Union Minister attended a dinner hosted by Minister Mr Song Tao.—MNA



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe meets with Mr Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, on 27 August. PHOTO: MNA

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut receives Vice Chairman Prof Seiji Osawa



Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut holds talks with Professor Seiji Osawa, Vice Chairman of the Otsuma Women's University at the Ministry's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

DEPUTY MINISTER for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut received Professor Seiji Osawa, the Vice Chairman of the Otsuma Women's University, and party at the meeting hall of the Ministry's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters related to measures being taken by the Ministry of Border Affairs for the human resource development of the youths in the underdeveloped border areas, doing research on health, physical growth and fitness of the students in cooperation with experts from the Otsuma

Women's University and the University for the Development of the National Races of the Union, upgrading the university museum, doing a research on survival and socio-economic development of the youths dwelling in the border areas, promotion of human resources, doing more research on youth development and promotion of human resource development jointly conducted between the two universities in the future and bilateral cooperation. — MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Project planning workshop on rural development, poverty reduction among LMC countries through exchanges held in Nay Pyi Taw

A PROJECT planning workshop on "Promoting Alliances on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication among the LMC Countries through exchanges" was held yesterday at the M Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. The workshop aimed at drawing up plans that include arranging study tours and sharing experiences and knowledge on rural development and poverty reduction among the Mekong-Lancang countries that are comprised of Cambodia, China, Lao, Myanmar, Viet

Nam and Thailand. At the workshop, Dr Khin Zaw, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, and Deputy Director-General U Win Zeyar Tun who is Vice Chairman of the National Coordination Unit of Mekong-Lancang Cooperation delivered opening remarks. Participants and members of Mekong-Lancang cooperation countries took part in the discussion and exchanged their views on rural development and poverty reduction. The par-

ticipants discussed future work plans and budget measures. The second Mekong-Lancang cooperation special fund was established by the China and some 23 schemes had been proposed with a view to carry out the development of agriculture, livestock and rural development sectors. Some 12 schemes, out of 23, were selected as one of the procedures included in the agriculture and poverty reduction programme. —MNA (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Khin Zaw delivers the opening speech at the workshop on "Promoting Alliances on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication among the LMC Countries through exchanges" in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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Holy umbrella hoisted atop Myanmar pagoda in Sweden

A HOLY umbrella was attached to the top of Myanmar pagoda at Hjortkvarn in Örebro County, Sweden, last month.

The umbrella hoisting ceremony at Sabbajaya Mingalar pagoda was held in the compound of Ti Ratana Monastery, together with occasions of enshrining at the upper portion of pagoda, paying homage to the holy umbrella in procession, consecration of the pagoda, offering alms food, rice, offertories and robes to the members of Sangha.

The ceremonies were attended by Ashin Sobana and Ashin Sunandalankara who are the Buddhist missionary monks in Sweden, the 19 invited

monks from Norway, Denmark, Finland, France, Britain and Sweden, Myanmar Ambassador to Sweden U Kyaw Swa Min, Sri Lankan Ambassador to Sweden Mr Sudantha Ganegama and former Swedish Honorary Consul Dr Myint Han who is the patronage of the pagoda.

Sri Lankan monk Bhante K Siri Dhammaratana Maha Thera from the Stockholm Buddhist Vihara, Swedish Honorary Consul Daw Pwint Mar Han and the Buddhist devotees from Myanmar and European countries were also present at the occasions.

Ashin Sobana established the Ti Ratana Monastery, with



Devotees attend the consecration ceremony and hoisting of the holy umbrella atop the Sabbajaya Mingalar pagoda at Hjortkvarn in Örebro County, Sweden. **PHOTO: MNA**

the funds of Buddhist well-wishers from Myanmar and Swe-

den in 2013, while construction of the pagoda was started

in November 2017.—MNA
■ (Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Minister U Thein Swe receives Chief of Mission of IOM



Union Minister U Thein Swe meets with Mr Akio Nakayama, Chief of Mission of IOM at the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe received Mr Akio Nakayama, Chief of Mission of IOM, at the meeting hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they exchanged views and discussed issues relating to the second five-year national level framework for international migrant workers management, boosting the effects of migration development through sound migration governance, conducting educational training for safe migration to the potential migrants and their families in the

regions and states prior to their migration in accordance with MILDAS Project, conducting financial management and skills empowerment training classes, cooperation in joining jobs, opening courses for managing the benefits of migration and financial management conducted for the migrants and their family members, issues to be discussed with works groups regarding the work plan sent from IOM that has been agreeded in principle, measure being taken to work extensively for the MRC offices.—MNA ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Illegal drugs seized in Yangon, An, Minbya townships

POLICE have seized over 2.6 million illegal drugs in Yangon, An and Minbya townships in three days, according to Myanmar Police Force-MPF.

On 25 August, acting on a tip-off, anti-narcotics police confiscated 400 stimulant tablets from Htut Aung Lwin and Kyi Khaing outside Myanmar Plaza in Yangon.

Additionally, Ma Aye Aye Win (a) Su Hlaing who sold the drugs to them was arrested together with 168,800 stimulant tablets in her house in Zalun Street, Sangyaung Township.

Police also arrested Ma Kh-

iang Khaing and Naing Naing Tun, together with 6,780 stimulant tablets in their house in Yadana Housing in Dagon Seikan Township as suspect Ma Aye Aye Win reported that she had bought the drugs from them.

On 26 August, about one million illegal drugs mixed with clothing in seven woven plastic sacks were confiscated on a Yangon-Sittway bus in Aung Mingalar Highway Bus Terminal.

About 750,000 stimulant tablets in five woven plastic sacks were seized from a passenger bus at the inspection

gate of An Township, and 749,975 stimulant tablets were confiscated from a car near Yama Bridge in Minbya Township.

According to suspect, Ma Khaing Khaing, being induced by AA group, they became the members of AA group while they were illegally working in Thailand. They then traded illegal drugs to get funds and for recruitments. They carried illegal drugs for five times the suspect confessed.

Police are investigating to capture more suspects in connection with the case.—MNA
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Photo shows seized over 2.6 million illegal drugs in Yangon, An and Minbya townships. **PHOTO: MPF**

YRIC clears ten foreign projects in manufacturing sector



Yangon Region Investment Committee permits ten foreign projects at the meeting yesterday. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee gave the green light to ten foreign projects from China, Hong Kong, and the British Virgin Islands, with an estimated capital of US\$10.65 million, in a

meeting held yesterday.

Those enterprises will be engaged in the manufacturing sector, and they are expected to create over 4,200 jobs, according to a press release issued by the YRIC.

The manufacturing sector has attracted the most foreign investments in Yangon Region, with funds flowing into enterprises engaged in the production of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, container boxes, and Cutting,

Making, and Packing (CMP) garments.

Since its establishment, the YRIC has approved a total of 204 domestic and foreign projects in the sectors of manufacturing, hotel services, and other services from China, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, India, China (Taipei), Malaysia, the British Virgin Islands, and Seychelles.

During the 2017-2018 (August-March) fiscal year, the YRIC permitted 39 foreign and 9 domestic firms to invest in the Yangon Region, with a capital of \$56.6 million and K23 billion, creating 22,481 jobs.

From April to September, 2018, the YRIC permitted 44 proposals from 34 foreign and 10 domestic enterprises, with a total pledged amount of \$72.5 million and K21.26 billion. A total of 21,173 jobs were created through those

projects.

Between 1 October and 26 June in the 2018-2019FY, the YRIC endorsed projects proposed by 113 foreign and 17 domestic enterprises, with a capital of \$190.48 million and K33.97 billion, creating over 67,542 jobs.

Among the regions and states, Yangon Region absorbs 60 per cent of the investments, while Mandalay attracts 30 per cent. The other regions and states get only a small share of investments, according to statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

To simplify the verification process of investment projects, the Myanmar Investment Law allows the Region and State Investment Committees to endorse local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or \$5 million. ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Striped catfish farming shares to yield 15% dividend for 10 years: MFF

BY Aye Yamone

THE Global Earth Public Co Ltd, which is implementing a striped catfish farming project in the country, has announced that it will offer a dividend of at least 15 per cent for 10 years to shareholders, said Dr Toe Nandar Tin, the senior vice chairperson of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

She made the remarks at the 15th regular meeting of fisheries sector entrepreneurs, which was held on 27 August at the Myanmar Fisheries Federation in Yangon.

Shares worth a total of K5 billion will be issued by the company. The shares will be issued beginning October. If shareholders wish to relinquish shares, they will be refunded, said Dr Toe Nandar Tin.

