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Message of Greetings from President U Win Myint to the World Press Freedom Day ceremony

3 May 2019
14th Waning of Tagu, 1381 ME

I send this Message of Greetings and good wishes to all journalists in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to be blessed with auspiciousness. The World Press Freedom Day is celebrated every year starting from 1993 to raise awareness of the democratic right to freedom of expression enshrined under Article 19 of the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The United Nations General Assembly declared May 3 to be World Press Freedom Day in 1993 marking the anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration, a statement of free press principles put together by African newspaper journalists in Windhoek in 1991. SEE PAGE-3

Message of Greetings sent by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day celebrations

3 May 2019
14th Waning of Tagu, 1381 ME

I send this Message of Greetings and good wishes to all persons from all organizations and sectors, newsmen from all types of media and all people from all UN agencies including UNESCO, for their good health and well-being. We have celebrated the World Press Freedom Day to show to the respective

peoples of the world the situation and status of the importance of press freedom in the countries of the world, to raise the awareness of the importance of press freedom among the peoples of the world, and to show respect and enjoy freedom of expression enunciated SEE PAGE-4

Private Sector Development Committee meets for raising Ease of Doing Business Ranking

VICE PRESIDENT U Myint Swe who is also the Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee attended and addressed the 9th coordination meeting of the Private Sector Development Committee (PSDC) held in the meeting room of the Ministry of Commerce yesterday morning.

Present at the meeting were committee Deputy Chairman Union Minister Dr. Than Myint, members Union Ministers Dr. Aung Thu, U Win Khaing, and U Ohn Maung, Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, Deputy Ministers U Maung Maung Win and U Aung Htoo, Central Bank of Myanmar Deputy Governor U Soe Thein, chairmen and vice chairmen

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Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the 9th coordination meeting of the Private Sector Development Committee (PSDC) in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 12th regular session holds 2nd day meeting

THE Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 12th regular session held its second-day meeting at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday, where asterisk-marked questions were raised and answered, two motions and a bill tabled.

Asterisk marked questions

In the asterisk marked question session U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency raised the first question and asked if there was plan to construct low cost steel deck and steel cable suspension bridges to cross creeks and crevices in remote regions where travel was difficult. Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin replied that after the collapse of Myaungmya suspension bridge the ministry was planning to replace all suspension bridges with reinforced concrete bridges. If reinforced concrete bridges could not be constructed, temporary Bailey bridges will be built instead and thus there was no plan to construct low cost steel deck and steel cable suspension bridges said, the Deputy Minister. The next question raised was



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

by U Tun Tun Naing of Kani constituency on plan to implement the construction of inter-district road No. 4 in Sagaing Region and construction of this road in Kani Township. In replying to the first part of the question, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin said that the inter-district road No. 4 that will be about 411 miles long passing Budalin, Kani, Dabayin, YeU, Taze, Kyunhla, Pinlebu, Bamauk and Homalin townships in Sagaing Region and Mohnyin, Phakant,

Kamine and Mogaung townships in Kachin State was planned to be constructed before 2010 but at the moment there was no plan to implement this. On the second part of the question the Deputy Minister said that in Kani Township the Kangyi-Pyintapon-Winmana-Taungpyin road was 11 miles from Kangyi to Winmana and 11 miles from Winmana to Taungpin, totaling about 22 miles.

It was a Class A priority status road connecting to Budalin-Kane-Kani road and once

it was completed would directly benefit 21 villages with 4,158 household and a population of about 21,000.

In the Kangyi-Pyintapon-Taungpyin-Winmana road section 4 miles 6 furlong of gravel road and about 6 miles 2 furlong of rough road was constructed and when fund from Sagaing Region government become available the remaining 11 miles of earth road will be constructed, said the Deputy Minister.

Questions raised by U Lar Mar Lay of Hsawlaw constituency, U Nyan Hein of Thanbyuzayat constituency, Dr. U Lin Lin Kyaw of Myittha constituency, U Win Naing of Mogaung constituency and U Min Thein of Taungdwingyi constituency were answered by Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut and Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin.

Tabling of motions

A motion urging the government to invite public businesses to conduct opium replacement project systematically in cooperation with the government in

areas of Myanmar where opium growing was the highest was tabled by Daw Khin Hnin Thit of Padaung constituency and supported by Daw Nan Than Than Lwin of Hpa-an constituency.

Another motion urging the government to review investment policy for the development of local industry, for local production to become part of Global Supply Chain and to assist in obtaining required financial and technical supports was tabled by Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency and supported by U Naing Htoo Aung of Natogy constituency.

After Hluttaw agreed to accept and discuss the motions, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat made announcements on that effect and also announced further for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss and table amendment motions to register their names.

The third-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 12th regular session is scheduled to be held on 3 May, it is learnt. —Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)

Amyotha Hluttaw

Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 12th regular session holds 2nd-day meeting

THE 12th regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw held its second-day meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning. At the meeting asterisk marked questions were raised and answered, a bill tabled and two reports read and explained.

Asterisk marked questions and answers

Answering to a question raised by U Sa Khin Zaw Lin of Ayeyawady Region constituency 2 for arrangements made for a work process on increasing good practices in forest management related to legal trade of legal forest products, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr. Ye Myint Swe said an interim work group was formed in August 2015 to draw up a work program and implement the works in the program of the European Union Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade – Voluntary Partnership Agreement (EU FLEGT VPA) work process. In August 2018 a 28 member national level FLEGT Tripartite group was formed with members made up from govern-



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

ment sector, private sector and civil society sector.

The main aims of Myanmar EU FLEGT VPA work process were eradicating illegal timber trade and related trades, improving forest management, achieving sustainable forest management and legally sourced export of Myanmar timber to EU directly. While implementing the work process the ministry was preventing illegal timber production, reviewing existing policy, procedure and work processes dividing into short term and long term works continuously for forest sector reform.

A ten year Myanmar Reforestation and Rehabilitation program was implemented from 2017-2018 to 2026-2027. Under Myanmar's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to mitigate climate change by 2030 — 30 percent and 10 percent of the country's area will be established as forest reserve and wildlife sanctuary areas respectively. Myanmar Timber Enterprise (MTE) was establishing commercial teak/pyinkado plantations in Bago Yoma and Ayeyawady Region starting from 2018 and arrangements were made to continue this un-

der a 5-year plan. In addition to timber extraction, elephant conservation based ecotourism were started in 2016 and to date 20 MTE owned elephant camps were established.

Establishment of forest plantation and extraction of forest products were being conducted under 2018 Forest Law.

For the success of Myanmar EU FLEGT VPA work process Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and related ministries, FLEGT Tripartite Group and all related persons will strive and work under the support and guidance of Union government and Hluttaws said the Deputy Minister.

In response to a question raised by Dr. Zaw Lin Htut of Mon State constituency 9 on a plan to construct Thayettaw and Panteinkan sluice gates in fiscal year 2019-2020 to prevent inundation and salt-water intrusion into 22,000 acres of farmland in Mon State, Thaton Township, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said the constructions were to be made in a natural

disaster prone areas and thus careful design calculations were being conducted. After completing the design calculation and an estimate of fund required is known, the construction work to be conducted in 2020-2021 FY will be included in works to be conducted under Union fund and depending upon fund allocated Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department will implement it, said the Deputy Minister.

Similarly questions raised by U Ye Htut of the Sagaing Region constituency 5 and U Aung Myo of Sagaing Region constituency 2 were answered by Deputy Ministers U Hla Kyaw and Dr. Ye Myint Swe.

2019 New Tree Species Protection Bill

Following the asterisk marked question session Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw tabled a 2019 New Tree Species Protection Bill to the Hluttaw.

Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Aung Kyi Nyunt read and explained a bill committee report on the bill.

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Message of Greetings from President U Win Myint to the World Press Freedom Day ceremony

FROM PAGE-1

To respect the basic principles of the press freedom, to assess the state of press freedom worldwide, to protect fighting against the press freedom and to honour those who sacrificed their lives while working as journalists, the World Press Freedom Day is celebrated yearly.

The theme of this year's World Press Freedom Day is "Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation". The World Press Freedom Day (WPFDD) is celebrated globally on 3 May. Ethiopia will host this year's World Press Freedom Day in its capital city Addis Ababa. Myanmar celebrated the World Press Freedom Day starting from 2012 and this year's celebration marks the 8th year. I take pride for the Myanmar Press Council, which is a leading body on press freedom, for holding the World Press Freedom Day ceremony for the first time on a grand scale.

