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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Govt, private sector must cooperate on formation of Coffee Board: U Henry Van Thio

**M**YANMAR Coffee Forum 2019 was held in Mandalay yesterday by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. This forum moved to form a Coffee Board to push for production of quality coffee and expanding the export market.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio said in his opening address that the aim of the forum was to - "To keep our coffee sector on its development trajectory, to deal with the current situation, and to fulfill the needs for the development of coffee".

The second coffee forum has come two years after the first one, which was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 May, 2017.

In his capacity as the Chairman of the Body for Protecting Farmers' Rights and Promoting their Interest, Vice President U Henry Van Thio appreciated the successful implementation of the decisions taken at the 2017 forum, and pointed out some more requirements.

"After working for the development of the coffee sector for two years, between the two forums, we have witnessed an increase in production and access to markets, with farmers applying good technology. These have come as visible achievements," said the Vice President.

He called for cooperation between the government departments and the private sec-



Vice President U Henry Van Thio observes coffee products displayed at the Myanmar Coffee Forum 2019 in Mandalay yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

tor for the formation of a Coffee Board, quality control of coffee, getting a suitable price in the market, and granting of loans to coffee growers.

He said that coffee came after crude oil in the world trade market, and it was considered an industrial crop that could generate foreign exchange, like other agricultural products

such as rice and peas.

He added that Myanmar Arabica coffee produced in Pyin Oo Lwin and Ywangan in Shan State was ranked a specialty coffee globally, and Myanmar coffee fetched a reasonable price in the international markets.

He also asked all stakeholders in the sector to develop

not only Arabica coffee, but also Robusta coffee in areas with favorable climate, as a substitute for imported instant coffee.

He said it has been found that the Myanmar coffee sector still lagged in terms of development due to weaknesses in processing technology compared with Thailand, Indonesia, and Viet Nam, shortcomings in in-

formation sharing, and a small market share.

To put Myanmar coffee on the track to sustainable development, collaboration between the government and private players must be undertaken, in conformity with the government's policies and private sector development.

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## Pyithu Hluttaw

## Appointing local ethnic teachers, developing industrial sector

THE sixth-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 12<sup>th</sup> regular session was held yesterday. Making Mawtaung trade camp permanent

Daw Tin Tin Yi, MP for Kyunsu constituency raised a question on whether the temporary Myanmar-Thai border gate trading camp in Mawtaung Sub-town, Taninthayi Township, will be made into a permanent trade camp. She reasoned that the trade through the camp only takes 8 hours for Myeik's fishery products, thus considerably reducing transportation fees and allowing effective inspection for quality.

Deputy Commerce Minister U Aung Htoo replied that both countries need to agree on and add in a clause in the border demarcation agreement for Mawtaung trade camp to be established as a permanent camp. Moving network boxes off pavements

U Tun Myint, MP for Bahan constituency raised a question on whether the network boxes placed inconveniently on pavements in Bahan Township will be moved to more suitable locations and whether the entangled communication lines and utility poles leaning from their weight will be fixed. Deputy Minister



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

for Transport and Communications, U Kyaw Myo replied that Myanma Post and Telecommunications, the Myanmar Post and Telecommunications and the Yangon Region government are working together to install new multi-service access nodes (MSAN) to replace the old devices and will work with external professionals and communications-licensed companies to handle the utility poles and reduce overhead cable clusters. He said this will reduce the inconvenience in public spaces throughout all of Yangon.

Bill Committee's amendments to Basic Education Bill approved

Next, Bill Committee member Daw Mar Mar Khine submit-

ted the proposal for amending the Ministry of Education's Basic Education Bill to the Hluttaw. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat called for the assembly's deliberation on the Bill Committee's 67 amendments outlined in their proposal. With no opposition raised to the proposal, the Speaker announced the bill has been approved and will continue its due process.

Urging government to appoint local ethnic teachers first

U Nyan Hein, MP for Thanbyuzayat constituency tabled a motion urging the Union Government to enact a policy that prioritizes graduate ethnic people in the primary teacher selection process in their hometowns.

The MP said he has read the full report on the basic education schools in Mandalay and Yangon submitted by the Union Education Policy Commission at the 11<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw but stated that the challenges and solutions outlined in the report are different from the ones rural areas are facing. He said the first challenge there is the language barrier.

U Nyan Hein said the Union Government's success in making the transportation network better has resulted in more ethnic people from rural areas graduating university. He said assigning them to teaching roles will solve the language barrier issue, resolve the tendency for teachers to file for leave when they are assigned to remote locations, reduce the cost for accommodation for hiring out-of-town teachers, and increase the promotion of local customs and traditions through the local ethnic teachers in education and administration tasks.

U Myint Oo, MP for Gwa constituency seconded the motion. The Speaker called for the Hluttaw's deliberation, received approval and announced the motion has been forwarded for discussion. He called for MPs interested in discussing the motion

to enroll their names.

Motion urging for industrial sector development

Hluttaw representatives then discussed a motion tabled by Daw Cho Cho, MP for Ottwin constituency. The motion urged the Union Government to review the investment policies surrounding the domestic industrial sector, plans for including domestic products in the global supply chain, and acquiring the necessary finance and technology for pursuing them.

Dr. Daw Thet Thet Khine, MP for Dagon constituency, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Major Zay Phyo and Dr. U Win Aung, MP for KhinU constituency discussed the motion.

Following the Hluttaw representatives' discussion, Union Industry Minister U Khin Maung Cho responded to the motion on behalf of three ministries concerned. He said the Ministry of Industry regularly conducts a variety of training courses and awareness campaigns across Myanmar to further the development of its MSMEs, including capacity building initiatives, handing over of production technology, financial management, designing business plans, among others.

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## Amyotha Hluttaw

Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 12<sup>th</sup> Regular Session holds its sixth-day meeting

The sixth-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 12<sup>th</sup> Regular Session was convened, yesterday morning, in the Amyotha Hluttaw's meeting hall, where asterisk-marked questions were raised and answered, a bill and two motions were tabled, and a report was read.

Asterisk-marked questions and answers

In the first question of the Hluttaw Session, U Kyaw Ni Naing of Shan State constituency 11 raised a question concerning the conservation works of depressed median on Yangon-Mandalay road. Regarding this query, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin replied that depressed median, flexible barrier and guardrail had been constructed in order to alleviate the traffic congestion, an effort to facilitate smooth transportation on the roads in accordance with the standard of highway capacity although there were four-lane roads and the present height of



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

the median were raised.

U Htein Win of Ayeyawady Region constituency 2 asked if there was a plan to implement Pegyi Kyun-Pauk Tabin-Seiktha-Kywet Kyun route in Hinthada Township, Ayeyawady Region, and the project had not been carried out until now although field survey had been conducted with the help of the World Bank two years ago.

U Min Swe Naing of Kachin State constituency 6 asked if

there was a plan to upgrade the earthen roads to gravel ones linking to Nan Khan village and Kyunpinthar village situated in Nanma village-tract, Mohnyin Tsp, Kachin State.

U Myo Htap (a) Salai Myo Htike of Chin State constituency 12 asked if there was a plan to construct a road between Kayat-Sardi-Wadinegone-Walonggone-Shwepyigone-Sinli-Parsin villages in the 2019-2020 FY.

U Man Law Maung of Meiktila constituency 8 asked if there was a plan to issue the account settlement process of money collected from Mini Toll Gate 2 running from Meiktila to Nay Pyi Taw.

Next, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin replied the queries posed by U Min Swe Naing of Kachin State constituency 6, U Myo Htap (a) Salai Myo Htike of Chin State constituency 12 and U Man Law Maung of Chin State 8 respectively.

U Aye Min Han of Mon State Constituency 1 asked if there was a plan for the State Government to provide effective technical and financial assistance for international standard of salt production that aimed to prevent the salt exports from other countries while setting up manufacturing industries with the use of raw materials.

In addition to this, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conserva-

tions Dr. Ye Myint Swe replied that the revenue of the salt productions was being contributed to the regional and state funds. There were a total of 76 salt mills in the 2018-2019 FY. It would be costly to produce iodized refined salts due to the technology. China National Complete Plant Import and Export Yunnan Co, Ltd have offered a proposal to produce iodized refined salt in 2010, but the investment proposal had been postponed due to the consent of the local populace. Moreover efforts were being made to curb the illegal trading in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning and Finance and Department of Customs while setting up inspection gates in the regions. Deputy Minister Dr. Ye Myint Swe replied the queries raised by U Maung Maung Lat of Sagaing Region constituency 9 and Dr. Khun Win Thaug of Kachin State constituency 11.

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## Reform is not an enemy, but our friend

Our country is taking steps to put in place reforms during the transition from an old system to a democratic system. There are some people who are worried about these reforms. Reform is not an enemy; rather, it is a well-meaning friend. I want to let governmental departments ensure that the transition comes to our country at the right time and offers new opportunities.