“Each share will be worth K10,000, and shareholders will have to buy a minimum of 100 shares (worth K1 million). We would like to invite everyone to participate so that we can work most effectively. We will give a dividend of at least 15 per cent for ten years. As you know, the

bank interest rate is 10 per cent only. So, the dividend we are offering is higher than the bank interest. After one year, investors holding shares worth K100 million will earn K15 million in profit. We can guarantee this percentage for 10 years. Actually, this percentage is a minimum one, but we have plans to offer a higher percentage when we make a higher profit,” she added.

“After formulating the company prospectus, we will submit it to the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM), and with its recommendation, register with the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). The SECM will, thereafter, grant us permission to sell shares. A striped catfish market, fish viscera production and sale market, fish feed production and sale market will also be undertaken,” said Dr Toe Nandar Tin.

“We plan to invite shareholders from October. We cannot provide a profit of 15

per cent from the fish farming sector alone. So, we need to implement fishery-related businesses, including fish viscera production and fish feed production,” she added.

The Global Earth Public Co Ltd has started breeding at 12 striped catfish farms, and each farm is worth US\$500,000.

The land for the project has been assessed by the Permanent Secretary and officials from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, on behalf of the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC), for its environmental impact. After the inspection team cleared the project, the MIC endorsed Global Earth in the first month of 2019.

“The striped catfish project is being implemented on over 900 acres of land in Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Region. With this farming project, we will build feed factories and cold storage factories. A total of \$200 million will be initially invested in the project,” said Dr Toe Nandar Tin. ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Fishery exports touch \$659.7 mln from 1 Oct, 2018 to 16 Aug, 2019

BETWEEN 1 October and 16 August in the current financial year, export earnings from the fishery sector rose to US\$659.79 million from \$626 million in the year-ago period, according to statistics released by the Commerce Ministry. Myanmar exports fishery products such as fish, prawns, and crabs to markets in 40 countries, including the European Union countries, China, Saudi Arabia, the US, Japan, Singapore, and Thailand.

Earlier, only fish caught in the wild were permitted entry into the EU market. Now, Myanmar is exporting farmed fish, prawns, and crabs to the EU.

The Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) is making concerted efforts to increase fishery export earnings by developing fish farming lakes which meet the international standard and adopt-

ing advanced fishing techniques.

There are 480,000 acres of fish and prawn breeding farms across the country, and Myanmar earned over \$717 million from the export of fishery products in the previous fiscal year, according to MFF data. The federation has asked the government to tackle problems faced in the export of farmed fish and prawns through G2G pacts and ensure smooth freight movement between countries to bolster exports. According to the MFF, integrated poultry and fish farming cannot ensure food safety, which is a requirement for export. Therefore, the federation has asked for the formulation of a law to restrict such mixed farming. Fish farming needs to be conducted on a large-scale to avail Project Bank loans, according to the MFF.—GNLM ■ (Translated by EMM)



Labourers processing fish for export at a marine product factory. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Drowned Old Kyunhla Town re-emerges, thronged with visitors

OLD Kyunhla Town, which was submerged by the Thaphanseik dam, has been crowded with visitors ever since it re-emerged, according to visitors.

"The significant landmarks of the Indine village, including the well, graves, schools, pagodas and roads, became visible after the water level in the dam declined. The clock tower in the submerged Kyunhla township had collapsed recently. During the construction of the Thaphanseik dam in 1996, the residents of Kyunhla Town and 73 villages, including Indine Village, were relocated. Earlier, Indine villagers earned a good income from pea cultivation," said Ko Htet, a resident of Kyunhla Town.

Although the Thaphanseik dam is helping generate revenue for the country and is improving the livelihood of the residents in Shwebo District, the residents relocated from Kyunhla Town said they are not enjoying any benefits from the dam. The gov-



People visit pagoda in old Kyunhla Town submerged by the Thaphanseik dam.

PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)

ernment compensated villagers for their farmlands, but the new lands allotted to them are not suitable for farming, they said.

"While relocating to another place, we faced difficulties due to the land. Young people

left the village to pursue other job opportunities," said Ko Htain from old Kyunhla Town.

Ahead of the construction of the Thaphanseik dam in Sagaing Region, the residents of Kyunhla Town and 73 villages

were moved out. The pagodas, temples, buildings, clock tower, and other structures in old Kyunhla Town were submerged after the dam was completed. — Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■

*(Translated by La Wonn)***Floods affect over 700 acres of fish farms in Kayin, Mon; losses pegged at K280 mln**

By Aye Yamone

OVER 700 acres of fish farms have suffered losses to the tune of K280 million in Kayin and Mon states due to floods triggered by heavy rainfall in recent days, said U Win Kyaing, the general secretary of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

He made the remarks at the 15th regular meeting of fisheries sector entrepreneurs, held on 27 August at the Myanmar Fisheries Federation in Yangon.

"This year, flooding has occurred in Kayin and Mon states in the southern region of Myanmar. Some people have been adversely affected by the floods, while some have lost their lives in landslides. In the fisheries sector, a total of 703 acres of fish farms have witnessed flooding in Kayin State, with fish farming losses estimated to exceed K250 million. Although Mon State experienced flooding, there are few fish farms in the state, with the result that there were fewer losses. Only 79 acres of fish farms were flooded in Mon State, with losses estimated at K79.6 million," said U Win Kyaing.

Fish farming ponds in

Yangon, Ayeyawady, and Bago regions are also prone to flooding during heavy rainfall and extraordinarily high tides in Ayeyawady River. The Chindwin River also floods towns and villages along its banks when

are only occasional rainfalls and storms.

If there is any damage to fish farms in the regions and states due to flooding, the department will supply fingerlings from state-owned hatching

If there is any damage to fish farms in the regions and states due to flooding, the department will supply fingerlings from state-owned hatching camps across the country: Fisheries Department

there is heavy rainfall. As the authorities have urged the people in these regions and states to take preventive measures for safety and reduction of damages, now, local residents have suffered less and recovered from those situations, said U Win Kyaing.

"Now, those regions are safe. Next time, if those regions are flooded by heavy rains, damages are expected to be less severe," he added.

Earlier, floods occurred mostly in August. Now, that situation has improved, and there

are only occasional rainfalls and storms.

The department is mostly breeding rohu, barb, and mrigal fish. If fish farms are damaged by flooding, the department will supply fingerlings free-of-cost, after conducting a survey in cooperation with the related departments.

"The department will provide one-and-a-half inch long fish. One acre of fish farms will be provided 3,000 fish. The department will demand K8 per fish for 703 acres of fish farms.

Fish farm owners said that they have lost fish worth nearly K130 million. The losses are calculated by the fish size. But, the owners want calculations to be done based on the number of fish. In Kayin State, nearly K500 million worth of farms were damaged," said Dr Aung Myint, the president of the Kayin State Fisheries Federation.

Floods have been worsening in Myanmar since 2015. The scale of damage increased in 2015 and 2016. In 2017, only a few regions were flooded, and the damage to fish and prawns was lower.

In 2015, fish farms worth K34,720 from five regions and over 58,600 acres of prawn farms in Rakhine State were damaged. The farming losses were estimated at around K50 billion.

In 2018, a total of 1,044 acres of fish and prawn farms were damaged in Kungyangon township and over 64 acres in Kawhu township of Yangon region, 1,291 acres in Bago township and 35 acres in Nyaunglebin township of Bago Region, and over 800 acres in Kayin State, according to the MFF. ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Thai PM calls on rich not to steal welfare cards from poor

BANGKOK — Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha on Wednesday called on the rich not to virtually steal welfare cards from the impoverished people.

Prayut said that those who may have a large house or a large plot of land of their own or a handsome amount of cash at their disposal albeit without depositing it at banks would not be considered as the poor people and thus should not apply for welfare cards.

Categorized as low-income earners, an estimated 14.6 mil-

lion people have been given welfare cards with which each of them can withdraw a supplementary 500 baht (about 16.33 U.S. dollars) in cash for this month and another 500 baht for next month.

The taxpayers' money, handed out as part of the government's 316 billion baht (about 10.32 billion U.S. dollars) economic stimulus measures, was primarily meant to be spent in a province which is not the one declared in the welfare card holder's home census paper to

promote domestic consumption and tourism during the second half of this year.