Article-19 of the World Human Rights Declaration states that "Everyone has the right to

freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

Similarly, the Article 354 (a) of the 2008 Constitution of Myanmar states that "Every citizen shall be at liberty in the exercise of the following rights, if not contrary to the laws, enacted for Union security, prevalence of law and order, community peace and tranquillity or public order and morality: (a) to express and publish freely their convictions and opinions."

Therefore, it is required to take advantage of the right to press freedom while practicing balance between freedom and accountability and responsibility. It is required to pay special attention to the Article 29 (2) of the World Human Rights Declaration which also states that :

In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due

recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

In a democratic country there will always be elections. To hold free and fair elections and to elect the people who can serve in the interest of the country and the people, the media plays an important role in it. To ensure that the people full information and knowledge of elections and to make building a Democratic Federal Republic a success, journalists are required to make efforts in accordance with the objectives of the this year's World Press Freedom Day.

It is found that fakes news and fabricated news are being used to influence the opinions of the voters and groundless accusations are used to criticize each other in international elections. Such fake and fabricated news emerge through the social media channel which is less controlled and thus tarnishing the image of the basic human right of the freedom of expression. It is the

duty of the responsible and professional journalists to prevent such acts and steer them on to the right path.

The government believes that an independent media and democracy is always linked together. The force of the media is considered as essential in a transition to democracy. For the democratic system to be strong media freedom is recognized as vital.

Therefore in the government's ardent efforts towards establishing a Democratic Federal Union much emphasis is placed on the role of the media. Interferences to the national development works and democracy transition work processes such as sensitive conflicts, wrong news, hate speeches, biased and one sided news need to be controlled according to the code of conduct and ethics.

Nowadays the role of the media had changed noticeably. Media can be seen as the critic of the government, defender of individual human rights, public informant to emphasize on the affairs of a society, bridge between

the people and the government etc.

During the period of transition to a democracy the government of the people has been working toward acquiring and maintaining fundamentals like state security, rule of law, justice in human society and preventing the loss of citizen rights while facing challenges. Being a force in the transition to democracy, media on their side should ensure accuracy of the news and information, avoid writings that include the opinion of the writer and writings that incite conflict and support the journey to democracy that the people desire.

I therefore solemnly urge media personnel to continuously upgrade and raise their media quality and capacity. Strive towards becoming journalists that defend democracy. Support in spreading the knowledge of democracy within the people and cooperate and work together towards establishment of a Democratic Federal Republic.

Win Myint
President

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Deputy Chief of Lao's armed forces



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Deputy Chief of Lao's armed forces Major General Pasith Thiengtham in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Major General Pasith Thiengtham, the Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Lao People's Armed Forces, at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they openly discussed increased cooperation on Myanmar-Laos bilateral and military relations, not tolerating actions or organ-

izations basing themselves in Myanmar territory and damaging the economy and stability of neighbouring countries, ongoing tasks related to the five principles of peaceful coexistence, and friendly visits from military chiefs.

They also discussed cooperating on Mekong River defence, border security and eradicating illegal drugs, exchanging information to combat terrorism,

organizing visits by the Sangha to proliferate Theravada Buddhism, sending delegations from the military's culture, medical, sports teams and grassroots level on goodwill visits, and exchanging naval and aeronautical technology, according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Announcement 3 May 2019

1. According to sections 40 (e) and 62 of The Central Bank of Myanmar Law, the Central Bank of Myanmar is the sole issuer of and managing the domestic currency.
2. Recently, there have been numerous instances of the use of digital currency such as Cryptocurrency: Bitcoin (BTC), Litecoin (LTC), Ethereum (ETH) and Perfect Money (PM) on personal Facebook accounts and webpages as payment for individual use or services.
3. The Central Bank of Myanmar does not recognize digital currency, including cryptocurrency, as legal tender nor has it given permission to financial institutions to buy/sell or exchange them.
4. This being the case, the Central Bank of Myanmar notifies the public that buying/selling or exchange of digital currency, including cryptocurrency, whether online or in person, can lead to loss on the consumer's side.

Central Bank of Myanmar
(Unofficial Translation)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



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

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

Collective strength is vital to build peace and stability which we need. We need to have mutual understanding and mutual respect as the basic foundation to bring to an end the armed conflicts which have existed for many years among the ethnic nationalities. We can make this foundation strong with our collective strength.

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

Message of Greetings sent by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day ...

FROM PAGE-1

in the Windhoek Declaration and Article 19 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is with these aims that this day has been celebrated.

We have been having these celebrations ever year on 3rd May ever since 1993. This year marks the 26th anniversary.

To mark the World Press Freedom Day we have chosen the slogan "Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation".

In Myanmar, we have seen the total demise of press freedom including political rights for many decades. I hope that all of us will remember too well how much effort has been exerted and invested and how much has been sacrificed for us to have arrived at this present situation when the freedom to write, to express and to speak could be exercised. It is because of these strenuous efforts that we are firmly standing now on the path to democracy. That is why the people are enjoying their rights and freedoms including press freedom.

I wish to solemnly state at today's ceremony that we salute and affirm our recognition and continued remembrance of all the ardent efforts that have been exerted in dignity, steadfastness, wisdom and courage for press freedom and the accuracy of press reporting during the whole period of the movement for democracy.

I also urge all of you to continue your active participation to ensure that democracy will take firm root and that our freedoms to write, express and speak shall not disappear and be lost again.

At this time, all of us can see and witness all over the world that incorrect news, fake news, rumors, hate speech and writings to incite conflicts are threatening and destroying the stability and peace of the respective international communities.

At this time, especially in countries like ours, where we are transitioning towards democracy, we are taking extra precautions to prevent conflicts, chaos and instability due to the misuse of our newly acquired freedoms.

In this type of situation, I wish to solemnly urge all media people to work for the gradual disappearance of dogmatic beliefs and biased views within Myanmar society and for the flourishing habits that promote objective and logical thinking; and furthermore to work for the emergence of peaceful and just societies where everyone has the right to participate in equality.

Only then would we be able to successfully build together the Democratic Federal Republic which we all aspire and desire in the near future.

At today's ceremony, I wish to especially urge the respected newsmen as they solve problems related to media freedom, to take extra care to respect and ad-

here to the code of conduct and ethics for media people and also to protect and promote it as well. Just as all of us need to protect all media people who are writing, speaking and expressing in conformity with the code of conduct and ethics, so that they are free from danger, we should also all work together to give good guidance and direction so that they are no breaches of the code of conduct and ethics. Just as we need to protect the people and deter the dissemination of fake news that encourage the emergence of conflicts and give them wrong views, we need to promote media awareness and news and information awareness so that the people could not be easily fooled or misguided. I want all of you to participate in this endeavor.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate that I congratulate and acknowledge all the respected newspaper personnel who have actively participated in the democratic transition process, on this day as we celebrate the press freedom day ceremony. Furthermore, I wish to solemnly urge all media personnel to join us to help and participate for the flourishing of freedom, peace, and prosperity in Myanmar and for the diminishing and disappearance of injustice, inequality and instability.

Aung San Suu Kyi
State Counsellor

VP U Myint Swe attends 9th coord meeting of Private Sector Development Committee

FROM PAGE-1

Deputy Governor U Soe Thein, chairmen and vice chairmen of five work committees, officials from Group on increasing Ease of Doing Business Ranking, Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General, President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and departmental officials.

At the meeting the Vice President said the day's meeting was the ninth coordination meeting of the 20-member PSDC formed with notification (79/2016) issued by the Office of the President on 24th October 2016 to effectively implement private sector development works. It had reached a term of two and half year and it had formed five work committees to implement five tasks.

PSDC meeting was started in 28 November 2016 and it met four times in 2017, three times in 2018 and this was the first meeting



Union Minister Dr. Than Myint.



Union Minister U Ohn Maung.



Union Minister U Win Khaing.



Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu

in 2019. From the first to eighth meeting 69 decisions were made out of which 64 were implemented and 5 remaining to be implemented. The remaining five are urged to be implemented through setting a time frame.

Trade sector plays an important role in the country's economic development and according to figures private sector participation in the trade sector was found to be between 80 to 90 percent.

Furthermore to support the private sector development works monthly meetings with businesses have been conducted to help resolve the difficulties they were facing. As of 2019 April a total of 26 meetings were held and up to the 25th meeting a total of 339 difficulties faced by the business were submitted and all were resolved and responded back to the business.

Of those, some need more

time to conduct continuing works and those were also being conducted by officials from the 5 work committee in meetings with relevant ministries and business persons until completion. In conducting sector wise implementation for private sector development, progress in some matters were found to be slow so relevant ministerial departments and state/region government members were urged to emphasize on speeding

up the progress.