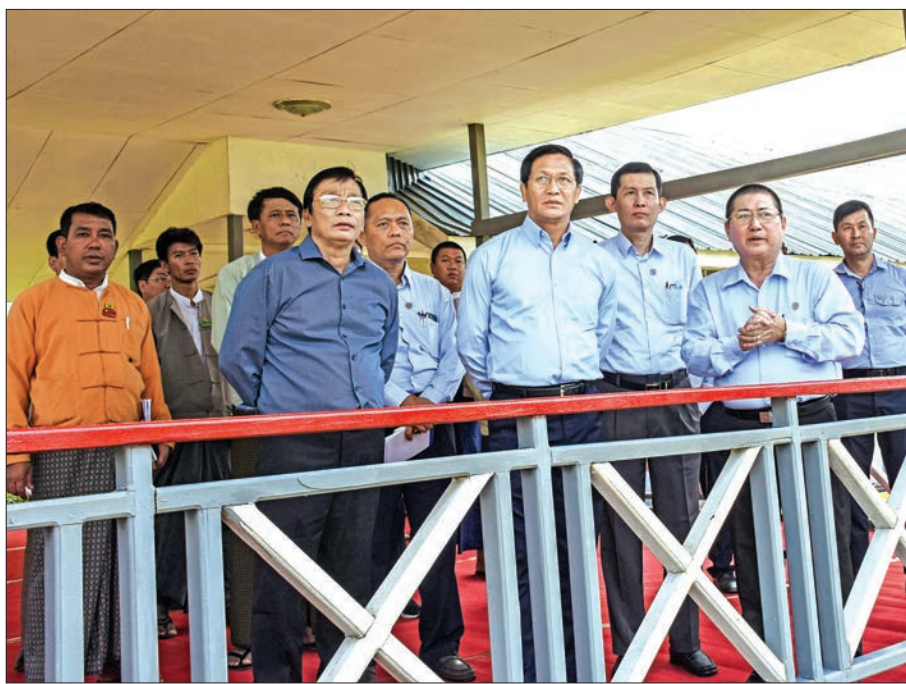
*President U Win Myint*

## It is important to build understanding and mutual respect for one another

Our Union Government wishes to establish a true federal Union, because we think it is the most suitable course of action for the country. In a country like ours that needs to establish unity from diversity, it is important to build understanding and mutual respect for one another.

*State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi*

# Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects Yeywa Hydro Power Plant in Kyaukse



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects the Yeywa Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) Dam in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Region. PHOTO: MNA

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The Vice President added that if the quality of coffee could be controlled, it could become an import substitute product, and get a larger share of the foreign market.

He further went on to say that to achieve this, it was necessary to rely on those who lead in terms of integrating the internal affairs and the external affairs related with coffee communities, directly and indirectly.

He called on the Agriculture Department, the Myanmar

Coffee Association, and other related departments, including the Department of Trade and Cooperatives Department to form a Coffee Board, which was considered a priority at the forum.

He also called for seeking loans from local and foreign sources and exchange views and ideas for tackling current challenges at the forum as part of efforts to get good strategies for developing the coffee sector as soon as possible.

He further added that discussions at the forum should also focus on requirements to

be fulfilled by the government, tasks to be carried out for the development of coffee in the future, market situation, necessary assistance for coffee growers and producing value added coffee products.

Following the Vice President's opening address, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region Dr. Zaw Myint Maung and Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw discussed future tasks for developing the coffee sector.

At the ceremony, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung and Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw presented prizes to award winners in different categories related with coffee production sector.

After the ceremony the Vice President visited the Yeywa Hydro Power Plant in Kyaukse District, Mandalay Region, where officials concerned reported on generating electricity at the plant.

At the briefing hall, Managing Director of the Electric Power Generation Enterprise

## Yeywa Hydro Power Plant can produce 3550 million Kilowatt hours per year.

U Khin Maung Win reported on linkage between the plant and the national grid, electricity production, actual design and production of power in reality and security of the plant.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister Dr. Tun Naing reported on completion of power plants in 2019, maximum production of electricity yearly including from hydro power plants while Director-General of the Hydro Power Implementation Department U Chit Toe provided a briefing on completion of dams for production of hydro power.

After hearing reports, the Vice President stressed the need to take necessary measures for producing hydro power as the monsoon seasons was expected to end early this year.

He also called for maintenance of the remaining two turbines as the other two were on operation.

The Vice President also visited the plant and dam and presented gifts to the employees of the plant.

Yeywa Hydro Power Plant was established in the 2001-2002 fiscal year and the dam is 2264 ft long and 433 ft high.

Over 12 million acre feet of water flows into the dam every year and the dam can store 2.1 million acre feet.

The spillway of the dam is Ogee Type Ungated type and it is 448 ft wide.

The plant has 790 MW capacity and it can produce 3550 million Kilowatt hours.—MNA (Translated by Tun Tun Naing)

The Vice President added that if the quality of coffee could be controlled, it could become an import substitute product, and get a larger share of the foreign market.

# Ministries of Ethnic Affairs, Education, Nay Pyi Taw Council explain third-year performances

THE Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, Ministry of Education, and Nay Pyi Taw Council held a press conference on the third year in office serving the public at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Dr. Myo Thein Gyi (Union Minister for Education)

The Union Minister said his ministry has been working tirelessly to fulfil the 12 priority objectives for reforms they had promised to the public. He said they have worked for synchronizing middle and upper classes of basic education schools to improve the lives of people with low education and opened vocational training classes for them as well.

He said they have permitted universities to design and teach their own curricula and conduct self-administration and research programmes. In addition, they have strived for educational services that will ensure students do not become a burden to their society, and for a transparent handling of educational budgets from the Union Government, private sector and other domestic and foreign sectors.

The Union Minister said national expenditure on education has increased with K2.17 trillion spent in the 2018-2019 for implementing education reforms and transitioning from a primarily rote-learning system to one that encourages critical thinking.

He said they have made necessary amendments to the textbooks for Grades 1, 2, 3 and 6 and have given training to teachers on the Grades 3 and 6 textbooks for 1 June of the 2019-2020 academic year. He said they are aiming to complete redesigning the textbooks for Grades 4, 7 and 10 for the 2020-2021 academic year; Grades 5, 8 and 11 for 2021-2022, and complete textbooks for all 12 Grades and the teachers' manual by 2022-2023.

The Union Minister said there are 404,444 teachers and 9,144,169 students in the 47,005 government schools across the nation and combined with private schools, the number of students in Myanmar totals out at 9,707,080. He said the number of students in Shan State and Ayeyawady Region increased with the expansion of schools in the 2018-2019 academic year.

The Union Minister said they are constructing new school hos-



Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi makes the statement of his ministry the press conference on the Union ministries' third-year performances in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

tels with the allotted budget and handing out textbooks on social and moral development and teachers' manual free of charge. He said the matriculation exam pass rate has increased from previous years.

The Union Minister said there has been an increase in students living with disabilities, from migrant families, and in penitentiaries taking the matriculation exam in the 2018-2019 academic year. He said the Rector Committee has been formed and has held two seminars followed by the formation of nine working committees and eight special task groups.

The Union Minister said they are upgrading the 2-year education college courses to 4-year education college degrees. He said they have opened courses to meet the specific requirements of various regions such as opening a postgraduate course on tourism management at the National Management Degree College and Mandalay Degree College, a postgraduate course on fisheries and aquaculture in Yangon University, and a postgraduate course on marine science in Sittway University.

He added that 1,890 students have been sent on scholarships to 49 countries between 2016 to 2018.

U Min Aye (Director-General, Ministry of Ethnic Affairs)

The Director-General first highlighted the ministry's role in organizing the Ethnic Sustainable Development Forum on 18-19 January 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw. He said a noticeable result of the fo-

rum was the establishment of the Myanmar Ethnic Entrepreneurs Association (MEEA) on 17 March of the same year.

He said the MEEA facilitated the Myanmar Ethnic Culture Fest in Yangon's Kyaikkasan grounds from 25 to 30 January this year, which was successfully thronging with visitors amid free admission. The festival showcased a plethora of traditions, cuisine and other aspects of the multitude of ethnic races across Myanmar in addition to holding the Miss Ethnic Myanmar 2019 pageant, with ambassadors and foreign visitors attending, said the Union Minister.

He added that a forum titled 'Change-Challenges to Opportunities' was held on 24 January 2019 to honour the Myanmar Ethnic Culture Fest.

U Min Aye said his ministry helps with organizing celebrations for auspicious days of ethnic races in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and coordinates with the relevant government for celebrations held across the states and regions. He said the Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs and the Deputy Minister either attended the various ethnic auspicious commemorations and presented cash donations or sent messages of greetings.

U Min Aye said his ministry collaborated with the Ministry of Education to appoint teaching assistants for ethnic literature in basic education schools during the 2017-2018 academic year and has currently appointed 5,161 teaching assistants across the states and regions and Nay Pyi Taw. He added they are planning

with MoE to send 719 graduates of the appointed teaching assistants to the education college and appoint them as primary class guides.

The Director-General said they have published 3,412,230 storybooks containing the Burmese language and one of 66 ethnic languages for KG classes. He said they held a workshop on 6 March 2018 to translate the healthcare standards guidebook into ethnic languages. He said they are discussing with all concerned ethnic literature and culture groups.

U Min Aye said they have translated posters educating the public on vaccines for children, Japanese encephalitis and influenza into ethnic languages and the results have seen a better understanding on these topics by ethnic people.

He said they are continually working on documenting endangered ethnic cultures and customs for preservation and have completed a documentary on the Tanaw ethnic race.

U Min Aye said they are providing rice and fishing boats to the Salone people in Taninthayi Region using K61.6 million of the regional budget, with the ministry's regional department acting as the focal point.

He said they have held a coordination meeting to evaluate the draft bylaw on protecting the rights of ethnic races on 20-21 September 2018. He said they have sent the bill to the Union Attorney-General's office and will send it to the Union Government if the UAG gives approval.

U Tun Tun Win (Acting

Secretary, Nay Pyi Taw Council)

U Tun Tun Win said the Nay Pyi Taw Council has used K174,885.511 million from the Union budget, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw development budget, Nay Pyi Taw Council budget and donors to implement tasks and projects for the development of the education, healthcare, transportation infrastructure, irrigation, electrification and other developmental sectors of Nay Pyi Taw during the three-year period of the incumbent government.

