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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Philippines

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr. Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr., Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines, who is on an official visit to Myanmar to attend the third Meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between Myanmar and the Philippines at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 22 May 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

During the meeting, the State Counsellor and the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines discussed various issues on promoting bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries. They also exchanged views on consolidating cooperation for the benefit of both countries and extending mutual support at the regional and international fora in the areas of mutual interest.

Also present at the meeting were U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, Senior Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Philippines Ambassador to Myanmar and senior officials from the Philippines.—MNA



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines, Mr. Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr., at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

MraukU aims for World Heritage status by 2021

THE Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture has stepped up efforts for submitting a Nomination Dossier to UNESCO for putting the ancient city of MraukU in Rakhine State on the World Heritage list.

“So far, 70 per cent of work on

the draft Nomination Dossier has been completed, and it is expected to be ready in July. If we submit the Nomination Dossier to the World Heritage Centre by 30 September, they will come and inspect MraukU next year, and the city could be listed as a

World Heritage site by 2021,” said U Kyaw Lwin Oo, the Director-General of the Department of Archaeology, National Museum, and Library, under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

MPs to discuss giving preference to coal power to meet electrification target



MP U Tin Maung Win. PHOTO: MNA



MP U Nay Phu Ba Swe.

THE Pyithu Hluttaw will soon debate a proposal put forward by MP U Tin Maung Win of Seikkan constituency, asking that whether the Ministry of Electricity and Energy gives priority to use of coal to generate electricity, as part of efforts to achieve nationwide electrification project by 2030.

While presenting his proposal before the Pyithu Hluttaw, U Tin Maung Win cited the advan-

tages of coal-fire technology, and urged the Ministry to focus on right and good management, with specific policies and directives, to meet the target.

Coal has been available for more than a 100 years in the world, and its price is stable, he said. The technology available today can help limit the environmental damage caused by coal-fired power plants, he added.

Besides, coal cannot be used

as a political weapon as solid fossil fuels are becoming readily available around the world, said U Tin Maung Win. U Nay Phu Ba Swe of Pabedan constituency seconded the motion. Thereafter, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat sought approval from the Hluttaw to debate the proposal, and announced the decision to debate the proposal.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Pyithu Hluttaw mulls need for more waste-to-energy plants

A proposal to set up more waste-to-energy plants and incinerators in Yangon, and other regions and states, to produce electricity was debated at the Pyithu Hluttaw.

The proposal was submitted by U Nyan Lin of Shwepyitha constituency.

In his proposal, the MP stated that to reduce and prevent the environmental damage caused by garbage, the government must construct more waste-to-energy plants, which

can generate 760 KW of power. He urged the government to build incinerators which can handle over 2,000 tons of garbage per day in Yangon, and at least 60 tons of garbage per day in the regions and states.

Daw Cho Cho Win of Mawlaik constituency seconded the proposal, stating that it would ensure electricity production, environmental conservation, production of fertilizers, and resolution of land problems related to garbage.

In response to the proposal, Member of the Nay Pyi Taw Council U Nyi Tun said there weren't enough funds for handling garbages in Kayah State, Kayin State, Chin State, Bago Region, Magway Region, and Rakhine State to establish waste-to-energy plants and incinerators.

In Sagaing Region, plans are under way to build a plant with Japanese technology, he said.



MP U Nyan Lin. PHOTO: MNA



MP Daw Cho Cho Win.

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Amyotha Hluttaw

Second Amyotha Hluttaw 12th regular session holds ninth-day meeting

THE ninth-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 12th regular session was held yesterday at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall.

In the meeting, questions raised by 10 Hluttaw representatives were answered by Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin and Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw, and the amended 2019 New Tree Species Protection Bill was also approved.

Question and answer session

U Bwe Khane of Chin State constituency 3 raised a question on whether there are plans for upgrading 23-mile long road section from Hnaring Town, Thantlang Township, Chin State, to Rezua-Gangaw junction, into a union or state level road and extending its width by 30 feet.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin answered that the road sections of 5 miles and 4 furlongs, a nearly 4-mile road section to Leip- Rezua-Gangaw road and another road section of 1-mile

and 4-furlong on Rezua-Gangaw-Khwarthwar are the project conducted by Ministry of Border Affairs.