Illegal imports through the border is threatening the existence of micro, small and medium enterprises and special illegal trade prevention and control groups were formed in nine states and regions. As of 2019 March a total of 436 cases of detaining illegal goods worth about K 5.145 billion were made.

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Negotiation in PPA for Kyaukphyu Power Plant project finalized

MINISTER of Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing attended a signing ceremony of Letter of Acknowledgement for Conclusion of Negotiation in Power Purchase Agreement-PPA for Kyaukphyu Power Plant project on 28th April.

Along with the Union Minister, Union Minister of Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Myanmar ambassador to China U Thit Linn Ohn, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Laing, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Transport and Communications U Soe Thein, Director-General of Electric Power Administration Department Daw Mi Mi Khine, officials of the Myanmar embassy, president of Power Construction Corporation of China Mr. Sun Hongshui and

the company officials attended the ceremony.

The letter of acknowledgement was signed by the President of Power China Resources Ltd (SINOHYDRO) Mr. Sheng Yuming and the President of Supreme Trading Company Limited Dr. Sein Myint in the presence of Myanmar ambassador to China U Thit Linn Ohn and Chinese ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang.

The power plant will be built in Kyaukphyu Township, Rakhine State, and it will purchase natural gas from the Shwe Natural Gas Project to generate electricity.

For this project, Ministry of Electricity and Energy issued the Notice to Proceed with the permission of Union Government to the project



Signing ceremony of Letter of Acknowledgement for Conclusion of Negotiation in Power Purchase Agreement-PPA for Kyaukphyu Power Plant project held in Beijing on 28 April. PHOTO: MNA

which is considered an important project for the Myanmar-China economic corridor.

Upon completion, the project can produce 135 Mega Watt and will transport the power

to the grid to supply Rakhine State. —MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)

e-Government Implementation Committee holds third coordination meeting

THE third coordination meeting of the e-Government Implementation Committee was held at the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Committee Chairperson U Min Thu, also the Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government, and Committee Vice Chair U Thant Sin Maung, also Union Minister for Transport and Communications, delivered separate speeches at the meeting.

U Min Thu's speech

The Union Minister said the e-Government Steering Committee and the e-Government Implementation Committee were established on 23 January 2018 with Notification No. 14/2018 of the Office of the President to successfully implement an e-Government system.

The steering committee is led by the State Counsellor and Vice Presidents with 46 members while the implementation committee is led by the Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government with 45 members. Both committees have their own set of five tasks each. The implementation committee established eight subcommittees on 12 June 2018 to effectively implement the policies and procedures set by the steering committee, said



Chairman of the e-ID System Working Committee, Union Minister U Thein Swe delivers the speech at the third coordination meeting of the e-Government Implementation Committee in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

the Union Minister.

He said there are three factors to consider when implementing an e-Government system: people, process and technology. He said the people refers to the staff who will provide the services, the leaders who will decide on the policies, the department heads who will manage the tasks, and the public who will use the services.

The Union Minister said this contributes 40 per cent to the success of the e-Government according to experts. He said the cooperation of all relevant departments are as

important as the willingness of the department heads.

The second factor, process, refers to evaluating the procedures involved and lessening or amending as it deems fit, said the Union Minister. He said experts also cite this factor as contributing 40 per cent to the success of e-Government.

The third factor, technology, said the Union Minister, refers to observing the international experience with e-Government and to adopt what is beneficial. He said this factor contributes the remaining 20 per cent to the success of

e-Government.

The Union Minister said the main hinderance to e-Government is not technological limitations but irresponsible leaders, unwillingness to provide quality service, and the public's lack of interest in using these electronic services.

U Thant Sin Maung's speech

In his speech, Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung said the single window Myanmar National Portal has been launched and provides government services, online services, news and information via a simple

interface.

He said there are a lot of users for tenders, news, jobs and vacancies, services, and government information. He said they are conducting digital marketing to raise public awareness and increase usage. He said the Ministry of Transport and Communications has established a data center in Nay Pyi Taw as a co-location for the servers of government departments. He urged government departments to utilize the data center as it provides 24/7 services at cost-effective prices.

The Union Minister said they are implementing the e-Government Integrated Data Center (eGIDC) with a loan agreement with South Korea-based EDCF after discussing a loan agreement with Korea EXIM Bank Mission last month. He urged all stakeholders to cooperate for the emergence of cyber laws and cyber security that are applicable to Myanmar.

The Chairman of the e-ID System Working Committee, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, e-Government Implementation Committee members and special invited guests attended the meeting. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

MoPF: Administering monetary, fiscal policies and national planning; Implementing projects under Myanmar's Sustainable Development

"The Myanma Economic Bank and Myanma Agriculture and Development Bank loaned a total of k166 billion to 3733 persons through the Myanmar agro-businesses and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) within the last financial year."

Union Minister U Soe Win

Interviewer: Khin Yadanar,
Theint Theint Moe
Photos: May Oo Moe

MINISTRY of Planning and Finance Union Minister U Soe Win and Deputy Ministers discuss the accomplishments of the current government's third year in administration in the Ministry along with plans for the future of Myanmar's economic policies.

U Soe Win, Union Minister

Q: Can you tell us about the progress of the Ministry along with some short term/long term plans?

A: The Ministry is approaching projects according to the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (2018-2030) and is documenting all of them - public and private - in our project bank. In 2018, the Ministry published the National Disaster Report in June as well as the Export Import Financing Document for the banks. The Myanma Economic Bank and Myanma Agriculture and Development Bank loaned a total of k166 billion to 3733 persons through the Myanmar agro-businesses and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) within the last financial year.

There are also 177 microfinance organizations that have been created to help villagers with their SME businesses. These microfinance organizations located across the country were able to loan up to K6267



Union Minister U Soe Win.



Dy Minister U Maung Maung Win.



Deputy Minister U Set Aung.



Union Minister U Soe Win attends the budget meeting.

billion in the previous financial year. The start of the financial year has also been moved from October 1st to September 30th to avoid holidays as much as possible.

Q: What about the insurance industry?

A: Domestic insurance companies started operations in 2013 when the laws permitted. Currently, there are 3 domestic insurance companies in operation with 8 general joint ventures. There are plans to allow foreign general

and life insurance companies in Myanmar with 100% ownership.

Q: There have been plans to change the pension system?

A: The system has been upgraded to a mobile payment system so pensioners can save time and money to travel to their respective banks. There are 8 bank branches as well in Yangon. A Central Provident Fund- CPF is also being discussed to ease the burden on the government for pension payments while making sure we are able to pay the pen-

sioners long term.

Q: What about changes to the tax system?

A: You can now use an MPU Debit Card to pay your taxes at the tax offices. For cargo, we are trying to implement the MACCS (Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System) nationwide as it is now fully functioning in Yangon area and the Myawaddy border.

U Maung Maung Win,
Deputy Minister

Q: Can you explain to us a

little bit more about the Ministry?

A: There are 13 departments in the Ministry as well as other sub divisions under them serving their specific functions. Something different our administration is doing is to be as transparent as possible with press conferences, public reports and other releases on the budget on TV and journals. The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative is also in progress and will be published soon.

Q: Can you give an example of a department under the Ministry and its functions?

A: So there is a Pension Department under the MOPF. As we may all be aware, the government recently increased the amount for pensioners. This not only apply to people who are already on pension but also people who will soon be in the system as well.

Q: What about the new tax law?

A: The Union Tax law was updated in 2018 with its implementation stage set for two years. The board has been formed and will be hearing and deciding on issues to move forward soon. The income tax law is going under review along with plans to move to a digital tax collection system with an Integrated Tax Administration System. The Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System has also proven to save the nation a lot of time and other resources so we will be expanding them throughout the nation as well. **SEE PAGE-7**



Staff of the Tamwe Branch, Myanma Economic Bank explaining to pensioners how to use the Wave Money mobile system.



The Central Statistics Organization conducted the survey on natural disaster in Kawa Township.



Economic Ministers of ASEAN nations pose for documentary photo at the 50th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting and Related Meetings in Singapore.

FROM PAGE-6

Q: What are some plans in place to improve the finance sector?

A: It has been 3 years since the Yangon Stock Exchange first opened for trading. There are 5 companies listed as of today. The government is also implementing tighter enforcements regarding corporate governance in private companies such as cross checking the capabilities of directors and board members. There are also checks on whether the companies abide by the Myanmar Companies Act when foreign investors are involved.

Q: Can you tell us about state owned banks?