U Tun Tun Win said the Union Government gave permits to 23 farmers to use 58.55 acres of land for farming and other uses in the incumbent government's first year of administration, to 5 farmers for 10.86 acres in the second year, and to 31 farmers for 72.55 acres in the third year.

He said there were 83 criminal cases under the ten major offences in Nay Pyi Taw and the most widespread was homicide and sexual assault. He said there were 2,092 criminal cases for the other ten offences, an increase of 116 cases from last year. However, there were 1,924 criminal cases under ten preventive offences, a decrease of 2,742 cases from last year. U Tun Tun Win said Nay Pyi Taw Council has regularly fulfilled their annual objectives for each sector and has seen development rise by 2.4 per cent. He said the average production and service value each individual was K1,540,706 during in 2017-2018 FY according to a temporary census. He said they are aiming to increase that value to K1,626,639 in the 2018-2019 FY.

The Acting Secretary said the One Stop Shops in all eight townships of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area provided 32,721 services in the first year of the incumbent government's administration, 31,160 services in the second year, and 31,758 in the third year. He added that there were 172 natural disasters and K144.04 million was spent on rescue and rehabilitation efforts.

U Tun Tun Win said they have confiscated a total of 701.2128 tons of illegal timber. He said they have planted 516.8 acres of teak and 1,500.50 acres of hardwood plantations. He said they have formed 144 regional reforestation groups and planted 4,854.92 acres of trees.

**SEE PAGE-12**

# Pyidaungsu Hluttaw holds Joint Bill Committee meeting

PYIDAUNGsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting on tax bill at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D Meeting Hall yesterday Evening.

Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Chairman of Joint Bill Committee and Chairman of Joint Public Account Committee, U Tun Aung@ U Tun Tun

Hein, Vice Chairmen, Secretary, Joint-Secretary and members of John Bill Committee, Vice Chairman and members of the Public Account Committee, officials from Union Supreme Court, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Union Attorney General Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw office. ■  
(Translated by Alphonsus)



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein addresses the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee meeting yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

# LOI signed for launching Myanmar-owned satellite

A Letter of Intent (LOI) was signed for launching the Myanmar-owned short-range satellite, slated in October 2019, at the office of the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The LOI was signed between Rector Dr. Kyi Thwin of the Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University and Director Yukihiro Takahashi of the Space Mission Center of Japan's Hokkaido University.

They signed the LOI in the

presence of the Union Minister for Transport and Communications, U Thant Sin Maung, and its deputy minister, the Deputy Minister for Education and officials. —MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

# Myanmar Elder Affairs Committee holds third coord meeting

MYANMAR Elder Affairs Committee held their third coordination meeting at meeting hall of Social welfare, Relief and Resettlement Minister's office.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye said that the aim of the committee is to bring about social development and rights for the Elderly. Social security program by the government aims to protect from fetus to the elderly. They have been successful in organizing a committee for the elderly. The law has

been passed and it is needed to discuss the rules and regulations. Eligibility for the social pension has been reduced to 85 years on national level. They have plan to raise fund for the elderly. It is important to include the necessity of issuing identification card to the elder for health care, travel and security discount and free pass, in the ministry's frame work. As estimated 10% of the population is the elderly, it is necessary to provide them healthy and

active life style. He expect the the committee's collaboration in taking care of the elderly.

Then, Director-General of Department of Social Welfare Dr. San San Aye discussed raising fund for the elderly and Director U Kyaw Lin Htin spoke of the current status of decisions made in second coordinate meeting and rules and regulations concerning elderly people. Participant of the meeting made additional Discussion. ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye attends the third coordination meeting of Myanmar Elder Affairs Committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

# Myanmar-Thai Coordination Meeting held in Phuket

MYANMAR-Thai coordination meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May in Phuket, Thailand.

Director General of Department of Labour, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population U Win Shein, Representatives from the Consular and Legal Affairs Department, Immigration and National Registration Citizenship Department, Special Branch, Anti Human Trafficking in Person Division, Myanmar Minister counselor to Thailand and Thai Director General of Department of labour Mrs. Petchara Sinauy attended the meeting.

During the meeting, They discussed MoU sending legal

workers to Thailand, permission for the workers with almost expire Work Permit to continue working, full legal protection of works, Sending workers from Myanmar with MoU and extension of agreement between Myanmar and Thailand concerning designation of expenditure and employing workers from each other's country. Director General and the entourage visited labours' data collecting center of Ordinary Passport Issuing Department to ask about the working and living condition of officials and gave necessary instruction on 12 May in Thailand.—MNA ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)



Myanmar and Thai officials attend the Myanmar-Thai coordination meeting held on 13–14 May in Phuket, Thailand. PHOTO: MNA

## Ministry of Office of the Union Government, MoC, Central Bank of Myanmar to hold one-year review press conference in Nay Pyi Taw

PRESS Conference for one year performance of Ministry of Office of the Union Government, Ministry of Construction and Central Bank of Myanmar will be held at office No.7 of Ministry of Information at 1pm, 17 May in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA ■

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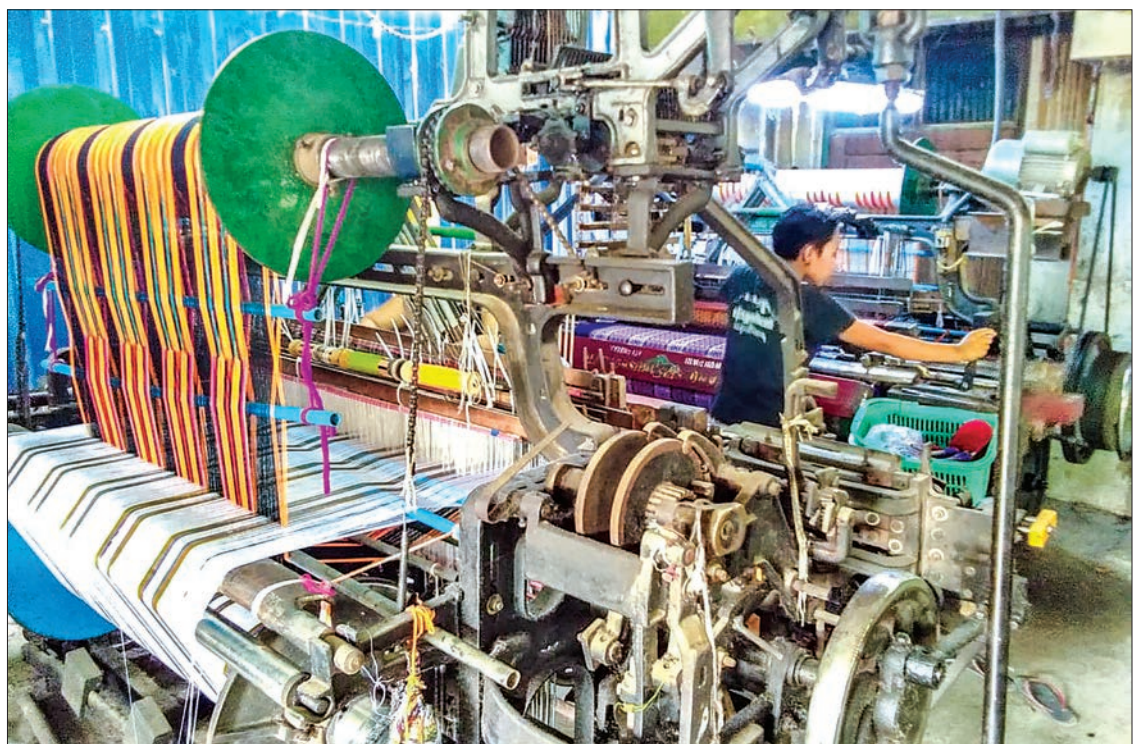
Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

## Loom weaving at risk of dying out in Amarapura

MACHINERY loom weaving in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region is in danger of being lost as production costs are rising year by year, said local weavers.

Loom weaving was traditionally practiced in the township in the past, but now the industry is on the brink of collapse as the price of raw materials is increasing and traders are controlling the price, said U Aung Min Than, a loom weaver.

"The increase in prices



Weaver in Amarapura makes weaving fabrics using machinery looms. PHOTO: AUNG PHYO KYAW

of raw materials and market control exercised by traders are driving the loom weaving industry to extinction, leading

to labour shortages and lower profits. In addition, professionals are worried about passing on their skills to the next gener-

ation," he added. — Aung Phyo Kyaw ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

## Scania buses to run on Yangon circular route from Aungmingala Highway Terminal

By Nyein Nyein

A FLEET of 39 Scania buses will operate on the Yangon circular route from the Aungmingala Highway Bus Terminal this month, with a round trip costing K1,000, according to the Yangon Region Transport Authority.

The circular service will run from the Aungmingala Highway Bus Terminal to Kaba Aye-Botahtaung-Strand Road-Thamine Junction-8 mile-Nawaday-North Okkalapa and end at the Aungmingala Bus Terminal, according to the YRTA.

The new service was announced by U Hla Aung, joint

secretary, YRTA at a press conference at the YRTA headquarters, located at No.65, Manhaung Ward, Laydaukkan Road, Tamway Township.

"The City Transit Company has obtained the transport authority's approval for running the Scania buses on the Yangon circular service. The route has been divided into parts. A single trip will cost the passenger K500 each destination on the route and the fare for a round trip has been fixed at K1,000," said U Hla Aung.

"The project took long as the company had to construct a terminal. They will start services this month," he said.