"Some rich people may wish to get welfare cards like poor people, excusing that they have no money in the bank. But they cannot be that poor with a large mansion or some land in their possession." "The rich should not apply otherwise the opportunity for the poor might be denied. The government does not have so much money for everyone to spend up," Prayut said.—Xinhua ■



Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha. PHOTO: AFP



Papuans take part in a rally in front of the presidential palace and army headquarters in Jakarta on Aug 28, 2019, in the latest protest after riots and demonstrations last week brought several Papuan cities in eastern Indonesia to a standstill. PHOTO: AFP

Indonesian soldier, 2 civilians killed in Papua clash

JAKARTA — A soldier and two civilians were killed and at least 16 other people were injured Wednesday in a protest that turned violent in Indonesia's restive province of Papua, according to the police and military.

National Police spokesman Dedi Prasetyo said the incident happened after a group of 150 activists staged a rally in Papua's Deiyai Regency calling for a referendum on independence.

While negotiations were under way between the protesters and police and military personnel, "thousands of people suddenly came, carrying sharp weapons and arrows, and attacked our security personnel," Dedi told

reporters. One soldier was killed while two other soldiers and four policemen were injured by arrows fired by the mob, according to the spokesman.

Meanwhile, Papua Police spokesman Anton Ampang said he had received the latest report saying that two civilians were also killed. Lt. Col. Eko Daryanto, spokesman for Papua's Cendrawasih Military Regional Command, separately said that 10 civilians were injured, without giving further details.

According to Ampang, the attack was a continuation of riots and demonstrations that broke out in several Papuan cities last week.—Kyodo News

Hong Kong aviation staff axed for supporting anti-bill protest

HONG KONG — At least 20 people in Hong Kong's aviation industry have been sacked for sympathizing with anti-extradition bill protesters following earlier warnings from China's aviation regulator, a workers union said Tuesday.

The employees, including pilots, air crew and ground staff of different airlines and workers at the Airport Authority, were fired since the Civil Aviation Administration of China issued a warning on Aug. 9 to flagship carrier Cathay Pacific about the risks of aviation safety posed by staff who joined or supported illegal protests, violent or radical activities.

"I have never done anything wrong," Rebecca Sy, a 17-year veteran air crew member and chairwoman of the flight attendants' union of Hong Kong Dragon Airlines, a subsidiary of

Cathay Pacific, told hundreds of people who rallied in the Central business district for free speech. Sy was fired without being told of the reason last week after the management questioned her over several posts on her Facebook social account that were deemed to be supporting of the movement.

"We have never faced any disciplinary action from the company. How come now they would just terminate me without any valid reasons but simply showing me those printouts of my own private Facebook account. It's ridiculous," she said.

Carol Ng, chairwoman of the Confederation of Trade Unions that organizes the "Stop Terrorizing CX Staff" rally, criticized the aviation regulator for imposing political persecution in the name of protecting aviation safety.—Kyodo News ■



Hundreds rally in Hong Kong on Aug. 28, 2019 protesting against the sacking of at least 20 employees in the aviation industry for sympathizing with anti-extradition bill protesters following earlier warnings from China's aviation regulator. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Reforms key for transformation of state-run factories to bear fruit

MYANMAR has begun the shift towards a market-oriented economy, which is better suited to a democratic system.

In a democracy, all businesses, except those that are critical to the country, are run by the private sector, and that helps reduce the burden on the government.

Myanmar, which was under centralized control in the past, is facing challenges in pushing economic reforms forward, and this has been evident in the government's efforts to transform state-run factories into joint ventures or privatize them.

The status of employees in factories, which have ceased operation and have been turned into joint ventures or privatized,

remains an area of concern for the government as the workers cannot be transferred to the private sector, nor can they be forced to retire. The situation often results in a deadlock.

On 27 August at the Pyithu Hlutta, the Ministry of Industry reiterated its commitment to successfully transform its factories and show results in the near future, which is cause for hope.

Under the umbrella of state-owned enterprises, the functions of all the sectors are being carried out by policy makers, regulators, public services, and commercial services — this is a problem of complexity. This situation demands systematic reforms, in accordance with international rules and procedures, through classification of state-owned enterprises. This is an important factor that we need

to consider when we transform factories.

Calculation of pensions for employees comes first when we think about privatizing state-run factories. Besides, as part of efforts for smooth transformation, providing employees with capacity building training and reinstating them at appropriate positions must be considered.

There were a total of 112 factories under the Ministry of Industry, out of which 55 were operated under a private-public cooperation program. Of these 55 factories, two were joint ventures, three were under win-win cooperation, and 50 were on a long-term lease. The remaining 57 factories were operated as state-owned factories.

It is good to know that the Ministry of Industry is planning to step up efforts for the transformation of factories, with definite and clear policies, rules, and technical assistance to boost the productivity of the private sector.

We also welcome the ministry's pledge to review the transformation, including the current win-win businesses, take a suitable approach which can benefit the State, and manage local and foreign debt owned by state-run factories effectively, in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning and Finance and other institutions.

We hope that the fruitful results of the transformation efforts by the Ministry of Industry are seen in the near future.



Rid the scourge of deforestation

By U Maung Hlaing

THE *Global New Light of Myanmar* of 6 August 2019 conveyed a news item with the title of "Indonesian man walking in reverse to save forests". According to the news, an Indonesian man is walking 700 kilometres (43 miles) from his home on a volcano in East Java to Jakarta in the hope of drawing attention to the archipelago's quickly shrinking forests—and he is doing it backwards.

The man, called Medi Bastoni walks 20 to 30 kilometres backwards every day under the scorching sun, with a rear-view mirror attached to his backpack to avoid bumping into objects. Walking backwards is meant as a signal to Indonesians to know that Indonesia is suffering from one of the high rates of deforestation in the world.

We can see so many kinds of demonstrators who try to draw attention of the people to express their feeling. However, this is an uncommon demonstration that will call people's attention to growing trees in his country.

With much interest, I have also read 'A Geographer's Perspective on the Issues of Climate Change and Global Warming' that appeared in the *GNLM* (14-8-2019). In his article, the author said "...These gases (greenhouse gases) are released through industrial production, burning of fossil fuels (i.e. cars), and deforestation. Obviously, if we want to lower our greenhouse gas emissions, we need to find new sources of energy and replant our forests."

This is a timely warning that makes a clarion call to reforestation. Deforestation, indeed, is posing a serious threat to almost every nation in the world. Because of lack of trees, deforestation is giving rise concern today. Some experts have remarked that deforestation, degradation of soil and desertification have created a new class of displaced people. Deforestation of upland watersheds is the main factor behind the growing severity of floods. Besides, it is one of the causes of global warming that is endangering the whole web of life on Earth.

News items and reports we have read almost every



GRAPHIC IMAGE: BT

day show that more than 100 countries, covering millions of hectares, are seriously affected by deforestation. Desertification which is like a disease of the Earth stemming from deforestation seriously affects the vegetative cover of croplands, pastures and woodlands. No one can deny that it also has negative impact on biological diversity, soil fertility, the hydrological cycle, crop yields and livestock production. That is why, leaders of the world nations are now calling for fighting 'illegal deforestation' and 'replanting the forests'.

To be frank, during the last three decades in Myanmar, illegal logging and official extraction of timber have severely depleted forests. According to statistics, the country lost 0.55 per cent of its forest cover between 1990 and 2000, and 1.73 per cent between 2010 and 2015. Due to deforestation, we come to know that we have lost about 546,000 hectares every year. This is not a good result for the future of Myanmar.

In the light of the present situation, we need to educate our younger generations to become tree lovers while the government is making efforts to

To be frank, during the last three decades in Myanmar, illegal logging and official extraction of timber have severely depleted forests. According to statistics, the country lost 0.55 per cent of its forest cover between 1990 and 2000, and 1.73 per cent between 2010 and 2015.

replant forests. Example will be given. 'People will be people' by Cartoon Maung Shwe Win, that appeared in the *Sunday Comics of GNLM*, 18 August 2019 will surely enable the children to know the importance and value of trees. Anyhow, it reminded me of our childhood days.

During our younger days, we were taught the lessons on importance of trees in our classrooms and our teachers led us to grow vegetables and fruit trees in the school precincts. Being the month of July was Arbour Month, whenever July came, we grew trees and landscaping plants in the school compounds and environs to

create a healthy atmosphere. Today, some people may have forgotten the Arbour Month.

Trees, actually, have been on Earth millions of years before man. Since then, they have been serving specific purposes. In every land and all ages, trees have had a profound influence on the progress and welfare of mankind. Without trees, the history of most countries would have been decidedly different. Man is almost entirely dependent upon trees for shelter, sustenance and other essentials of life. Besides, they preserve the earth's atmosphere, regulate the flow of streams, and moderate winds and temper-

atures. In addition to pleasing eyes, they are also ecologically necessary. In this way, trees are an essential component of nature.