A: There are 4 state-owned banks in Myanmar: Myanma Foreign Trade Bank, Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank, Myanma Economic Bank, and Myanma Agriculture and Development Bank. The banks have expanded the services they provided such as the introduction of JICA Two-step Loan. There is also the low-interest SME loans and for MFTB and MICB, there is trade financing for businesses that needs loans

for export/import businesses. The banks are also introducing digital mobile banking and are trying to phase from the manual system. The Housing Finance program is also introduced to help people own houses on low-interest loans for up to 10/15 years.

U Set Aung, Deputy Minister

Q: What are some tasks of the MOPF?

A: The Ministry focuses on two main tasks: Planning and Finance. The main task is to combine these two to produce a national finance plan. First of all, the Ministry has to consider the policy direction so we can plan what we want to achieve. Second is to build a Policy Implementation Matrix with details on how the path to achieve the goals on the policy direction trajectory. These were the weaknesses we had before. Now, not only we are able to adopt a policy direction but also draw up a policy matrix and then have a project bank to keep track of the progress.

Q: How important is planning?

A: There is a Strategic Plan

with details on how to implement the steps and achieve the goals. The Ministry right now have a project bank in an electronic database to keep track of

the projects that are being executed so it moves the Strategic Plan forward. Then, these plans are thrown to the public investors so that they can compete

(both private and public sector companies) on tenders so we have the best people executing these projects.

(Translated by Myat Thu)



Union Minister U Soe Win is seen in China to attend the China-Myanmar Economic Forum.



People line up to borrow agricultural loans at a bank in Singu Township.



Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win inspects Fx-Dealing with the use of Bloomberg Terminal and Thomsom Reuters Platform.

Overcome challenges to afforestation through cooperation

THE Union Government has stepped up efforts to set up state-owned forest plantations across the country to increase the area under forest cover, after an FAO survey showed that just 42.92 per cent of the country's land is under forests.

A 10-year afforestation project has been adopted and implemented from the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The project ends in the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Besides, Myanmar has made a commitment to designate 30 per cent of the country's forests as reserves by 2030, and 10 per cent as natural wildlife sanctuaries.

To achieve that target, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has established over 42,000 acres of forests, including hardwood and mangrove forests, in the past three years of the current government's tenure. Plans are underway to establish further 22,000 acres of forests in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

The success of the afforestation efforts would help ensure future generations produce forest products without damaging the natural environment.

The success of the afforestation efforts would help ensure future generations produce forest products without damaging the natural environment.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation is also implementing the European Union Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade - Voluntary Partnership Agreement (EU FLEGT VPA) to curb illegal trade of forest products, encourage sustainable forest management, and legally export timber to the European Union.

The Ministry has carried out reforms in the forest sector, and is working to prevent illegal logging and implement short-term and long-term plans after reviewing current policies and rules and procedures.

The establishment and extension of forest areas inside and outside the forest reserves and natural forest areas are a major task of the Ministry.

But, the biggest challenge to a balanced approach between environmental conservation and regional development has been the squatters in the forest reserve areas.

Just focusing on obtaining legal land use permits in the forest reserve areas, without taking environmental conservation into consideration, will not help strike a balance between afforestation and regional development.

Forests play a key role in environmental conservation and help regulate the weather.

Hills and plains covered with thick forests can help balance the effects of extreme weather. Barren hills cannot help conserve the environment. Areas without forests do not enjoy fine weather and environment.

That is why all the people must abide by the rules set by the local authorities for environmental conservation and seek sustainable solutions for the current challenges to the expansion of forest areas in our country.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of International Cooperation: Defending and protecting the interests of the people and the State in the international arena

"Within the three year period of our government, we were able to establish diplomatic relations with seven new partner countries. We have already established diplomatic relations with 121 countries out of 193 countries of the world."

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin

(Continued from the interview with the Union Minister for International Cooperations covered by GNLM on 30 April)

PREVIOUSLY we had Foreign Office Consultations (FoC) mechanisms mostly with our neighbouring countries. At present we have expanded such consultation mechanisms also with countries within and outside the region including Australia, Switzerland, Estonia, New Zealand, Colombia, Belarus, Brazil, Nepal and Turkey. We have been conducting human rights dialogues annually with Japan and the EU to gain mutual understanding and increased cooperation in this area.

Q: To improve international relations, can you tell me about your efforts to expand diplomatic relations with new partner countries if any?

Union Minister: We are exerting efforts to establish diplomatic relations with new partner countries with a view to promoting friendly relations and mutual support with many countries across the world. Within the three year period of our government, we were able to establish diplomatic relations with seven new partner countries. We have already established diplomatic relations with 121 countries out of 193 countries of the world. With a view to promoting friendly relations with African countries, we have already taken steps to establish diplomatic relations with the Republic of Benin, Congo Republic and the Republic of Togo.

With an aim to strengthen our relations with more countries in Latin America and the Caribbean region as well as with the countries in Central and Eastern Europe, we are working on opening of new Embassies in Havana (Cuba), and Prague (the Czech Republic) in 2019.

Q: May I know about your participation and activities in regional organizations?

Union Minister: We are participating actively in a number of regional groupings such as ASEAN, BIMSTEC, Greater Mekong Cooperation Scheme, Ayeyawady-Chao

Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), Mekong-Lancang Cooperation, Mekong-Japan, Mekong-Korea Cooperation, and the Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI).

Myanmar is taking charge of the Country Coordinator in agriculture sector under ACMECS; and also acting as Coordinator for agriculture and industry sector in formulating a framework for CLMV development cooperation. Under BIMSTEC framework, we are participating as a Lead Country in the agricultural and energy sectors.

President U Win Myint himself represented Myanmar at the 4th BIMSTEC Summit. As part of BIMSTEC program, Myanmar organized a regional workshop on agriculture. We also successfully hosted a workshop on traditional medicine and an expert group meeting on energy. We are planning to host a BIMSETC Agriculture Ministers' Meeting and a BIMSETC National Security Advisors' meeting in the near future.

We have also hosted the LMI/FLM (Lower Mekong Initiative/Friends of the Lower Mekong) regional workshop and related meetings in cooperation with the US State Department. Furthermore, we also hosted successfully the GMS Senior Officials' Meeting and the 10th GMS Economic Corridors Forum.

Being a Co-chair of the Mekong-ROK Cooperation Fund for 2018, Myanmar hosted a meeting for the senior officials in Nay Pyi Taw which was co-chaired by Myanmar, New Zealand and the United States.

Q: How are you planning to respond to the challenges being faced in the international arena?

Since the breaking out of the conflicts between the two communities in Rakhine State in June 2012, the issue of Rakhine State has attracted greater international attention and found its way into the resolutions on Myanmar adopted by the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council. The Government has therefore accorded high priority to resolve the issue of the Rakhine State ever



The certificate awarding ceremony for Enhanced Diplomatic Skills training course conducted by MoFA in February, 2019.

since it took office.

We have stated to put in place necessary mechanisms including setting up of the Advisory Commission for Rakhine State headed by Dr. Kofi Anan who is highly respected by the international community for his capability to resolve conflicts in fair and impartial manner. The Commission was assigned with the aim of finding a durable and sustainable solution to the complicated issue in Rakhine State. This has also contributed to the discontinuation of the EU-sponsored resolution on situation of human rights in Myanmar at the UN General Assembly in 2016, which has been tabled for the past 20 years. This is one of our remarkable achievements.

However, as a result of massive displacement of persons from Rakhine State following the coordinated attacks by the ARSA and ensuing incidents, the OIC tabled a resolution against Myanmar again at the 2017 session of the UN General Assembly, resulting in resurgence of international pressures on Myanmar. In light of this situation, our Ministry had to step up our efforts to respond to those mounting pressure through occasional issuance of our position statements, defending our position both at home and abroad, and lobbying other delegations to understand more about the realities and facts surrounding the issue.

The State Counsellor personally attended the UN General Assembly in 2016 and delivered a policy statement in the general debate. Likewise, Vice President U Henry Van Thio and U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister of Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor attended the UN General Assembly in 2017 and in 2018 respectively and delivered their policy statement.

Prior to the general debate of the 2017 UNGA, State Counsellor

has also attended regularly the high-level segment of the United Nations Human Rights Council every year during the past three years to present the views and position of the government on the issue. At the UNGA meeting in 2018, Britain attempted to present a draft resolution on Myanmar to have it adopted at the UN Security Council. The Myanmar delegation made intensive diplomatic moves to explain the Myanmar's efforts to address the issue and also ar-

ASEAN indicated their understanding on the complex and sensitive nature of the Rakhine issue and offered their readiness to assist us with the ASEAN family spirit in our efforts to bring peace, stability and development in Rakhine State.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered an address on the state of the Union on 19 September 2017 in Nay Pyi Taw to explain the situation in Rakhine State. Again just before the commencement of the 2018 UN General Assembly, she delivered a timely speech at the Singapore lecture series and at the World Economic Forum held in Hanoi during her transition towards democracy.