The YRTA is supervising the Yangon Bus Service in the region. As commuters in the commercial hub of Yangon depend on bus services, the YRTA is endeavouring to offer better services to the public than the All Private Bus Lines Control Committee.

The YBS was launched on 16 January, 2017, during the incumbent government's term. At present, over 100 of bus lines are operating 4,300 buses on about 123 routes along with the Airport Shuttle. The number of daily commuters has been estimated at 1.8 million.

The YRTA was formed to improve the transport facilities

in Yangon for the convenience of the public. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein was appointed as the patron of the transport authority, while Daw Nilar Kyaw, the Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Industry, and Transportation, was made the Chairperson.

In April, 2019, the number of members was increased to 22 from 16, with the YRTA appointing the Security and Border Affairs Minister as Vice Chair 1 and Yangon Mayor as Vice Chair 2, besides officials from related departments and organizations. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## AMR control measures gain momentum in 12 towns bordering Mekong region

TWELVE border townships of Myanmar, which are part of a Mekong region health project, are carrying out surveillance for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) control in full swing, said an official from the National Health Laboratory under the Ministry of Health and Sports.

"Myanmar's 12 townships border with four countries — Cambodia, Laos, Viet Nam, and Thailand— in the Mekong region. We are undertaking

AMR control activities, with a loan from the Asian Development Bank, in order to curb the spread of antimicrobial resistance among migrant workers and the ethnic minorities," said Professor Htay Htay Tin, Deputy Director-General, National Health Laboratory.

The 12 Myanmar townships are Loikaw in Kayah State; Tachilek, Kengtung, and Lashio in Shan State; Hpa-an and Myawady in Kayin State; Mawlamyine in Mon State;

and, Kawthoung in Taninthayi Region.

The AMR project is being funded by a US\$12 million loan from the ADB. It was initiated in December, 2017, with the approval of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw. The implementation of AMR control activities began in early 2018.

The Health Department is working to ensure there is no gap in provision of health services to migrant workers

and ethnic minorities. Furthermore, they are endeavouring to reduce the outbreak of communicable diseases, conducting surveillance activities to monitor communicable diseases, raising awareness on prevention methods, upgrading the laboratory to combat those diseases, providing medical care to suspected patients at the nearest hospitals, and providing laboratory equipment. —Myint Maung ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Thailand extends visas, work permits of Myanmar workers by 9 months

THE visas and work permits of Myanmar migrant workers which were scheduled to expire on 31 March, 2020 have been extended by nine more months to 31 December, 2020, according to an announcement from the Labour Office in Bangkok, Thailand.

The two countries had discussed issues concerning Myanmar migrant workers prior to the Thailand and Myanmar Migrant Labour Affairs Experts meeting in Phuket, Thailand, on 13 May. During the negotiations, the Thai authorities agreed to relax some rules.

“We had a good response from the Thailand authorities before the Thailand and Myanmar Migrant Labour Affairs Experts meeting was held. As a result of the negotiations, the Thai authorities have extended the visas and work permits of Myanmar migrant workers, which



Workers processing prawns for export at a marine product factory. PHOTO: PWINT THITSA

were to expire on 31 March, 2020. Because of the nine-month extension, the visas and the work

permits will now be valid until 31 December, 2020. Moreover, Certificates of Identity, which will ex-

pire on 1 November, green book holders, ME Bangkok, issued by the Data Collection Center

are all covered under the new arrangement. There are around 600,000 migrant workers in Thailand. So, both countries still need to discuss many things,” said U Moe Gyo, the Chairman of the Joint Action Committee for Burma Affairs (JACBA).

The Thai authorities will announce the details of the new agreement before the visas and work permits expire. About 600,000 migrant workers in Thailand will be covered by the new agreement. Both countries will conduct further discussions at the working group level to find out which process will be smoother.

The Bangkok Labour Office said individual Myanmar migrant workers or social organizations can submit their suggestions on matters pertaining to labour issues by mail or phone.—Pwint Thitsa

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## Seintalone mangoes command high prices in Seikpyu Township

GROWERS of Seintalone (Diamond solitaire) mangoes in Seikpyu Township, Magway Region said they are getting a better price for the fruit this year.

Earlier, growers in Magway Region were using traditional methods to cultivate mangoes, but now, they have begun to apply more scientific techniques of production.

“At present, the mangoes are fetching between K300 and K600, which is higher than the previous year’s price of K250-K500. The mango growers purchased the farms outright last year. They cultivated



Seintalone mangoes trees in Seikpyu Township, Magway Region. PHOTO: SOE LIN NAING (IPRD)

Seintalone mangoes on seven acres to cater to the domestic market. Mango yields have decreased due to poor rainfall and high temperatures

this year,” said U Htay Win Maung, a mango grower from the region. —Soe Lin Naing (IPRD)

(Translated by La Wonn)

## Hteekhee gate sees significant rise in trade in Oct-May

BILATERAL trade between Thailand and Myanmar through the Nabule-Hteekhee border gate has picked up dramatically from just over US\$1 million in October-May in the 2017-2018FY to an estimated \$1.36 billion in the current fiscal, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Normally, the Myawady gate sees the largest trade among the Myanmar-Thailand checkpoints. Between 1 October, 2018 and 5 May, 2019, trade surged at the Hteekhee gate, with exports reaching \$1.34 bil-

lion and imports valued at \$21 million.

The rise in exports at the Hteekhee border gate has helped boost the value of Myanmar-Thailand border trade to \$2.28 billion, more than double the value registered in the previous financial year.

Of the seven border trade points between Myanmar and Thailand, Tachilek, Myawady, and Myeik gates have witnessed a small decrease in trade in the current financial year, while the remaining gates

have registered an increase in trade.

Myanmar primarily exports fishery products, coal, tin concentrate (SN 71.58 %), coconut (fresh and dry), beans, and bamboo shoots to Thailand. It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers, consumer goods such as cosmetics, and food products. —Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## 200 pairs of eels to be imported from Viet Nam for experimental farming

By Aye Yamone

ABOUT 200 pairs of eels will be imported from Viet Nam for conducting experimental eel farming in Yangon Region, said Daw Toe Nanda Tin, Vice Chairperson, Myanmar Fisheries Federation at the 8/2019 Regular Meeting with fishery entrepreneurs, which was held at the MFF on 10 May.

“We will sign a contract to import 200 pairs of eels from Viet Nam this week and conduct experimental eel farming. Currently, we plan to install transformers in Twantay. A five-acre plot of land has been readied for eel farming. We have been granted permission to use the land. We plan to produce live feed for the eels,” she added.

“The eels will be imported in May or June. We will conduct experimental eel farming in Yangon Region with the cooperation of Yangon University’s Zoology Department and the Fisheries Department,” she said.

In 2017, officials from the MFF went on a study tour to Viet Nam, which has successfully carried out eel cultivation. From October, 2017 to May, 2018, experimental eel farming was carried out with 100 pairs of eels at the MFF head office.

“We won’t stop experimenting with farming of local eel species. We will give injections to local eel species in May. We will keep the local eels separate from imported eels. Then, we will conduct research as to which species can be produced more,” said Daw Toe Nanda Tin.

The first experimental eel cultivation was not successful because the eels’ reproductive organs were damaged, she said.

A single eel can yield 200 to 1,000 eggs. If the experimental eel cultivation process improves further, many more fish farmers will be engaged in eel farming, she added.

Myanmar’s eels are mainly sent to China and Thailand.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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## Let's work together to develop the fisheries sector without damaging ecosystems

**A**FTER the incumbent government took office, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation adopted the 5-year Agricultural Policy and the Agricultural Development Strategy for the development of the agriculture and livestock sector.

Since then, the Fisheries Department has made utmost efforts for the steady development of the sector and achieving fish sufficiency, improving the socio-economic life of fishery-based communities through the development of the sector, and assisting the country's development. Towards this end, they are working with six visions and 25 work processes.

The Myanmar Fisheries Federation and the Ministry's Livestock Department have been working together to develop the fisheries sector. The MFF has also been cooperating with the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

They are conducting research on fish resources in the sea and maintaining natural resources and fishery-related businesses by teaming up not only with the FAO, but also international organizations, such as World Fish, EU-GIZ, DANIDA, Japanese International Cooperation Agency, and Korea International Cooperation Agency.

In 2017, the country produced 1,048 million tonnes of seafood from 240,000 hectares of ponds, mainly stocked with native carp species and tilapia, for domestic consumption and

export to other countries in the region.

For the sustainable development of our fishery resource, we need to follow international standards, rules, and regulations.

The permission to export fishery products, including farmed fish and prawn, to EU countries has come to us as the fruitful result of our relentless efforts.

It's a big step forward for us as this creates the opportunity to export our aquaculture produce to the single largest global seafood market

Today, we have gained entry into the EU fisheries market. But, it is important for us to develop Good Aquaculture Practices (GAQP) as soon as possible to produce fish and prawn which meet EU standards. Our fish and prawn farmers are urged to understand the importance of food safety regulations and control systems in aquaculture farming.

Meanwhile, we would like to invite investors to grab the opportunity to produce fishery products for export, as Myanmar's aquaculture sector is set to become a key producer of sustainable seafood in the future.

To help businesses, the government has revised foreign investment laws, and reduced bureaucratic hurdles in investment sectors, among which, aquaculture tops the list.

At the same time, the government is confident that all stakeholders understand the necessity to ensure that investments do not harm a fragile environment, already vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change.



# It's all about oil fields

By A Retired Oil Expert

**F**REQUENTLY, we come across articles and news related to the oil industry in dailies and weeklies. This article, however, is merely written as an educational piece for those who are interested in the oil industry.