Due to the burgeoning population of the world and rapidly increasing tempo of industrial development, the demand for more land has become inevitable and man has to cut trees to meet his basic needs. If tree cutting is excessive, forests shrink, and their capacity to satisfy human needs diminishes. If forests shrink, there may occur an ecological upset with subsequent loss of other species in the botanical as well as zoological worlds. After all, ecological upset may lead to desertification desertification in dry-land areas can eventually turn drylands into unproductive desert like areas.

Regarding trees, as we have been taught these factors since our Childhood, we have become tree lovers.

Local organizations together with the public are actively participating in such activities as planting trees for region wise greening and conservation of forests and bio-diversity as well as protecting endangered wildlife and rare trees are beneficial to our future Earth.

We plant trees because we have joy and satisfaction which cannot be explained to the uninitiated. Planting a seed or sapling and watching it grow makes us enjoy happiness. This happiness makes us young at heart.

Almost anything planted in the ground could grow in the tree planting season of the year. The soil is wet and fertile enough to receive new plants and trees that would be left posterity to care and protect. Man who loves nature enjoys seeing green leaves sprout, flowers bloom, and fruits and vegetables appear. The plants and trees we grow today will certainly make the future world ever green and pleasant.

Our forefathers grew trees for us. We are to do so for our posterity. This unending process should not be interrupted. Greening has more to it than planting trees, be they Arboreal, fruit bearing or flowering. Within or out of the national Arbour Month we must grow more trees.

Drink for a day's joy,
Marry for a month's enjoyment;

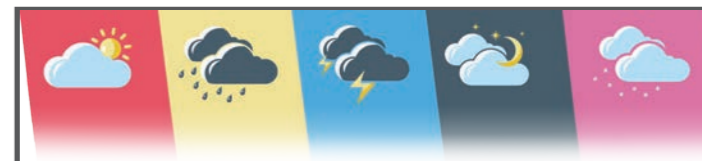
Plant a tree for life -long happiness.

Most of the people know this saying. Some say that it is a Chinese saying. However, others say that its origin is Myanmar. It's no matter to us whether the saying is Myanmar or not. The essence is quite beneficial to the prevention of deforestation. If you want to remove the Disease of the Earth, grow trees. If you want to avoid the evils of the nature, grow trees.

Arbour Month is on the way out. However, we still have tree growing season. Now is the best time to grow trees.

Grow more trees to save our Earth!

(Ref: *The Standard Time Daily*, 7 August 2019)



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 28th August, 2019)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 29th August, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw and Magway Region and Kayah State, fairly widespread in (Northern and Eastern) Shan and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavyfalls in Kayin and Mon States and isolated heavyfalls in Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Chin and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40)mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (8-10) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (5-8) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of increase of rain in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29th August, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29th August, 2019: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29th August, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The *Global New Light of Myanmar* is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the *Global New Light of Myanmar* at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The *Global New Light of Myanmar*

Space X Dragon returns to Earth, bringing scientific samples home

WASHINGTON — The SpaceX Dragon cargo spacecraft has returned to Earth after being released from the International Space Station (ISS) on Tuesday, bringing multiple scientific samples and gears.

The spacecraft left the space station at 10:59 a.m. American Eastern Time, starting its nearly 6-hour journey home.

It splashed down in the Pacific Ocean at 4:21 p.m. American Eastern Time, approximately 300 miles (483

kilometers) southwest of Long Beach, California, according to US space agency NASA.

A recovery ship is expected to retrieve the capsule from the sea. SpaceX, NASA's cargo provider, launched the spacecraft on 25 July, packed with about 2,268 kg of research, crew supplies and vehicle hardware, in a resupply mission to the ISS.

The spacecraft carried over 1,200 kg of experimental materials and other cargo back from the space station.—Xinhua ■



This May 11, 2016, NASA TV frame grab shows the SpaceX Dragon cargo ship at the end of the Canada arm prior to release for departure from the International Space Station. **PHOTO: AFP**

US startups look to Japan's graying population

NEW YORK — US startups focusing on elder care products and services are tapping into the graying Japanese market, where more than 35 million people are over the age of 65.

Seismic, a California-based apparel company, hopes to expand in Japan with its "Powered Clothing," a body suit using robotics and sensor technology inside garments to mimic human movements and increase strength.

The body suit is meant for all ages but Seismic has found particular success with elderly people who enjoy sports and travel in the United States, where the population is also graying.

The number of people aged 65 and older is projected to grow from 52 million in 2018 to 95 million by 2060 in the United States, according to the Population Reference Bureau.

In November, Seismic partnered with Obayashi Corp. to provide its construction workers with the suits.

The high-tech gear helps support various manual labor positions that demand a lot of physical exertion.

Seismic Vice President Sarah Thomas said the company plans to release Powered Clothing in Japan by next year.

Its first showroom in Japan, opened in June, was kept open an extra month through 11 September due to positive business reactions.—Kyodo News ■

Exhibition on Leonardo da Vinci to be held in Beijing

BEIJING — An exhibition titled "Leonardo da Vinci and His Circle" will open at the Art Museum of the Central Academy of Fine Arts on Sept. 12 as part of the global commemoration of the 500th anniversary of Renaissance master Leonardo da Vinci's death.

Da Vinci was a genius driven by insatiable curiosity that led him to explore ideas in science, math, architecture, design, engineering, geology, cartography, sculpting, drawing and, of course,

painting. His surviving body of work as a painter is remarkably slim. Fewer than 20 artworks can be comfortably attributed to him, although two of them — "Mona Lisa" and "The Last Supper" — are among the most famous in the world.

The exhibition, which runs till Dec. 8, will display not only valuable original artworks by Da Vinci, but also the works by his students and followers.—Xinhua ■



12 September this year marks the 500th anniversary of Renaissance master Leonardo da Vinci's death. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

UNESCO head says "comfort women" listing depends on Japan, S. Korea

PARIS — The decision on whether to add documents related to so-called comfort women, who were forced into Japanese wartime brothels, to the Memory of the World heritage program rests on Japan and South Korea, the head of UNESCO said recently in a written interview with Kyodo News.

"Progress on this issue depends on the willingness of the parties involved," said Audrey Azoulay, director general of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in her first interview with Japanese media since taking office in November 2017.

UNESCO postponed in October 2017 a decision on the listing of documents linked to the women that had been submitted for registration by groups from China and South Korea.

Azoulay expressed the de-

sire to respect the wishes of both Japan and South Korea, which have opposing views on whether the documents should be listed.

"On many issues, not just this program, it seems to me essential to reduce political tensions in order to focus UNESCO on its mandate," said Azoulay.

"We count on their cooperation to achieve sustainable solutions," she added, calling for Japan and South Korea to reach a resolution.

The Paris-based organization began revising its registration process last year following sharp criticism from Japan regarding the 2015 listing of Chinese documents related to the 1937 Nanjing Massacre.

Discussions for revisions drafted by a working group comprised of member states are currently under way.—Kyodo News ■

Lovers of Tuscany's 'paradise' beach have factory to thank

Rosignano Solvay-Castiglione (Italy) — Holidaymakers splash in the turquoise waters of the Rosignano Solvay beach in Tuscany and laze on its pristine white sands — most of them fully aware that the picture-perfect swimming spot owes its allure to a nearby factory.

"I discovered it on Google Maps," said Dutch tourist Lieuya, who travelled to the beach with his family to enjoy a setting more

reminiscent of the Caribbean than of northern Italy. "I was told it's not dangerous, that the colour comes from the soda factory next door," he told AFP. Questions have lingered for decades over why the sea and sand are such startling colours — with some environmentalists suggesting the phenomenon is caused by heavy metals emitted by the plant.

The beach, about four kilometres (two-and-a-half miles)

long, is named after the Solvay factory, which produces soda ash for making glass as well as sodium bicarbonate, or baking soda. The plant strenuously denies polluting the surrounding coastline. Tourists taking a dip or settling down in beach chairs for a light pasta lunch are not worried about the striking contrast between the waters off Rosignano Solvay and those of the nearby Monte alla Rena beach.—AFP ■



Tourists swim in the waters off the "Spiagge Bianche" (white sand) beach, in Rosignano Solvay, a town in Italy's central Tuscany region, on July 31, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Denmark halts aquaculture development over environment concerns

COPENHAGEN — Denmark said Monday it will stop development of its fish farming industry at sea, which has widely been criticised for its harmful impact on the environment.