The Union Minister for International Cooperation, on his part,

ranged Ministerial-level meeting among key parties including Myanmar, Bangladesh and China. Thanks to these flurry of efforts, we were able to thwart the attempt to get the draft resolution passed.

With regard to the formation of the Fact Finding Mission (FFM) on Myanmar, we have stated our position loud and clear, right from the time of the adoption of the resolution to establish the FFM citing the facts that there was no transparency in the process; its mandate was also biased and

could pose an impediment to the efforts made by the government in resolving the issue; it would not be in conformity with the real situation at the ground level. For these reasons we made our position clear that the mandate given to the FFM was unacceptable to Myanmar. The Government's clear position on the report of the FFM was also made known when its report came out.

When I attended the high-level segment of the Human Rights Council meeting held on 26 February 2019 in Geneva, I stated again in my speech why we cannot accept the report of the FFM. Whenever the draft resolutions on Myanmar were taken up at the UN General Assembly or Human Rights Council, the Myanmar Permanent Representatives in New York and in Geneva spared no efforts to defend their position constantly by calling for a vote or by delivering their position statements to make our position known.

At the same time we have sought the assistance of those friendly countries who understand the complexities and challenges facing Myanmar, and we are making concerted efforts to deliver improvements on the ground and to start repatriation process to take back those who could be verified as former residents and free from crimes in accord with the bilateral

arrangements reached between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

To address the accountability issue, the Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) was set up in July 2018 with two prominent persons from abroad and two professionals from within the country. We also made it abundantly clear that our Government has the will and ability to deal with the accountability issue; and that for this reason we cannot accept any attempt to the involvement of the international judicial system in this matter. At the same time we have established the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development (UEHRD) to work on matters relating to providing humanitarian assistance, resettlement and development in Rakhine State. In the long run, we will be implementing the Kofi Anan commission recommendations to the fullest extent possible. In order to make sure that there are no undesirable external interferences in our efforts to address the internal challenges, our Government has been making concerted efforts systematically to ensure all-round development and to seek a sustainable solution where all communities in Rakhine State can exist harmoniously.

Being a member country of the United Nations, Myanmar has been cooperating with the international community including the United Nations and doing whatever needs to be done in accordance with national priorities. With regard to taking back the verified displaced persons, we have signed agreements not only with Bangladesh but also with the UNDP and UNHCR to get necessary assistance in the repatriation process. We have also received the support and assistance from ASEAN and many other friends in the region.

In order to promote wider public awareness about the real situation with respect to the Rakhine issue, we have been disseminating continuously the speeches on the efforts made by our Government in the daily newspapers, TV broadcasts, from our own official websites and social media platforms. In addition, we are making concerted efforts from all angles

and all sides including the dispatch of Special Envoys to present our case and explain our position. Myanmar diplomatic and consular missions as well as the Heads of Mission are also disseminating the information in their respective countries. We also gave briefing on updates of the Rakhine issue to the foreign dignitaries visiting Myanmar.

Q: With regard to the Rakhine state issue, what kind of efforts have you made in the region?

Union Minister: Our efforts in the region include promoting our country's image and giving updates by our leaders about the developments in Rakhine State and the complex and sensitive nature of the challenges at the Summit level meetings of the regional groupings such as ASEAN. We have been providing updated information continuously at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting about the measures taken by the Government to address the Rakhine issue. ASEAN indicated their understanding on the complex and sensitive nature of the Rakhine issue and offered their readiness to assist us with the ASEAN family spirit in our efforts to bring peace, stability and development in Rakhine State. Therefore we have been able to seek ASEAN's cooperation to help Myanmar resolve the issue in the areas of our needs at our comfort level in recognition of our national sovereignty.

In accordance with this consultation, we invited the ASEAN Secretary General to visit Rakhine State to determine in what way ASEAN could assist in facilitating the repatriation process. Consequently, we were able to hold the first high-level strategic coordination meeting with ASEAN team. In accordance with the agreement reached with ASEAN to assist us in the repatriation process of displaced persons, the ASEAN ERAT team consisting of representatives from Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines and Thailand was despatched to Myanmar last March to give training courses to participants in the process for their security and safety. They also visited the reception

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of International Cooperation: Defending and protecting the interests of the people and the State in the international arena

FROM PAGE-9

centres and the villages in Rakhine State where the returnees are to be resettled and conducted a preliminary needs assessment. The report of the ASEAN ERAT needs assessment team will be released soon and we will proceed to take necessary steps after identifying the areas of cooperation.

Myanmar delegation also gave a briefing on the recent developments in the Rakhine State at the 22nd ASEAN-EU Ministerial Level Meeting held in Brussels, Belgium on 21 January 2019. Our success in securing the constructive role of ASEAN in facilitating the repatriation process of the verified displaced persons from Rakhine State is a step forward in our diplomatic efforts.

Q: May I know the instances where Myanmar has taken an active participation in international organizations and in International agreements?

Union Minister: Although there have been mounting pressures on Myanmar in the area of human rights and humanitarian situation during the Government's tenure, we have seen improvements in the area of development cooperation. The successful adoption of the normal country programs by the UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and ILO and the meeting of the three requirements for the first time to graduate from list of LDCs in 2018 and signing or ratification of some United Nations agreements could be counted as signs of progress.

Myanmar has signed the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) during the 73rd session of the UNGA, as it is in line with the position of Myanmar regarding the elimination of nuclear weapons. On the sideline of the 10th Edition of Delhi Dialogue held in New Delhi, India, Myanmar signed the policy framework agreement of the International Solar Alliance and became its 68th member.

Q: Please tell me what you have been able to do for protecting the interests of Myanmar nationals abroad?

Union Minister: During the tenure of the current Government, the Myanmar diplomatic missions abroad have been putting greater emphasis to protect and assist Myanmar nationals

and former Myanmar nationals living abroad in line with the people-centered diplomacy. As a result of the reforms, improvements and liberalizations in various sectors, we have been able to give more effective help to the members of Myanmar communities living abroad in resolving their difficulties and problems.

Since the situation at the Myanmar-Thai border has improved in terms of peace and stability, we have been able to take back verified Myanmar nationals, who have been living in the camps for many years and wishing to return on their volition. We are making progress in this matter though our consultation under the G-to-G arrangement with Thailand. After proper ratification, we have welcomed back 70 persons in the first batch, 93 persons in the second batch and 567 persons in the third batch. This is also a significant progress made by the government.

Q: What have you done in boundary matters for achieving progress?

Union Minister: The State Counsellor has given guidance to leave behind a good legacy to



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin.

tions of the border part by part.

On the India-Myanmar border between boundary pillar number (145) and (146) in the Naga region, we have conducted joint border demarcation survey and erected 38 distinct borders posts to build a fence in order to prevent encroachment of building structures from the other side in our territory. We will be negotiating with the Indian side to put up a fence in that area. In the same manner, we were able

For some important posts, we extend the assignments of Ambassadors who are not only well-versed in diplomatic skills but also dedicated energetically to their duties.

the future generation by attaching priority to bringing about completion of many pending border demarcation matters which successive governments were unable to do so.

To resume the border demarcation work that had been stalled, we were able to hold Thai-Myanmar high-level senior officials coordination meetings in both countries to sign a Border Demarcation Agreement as soon as possible. We were thus able to narrow down the gaps that existed in our views and perspectives. After the signing of the said border demarcation agreement, we would be able to demarcate the border for the Pak Chong river and the land border situated in the north about 200 miles. There are plans to demarcate the remaining por-

to erect 30 additional boundary demarcation posts between boundary pillar number (80) and (82) in cooperation with India during the year 2017-2018.

Since we have not been able to undertake verification of demarcation along the Myanmar-Chinese border for the past 23 years, the first preliminary coordination meeting was held in July 2017 to discuss matters relating to the third Myanmar-Chinese Joint Verification of Demarcation Lines. The second preliminary coordination meeting was held in China in March 2019. Disputes arising from construction along the border are being resolved based on the existing friendship and in the spirit of cooperation and good neighborliness.

Q: Please tell us about your plans to open new embassies?

Union Minister: Myanmar diplomatic missions abroad play an important role in implementing the policies and objectives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in conducting diplomatic relations with other countries to promote cooperation in the social and economic fields. At present we have in operation 35 Embassies, 3 Permanent Missions and 6 Consulates-General with a total of 44 diplomatic missions.