Oil and gas are two types of natural resources that lie thousands of feet under the ground. When studying reservoirs where oil and gas deposits are trapped, reservoir pressure and reservoir temperature are two important components to be aware of. This is because oil that is trapped in the reservoir is, when in the original reservoir condition, under high pressure and experiencing high temperatures. Underground forces resulting from these types of pressure work to move the trapped water, oil and gas from the reservoir to the wells, and reservoir pressure is what enables the trapped oil to flow from the reservoir to the wells or to our oil collection tanks.

The pressures decline when oil and gas are produced or as long as they are being produced and this is a naturally occurring process, and as more oil is produced, the pressure declines and oil production decreases, depending on the nature of wells, reservoirs, and oil fields. This occurrence is actually called a natural decline. Every oil field in the world faces a natural decline as oil is produced and thus, the decline in the daily production of ma-



Aerial View of Mann Field Project located in Minbu, Magwe Region, Central Myanmar

ture oil fields in Myanmar such as Yenanchaung, Chauk, Mann and Htaukshabin are expected. Myanmar's oil fields have their own fascinating facts. Yenanchaung field is well-known as being one of the oldest oil fields in the world and has been producing oil since the year 1970. In addition, Yenanchaung and Chauk fields also put Myanmar on the list of pre-war oil-producing countries. Mann and Htaukshabin fields also played a major role in producing a record breaking daily

production rate of more than 30,000 barrels of oil at one point and shortly after discovery of the field in 1970. Among these fields, Mann Field specifically, has made an all-out effort to fulfill the country's oil demands. Mann Field, which has produced oil for the country since 1970, is now entering its golden anniversary in 2020. As a long-serving oil field in the country, the field now produces just more than 1,100 barrels a day. However, there has been criticism about the field as

there are now no more wells to be drilled and enhanced oil recovery efforts are difficult to carry out. In this regard, in my opinion, if the field was alive and could speak, it would cry and say "humans asked it to produce more than it could over the years and are now blaming it for being old and unproductive". When the country was listed as a Least-Developing Country (LDC) and was facing difficulties to import oil to fulfill domestic fuel demand, Mann Field deserves credit for its crude

oil production, which sustained the country for more than ten years while fulfilling domestic demand and removing import requirements. Mann Field used to be a major oil producing field that fulfill domestic fuel demands over a certain period of time. I travelled to Mann Field multiple times in order to carry out production boost-up operations when the country's remaining fuel stocks were dwindling. Therefore, I would say the current situation of Mann Field is

evident in itself of the production burden it had to endure inappropriately based on its area, size and field life.

A foreign expert once commented that the oil field development operations in Mann Field were not in line with normal oil industry norm. However, in the view of national experts, these operations were actually commanded to reach a production target according to the needs of the country at the time. At the end of the day, it was successful and we are proud of it.

Now Mann Field has made it—it has received, as the first ever producing field in the upstream sector of Myanmar, an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) which supports its Redevelopment and Enhanced Oil Recovery Program from the Environmental Conservation Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation in March 2019 in line with the Environmental Conservation Law, By-laws, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Procedures and Regulations. In light of this, it will continue implementation of the environmental management plans approved in the ECC. Thus, I would like to admiringly pay homage to it as follows:

"You, Mann field., Although old and in decline of production,

Now endowed with an ECC as an exemplary field,

Makes me proud of you. Congratulations!"

## Governments agree landmark decisions to protect people and planet from hazardous chemicals and waste, including plastic waste

By UN Environment

**D**ECISIONS on plastic waste have been reached on 11 May in Geneva, as approximately 180 governments adopted a raft of decisions aimed at protecting human health and the environment from the harmful effects of hazardous chemicals and waste.

Pollution from plastic waste, acknowledged as a major environmental problem of global concern, has

reached epidemic proportions with an estimated 100 million tonnes of plastic now found in the oceans, 80-90% of which comes from land-based sources.

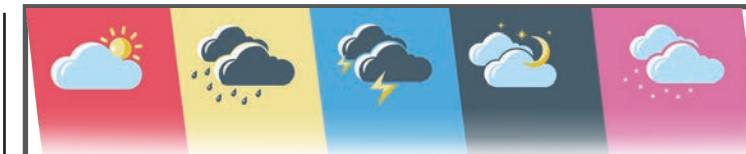
Governments amended the Basel Convention to include plastic waste in a legally-binding framework which will make global trade in plastic waste more transparent and better regulated, whilst also ensuring that its management is safer for human health

and the environment. At the same time, a new Partnership on Plastic Waste was established to mobilise business, government, academic and civil society resources, interests and expertise to assist in implementing the new measures, to provide a set of practical supports – including tools, best practices, technical and financial assistance – for this ground-breaking agreement.

SEE PAGE-10



Billions of tons of plastic have been made over the past decades.



### Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2019)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is a few cloud over the North Bay and Westcentral Bay and a few cloud to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 16th May, 2019:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region and Mon State, fairly widespread in (Southern and Eastern)Shan, Chin and Kayin States, scattered in Naypyitaw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Yangon Regions, Kachin, Northern Shan and Kayah States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

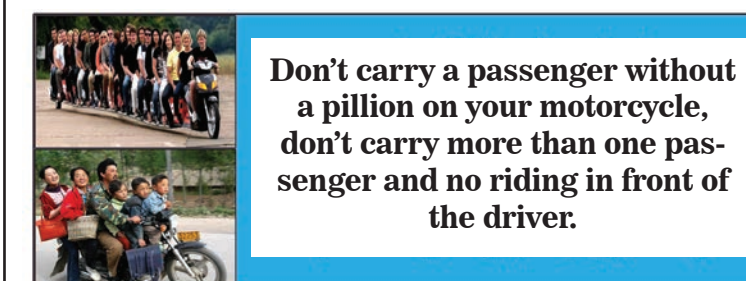
**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4 - 6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Continuation of likelihood of rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region and Mon State.

**FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th May, 2019:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th May, 2019:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th May, 2019:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).





## UEC Chairman receives International IDEA Regional Director Ms. Leena Rikkila Tamang



UEC Chairman U Hla Thein holds talks with International IDEA Regional Director Ms. Leena Rikkila Tamang. **PHOTO: MNA**

CHAIRMAN of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein received International IDEA Regional Director Ms. Leena Rikkila Tamang at the Union Election

Commission Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, They discussed international IDEA supported works, current sta-

tus of Step Democracy Program assisted by EU, Preparation for 2020 general Election and matters concerning observers. ■  
(Translated by Alphonsus)

## Appointing local ethnic teachers, ...

### FROM PAGE-2

He said the Ministry of Planning and Finance has lessened restrictions placed on MSMEs by allowing them to now take out K20 million-CGI loans with an MSME Member Card instead of requiring approval from the Directorate of Industrial Supervision & Inspection, as was the case before. Furthermore, MSMEs applying for a K100 million loan only need to show a document of approval from the aforementioned directorate and no longer need to show documents of approval from the MSME Agency.

The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations has followed the Union Government's designated Investment Policy (7-8) and supported the legislation of The Myanmar Investment Law and The Myanmar Companies Law, and authorizing the Myanmar Investment Development Project, said the U Khin Maung Cho. He added that these are contributing to development of the industrial sector.

The Union Minister said the three ministries mentioned are working together to carry out the objectives outlined in the motion

tabled by the MP for Ottwin and will collaborate with other ministries and international organizations for further support. He said the motion is suitable for approval. Next, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker asked for the motioner's opinion who replied for their motion to be approved. The Speaker then gathered the deliberation of the assembly and announced that the motion has been approved.

The seventh-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 12<sup>th</sup> regular session will be held tomorrow.—MNA ■  
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Former Norwegian Prime Minister leaves Nay Pyi Taw

FORMER Prime Minister of Norway and Executive Chair of the Oslo Center for Peace, Democracy and Human Rights, Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik, left Nay Pyi Taw for Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday at 7pm.

The Former Prime Minister was seen off by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Former Prime Minister Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik is seen off by official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Governments agree landmark decisions to protect people and planet from hazardous chemicals and waste, including plastic waste

### FROM PAGE-9

Other far-reaching decisions from the two weeks included the elimination of two toxic chemical groups, which together total about 4,000 chemicals, listed into Annex A of the Stockholm Convention, namely Dicofol and Perfluorooctanoic Acid, and its salts and related compounds. The latter has till now been used in a wide variety of industrial and domestic applications including non-stick cookware and food processing equipment, as well as a surfactant in textiles, carpets, paper, paints and fire-fighting

foams.

Important progress was also made under the Rotterdam Convention, which provides a legally-binding framework for information exchange and informed decision-making in the trade of certain hazardous pesticides and industrial chemicals. Two chemicals, the pesticide phorate and the industrial chemical hexabromocyclododecane were added to Annex III of the convention, making them subject to the Prior Informed Consent Procedure, through which countries can decide on future imports of these chemicals. A further decision, to

approve procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Rotterdam Convention – seen as a crucial step for further improving implementation of this key convention - was adopted with great appreciation by Parties.

Working for two weeks in Geneva under the theme of “Clean Planet, Healthy People: Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste”, approximately 1,400 delegates from around 180 countries converged for the meetings of the Conferences of Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Participants benefited from the nu-

merous opportunities and events to exchange information on alternatives to these chemicals, as well as best practices.

Speaking at the closing session of the COPs, Rolph Payet, UN Environment's Executive Secretary of the three conventions for, said that “I'm proud that this week in Geneva, Parties to the Basel Convention have reached agreement on a legally-binding, globally-reaching mechanism for managing plastic waste. Plastic waste is acknowledged as one of the world's most pressing environmental issues, and the fact that this week close

to 1 million people around the world signed a petition urging Basel Convention Parties to take action here in Geneva at the COPs is a sign that public awareness and desire for action is high.”