“Denmark has reached the limit of the number of fish that can be raised at sea without endangering the environment... We must be a green pioneer, including fish farming,” Environment Minister Lea Wermelin said in a statement.

The move means that the government will put an end to developing new aquaculture projects in the country but its 19 existing fish farms will not be affected.

The measure has been hailed by environmental groups who deplore the pollution caused by aquaculture production.



File photo: Henning Bagger/Ritzau Scanpix. PHOTO: AFP

But fish farming officials have slammed the move, which they say will harm the flourishing industry. “It’s a serious setback,”

said the head of the Danish aquaculture federation, Brian Thomsen. “We thought about establishing offshore farms but now

it’s impossible.” The federation estimates annual exports are worth 1.5 billion kroner (over \$222 million/200 million euros).—AFP

Trump denies report he wanted to nuke hurricanes

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump on Monday denied an Axios report that he wanted to drop nuclear bombs on hurricanes before they made landfall in the United States, calling it “ridiculous”.

During a briefing, Trump asked if it would be possible to disrupt hurricanes forming off the coast of Africa by dropping a nuclear bomb in the eye of the storm, a report on the Axios website said on Sunday.

According to an anonymous source, the news website said that attendees left the hurricane briefing thinking, “What do we do with this?”

Axios did not say when this conversation took place.

But Trump slammed the story, calling it “fake news,” in his latest swipe at the media.

“The story by Axios that President Trump wanted to blow up large hurricanes with nuclear weapons prior to reaching shore is ridiculous. I never said this. Just more FAKE NEWS!” he tweeted.

The White House declined to comment on the report earlier, but Axios quoted a senior administration official as saying Trump’s “objective is not bad.”

Axios said the president had previously made a similar suggestion in a 2017 conversation, asking a senior official whether

the administration should bomb hurricanes to prevent them making landfall.

Trump did not specify in 2017 that nuclear bombs be used.

The idea of bombing hurricanes is not a new one — and was originally proposed by a government scientist in the 1950s under President Dwight Eisenhower.

Since then it has continued to pop up, even though scientists agree it would not work. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has a page dedicated to the concept.

“During each hurricane season, there always appear suggestions that one should simply use nuclear weapons to try and destroy the storms,” the NOAA said. Not only would a bomb not alter a storm, the winds would quickly spread radioactive fallout over nearby land, NOAA added.—AFP ■



FILE PHOTO: The Hurricane Irma, which made landfall on 6 September, 2017, laid waste to Caribbean islands like St Martin which is shared between the Netherlands and France. PHOTO: AFP

US city to replace lead pipes that sparked water crisis

NEW YORK — US officials announced a \$120 million plan to replace old pipes blamed for high lead levels in a major city, as they moved to defuse a growing water crisis Monday.

Thousands of residents in the predominantly black and Hispanic city of Newark, New Jersey, have been drinking only

bottled water this month after an environment agency found lead levels were not safe.

The crisis highlighted creaking infrastructure in an urban center and drew comparisons with a water crisis in the former industrial city of Flint, Michigan, which became a symbol of social injustice in America.

Mayor Ras Baraka told a press conference that the city had secured a loan to replace approximately 18,000 pipes over the next 24 to 30 months.

“We are anticipating that no one will have to pay anything to get their lead service lines replaced,” he said. Newark’s 280,000 residents were told earlier this

month to just drink bottled water after the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found filters were not extracting lead properly.

Local politicians struggled to quickly resolve the crisis — the first warning signs of which came in 2017 — and even called on President Donald Trump to step in.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stone wall atop Mt. Fuji roped off in wake of Russian woman’s death

KOFU — A stonemasonry wall at a shrine near the summit of Mt. Fuji was roped off on Tuesday, a day after a falling rock hit and killed a Russian climber.

The woman has been identified by police as Anna Dubrovina, 29, a resident of Tokyo’s Shinagawa Ward. While there have been no reports of rocks falling from the stonemasonry, the measure was taken to prevent people from climbing the wall at the shrine on Japan’s tallest mountain, according to the Yamanashi prefectural government. It remains unclear from where the rock that killed Dubrovina was dislodged.

Last fall, stonemasonry at the shrine on the 3,776-meter volcano collapsed following a typhoon and was temporarily covered by nets.—Kyodo News ■

Brazil rejects G7 aid to fight Amazon wildfires

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil on Monday turned down aid from the Group of Seven (G7) member states to fight the ongoing devastating wildfires in the Amazon rainforest.

The countries made the 20-million-US-dollar aid offer at the G7 summit hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron in the French seaside resort of Biarritz.

Macron proposed that the member countries take part in fighting the fire. “We appreciate (the offer), but maybe those resources are more relevant to reforest Europe,” Brazil’s G1 news website quoted Onyx Lorenzoni, chief of staff to Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, as saying. “Macron cannot even avoid a foreseeable fire in a church that is a world heritage site,” he added, referring to the fire in April that devastated the Notre-Dame cathedral. “What does he intend to teach our country?”

Although Brazil owns some 60 per cent of the Amazon rainforest, the forest also covers eight other countries or territories, including the French overseas territory of Guiana on the northeast coast of South America.

—Xinhua ■

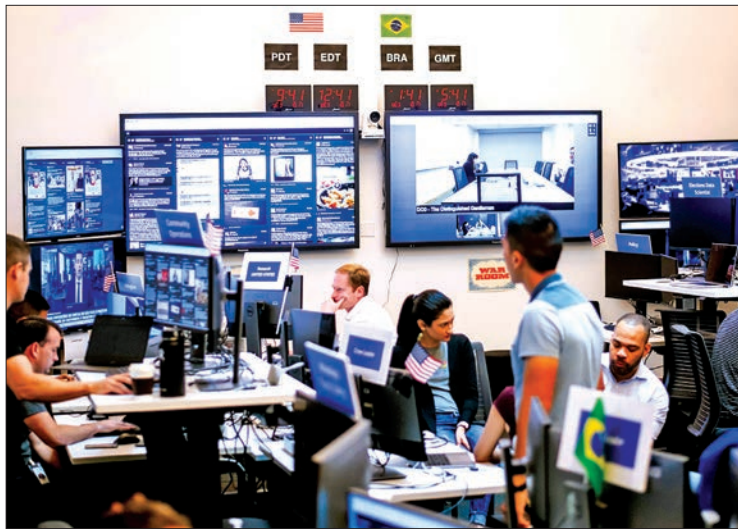
Facebook tightens rules for political ads ahead of US elections

WASHINGTON — Facebook said Wednesday it would tighten its rules for political advertising ahead of the 2020 US elections, notably by requiring more information about who is paying for campaign messages.

The move is the latest by Facebook to crack down on efforts to deceive or manipulate users after the social network admitted lapses in the 2016 election.

While Facebook has already begun requiring political advertisers to provide identification to confirm who they are and where they are located, the new policy requires more information to show they are registered with the US government.

This new verification can



Facebook established a "War Room," to root out misinformation during the 2018 elections. **PHOTO: AFP**

be done by submitting a tax identification number or proof that the group is registered with the Federal Election Com-

mission. "People should know who is trying to influence their vote and advertisers shouldn't be able to cover up who is pay-

ing for ads," a Facebook blog post said.

The new steps call for "strengthening the authorization process for US advertisers, showing people more information about each advertiser and updating our list of social issues" for advertisers.

Facebook said organizations that fail to submit the verification will see their ads "paused" by mid-October. Smaller businesses or local politicians unable to meet the new requirements may still be able to place ads on Facebook by providing a verifiable phone number and mailing address or personal information, but the ads will not be tagged as being from a "confirmed organization."—AFP ■

DNA to solve mystery of Napoleon's general lost in Russia

MOSCOW — Archaeologists are set to unveil the answer to a 200-year-old question over the remains of a French general who died during Napoleon's 1812 campaign in Russia.

Charles Etienne Gudin was hit by a cannonball in the Battle of Valutino on August 19 near Smolensk, a city west of Moscow close to the border with Belarus.

His leg was amputated and he died three days later from gangrene, aged 44.

The French army cut out his heart, now buried at the Pere Lachaise cemetery in Paris, but the site of the rest of his remains was never known, until researchers found a likely skeleton this summer.

'As soon as I saw the skeleton with just one leg, I knew that we had our man,' the head

of the Franco-Russian team that discovered the remains in July, Marina Nesterova, told AFP.