The Myanmar Embassies, Permanent Missions and Consulates-General are rendering their services with greater enthusiasm and vigour for the interests of the Myanmar nationals abroad in line with the people-centered diplomacy. Through provision of consular services, they are also contributing in earning revenues for the government and the people. The Ministry has been able to generate incomes by collecting fees for entry visa, passport related services, income tax and other services on behalf of other relevant Ministries. During the past three years, we have received a total of Kyat 95, 864.878 million (US\$ 71.869 million) as revenue for the government.

Q: May I know the current programmes for capacity and skills building at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs?

Union Minister: Since we need fine diplomats with excellent skills to accomplish the goals of the Ministry, we have been organising a number of capacity building training including

Basic Diplomatic Skills Course, Training for Deputy Chiefs of Mission, Trainings for clerical staff in international relations and English language, and many other courses for interpreters, report writing, and speech writing in collaboration with foreign institutions.

Furthermore, during the third year of our government, we have trained 379 persons by organising Courses on Basic Diplomatic Skills twice for the government employees, entrepreneurs, and young graduates including company employees. Furthermore, we have also conducted Certificate Course in Enhanced Diplomatic Skills (5/2019). One of the new initiatives was the convening of special training courses for the spouses of the diplomats and female foreign service officials on dress code and diplomatic practices for hospitality and entertainment.

Q: Please tell me about your efforts and programs for making sure that Myanmar Foreign Service personnel are able to perform their duties effectively?

Union Minister: For Myanmar Foreign Service personnel to perform their duties effectively, we need highly skilled Ambassadors and dedicated diplomats who are well-motivated and hard working. Thus, in the appointment of Ambassadors, we are now giving priority mainly to those with diplomatic experience. For some important posts, we extend the assignments of Ambassadors who are not only well-versed in diplomatic skills but also dedicated energetically to their duties. This may be one of the significant changes in our approach in the selection.

In order to enable our diplomatic personnel to concentrate solely on performing their duties smoothly without any worry, we have enhanced significantly our administrative support, particularly for their health care and support for educational expenses for their children. During our government's tenure, we have granted health insurances for 24 diplomatic missions out of a total of 44 missions, compared to only 6 missions which were allowed to enjoy health insurance benefits during the previous government. Commencing

MoHS holds workshop on improving national supply chain



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe addresses workshop on the Development of the Operation Plan of the Strategic Plan of the Country Supply Chain in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A workshop on the Development of a Strategic Plan for the Country's Supply Chain was held at the Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Speaking at the workshop, the Union Minister for Health and Sports, Dr. Myint Htwe, said managing the supply chain efficiently is important for both the nation and the Ministry. He said the workshop would review the current system from a professional standpoint and management perspective in order to support it and designate practical tasks.

The Union Minister said future tasks must be planned according to the situation detailed by the 2014 national report on the country's supply chain. He said these tasks must be carried out according to the funds and human resources available.

"The Ministry has formed a Procurement and Distribution Division, headed by an official of the Deputy Director-General rank. The division reviews the

annual consumption of pharmaceuticals, estimates the quota of pharmaceuticals and apparatuses to be purchased, their procurement, storage, and distribution, and evaluates their use," said the Union Minister.

Before the workshop, two preliminary coordination meetings were held to evaluate the projects and strategies related to the national supply chain, in order to produce practical solutions that can be implemented, he said.

The Union Minister said the workshop will conduct discussions on the fundamental principles of the supply chain, including systematic procurement, storage, managing expired products and waste, estimating needs, and implementing an information exchange system.

He said the success of these tasks depends on the region/state level Public Health Department and Medical Services Department's heads and Medical Superintendents. He

urged them to implement these tasks with the same care as their own personal matters.

The Union Minister said support from the USAID Global Supply Chain Program is needed to launch diploma courses in supply chain management as quickly as possible. He urged participants at the workshop to put forth their ideas and suggestions for the emergence of a national supply chain system that will have immense benefits.

Afterwards, the Deputy Director-General (Procurement and Distribution) explained the workshop's objectives. The Country Director of the Global Health Supply Chain Program – Procurement and Supply Management (GHSC-PSM) explained the continued support necessary for designing practical strategies, and Consultant Mr. Pierre de Vasson explained the tasks for strengthening the supply chain and the importance of management. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 60/2019
13th Waning of Tagu, 1381 ME
2 May, 2019

Permission for registering as a political party

THE Yeomanry Development Party headquartered at No.9, Ground floor, Patheinyunt 5th Street, Patheinyunt Ward in Mingalar Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Region, has been permitted for registering as a political party under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 2 May 2019.

The registration number of the Yeomanry Development Party is 113.

Sd/-
(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 61/2019
13th Waning of Tagu, 1381 ME
2 May, 2019

Permission to change a political party's name

THE Negotiation and Stability Party has submitted its application for changing their political party's name from "The Negotiation and Stability Party" to "The Party for People" with their registration No. 98 under Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law to the Union Election Commission.

Union Election Commission announced that it allows to change their political party's name on 2 May 2019.

Sd/-
(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Application for registering as political party declared

IN keeping with the legal provisions governing the registration of political parties, the Union Election Commission (UEC) is scrutinizing the applications for registration. Kachin State People's Party (KSPP) came to UEC for registering as a political party on 30 April 2019, it is learnt.—MNA

Public Announcement for remonstrations

KACHIN State People's Party (KSPP), headquartered at No. 386, Yuzana Ward, Myitkyina in Kachin State, submitted an application for registration as a political party under the Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 30 April 2019. In their application they mention that they will use the name, the flag and the emblem as described hereunder.

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

Union Election Commission



Emblem of the Kachin State People's Party (KSPP)



Flag of the Kachin State People's Party (KSPP)

FROM PAGE-10

this financial year, the Government is supporting two thirds of the school tuition fees for all eligible children of foreign service personnel to overcome their financial difficulties for education. This is a very significant support given by the government for the interests of our diplomats' families.

In order to elevate the profile of Myanmar diplomats in international relations and to lift their

diplomatic standard and dignity, some buildings of our Embassies have been renovated or rebuilt to turn them into the property of the government. In South Africa and Australia, we are constructing new buildings for our embassies or staff quarters. We have also granted more resources to some of the Myanmar embassies to make major repairs and maintenance as well as for necessary security enhancement projects.

By building government-owned properties in foreign countries, we have reduced the rising cost for accommodation and saved the government expenditures. Starting from this year, the Myanmar Embassy in Singapore has discontinued the contract with a private visa service company and managed to provide the same service using its own personnel of the Embassy.

Q: Are there any ad-

ditional comments you wish to make as concluding remarks?

Union Minister: As we strive to improve our relations with the international community, the Rakhine issue is obviously placing a big obstacle. Thus, overcoming this great challenge is our utmost priority and important duty.

In our efforts to improve the image of Myanmar and to resolve all the challenges including the issue of the Rakhine

State, the Government needs constructive, active and energetic support and collaboration of all Myanmar people at home and abroad, and all institutions. With the help of our friendly countries who understand our situation and with the mobilisation of the collective strength and unity of our people, we must continue to exert our concerted efforts to get the truth and justice prevail eventually. In resolving the Rakhine State issue,

our Government has taken into consideration all differing views and kept in our hearts and minds the interests of the State and the people with a fair and pragmatic approach. Therefore, I wish to urge all of you to join us in unity in helping our Ministry in implementing the programmes which are in line with the policy of the Government elected by the people.— *(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)*

Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 12th regular session holds ...

FROM PAGE-2

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than then announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the bill to register their names. Bill Committee report on Bill to amend Bar Council Act

Next Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Aung Thein read and explained a bill committee report on a bill to amend Bar Council Act.

Afterwards Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker obtained the decision of the Hluttaw and approved as amended by Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee the bill to amend Bar Council Act re-

turned by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments.

As there was disagreement between the two Hluttaws on the bill, U Hsan Myint of Ayeyawady Region constituency 3 tabled a motion for Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to discuss and decide on the disagreement. Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker then announced that the disagreement between the two Hluttaws on the bill to amend Bar Council Act will be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The third day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 12th regular session will be held on 3 May.— Aung Ye Thwin (MNA) ■ *(Translated by Zaw Min)*

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Dated 3rd May 2019 lmm@kcyangon.com

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(16/2019)**

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-205(18-19)	Spares for SJS Serva (TPB600) Cementing Unit (7) Groups	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-206(18-19)	Spares for SK200-8 Kobelco Excavator (46) Items	Ks
(c)	DMP/L-207(18-19)	Spares For Cooper Well Servicing Unit (35) Items	Ks
(d)	DMP/L-208(18-19)	Spares for Cat G 3412 Gas Engine (5) Items	Ks
(e)	DMP/L-209(18-19)	Radial Bearing for N-69 Swivel (3) Nos	Ks
(f)	DMP/L-210(18-19)	3 3/4" Tri Cone Rock Bits (3) Items	Ks
(g)	DMP/L-211(18-19)	Mechanical Accessories (3) Groups	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy Website Portal (www.moe.gov.mm) as from **2 May 2019**. Tender forms will not be sold.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **14:00 pm on 3 June 2019**.