“We were able to list two out of 7 candidate chemicals and will continue working closely with parties to identify feasible alternative solutions to hazardous pesticides, taking due account of food security and market access aspects” added Hans Dreyer, UN Food and Agriculture Organization's Executive Secretary of the Rotterdam Convention. ■

## Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 12<sup>th</sup> Regular Session holds its sixth-day meeting

### FROM PAGE-2

U Maung Maung Latt of Sagaing Region constituency 9 asked if there was a plan to take legal action against carrying the coals and illegal plot buying and selling business.

Dr. Khun Win Thaung of Kachin State constituency 11 asked if there was a plan to take action against the Pan Myat Marlar Co., Ltd, for planting tissue-culture banana in Mogaung Township, Kachin State.

Tabling a motion

Then Union Supreme Court Judge U Myo Tint submitted the fourth bill amending the Union Judiciary Law to the Hluttaw.

U Aung Thein of Bago Region constituency 12 read out the report of the Bill Committee regarding the fourth Bill amending the Union Judiciary Law. Afterwards, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced for the Hluttaw representatives who wished to discuss the motion to register their names.

Tabling a motion

U Maung Maung Ohn of Ayeyawady Region Constituency 5 tabled a motion on urging the Union Government to draw up laws, rules and directives to take the precautionary measures, in an attempt to protect the natural resources and interests of the coastal states and regions from possible heavy oil pollution from giant crude oil tankers transporting the crude oil to China through the pipelines from the Madaya island

deep-port of Rakhine State to China.

U Aye Min Han of Mon State constituency 1 seconded the motion, saying that oil spill could have an impact on contamination of the soil, natural habitats, surrounding wildlife, ecosystem and other environmental damage.

He urged the government to enact the law and rules proposed MP U Maung Maung Ohn to provide safety to livelihood of the local fishermen relying

on the sea and to conserve the coastal areas.

Daw Nwe Nwe Aung of Mon State constituency 2 seconded the motion saying that Myanmar has not prescribed the laws on marine pollution although Myanmar has become a member of IMO since 1951. With a view to ensuring to get compensation and natural environment, necessary measures should be taken to draw up laws and rules for protecting marine ecosystems. Then the motion

was discussed by U Myint Naing of Rakhine State constituency 5, Daw Thiri Yadanar of Mon State constituency 12 and Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of Bago Region constituency 3. Following this, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced that the motion would be discussed by the remaining Hluttaw representatives and other Union-level members at the seventh-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw.—MNA ■ (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

## Singaporean team films electrification in rural area in Monywa

SINGAPOREAN team made documentary about electrification at Thar Pyae village and 10 quarters in Monywa Township.

The documentary crew filmed improvement of socio-economic life of the local people in Monywa township, Sagaing Region

as they have got access to electricity due to transformers installed by Hitachi Soe Electric and Machinery company Limited. They also gathered voices of the people benefited by electricity. They have also filmed in villages in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon from 13th

to 16<sup>th</sup> May. Shootings of international advertisement, filming documentaries and movies are rising following Ministry of Information and related departments have relaxed of rules concerning the documentaries.—MNA ■ (Translated by Alphon-sus)



Singaporean film crew films a transformer in Thar Pyae village. PHOTO: MNA

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

#### For Appointment of Port Operator/Contractor for Management, Operation & Maintenance of Port & IWT Terminal at Sittwe and IWT Terminal at Paletwa under Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project

Tender No: IWAI / KPMU / 45/2019  
(Notice Inviting E-Tender)

1. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), on behalf of Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), invites ONLINE Tenders/Bids from reputed Indian Company or JV with Indian and Myanmar Company as JV partner with an Indian company as the mandatory lead partner, having capabilities of management, operation & maintenance of ports/harbor including marine activities and terminal with associated infrastructures and equipment in two bid systems (Cover I. Technical Bid and Cover II. Financial Bid) under Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project for:

**“Management, Operation & Maintenance of Port & IWT Terminal at Sittwe and IWT Terminal at Paletwa under Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project.”**

2. Interested parties may download the tender document online from the site <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> and IWAI website [www.iwai.nic.in](http://www.iwai.nic.in) and are required to pay Rs.5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only) as the cost of RFP document deposited into IWAI's Account.

3. Pre-bid meeting will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 14:30 hrs in Inland Waterways Authority of India (A-13, Sector -1, Noida, Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh)

The last date for submission of bids will be on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 15:00 hrs. (ONLINE submission)

Opening of bids will be on 11<sup>st</sup> June 2019 at 15:30 hrs.

4. If any question on the RFP, please contact to:

The Chief Engineer (Tech)

Inland Waterways Authority of India

A-13, Sector-1, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh -201301,

Ph:+ 91-120-2522971

Fax:+ 91-120-2543973

Email id: [kpmu.iwai@nic.in](mailto:kpmu.iwai@nic.in), [kpmuiwai@gmail.com](mailto:kpmuiwai@gmail.com), [ce.iwai@nic.in](mailto:ce.iwai@nic.in)

Chief Engineer (Tech)  
Inland Waterways Authority of India-IWAI

## Myanmar- Thailand launches Laparoscopic-endoscopic surgery cooperation



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe, officials and nurses pose for a commemorative photograph at the International Collaboration Laparoscopic Endoscopic Surgery for ASEAN People Project in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

**OPENING Ceremony Of Laparoscopic -endoscopic Surgery for ASEAN people project** was held in Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital.

At opening ceremony, Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe said that this method of surgery is important for the development of Myanmar Laparoscopic-Endoscopic surgery and that the two countries have been collaborating in terms of healthcare for many years.

He wanted such technical collaborations at regional and state hospitals. Surgery with advance technology has benefits of less bleeding, short period of hospitalization, less pain and not leaving scars.

He expected the team of doctors from Thailand to advise Myanmar on grand strategy concerning technical development. This collaboration will cement the bond between two countries.

Then, the leader of collaboration team from Rajavith Hospital, Dr. Sa-ard Threepongkaruna gave a key note speech and the Head Doctor of Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital delivered word of thanks.

It was reported that 24 specialists and 36 nurses from Thailand Rajavith Hospital, and specialist doctors and nurses from Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital, Nay Pyi Taw Mater-

nity Hospital and Nay Pyi Taw ENT Hospital will collaborate in diagnosing and surgery. They will also share the knowledge of new methods with each other.

Then, the Union minister attended coordination meeting on preventing public from cardiovascular diseases and narrow veins at Mingalarthiri Hotel.

During the meeting, Union Minister said that as the number of people acquiring heart related disease is rising, they will prioritize precaution on national level. As this disease can come as consequences of hypertension and diabetes, people suffering from such disease may have low

life quality, low income and untimely death. He then said that they will support budget to national level implementation of the project.

Then, Professor Dr. Daw Ngwe Ngwe from cardiac surgical department, Yangon Hospital, spoke of future work progression and current status of work in progress and was detailed by professor Dr. Ko Ko from North Okkalapa Hospital.

Director of Public Health Department Dr. Kyaw Kan Kaung explained the current status of diabetes and hypertension clinic and participants contributed suggestions. —MNA  
(Translated by Alphonsus)

## Former Mongolian President departs from Yangon

A delegation led by Mr. Elbegdorj, the former President of Mongolia, departed from Yangon by flight at 11 pm yesterday.

The former Mongolian President's delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport

by U Zaw Tun Oo, the Deputy Director-General of the Protocol Department, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and other officials. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



The former Mongolian President, Mr. Elbegdorj, (left) departs from Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

### TRADEMARK CAUTIONARY

NOTICE is hereby given that **JIAJIA FOOD GROUP CO., LTD.**, a company incorporated in China and having its principal office at **Station Road, Economic Development Zone, Ningxiang County, Hunan Province, 410600, China** is the owner and sole proprietor of the following trademark(s):-



(Reg. No. IV/9417/2018)

in respect of: "Tea seed oil; sesame oil; edible oils; pickles, preserved vegetables; preserved beans; pickled vegetables; preserved mushrooms; dried turnip; pickled mustard tuber" in class 29.

"Soya sauce; vinegar; condiments, namely, pepper sauce; fermented soya bean for use as a condiment; oyster sauce; relish; seasonings; sauces; soya bean paste; cooking wine" in class 30.



(Reg. No. IV/9418/2018)

in respect of: "Soya sauce; vinegar; seasonings; condiments; paprika; relish [condiment]; oyster sauce; chicken bouillon powder [seasoning]; monosodium glutamate; seasoning sauce" in class 30.

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademarks or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

U Kyi Win Associates  
For **JIAJIA FOOD GROUP CO., LTD.**,  
BY ITS ATTORNEY  
ACTIP IP LIMITED  
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.  
Phone: 372416  
Dated: 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2019

## Ministries of Ethnic Affairs, Education & Nay Pyi Taw ...

### FROM PAGE-4

He also spoke of the intercity bus routes citing that Shwe Pyi Thit bus line operated 103 buses, Shwe Aung Lan operated 35 buses, Shwe Thabyae Yin operated 53 buses, and Nay Pyi Taw high-class bus

line operated 19 buses. He added that the Taw Win bus line no longer operates under the city administration and the Shwe Myo Taw bus line has been terminated. He said there are 1,555 bus lines operating transportation between Nay Pyi

Taw and other states and regions.

The Acting Secretary also said K89,680.190 million has been allotted for undertaking 595 tasks under six topics for the 2018-2019 FY. He said they will continue to work hard for

regional development and for the benefit of the people.