Genetic analysis is being carried out to confirm the identity, using DNA from one of the general's descendants, with the results to be announced on Thursday.

Gudin is said to have been one of Napoleon's favourite generals and the two men attended military school together. His name is engraved on the Arc de Triomphe monument in Paris.

The fresh search for his remains has been underway since May, funded by a Franco-Russian group headed by Pierre Malinowski, a historian and former soldier with ties to the French far-right and support from the Kremlin.—AFP ■



The Franco-Russian search team checked a theory by a witness of the general's funeral and found pieces of a wooden casket buried under an old dance floor in the city park. **PHOTO: AFP**



Officials confirmed two deaths, including one in western Saga prefecture. **PHOTO: AFP**

Two dead as Japan orders 870,000 to flee heavy rains

TOKYO — Two people were confirmed dead on Wednesday as heavy rains pounded southwest Japan, prompting flood and landslide warnings and orders for 870,000 people to seek safety.

More than a million more people were advised to leave their homes after the country's weather agency raised the alert to its highest level for parts of northern Kyushu.

The emergency warning is issued "if there is a significant likelihood of catastrophes".

Officials confirmed two deaths, one in western Saga prefecture where a man was found in a car that had been swept away.

A second man died in Fukuoka as he tried to escape from

a car trapped in rising floodwaters.

Government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said a third person, in Saga, was in a state of "cardiorespiratory arrest" — a term usually employed by Japanese officials to indicate a person's death before it is officially confirmed by a doctor.

"There are many reports of damage in different areas due to flooding of rivers, landslides, and submerged houses, and there is a possibility of serious damage occurring in the coming hours," Suga added.

Evacuation orders and advisories issued by local authorities are not mandatory, although officials urge residents to heed them.—AFP ■

NEWS In BRIEF

Gaza under alert after bombings kill three police officers

GAZA CITY (Palestinian Territories) — Hamas said Wednesday that two overnight bombings killed three Palestinian police officers in the Gaza Strip in what witnesses called suicide attacks as the Palestinian enclave was placed under a state of alert.

Witnesses told AFP that both bombings were suicide attacks by assailants on motorbikes, but there was no official confirmation.

A source familiar with the investigation said a Salafist movement in Gaza, which is run by Islamist movement Hamas, that sympathises with the Islamic State jihadist group was suspected.

Hamas's interior ministry confirmed the three deaths, but spoke only of two "bombings" in Gaza City without providing details. It said two of the police officers were 32 and the third was 45. Two separate police checkpoints were targeted, it said.—AFP ■

23 killed in Mexico bar fire, officials investigating 'attack'

COATZACOALCOS, (Mexico) — At least 23 people were killed and 13 badly wounded in a fire at a bar in eastern Mexico that is being investigated as an attack, authorities said Wednesday.

The fire in the city of Coatzacoalcos, which broke out Tuesday night, 'may have been the result of a vile attack,' said a statement from prosecutors in the state of Veracruz, a flashpoint in the bloody turf wars between Mexico's rival drug cartels.

Media reports said the fire broke out when attackers burst into the bar and threw Molotov cocktails. The devious crime of a few moments ago in Coatzacoalcos will not go unpunished, Veracruz Governor Cuitlahuac Garcia said in a tweet. Frantic family members rushed to the bar, the Caballo Blanco (White Horse), looking for their loved ones, said an AFP reporter at the scene.—AFP ■

South Korea slams Japan as 'white list' removal takes effect

SEOUL — South Korea on Wednesday slammed Japan for effectively downgrading Seoul's trade status and accused Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of treating the neighbour as

an "adversary".

The comments are the latest in a bitter tit-for-tat row stemming from a long-running diplomatic dispute over Japan's use of forced labour during its

colonial rule over the peninsula from 1910 to 1945.

They came as Tokyo's removal of the South from its "white list" of trusted trade partners went into effect — Seoul has already

announced it will reciprocate, and last week said it will terminate a military information-sharing pact with Japan, raising concerns in Washington, which has security treaties with both.

"Prime Minister Abe commented twice that Korea cannot be trusted and is treating us like an adversary," said Kim Hyun-chong, a national security official at the Blue House.

He insisted Seoul's decision to terminate the intelligence-sharing deal, known as the General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), would not lead to "fissures" in the alliance between the US and the South.—AFP ■



This file photo taken on 3 August, 2019 shows a protester holding anti-Japanese banners during a rally against Japan's decision to remove South Korea from a so-called "white list" of favoured export partners, near the Japanese embassy in Seoul. PHOTO: AFP

Toyota, Suzuki agree on capital tie-up to rev up self-driving tech

NAGOYA — Toyota Motor Corp. and Suzuki Motor Corp. said Wednesday they have agreed on a capital tie-up to jointly develop advanced technologies necessary for autonomous vehicles, amid intensifying competition with rivals.

Under the deal, Toyota will acquire a 4.94 per cent stake in Suzuki for about 96 billion yen (\$907 million), while Suzuki plans to hold a Toyota stake worth about 48 billion yen.

With the tie-up, Japanese automakers will be divided into three camps — the group of Toyota, joined by Mazda Motor Corp. Subaru Corp. and Suzuki, the alliance of Nissan Motor Co., Renault SA and Mitsubishi Motors Corp. and Honda Motor Corp.

Toyota has already obtained a 16.8 per cent stake in Subaru and 5.1 per cent of Mazda shares.

"The two companies

intend to achieve sustainable growth by overcoming new challenges surrounding the automobile sector by building and deepening cooperative relationships in new fields," they said in a statement.

In light of the global auto industry facing a "turning point unprecedented in both scope and scale" from new entries from other industries and tightening environmental regulations, the two said they intend to form a "long-term partnership."

Suzuki Chairman Osamu Suzuki told Kyodo News that he asked Toyota President Akio Toyoda for a capital partnership in May.

"A big wave of self-driving is coming," Suzuki said. "As costs can't be reduced without mass production, uniting for a common purpose is needed."

—Kyodo News ■

Wildlife trade protections for giraffes, sharks

GENEVA — A global wildlife summit has decided to regulate international trade in giraffes and a range of shark and ray species and tighten protections for elephants, otters and other endangered species.

Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) wrapped up a 12-day meeting in Geneva on Wednesday, after approving a long line of proposals to tighten protections.

The treaty, created more than four decades ago, regulates trade in over 35,000 species of plants and animals and contains mechanisms to help crack down on illegal trade and sanction countries that break the rules.

The Geneva meeting decided for the first time to list giraffes in its Annex II, thus requiring tracking and regulation to ensure all trade of the species is sustainable, amid a feared "silent extinction" of the gentle giants.

The African giraffe population as a whole has shrunk by an estimated 40% over the past three decades, to just under 100,000 animals, according to figures available to the International Union for

Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Giraffes have been especially hard-hit by habitat loss, but with their vote, the delegates representing more than 180 countries have acknowledged that international trade in skins, horns, hooves and bones are contributing to their decline.

The delegates also decided to add 18 species of rays and sharks, including the mako — the fastest shark in the ocean — and three sea cucumber species have also been put in Annex II.

The conference also decided to significantly tighten protections for a number of species already on the CITES radar.—AFP ■



In this file photo taken on 22 July, 2019 a dead shark and ray lie on the beach of Hann before being filleted for sale, in Dakar. PHOTO: AFP



Toyota has been a long-time investor in the future of the automotive industry and has been creating new vehicles and technology. PHOTO: TOYOTA

1,000 trucks stranded in Mali roads protest

BAMAKO — More than 1,000 trucks loaded with merchandise were blocked on 27 August at the entrance to Mali's

KATI, Mali: More than 1,000 trucks loaded with merchandise were blocked Tuesday at the entrance to Mali's capital Bamako on the fourth day of protests

against the poor state of the country's roads.

AFP reporters witnessed the line of trucks snaking about a dozen kilometres along the road that leads from the Kati toll station some 15 km (9.3 miles) outside the capital to the country's west, and beyond to Senegal and Mauritania.

The protests started on 23 August in the western city of Kayes when hundreds of residents blocked the main bridge over the Senegal River.

It has since spread to other regions, with protesters everywhere calling for urgent improvement of Mali's dilapidated roads and

railways. "I have been here for four days, we cannot enter Bamako," a truck driver said in Kati, describing the demonstrators' "battle" as "belonging to everyone."

Moussa Coulibaly, from Dakar in neighbouring Senegal, feared his truckload of fruit "will soon not be edible."—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V TAI YUAN

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TAI YUAN VOY. NO. (1905) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-8-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of WILMAR where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WILHELMSSEN SHIPS
SERVICES PTE LTD.