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- The Executive Director (ED) provides vision, leadership and guidance to the organization.
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- The ED manages all administrative and operational matters of the ASEAN Foundation (including policies, budget and staffing).
- The ED will play a significant role in securing the financial resources required to sustain and grow the ASEAN Foundation's initiatives and programmes, as well as build positive working relations with external stakeholders. The ED reports to the Board of Trustees of the ASEAN Foundation.

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- Be a national of an ASEAN Member State
- Possess a university degree or professional qualifications from a reputable institution, preferably in a relevant discipline such as Business Administration, Public Administration, Public Policy, International Relations or Human Resources. Candidates with an advanced degree are preferred.
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The Employment Application Form can be downloaded from the ASEAN website at the [link-http://www.asean.org/opportunities/asec-employment-form](http://www.asean.org/opportunities/asec-employment-form) and Detail information will be available at the link <http://www.aseanfoundation.org/job/the-asean-foundation-invites-asean-nationals-to-apply-for-the-following-position-executive-director>.

Asean Foundation

VP U Myint Swe attends 9th coord meeting of Private Sector Development Committee

FROM PAGE-3

To ensure smoothness in conducting businesses for private sector development, coordination between ministries was required and for timely coordination a 13 member Ease of Doing Business Ranking Promotion Work Group led by Deputy Minister for Commerce was formed and it had been doing the best it can. Everyone knew that ten support groups for each "ease of doing business indexes" were also formed.

Questions raised by World Bank to calculate 2020 Ease of Doing Business Ranking were answered by end April 2019. A video conferencing was also held between related index wise groups and officials from World Bank head office on 3 and 4 April 2019. The group led by Deputy Minister for Commerce setup an Action Plan to April and 27 reform work processes were established and conducted in the index wise support groups.

The reason why emphasis had been placed on these reform work processes was for soon to be published World Bank Doing Business report as well as for sustainable development of Ease of Doing Business work process. Each ministerial department was to designate short and long term index wise reforms and work toward achieving success. Only then can businesses conduct matters like registering a company, constructing a warehouse, acquiring electricity, acquiring loan and taxes paid smoothly in a short time frame with least expense. Therefore for progress of Ease of Doing Business Ranking all related departments were to reform laws, rules, procedures and policies to be in accord with the time. New technologies were to be utilized to conduct reforms, smoothen and speed up the works. Decision and implementations made by the government must be made known to the departments and the people while decisions made at the meeting were to be implemented quickly. In addition to this preparation of sector wise Reform Action Plans required for Doing Business Report 2020 were to be made.

Everyone knew that private sector development plays the primary role for a country's economic development and socio-economic development of the people. Therefore when ministerial departments and government organizations provide services for public sector development successful systems and norms used in the countries of the region must be copied and reforms conducted where reforms were needed. Reforms were to be measured not by the ministry's own norms but by international norms said the Vice President.

Meeting attendees were urged to openly discuss for private sector development and progress in Ease of Doing Business Ranking said the Vice President.

Next, committee Deputy Chairman Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint explained and discussed

about trade opportunities and difficulties, status of border trade and works conducted for private sector development.

Afterwards, committee secretary Permanent Secretary U Aung Soe explained about implementation of decisions made at the eighth meeting and future work processes.

Private Sector Development Committee members in attendance also explained, discussed and suggested on various matter relating to the private sector development

while Ministry of Planning and Finance Permanent Secretary U Tun Tun Naing explained about "Work Committee to reestablish the role of government role in business and service sector works."

Finally, Vice President U Myint Swe commented and coordinated on the explanations, discussions and suggestions made and concluded the meeting after delivering a closing speech.— MNA

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Dated 3rd May 2019

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Steel rails for Yangon-Mandalay railroad arrive at Yangon Port

THE MYANMA RAILWAY is making efforts to ensure efficient rail transport with the help of the country's development partner Japan. As part of the collaboration, steel rails for laying alongside the Yangon-Mandalay railroad were brought in from Japan and unloaded at Yangon Port yesterday.

"In the afternoon on 1 May, 2,800 tons of steel rails were unloaded from a ship docked at the port. The Yangon-Mandalay railway is being upgraded in two phases. Phase I covers the Yangon-Taungoo route and Phase II involves the Taungoo-Mandalay route. Three rail sections will be upgraded in Phase 1 — Yangon-Bago, Bago-Nyaunglebin, and Nyaunglebin-Taungoo. The steel rails unloaded at the port are meant for the Bago-Nyaunglebin rail section," said U Zaw Lwin, the traffic manager for the No.7 Division of Myanmar Railway. "At present, steel rails measuring 39 feet in length and



Photo shows a train running on railroad. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

weighing 75 pounds are being used for the Yangon-Mandalay railroad. They allow trains to run at an average speed of 35 miles per hour, although the maximum speed limit is 43 miles per hour. The steel tracks from Japan weigh 110 pounds and measure 82 feet in length. They will allow trains to run at 50-62 miles per

hour on average," he added.

Steel track replacement work for the Bago-Nyaunglebin rail section will begin in October. Six ships will bring in steel tracks for the Yangon-Bago rail section, while seven ships will be used to carry steel tracks for upgrading the Bago-Nyaunglebin section, and nine ships will

bring in steel tracks for the Nyaunglebin-Taungoo section. Work on Phase I from Yangon to Taungoo is slated to be completed in the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Japan will provide technical assistance for steel track replacement work to ensure smooth transportation.—Myint Maung Soe ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Two new jetties built in Sagaing Region in current fiscal year

TWO jetties have been constructed in Mingun and Nwyein regions in Sagaing in the 2018-2019FY to provide smooth transportation to locals and tourists, said U Aung Thu Oo, the head of Sagaing Region's Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

"The numbers of visitors coming to Sagaing Region has increased compared with the previous year. Therefore, the regional government has constructed the two jetties for the convenience of travelers. There are two jetties in Mingun region, and there is only one jetty in Nwyein region. The main reason for constructing the two jetties is boosting the tourism sector in the region," he said.



A river cruise ship docks at the jetty in Mingun. PHOTO: WINOO

The jetty connecting Sagaing hill to Mingun measures 20 feet in length and 50 feet in width. The two jetties were

built under the supervision of the Sagaing Region Government for visitors who wish to come and observe the traditional

glazeware industry in Nwyein region via maritime transport.—Win Oo ■ (Translated by La Wonn)

Workshops on improving dairy productivity to be held in Yangon, Mandalay

By Nyein Nyein

WORKSHOPS on Fermented Total Mixed Ration (FTMR) for ruminating animals will be held in Yangon on 21 May and Mandalay on 23 May, according to the Myanmar Livestock Federation.

Total Mixed Ration (TMR) refers to the practice of weighing and blending feedstuffs into a complete ration which provides adequate nourishment for animals that ruminates.

The workshops will be organized by the Myanmar Live-

stock Federation in collaboration with the Thailand Livestock Development Department, Thai Society of Animal Nutritionists (Thai SAN), Thai-Danish Suan Madua Dairy Cooperative (SMD-COOP), and Myanmar Dairy Association (MDA).

Thai small holder farms have been using total mixed ration for the last five years, which have led to great benefits in breeding. Therefore, workshops on 'FTMR Feeding to Enhance Dairy Productivity of Myanmar Smallholder Farms' have been planned to

share the good experiences of Thailand, according to the Myanmar Livestock Federation. The workshops will discuss matters related to Myanmar dairy cow breeding, milk production, and animal feed resources, Thailand dairy cow breeding, milk production, animal feed resources, reformation of ration feeding in dairy cow breeding and milk production by feeding TMR and FTMR, and upgrading its quality, impact of TMR on the farming business interest, and the importance of production of forage for

the development of Thailand's dairy cow breeding, according to the Myanmar Livestock Federation. Breeders, animal nutrition experts interested in sociology, breeding experts, and veterinary physicians are expected to attend the workshops, which will be free of charge. Those who are interested in attending the workshops can register by phone with the Myanmar Livestock Federation by 10 May. The federation can be reached at 01-3644041, 01-3644843, 09-421006239 during office hours. ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

Pre-Bid Conference held for Yangon Elevated Expressway Phase-1



Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw delivers the opening speech at the Pre-Bid Conference for Yangon Elevated Expressway Phase-1 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRE-BID Conference for Yangon Elevated Expressway Phase-1 jointly implemented by Ministry of Construction and Yangon Region Government was held at Grand Ballroom of Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The event was attended by Union Minister U Han Zaw, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin,

directors-general and officials from Ministry of Construction, International Finance Corporation, qualified investing company groups and international financing organizations.