Afterwards, the officials replied to questions from the media. —Myo Win Kyaw

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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# Japan health insurance to cover new leukemia therapy worth 33 mil. yen

TOKYO — A government panel on Wednesday approved coverage of a new therapy to treat leukemia and other hematologic cancers, which currently costs 33.49 million yen (\$305,000), by national health insurance, a move that would significantly ease the burden on patients.

The drug Kymriah, to be produced and sold by Novartis Pharma K.K., a Tokyo-based unit of Swiss pharmaceutical giant Novartis AG, will carry the highest price tag of any single drug in Japan. Coverage is set to take effect 22 May.

But the decision by the health ministry panel may raise concerns about the impact on the country's ballooning medical care costs amid the rapidly ageing population.

The one-time therapy,

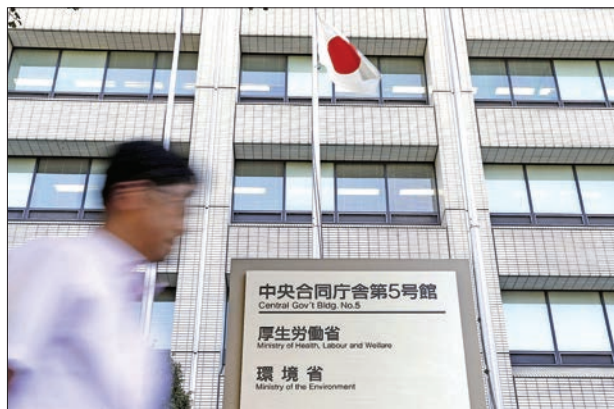


Photo shows a building that houses the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare as well as the Environment Ministry in Tokyo on 17 August, 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

which works by genetically modifying a patient's immune cells to launch an all-out attack on the disease, is considered effective on patients for whom existing treatments do not work.

Under Japan's public health insurance system, a policyholder usually shoulders around 10 per cent to 30 percent of the cost incurred at medical institu-

tions, with the remaining amount covered by the policy in exchange for paying monthly premiums.

There is also a cap on monthly medical payments depending on a policyholder's income. For example, a patient with annual income between 3.7 million yen and 7.7 million yen, would have to shoulder costs of roughly 410,000 yen a month to be

treated with Kymriah.

The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare estimates the number of patients that will be eligible to use the drug will total 216 a year at most and will generate annual revenue of 7.2 billion yen.

Clinical tests of Kymriah, including those in which Japanese patients took part, have shown that around 80 percent of those suffering from leukemia and some 50 per cent of those with lymphoma saw significant improvements in symptoms.

Those eligible to use the drug include children and those 25 or younger with B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia and patients with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, who are not able to be cured using other anticancer drugs.—Kyodo News

# Scientists unearth 'most bird-like' dinosaur ever found

PARIS — Researchers in Germany have unearthed a new species of flying dinosaur that flapped its wings like a raven and could hold vital clues as to how modern-day birds evolved from their reptilian ancestors.

For more than a century and a half since its discovery in 1861, Archaeopteryx — a small feathered dinosaur around the size of a crow that lived in marshland around 150 million years ago — was widely considered to be the oldest flying bird.

Palaeontologists from Ludwig-Maximilians University (LMU) in Munich and the University of Fribourg examined rock formations in the German region of Bavaria, home to nearly all known Archae-

opteryx specimens.

They came across a petrified wing, which the team initially assumed to be the same species. They soon found several differences, however.

"There are similarities, but after detailed comparisons with Archaeopteryx and other, geologically younger birds, its fossil remains suggested that we were dealing with a somewhat more derived bird," said lead study author Oliver Rauhut from LMU's Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences.

They called the new bird-like dinosaur *Archaeopteryx lithographica* — from the old Celtic word for a nearby river and the scientist who discovered the fossil, excavation leader Roland Poeschl.—AFP ■

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# Reforms in the Banking Sector

By San Thein

## Significant developments in the banking sector

**M**OMENTOUS transformation has been taking place in the Myanmar Banking Sector with series of significant reforms. The latest ones are five directives, issued in March 2019, covering eligibility, responsibilities and accountability of board of directors and external auditors, fit and proper criteria for bank directors and top management, and restrictions on acquisition of substantial interest and related party transactions. In July 2017 also, the monetary authority issued four prudential regulations covering capital adequacy requirements, management of problem assets and maintenance of adequate provisions and reserves, concentration of risks and large exposure limits, and appropriate liquidity requirements in banks.

These regulations and directives are not invented locally but adapted from the Basel standards set by the Basel Committee on Bank Supervision (BCBS) to suit the needs and requirements of local banks.

BCBS is an international body of central bankers and supervisors formed to strengthen the regulation, supervision and practices of banks worldwide with the purpose of financial stability.

The other essential directives issued for the smooth transformation are Directive No.7/2017, 1/2019 and 2/2019. Issuing these directives, the monetary authority has allowed local banks (a) to make medium-term loans of up to three years based on the business cycle and cash flow patterns, (b) to extend loans without collateral at a maximum lending rate of 16 per cent, and (c) to make long term housing loans of up to 5 per cent of total loan portfolio.

The above regulations and directives can be viewed as significant restructuring measures towards modernization of banking sector to be able to effectively promote optimum allocation of financial resources for a long-term economic development. Local banks are trying to comply with these regulations and directives in the face of large outstanding amount of overdraft loans with potential loan defaults and lack of proper risk management, largely associated



The Central Bank of Myanmar. Since its inception in 1948, the bank evolved through different paradigms in Myanmar. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

with the collateral-based lending system that prevailed in the banking sector for a long time.

## Collateral-based vs. risk-based lending

Under the collateral-based lending system, banks usually accept land and landed property as collateral. After assessing the market value of the collateral, the bank estimates the forced-sale value of the collateral. To keep themselves on the safe side, banks usually grant credit of up to 50 per cent of the forced-sale value of the collateral without making any comprehensive appraisals on the loan proposals. Under the system, banks are risk-averse and credit risk assessment does not play an essential role there. Routine rolling over of loans mostly in the forms of overdraft had become a normal banking practice for a long time leaving the legacy issue of large volume of outstanding overdraft

loans with potential loan defaults in banks.

Directive 7/2017 dated 24 November 2017 is a significant departure from the old and outdated banking practice of collateral-based to cashflow-based system of lending. Issuing the directive, the monetary authority allows local banks to make three-year term loans based on the cashflow pattern of the borrower. It is a risk-based lending. It promotes risk-appetite in banks. In promoting the culture of risk-appetite, liberalization of product innovation and price setting is crucial. It is encouraging to learn that in the Directive No. 7/2017, the Central Bank of Myanmar encourages local banks to develop new lending products with repayment terms that consider the business cycle and cash flow pattern of the borrower.

## Pricing of products

Pricing is still mandated in the

banking sector. Based on the central bank rate of 10 per cent, the monetary authority sets a nominal interest rate of 8 per cent on deposit and 13 per cent on commercial loans leaving a profit margin of 5 per cent for the lender. However, the current situation does not allow banks to enjoy a full net interest margin of 5 per cent. Low net interest margin (NIM), resulting from the low loan to deposit ratios together with insufficient non-interest income and low actually received interest payments mainly due to the large amount of overdraft loans, is putting pressure on bank profitability.

In fact, Myanmar is among a few countries in the world left with regulated interest rates. The mandatory interest rates usually do not reflect the actual market condition and tend to create distortions in investment. The fixed interest rate environment does not allow banks



Head Office of Myanmar Economic Bank. The MEB is the first and foremost State-owned commercial bank in Myanmar. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**



to price their risks and hence reduces their ability to choose viable businesses for effective financing. Offering the same price to every customer would weaken the bank's quality of risk assessment and hence heighten the risk of default on loans.

### Interest rate liberalization for risk-based pricing

In contrast, under the risk-based or cash-flow based system of lending, banks can take a more holistic approach when judging the weaknesses, strengths, viability, credit amount and particularly the repayment capacity of each business. Under the risk-based system of lending, banks have

a systematic approach to risk assessment to determine an acceptable level of risk. They are well prepared to accept the level of risk in pursuit of their objectives.

At the same time, market-based pricing would allow the customers to select the bank they trust. Reliability, well established reputation and good performance evidenced by their degree of transparency, accountability and efficiency are the three main determining factors for customers to select the bank they trust.

Risk-based pricing together with cash flow-based lending would enhance the lenders' ability for selecting viable busi-



KBZ Bank (Thingangyun). PHOTO: KBZ

nesses for effective financing and hence promote the optimum allocation of financial resources for economic development.

Liberalization of interest rates based on borrower risk profiles, one of the action plans under the Strategy 2.2: 'Reduce inflation and maintain monetary stability' of the Myanmar

Sustainable Development Plan, is an essential prerequisite for risk-based pricing. It would give banks more room for maneuvering to make necessary adjustments while implementing the reform measures adopted by the monetary authority. While waiting for the local banks to be mature enough to practice

the healthy competition among themselves, gradual liberalization of interest rates would be desirable to help strengthen the bank restructuring process.