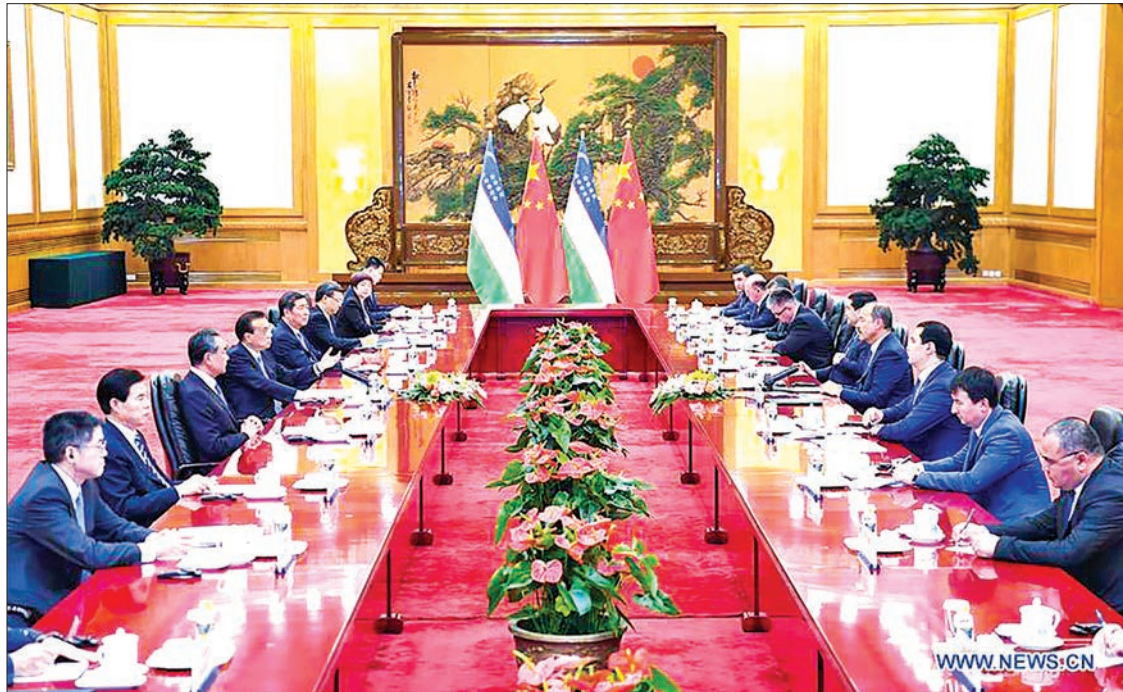
Phone No: 2301928

Chinese premier holds talks with Uzbek PM to boost ties

BEIJING—Chinese Premier Li Keqiang held talks Tuesday with visiting Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov, and the two sides agreed to cement co-operation.

Li said China attaches great importance to China-Uzbekistan relations and is willing to maintain close high-level exchanges with Uzbekistan, promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and strengthen communication and coordination in international and regional affairs.

Li said China is ready to seek synergy between the Belt and Road Initiative and Uzbekistan's development strategy, deepen cooperation in production capacity, interconnection and agriculture, and make efforts to ensure the stability of energy cooperation.



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang holds talks with visiting Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Aug. 27, 2019. PHOTO: XINHUA

He expected the two sides to promote cooperation in culture, tourism and higher education, so as to consolidate the people-to-people foundation of bilateral ties.—Xinhua ■

S. Korea calls on Japan to hold talks to repair ties

SEOUL—South Korea's prime minister on Wednesday urged Japan to agree to talks to repair strained ties between the two countries, after Japan revoked South Korea's status as a preferential trading partner earlier in the day.

Lee Nak Yeon, speaking at a

meeting with other government ministers in the morning, said the South Korean government will at the same time proceed "without delay" to lodge a complaint with the World Trade Organization to remedy Japan's "unfair economic retaliation." Lee's remarks came hours after the Japanese govern-

ment took South Korea off a list of countries that enjoy minimum trade restrictions on goods such as electronic components that can be diverted for military use.

The move, coming after Tokyo last month implemented tighter controls on exports of some materials needed by South

Korean manufacturers of semiconductors and display panels, is certain to add fuel to the spat between the neighboring countries.

The South Korean Foreign Ministry summoned Japanese Ambassador to South Korea Yasumasa Nagamine and protested the latest move by Japan.—Kyodo ■

Two dead, over 100 rescued after Philippine ferry blaze

MANILA—Two people were dead and over 100 rescued in the southern Philippines after a fire tore through a crowded ferry, while an uncertain number remained unaccounted for, authorities said Wednesday.

The blaze broke out in the pre-dawn darkness as the boat sailed to Dapitan City, prompting some of the terrified people onboard to throw themselves into the water, one witness said.

It is not clear how many pas-

sengers were on the vessel, but the Philippine Coast Guard said 102 people had been rescued and two confirmed dead—a 60-year-old man, and a one-year-old child.

Search operations were continuing on Wednesday as authori-

ties worked to confirm the actual number of missing.

The boat's official manifest listed 137 onboard, but many more may have been on the vessel. Local emergency authorities said they had accounted for 215 survivors, nearly double the number provided by the Coast Guard.

"It seems many people were not listed on the manifest," Nelson Quimiguing, a disaster management officer in Dapitan City, told AFP. The Philippines, an archipelago of more than 7,000 islands, is plagued by poor sea transport, with its badly regulated boats and ships prone to overcrowding and accidents.

This latest incident occurred 30 years after another Philippine ferry, the Dona Paz, collided with an oil tanker in a pre-Christmas accident that claimed more than 4,000 lives in the world's worst peacetime disaster at sea.—AFP ■



Coastguard personnel attend to rescued ferry passengers from the Lite Ferry after it caught fire early on August 28 off Dapitan, in southern island of Mindanao. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS In BRIEF

500 protests, hundreds injured in Kashmir lockdown, says India's govt source

SRINAGAR(India)—At least 500 incidents of protest have broken out in Indian Kashmir since New Delhi stripped the region of its autonomy and imposed a military clampdown more than three weeks ago, a senior government source told AFP Wednesday. The Himalayan valley is under a strict lockdown, imposed hours before India's decision to bring Kashmir under its direct rule. Movement is restricted and phone and internet services have been cut. The lockdown, as well as the deployment of tens of thousands of extra troops to reinforce the 500,000 based in Kashmir, was ordered amid fears of unrest in a region where an armed rebellion against Indian rule has been waged since 1989.—AFP ■

Cargo ship, crew vanish from Indonesian waters

JAKARTA—A cargo ship and two dozen crew have vanished in waters off Indonesia's remote Maluku islands, authorities said Wednesday.

The 190-metre (620-foot) vessel, carrying nickel ore, was travelling from Halmahera island to Sulawesi island when it sent a distress call shortly before losing radio contact last week.

Rough seas hampered earlier efforts to reach the remote area of the vast archipelago where the ship was last detected, according to local search and rescue chief Muslimin Samaila.

"We got there and found nothing," he said. "There was no sign of the boat or its crew. Its whereabouts are a mystery."

The incident comes after three people died and more than 300 were rescued when a boat travelling from Indonesia's second-biggest city Surabaya to Balikpapan on Borneo island burst into flames on Friday.—AFP ■

MYEA holds Members Day event, introduces New Member Portal

MYEA Members Day brings the launch of MYEA Member Portal and introduction of newly elected committee members. The event has been started with the opening remark by Dr Aung Thura, Chair of MYEA, followed by the introduction of the newly elected members and committees.

MYEA Facebook Workplace will be a bridge to connect and reach among the members which is officially launched and demonstrated at the event celebration day. MYEA Members received the Workplace by Facebook activation codes at the registration desks and start connecting the members after signing up.

MYEA is committed to create a world-class entrepreneurial ecosystem in Myanmar that facilitates startups and innovative and creative entrepreneurship.

A founding member of ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Council (AYEC) and Myanmar Member

of ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Association (AYEA), the MYEA is teamed up with 1,062 Executive Members, 652 Associate Members, 1 Cooperate Member – totalling in 1,714 members who are business oriented young entrepreneurs around the country. The Regional Government Officials and Ministers are serving as Patrons at the MYEA to promote

the local businesses and support the members as well as young entrepreneurs in the country.