At the event Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw delivered an opening speech and attending investing company groups and international

financing organizations introduced themselves to the Union Minister and Deputy Minister. Next project consultant organization IFC explained about Yangon Elevated Expressway Phase-1 and responded to questions raised by investing company groups and international financing organizations. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

World Press Freedom 2019 celebrated in Yangon



Head of UNESCO in Myanmar Ms. Min Jeong Kim delivers the speech at the World Press Freedom Day - 2019 in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: YE HTUT**

WORLD PRESS Freedom Day - 2019 was commemorated in an event organized by UNESCO at Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

The ceremony was opened with a video about World Press Freedom Day and followed by a speech from the Head of UNESCO in Myanmar, Ms. Min Jeong Kim.

Next, Netherlands Ambassador Mr. Wouter Jurgens spoke on the state of Myanmar's press freedom and the UNESCO head spoke on the recipients of the

International Press Freedom Awards. Attendees then began discussions on the media's role in the election period and reducing the impact of fake news and misinformation.

Daw Thinzar Aung, Senior Media Trainer of Internews, acted as moderator while the panellists included U Kyaw Swar Min, Secretary of Myanmar Press Council, Naw Betty Han, senior reporter of The Myanmar Times (English Version), U Ye Htut, Executive Director of Myanmar Institute

for Democracy, Daw Thida Tin, Deputy Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department, Mr. Valentina Wijiya, Secretary of Presidium of MAFINDO, and U Myat Thu, Research Advisor of Myanmar Tech Accountability Network.

This is the 7th time Myanmar has commemorated World Press Freedom Day. The theme for this year is 'Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation'. — Win Mi Mi (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

US Under Secy of State holds separate meetings with Rakhine State Hluttaw Speaker, Muslims in Sittway

A DELEGATION led by Mr. David Hale, the United States' Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, met separately with the Speaker of the Rakhine State Hluttaw and members of the Muslim community in Sittway yesterday.

The Under Secretary first met with the Muslim community, led by U Shwe Hla, at the Maddaya Sa Eisalar Miya School in Aung Mingalar Ward, Sittway, and held a discussion with them.

Next, they visited the Rakhine State Hluttaw and met with

State Hluttaw Speaker U San Kyaw Hla and Deputy Speaker U Mya Than. They discussed matters relating to the citizenship issue of Muslims and peaceful solutions for the conflicts in Rakhine State.

In the evening, the delegation left for Nay Pyi Taw from Sittway by flight.

Mr. David Hale was accompanied by the United States Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr. Scot Marciel, and officials. — Tin Tun (IPRD) (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



United States' Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Mr. David Hale arrives at a mosque to meet Muslims in Sittway. **PHOTO: MNA**

Luyechuns go on an excursion to Mount Popa

OUTSTANDING students, or Luyechuns, from the ninth grade went on an excursion to Mount Popa from the Bagan Luyechun camp yesterday. The Luyechuns paid their respects at the Popa Taungkalat Pagoda and visited the Mount Popa Garden, a medicinal herb farm, and the Popa Mountain Resort.

A total of 178 ninth grade Luyechuns accompanied by the in-charge of the Bagan

Luyechun camp, Deputy Director-General Daw Than Myint, and members of the Mandalay Region Education Office and supervising teachers arrived in Kyaukpadaung Town, and paid homage to the pagodas on the Popa Taungkalat.

Afterwards, they visited an educational gallery at the Mount Popa Garden. — Ko Min/ Photo: Min Min



MFF to host AFC Grassroots Football Day festival

THE Myanmar Football Federation will celebrate the Asian Football Confederation Grassroots Football Day 2019 on 15 May, according to the MFF.

The MFF held a coordination meeting for the football day festival at its headquarters in Yangon yesterday. The meeting was attended by the Secretary General of the MFF, U Ko Ko Thein, Technical Director Alex, Township Football Association Director U Than Win, Grassroots Football Sector Director U Bhone Nyunt, and chairpersons and officials from the township football associations of Yangon Region.

During the meeting, Secretary General U Ko Ko Thein said: "Forty-seven countries, including Myanmar, will hold the AFC Grassroots Football Day simultaneously on 15 May."

"Thus, chairpersons and officials from the township football associations of Yangon Region have been called to this meeting so grassroots programs can be organized systematically, and they are better conducted, and involve more participation or attract more crowds than last year," he said. The Myanmar Football Federation has been awarded the AFC Grassroots Charter-Bronze-Membership, and will focus on the betterment of grassroots football, under the guidance of the AFC, in the coming years, too, he added.

On 15 May, along with the AFC Grassroots Football Day festival, a football competition will be organized for children under 10 years of age from different townships, according to the MFF.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Children participating in the previous edition of the grassroots football festival in Yangon. PHOTO: AFC

Liverpool have no time to lick wounds after Barcelona defeat

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Liverpool have no time to fret over their chastening Champions League defeat at the hands of Barcelona as they scramble to prevent their season from fizzling out without any silverware

to show for it.

After the hammer blow of two late Lionel Messi goals at the Camp Nou, which gave Barcelona a 3-0 win in the first leg of the semi-final, Jurgen Klopp's men must raise themselves for

the challenge of Newcastle in the Premier League on Saturday.

Despite already posting a club record points tally of 91 with two games remaining, a Liverpool defeat would give Manchester City the chance to retain the title at home to Leicester on Monday.

"They don't have to think about the next game against Barcelona, now we play Newcastle," said Klopp after Wednesday's defeat in Spain.

"That's all our focus. We go to the hotel, have a proper sleep, get up in the morning, fly home and then prepare for Newcastle.

"Whatever happens, these boys, I couldn't be more proud of them." There was plenty for Klopp to be proud about in Catalonia despite a first defeat in 20 games.—AFP ■



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp must lift his players after they crashed to a 3-0 defeat in Barcelona. PHOTO: AFP

Week 10 National League matches to start Saturday

THE Week-10 senior team matches of the MPT Myanmar National League 2019 are scheduled to take place in Yangon and other major cities across Myanmar from 4 May.

On 4 May, the Hantharwady United will face Dagon F.C. at the Grand Royal Stadium in Bago.

The match will be broadcast live on MRTV and MRTV-4 Channels, according to the MNL.

The same day, another much-anticipated match has been scheduled between the defending champions of the national league, Yangon United, and Sagaing United at Yangon United's home turf in Yangon. The match will be streamed live on MySports' Facebook page.

Meanwhile, newcomer Chinland F.C. will play against

Magwe F.C. at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. The match will be streamed live on MySports' Facebook page.

On 5 May, the Yadanarbon F.C. will take on Rakhine United at the Waitharli Stadium in Sittway. The match will be streamed live on MySports' Facebook page.

The same day, Southern Myanmar F.C. will face Shan United F.C. at the Mawlamyine Stadium in Mawlamyine, the home stadium of Southern Myanmar. The match will be streamed live on MySports' Facebook page.

Another match on the same day will feature Ayeyawady United against Zwegapin United at the Thuwunna Stadium, and the match will be broadcast on MRTV.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

After ruling, Semenya to run in Doha Diamond League

DOHA (Qatar) — Olympic champion Caster Semenya, who lost her legal challenge against new IAAF gender rules, will race in the 800 metres in Friday's Doha Diamond League after making a late entry, organisers said Thursday.

Semenya, the double Olym-

pic champion, was added to the start list for Friday's 800 metres on Thursday morning, a day after her appeal against the IAAF's rule regulating testosterone levels for women athletes was rejected by the Court for Arbitration of Sport.

Doha organisers said the

South African runner had waited for the outcome of Wednesday's CAS hearing in Lausanne, Switzerland, before deciding whether to run in the meeting that opens the Diamond League season.

Semenya had challenged measures approved by the International Association of Athlet-

ics Federations (IAAF), that will force women with higher than normal male hormone levels — so-called "hyperandrogenic" athletes — to artificially lower the amount of testosterone if they are to continue competing.

The rules will come into effect on May 8 and will apply to

races over distances of 400m to the mile. The two other athletes who made the 800m podium at the 2016 Rio Olympics, Burundian Francine Niyonsaba and Margaret Wambui of Kenya, also considered hyperandrogenic, will also start in Doha Friday.—AFP ■