*(San Thein is a former central banker and is currently a senior adviser for the German development agency, GIZ.)*



Ayeyarwady Bank. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

## Useful Information

### JAPANESE CUISINE

#### AJISHIN

No.192, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Myanmar Plaza, 4th Floor, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 09-970890390, Time- 10:00 to 23:00 (Open Daily)

#### ANAIMO

No. 300, Mahabandula Park Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-378022. Time- 11:30-14:00/ 17:30-22:00 (Saturday only evening and Sunday off)

#### BIKKURA SUSHI & SASHIMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 16, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-799566917, 09-36714873. 10:30-22:30 (Open Daily)

#### BUSHIDO

No. 75/ AB Boyar Nyunt Street, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197/ 09-420231330. 10:00-22:00 (Sunday Off)

#### CHO JAPANESE DINNING & BAR

Level (1), Garden Wing, Beside Lobby Lounge. (Inside Sedona Hotel), Yangon Ph: 09-258322223/ 09-261322223. Lunch 11:30-14:30/ Tea Time 14:30-18:00/ Dinner 18:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

#### DINNING FUKUROU

No. 37, Kabar Pagoda Road, Inside of Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197 09-420231330. 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

#### EDOZUSHI

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

#### (3) YAKINIKU FUKAGAWA

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

#### FUJINOBO

(Cherry Hill Hotel) No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-450067052, 06:00-09:30/ 11:30-14:00/ 17:00-22:30 (Open Daily)

#### FURUSATO

No. 137, West Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-556265/ 09-73081914. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

#### GEKKO

535, Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, 4th Quarter, Yangon. Ph: 01-386986, 09:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

#### HIMARI MYANMAR

Pearl Condo, Block D, Ground Floor, Units-G-10, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-775330494. 11:30-14:00/ 14:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

#### HOKKAIDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 24/ 26, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Golden Hill Tower(A), Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-250537315. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-21:30 (Open Daily)

#### HOT POT KING and Hot pot and BBQ

##### Buffet Restaurant

No-26/27, Thitsar Road and Corner of Wai Za Yan Dar Road, South Okkalapa, Yangon. Tel- 09 777777 008, 09 09 777777 009, 09 777777 883.

##### Hot Pot City 8 Miles

No(33), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road (7.34 km) 095 Yangon, Ph: 09 797 799111, 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

##### 101 Hot Pot & Sushi

No.141, West Shwegondaing Road, Bahan T/s. near Yuzana Hotel. (1.78 km), 11201 Yangon.

### Get Directions

Highlights info row image, Ph: 09 777 799101.

4:00 PM to 10:00 PM

#### Little Sheep Hot Pot Myanmar

14/14B Kanbawza Street Golden Valley (1) Bahan Township (1.71 km), Yangon.

Ph: 09443399701, 09443399702, 11:00-23:00

### HOTEL

#### BELMOND GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

No. 35, Taw Win Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-229860 01-229861.

#### CHATRIUM

No. 40, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-544500/ 01-544244.

#### CHERRY HILLS HOTEL

No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwegon Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon.

Ph: 01-559722.

#### HOTLE 51

No. 154/ 156, 51st. Upper Pazundaung Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-200823/ 09-429918554.

#### HOTEL KAN KAW

No.93(A), Hnin Si Gone Road, Ahlone Township, Yangon.

Ph: 01-228566/ 01-2301700/ 01-1221731.

#### HOTLE SIDNEY

No. 8L/Mindhama Road, Between Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road and Parami Road, Mayangone Township.

Ph: 01-655770/ 01-9669600-02.

#### INYA LAKE HOTEL

No.37, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-9662866/ 01-9662857-9.

#### LOTTEE HOTLES AND SERVICED APARTMENTS YANGON

No.82, Sin Phyu Shin Avenue, Pyay Road, 6 mile, Hlaing Township. Ph: 01-9351000.

#### MERCURE HOTEL

No.17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-650933.

#### NOVOTEL YANGON MAX

No.459, Pyay Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-2305858.

#### PAN PACIFIC YANGON

No. Corner of Bogyoke Aung San Road and Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Yangon, Ph: 01-9253810.

#### PARK ROYAL

No.33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Ph: 01-250388.

#### PULLMAN YANGON CENTREPOINT

No.65, Corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Street. Ph: 01-382687.

#### ROSE GARDEN HOTEL

No.171, Upper Pasodan Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-371992/09263440500.

#### SAVOY HOTEL

No.129, Corner of Dhammzedi Road and Inya Road, Yangon.

Ph: 01-526289/ 01-526298/ 01-526305.

#### SEDONA HOTEL

No. 1, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-8605377.

#### SULE SHANGRI-LA

No. 223, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-242828.

#### SUMMIT PARTVIEW HOTEL

No. 350, Ahlone Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-211888/ 01-211966.

#### SUPER HOTEL

No. 51/ D, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, 10th Quarter, Mayangone Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-797109000/ 01-658210/ 01-658220.

# Grassroots Tournament for children organized in Yangon

A two-day football festival for children, 5V5 Grassroots Tournament 2019 (Yangon Region), is being held at the artificial turf ground of the National Football Academy in Yangon.

The tournament was opened yesterday to mark the AFC Grassroots Football Day, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The opening ceremony was attended by the football federation's officials, led by the Vice Chairman of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and Chairman of the Myanmar Football Federation, U Zaw Zaw, and invited guests.

In his opening speech, U Zaw Zaw said that football is a popular sport and children must pursue it along with studies.

"The support of parents is crucial when it comes to participation of children in sports. We will try and hold such football festivals for children under the age of 10 every year," he said.



Children participating in the 5V5 Grassroots Tournament 2019 on the artificial turf ground of the National Football Academy in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MFF**

Afterwards, as part of the opening ceremony, the national team of disabled footballers, divided into two teams, showcased their skills.

Then, MFF Chairman U Zaw Zaw presented them K1 million and certificates of honour.

The Grassroots Tournament, being held on 15 and 16 May, has 24 participating teams from 24 townships of Yangon Region.

The teams have been divided into 6 groups.

The group stage matches

were held yesterday. Today, knockout matches, semifinals, and finals will be held. They will be followed by an awards ceremony, according to a statement released by the Myanmar Football Federation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## "Gundam" robots to greet athletes with messages from space

TOKYO—Organizers of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games announced plans Wednesday to launch model robots from the anime "Mobile Suit Gundam" into space aboard a satellite that will broadcast messages of support to athletes. In the project conducted in collaboration with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and the University of Tokyo, two 10-centimeter models depicting Gundam and Char's Zaku robots from the animation series will be sent into orbit on a 30-cm long, 10-cm wide micro satellite.

The "G Satellite," with an electronic bulletin board for displaying messages, will be sent to the International Space Station aboard a supply ship next March and later launched from the ISS. After the satellite enters Earth orbit, it will deploy the bulletin board and model robots, capturing images of them with its on-board camera.—Kyodo News ■

## MFF seeking coach for national youth football teams

THE Myanmar Football Federation is currently seeking a qualified Youth Coach for its U-15 and U-17 National Youth Teams, the federation announced yesterday.

The football federation is looking for a head coach who can mentor the local assistant-coaches of the U-15 and U-17 national teams. In its announcement, the MFF has listed the duties of the coach, as well as the qualifications it requires from candidates.

The coach must possess AFC A License, UEFA License, and preferably, have a UEFA Elite Youth License. The coach must have international experience as an Elite Youth Coach, with a minimum 3-year knowledge of and experience in Asian Elite Youth Player Football. Knowledge of English language (verbal and written) is compulsory. Digital skills are required. The candidates must also have presentation skills, and technical and tactical analysis skills at the Elite Youth Player level.

The coach must understand and apply a methodological and

pedagogical approach, according to the highest football elite player development standards, the MFF stated. He will have to work closely with the head coach and coaching staff of the U-14 National Youth Team. He must possess a good knowledge of elite youth player development, especially in the U15-17 age bracket.

He must have experience working with potentially talented elite youth players at the highest level (National Youth Teams and Top Youth Academies).

The salary will be negotiable, in line with the qualifications of the candidate, said a source with the football federation.

Interested candidate can submit their resumes, detailing their knowledge and experience, to the Myanmar Football Federation by e-mail by 25 May. The e-mail needs to be addressed to U Ko Ko Thein, MFF General Secretary (kokothein@mff-ma.com), and Mr. Eric Abrams, MFF Technical Director (eric.abrams@mff-ma.com), the MFF stated.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## Tiger, Koepka hunt more major glory in PGA at Bethpage

BETHPAGE (United States) — Masters winner Tiger Woods, chasing a 16th major title, and defending champion Brooks Koepka lead a powerhouse field into Thursday's opening round of the PGA Championship at rain-drenched Bethpage Black.

Woods, who ended an 11-year major title drought last month at Augusta National, and Koepka, who held off Woods to win last year's PGA crown, join reigning British Open champion Francesco Molinari of Italy in the feature group of the first two days.

"I'm just looking forward to playing with him," Koepka said of Woods. "I don't think we've really been paired together too much, especially over the last couple years. It'll definitely be interesting."

It's the same layout where Woods won the 2002 US Open and shared sixth behind winner Lucas Glover at a rain-hit 2009 US Open, both times with the vocal support of New York crowds



In this file photo taken on October 21, 2018, Brooks Koepka of the US reacts after winning putt on the eighteenth hole during the final round of the CJ Cup golf tournament at Nine Bridges golf club in Jeju Island. **PHOTO: AFP**

who made the Long Island trek.

"This week is going to be a lot of fun with the crowds, the excitement that we've had here," Woods said. "The pairing I'm involved in, it's going to be just a boatload of fun for all of us."

Woods would match Sam Snead's career US PGA Tour win record of 82 with a triumph and move within two of the all-time major win mark of 18 by Jack Nicklaus with a victory.

The 43-year-old American would become the 10th oldest major winner, two days older than Ted Ray when he won the 1920 US Open, and match record co-holders Nicklaus and Walter Hagen with a fifth Wanamaker Trophy.

He would also be halfway to a calendar year Grand Slam, the PGA shifting to May for the first time since 1949 in a revamped world golf calendar.—AFP ■