With the aim of supporting local MSMEs, young entrepreneurs and tech entrepreneurs, MYEA signs the MOU with AMCHAM Myanmar at the Members Day Event and will continue to partner with local and international organisations.—GNLM



Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association (MYEA) introduces the New Member Portal at the Members Day Event in Yangon on 21 August. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Abe vows to boost investment in Africa as leaders from continent gather



File photo taken in August 2016 shows Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (C) and other leaders at the closing session of the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in Nairobi. PHOTO: KYODONEWS

YOKOHAMA — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Wednesday renewed Tokyo's pledge to boost investment in Africa from the country's private sector in the hope of helping the continent's development.

"The Japanese government will make utmost effort so that the amount of private investment will surpass (the current pace), which amounted to \$20 billion over three years," Abe said in a speech at the opening ceremony of the three-day Tokyo International Confer-

ence on African Development in Yokohama, near Tokyo.

A total of \$25.6 billion has been invested in the continent from the Japanese private sector since 2016, according to the Foreign Ministry.

"We will take every step to help Japanese companies to make inroads in Africa," the premier also said.

The seventh TICAD will focus more on business opportunities than previous meetings as Tokyo believes investment by

the private sector is crucial to realizing sustainable economic growth of the resource-rich continent whose population is projected to reach 2.5 billion in 2050, or a quarter of the global population, government officials said.

Abe also said Japan will continue its human resource development program for Africa, aiming to train 3,000 people over six years, who can contribute to the promotion of business between Japan and Africa.—Kyodo News ■

UNDP chief urges faster implementation of global development goals

TOKYO — Many countries will struggle to meet the majority of Sustainable Development Goals outlined by the United Nations Development Program at its current rate of implementation, its administrator Achim Steiner said Tuesday.

Speaking in an interview with Kyodo News, Steiner said that in order to meet the goals, "We need to significantly change the pace of implementation and we need to embrace the challenge of transformation."

U.N. members are aiming to achieve the 17 objectives by 2030, including the eradication of poverty and starvation, gender equality, sustainable cities and communities, and tackling climate change.

Failure to meet the goals would ultimately raise the risk of social unrest, ecological collapse and economic crisis at a global scale, Steiner said. "Whether it is water, too little, too much,



United Nations Development Program Administrator Achim Steiner gives an interview in Tokyo on 27 August, 2019. PHOTO: KYODONEWS

whether it is temperatures, too low, too high, they not only impose human suffering, they destroy nature and cost us hundreds of billions of dollars." He also said that those arguing against acting on those global threats one day "will face the court of justice" for negligence, manslaughter and other charges.—Kyodo News ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

UK PM triggers outrage with move to suspend parliament

LONDON— British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced Wednesday that parliament would be suspended until 14 October – just two weeks before the UK is set to leave the EU – enraging anti-Brexit MPs.

The pound slid on the surprise news, which opponents branded a "coup" and a "declaration of war". The government's move will give pro-EU lawmakers less time than they expected to try to thwart Johnson's Brexit plans before Britain's current EU departure date on 31 October. Johnson said he had asked Queen Elizabeth II, the head of state, to recommence parliament with a speech on 14 October setting out his government's legislative programme. Anti-Brexit MPs reacted furiously, branding Johnson – who came to office only last month as head of the governing Conservative Party – a dictator.—AFP ■

Former US Fed official warns against central bank caving in to Trump pressure

WASHINGTON — A former senior official of the US Federal Reserve said Tuesday that the central bank should not provide offsetting stimulus to mitigate the damage to the US economy done by the trade dispute with China, suggesting that doing so would possibly enable the US administration to exacerbate the tension.

Bill Dudley, former president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York from 2009 to 2018, wrote in an opinion piece published by Bloomberg News that US President Donald Trump's trade war with China "keeps undermining the confidence of businesses and consumers, worsening the economic outlook" of the United States. Calling the president's trade policy toward China a "manufactured disaster-in-the-making," Dudley, now a senior research scholar at Princeton University's Center for Economic Policy Studies, argued that the Fed should "refuse to play along" with Trump, rather than "mitigate the damage by providing offsetting stimulus."—Xinhua ■

Myanmar football team prepares for World Cup qualifiers



Midfielder Si Thu Aung trains ahead of the World Cup Qualifiers. PHOTO: MFF

THE head coach of the national football team, Miodrag Radulovic, has announced the names of players selected for the Myanmar squad ahead of the qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup next month, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

Three youth players — Ayeyawady United striker Aung Kaung Mann, Zwegapin United winger Zon Moe Aung, and Zwegapin defender Aung Wunna Soe — have made their debut on the squad for the World Cup Qualifiers.

The squad also has experienced players such as strikers Aung Thu, Kyaw Ko Ko, and Than Paing; midfielders Maung

Maung Lwin, Si Thu Aung, and Suan Lam Mang; and defenders David Htan, Kyaw Zin Lwin Nada Kyaw, and Thein Than Win.

The squad seems stronger than the one selected for last year's World Cup qualifiers.

Before next month's World Cup Qualifiers, team Myanmar will take part in an international football friendly match, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

Team Myanmar will play China on 30 August, before traveling to Mongolia for the World Cup Qualifiers, scheduled to be held on 5 September in Ulaanbaatar.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

General Aung San Shield 2019: Final to take place at Thuwunna stadium

THE venue for the final match for the General Aung San Shield 2019 has been moved to the Thuwunna Stadium from Aung San Stadium, according to the Myanmar Football Federation. The tourney has been organized under the supervision of the Myanmar Football Federation and the Myanmar National League.

A delegation from the sub-committee for the General Aung San Shield 2019 visited the Aung San Stadium yesterday and found the ground conditions at

the stadium currently unsuitable for hosting the much-anticipated final match of the tourney, according to the football federation.

The historical Aung San Stadium is under the renovation, under the supervision of the Myanmar football authorities, and the stadium will not be ready until 21 September, said officials.

The final match of the General Aung San Shield 2019 will be played between Shan United

and defending champions Yangon United, and the date was initially set at 21 September, but it will now be changed due to the upcoming qualifiers for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) U-16 2020. The new date for the finals will reportedly be announced by the Myanmar National League soon.

The General Aung San Shield has been held at the Aung San Stadium for four consecutive years: from 2015 to 2018.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Madrazo wins Vuelta fifth stage, Lopez takes lead

MADRID (Spain)— Colombia's Miguel Angel Lopez took possession of the Vuelta a Espana leader's red jersey after Wednesday's fifth stage won by home hope Angel Madrazo.

Lopez, known as 'Superman', heads the Vuelta general classification by 14 seconds from Primoz Roglic and 23sec from former winner Nairo Quintana. Lopez pulled clear of a group of contenders for overall victory including Spanish world champion Alejandro Valverde (fourth overall) three kilometres from the finish in Javalambre.

The day's winner Madrazo, part of a three-pronged Spanish breakaway group, was



Spain's Angel Madrazo wins Vuelta fifth stage. PHOTO: AFP

claiming the first ever Vuelta stage win for Spanish team Burgos.

In doing so he consolidated his grip on the climbers' standings.—AFP ■



Mohamed Salah was so unimpressive in his first day's training on a week's trial at Swiss side Basel coach Heiko Vogel wondered did he have a twin brother. PHOTO: AFP

Salah 'a gentle killer', says former boss Vogel

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Egyptian star Mohamed Salah may be setting European and English football alight now but when he arrived in Switzerland he cast a few doubts in the mind of his first coach Heiko Vogel.

The 27-year-old forward — an integral part of Liverpool's Champions League success last season — has started the campaign in flying form scoring a double in last Sunday's win over Arsenal.

Vogel, though, told the German SPOX website he wondered whether Salah had the mental strength to succeed when he asked him to come for a week long trial in 2012 — on the back of scoring a double for the Egyptian Under-23 side against Basel in a friendly.

"It was always clear to me that he is an outstanding player, but whether he had the mental-

ity? I didn't know that exactly," said Vogel. "Momo is a gentle killer. "I would be lying if I had prophesied such a massive global career for him."

Vogel then asked Basel's scouts in Egypt to confirm his potential by taking video footage of him. "I wondered whether the videos had been speeded up," he said. "He had everything — the speed, the finish, the left foot.

"Then he trained on the first day (in Switzerland); everyone watched the session and we wondered if he might have a twin brother."

Vogel, who picks out Arsenal's Swiss midfielder Granit Xhaka as the most impressive of the Premier League-based stars he coached at Basel with Salah and his Liverpool teammate Xherdan Shaqiri the other two, said things progressively got better.—AFP ■