He said the fund for the roads' construction is conducted by Ministry of Construction, the earthen roads of 8-mile long Hnaring-Khwaharan and 6-mile long Khwaharan-Leipi will be allocated to Chin State government's fund of 2020-2021 FY.

He then said that there is no plan yet to upgrade the 23-mile road section from Hnaring Town to Rezua-Gangaw junction to union or state level road as the road section is included in the project jointly conducted by the two ministries.

Projects on rural road extension to 24-foot wide road in Chin State are being conducted yearly, the deputy minister said.

Extending width of road section on Kalay-Falam Road

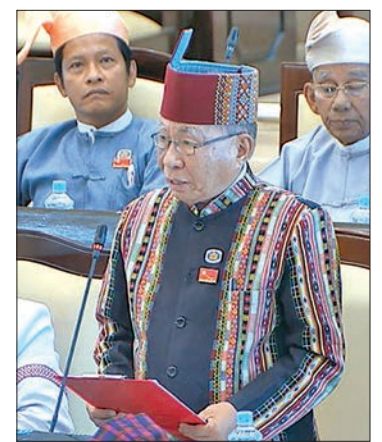
U Zon Hlyal Htan of Chin State constituency 4 raised a question on whether there is a plan for extending the width of the road section of Htinshuu camp- Bwakhwa-Belwe-Saung-



Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin. PHOTO: MNA



Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw. PHOTO: MNA



MP U Bwe Khane. PHOTO: MNA

do-Ngamwl-Monpi-Zawnol-Zaungkaung on Kalay-Falam road and constructing bridges and tubes on that road section.

The Deputy Construction Minister answered that the road section was included in the second stage of Class (A) priority. Currently, measurements are being conducted on the road and the funds for the project are allocated to the Chin State government's fund in the period after 2020-2021 FY. The projects will be carried out depending on the allocated fund received, the Deputy Minister said.

Road upgrade in Kyaukpadaung Tsp

U Kyaw Toke of Mandalay Region constituency 7 raised a question on whether there is a plan to upgrade the gravel road of Settain-Kan Phyu-Ngathayauk in Kyaukpadaung Township, NyaungU District in Mandalay Region to asphalt road.

Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin replied that the road section is included in the first stage of Class (A) priority and 2 miles and 3 furlongs of the road will be upgraded to asphalt road in 2019-2020 FY with Mandalay Region government's fund.

The remaining parts of the road will also be upgraded year by year, he added.

Setting up laboratory in Pindaya Tsp

Daw Ma Ma Lay of Shan State constituency 8 raised a question on whether there is plan to set up a laboratory in Pindaya Township, Danu Self-Administered Zone in southern Shan State to experiment agricultural produces. It was answered by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw.

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State Counsellor receives Laotian Ambassador

STATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received a visit from Mr. Heuangseng Khamdalavong, the Ambassador of Laos, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed increasing bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Laos for the common benefit

of both people, further economic and sociocultural cooperation, promoting interaction between the citizens of both countries, and providing recommendations to each other on the regional and international stage. —MNA

(Translated by
Zaw Htet Oo)



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets Laotian Ambassador Mr. Heuangseng Khamdalavong. PHOTO: MNA

Government, business persons hold 27th regular monthly meeting in Yangon

THE Private Sector Development Committee (PSDC) led by Vice President U Myint Swe, and business persons held the 27th regular meeting in Yangon yesterday and they discussed development of Taninthayi Region, livestock sector, sugar and other value-added products and mobile phones sectors.

Speaking at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Vice President U Myint Swe, in his capacity as the chairman of the PSDC, said the committee has replied to suggestions and issues raised by the business persons through the UMFCCI, and of them, some issues needed time to be solved.

The Trade sector played an important role in the development of a country's economy. Private and public sectors were cooperating towards increasing annual trade volume and during fiscal year 2018-2019 (as of 3 May) trade volume reached US\$ 20.491 billion which was \$ 0.523 billion more than the same period of the last fiscal year. Private sector participation in this was \$ 17.073 billion or 84 per cent, said the Vice President.

For these matters, officials from the five work committees made arrangements for public-private dialogues among private businesses and relevant ministries to resolve the matter in stages, said the Vice President.

The Private Sector Development Committee held its 9th work coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, and at the meeting, Union ministers, officials of the five work committees, officials



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the speech at the 27th regular meeting between government and business persons in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister Dr. Than Myint.



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.



UMFCCI Vice President U Thein Han.

of the Ease of Doing Business Ranking and departmental officials discussed measures taken in respective sectors and future plans.

To curb illegal imports through the border, PSDC has formed special teams, and illegal goods worth K 9.113 billion have

been seized in 512 cases as of April, 2019.

For the development of the country's economy, the Myanmar Investment Commission had permitted investments which would underpin the trade sector, and the number of investments reached 1,549 as of March,

2019, said Vice President U Myint Swe.

The Union Government has relaxed the rules and regulations related with investments and held workshops occasionally for the government and private sectors to ensure that both sides understood the rules and regu-

lations.

The Vice President said the Union Government was trying to attract responsible investments which could benefit the economy, environment and socio-economy of the local people.

Afterwards, Vice Chairman of PSDC Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint discussed measures being taken for boosting exports and controlling illegal trade, and plans for export of beans and rice.

Afterwards, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein discussed the outcome of the Yangon Region Investment Forum, plans for the private sector including SMEs in the region, arrangements for agriculture and livestock sectors and for upgrading the industrial zones in the region.

Afterwards, U Thein Han, Vice President of the UMFCCI reported on cooperation between the government and the private sector and promoting exports.

The Chairman of Taninthayi Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Ye Htut Naing, Chairman of Myanmar Livestock Federation Dr. Mya Han and Vice Chairman Dr. Nay Thu Rein, Vice Chairman of the Myanmar Sugar and Sugarcane Products Association U Win Htay and business persons also joined in the discussions.

Vice President U Myint Swe, Union Minister, Yangon Region Chief Minister, deputy ministers and members of the Yangon Region Government discussed the challenges of business persons and the meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the Vice President. —MNA

(Translated by Tun Tun Naing)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Joint Bill Committee held a meeting on the Bill of Financial Management of the Union for Remaining 2018-2019 FY sent by the Union Government, controversial Children's Rights Bill, the Major Bridge bill sent by the President with comments, and the Second Bill Amending the Settlement of Labour Dispute Law at the meeting hall of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy

Speaker and Joint Bill Committee and Joint Public Accounts Committee Chairman U Tun Tun Hein, the Joint Bill Committee's deputy chairmen, Secretary, Joint Secretary and members, officials from office of the Union Supreme Court, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Union Attorney General's Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. —MNA ■ (Translated by KZT)



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee discusses four bills during their meeting at the meeting hall of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Min Thu meets GAD staff of Union Territory

U Min Thu, the Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government, met with staff of the Union Territory, Nay Pyi Taw General Administration Department at the GAD's office in the Ministry of Office the Union Government building, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

Firstly, the acting-administrator of the Nay Pyi Taw GAD, U Tun Naing, introduced the Union Minister to everyone in attendance and explained about the Union Territory GAD's processes and performances. The Union Minister then delivered a speech.

GAD's journey since its transfer

The Union Minister first remarked it has been over four months since the GAD was transferred to the Ministry of Office of the Union Government (MoOUG). He said the GAD has designated vision, four mission statements and 3 tasks for reforms to evolve itself into a department that is in line with the President's directives, the Union Government's policy, and the political system idealized by the public.

The Union Minister said the first three months were given to physical reforms and the second three months will be geared towards reforming the essence of the GAD. He said the related tasks have been submitted to the President and the State Counsellor for further guidance.

The Union Minister said the Union Government approved the reformed organizational structure of MoOUG during their Meeting No. 9/2019 on 9 May 2019. He said the ministry is also carrying on its Corruption Prevention Unit (CPU) project.



Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Min Thu addresses the meeting with staff of the Union Territory, Nay Pyi Taw General Administration Department at the GAD's office in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Future plans for the GAD

He said they will form the ministry-level Regulatory Review Unit with two members of the ministry's advisory board and staff from the ministry and the GAD. He said they will revise the staff guidebooks and code of conduct and review the existing directives and protocols for any necessary amendments.

The Union Minister said they have expanded the organizational structure of the Institute of Development Administration (IDA) to match the reorganization of MoOUG and are speeding up efforts to revise its curriculum to meet international standards.

He said they are discussing policies to ensure the system of promotions and transfers of GAD staff and its human resource management is transparent and systematic.

Ensuring accuracy of population records

The Union Minister then

gave two orders for staff to keep in mind. The first one was to ensure the electoral roll for all elections is compiled with the utmost care to prevent all eligible voters from losing their right to vote. He said the GAD cooperated with township immigration departments and departments for national registration and citizenship and the Union Election Sub-Commissions in previous general elections and by-elections.

He urged all GAD staff at the township, ward and village-tract levels to ensure the population records for citizens above age 18 and the household registrations are genuine and compatible with the current situation. He said this will allow the UEC to compile correct electoral rolls in advance if necessary.

Twice the work

The second point was for all GAD staff to undertake the responsibilities of the respective level of the Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands

and Other Lands (CSCFOL) they are assigned to, in accordance with existing laws, bylaws, policies, rules, regulations and directives. He requested GAD staff to work hard in accomplishing their duties pertaining to the GAD and to the committee.

The President and the State Counsellor had reformed the aforementioned committee by appointing GAD staff from the subnational level to the ward and village level as secretaries or chairpersons.

The Union Minister said the Nay Pyi Taw CSCFOL has received 354 reports and has submitted 255 to the central committee, 109 in process, and 200 closed, achieving 70.05 per cent completion. He urged staff to increase momentum in resolving the remaining cases.

Urging GAD staff to continue hard work

The Union Minister concluded by saying that the General Administration Department is

the administrative backbone of the country and thus, needs to initiate exemplary change to establish itself as a public-centred mechanism for administration. He said we need to firmly build our moral character to be free from self-interest and corruption. He urged GAD staff to meet and discuss with the public, gather their suggestions, and stand together with them.

He expressed his wish for the GAD to follow existing laws, rules, regulations, and procedures without burdening the people. He urged GAD staff to improve their daily tasks, become more effective, and reform their tasks and procedures.

Afterwards, GAD staff in attendance submitted requirements to the Union Minister, who gave necessary suggestions and directions and then urged the staff to respect and follow the policies and procedures of the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government. —MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Opening, Awarding Ceremony of “Beauty of Mekong” art exhibition held in Yangon

OPENING and Awarding Ceremony of “Beauty of Mekong” art exhibition which marks the 10th anniversary of Mekong – Japan Friendship was held at National Theater on Pyay Road in Yangon.

During the event, Union Minister of Religious Affairs and Culture said that the pact initially started with Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Viet Nam and Japan. The pact aims to promote standard of living and narrow the wealth gap in ASEAN countries. He explained this is the reason why they are collaborating in terms of social, economy and

culture.

Then, the awarding of prizes to winners of “Beauty of Mekong” exhibition commenced, followed with a key note speech by an official from the Japanese Embassy.

Next, Artist U Saw Hlaing handed over a painting mementos to the Union Minister and the head of the Painting Department handed over one to the Japanese Embassy official.

Then, Artist U Hla Tin Tun delivered a speech on behalf of Myanmar artists and a Japanese artist from Tokyo University of Art, of Japanese artists. After the



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko views a painting at the “Beauty of Mekong” art exhibition.
PHOTO: MNA

group photo session, they saw the exhibition. It was reported that 63 Myanmar paintings by well experienced Myanmar artists, teachers from high school and university of art, alumni

and young artists, 3 Cambodian paintings, 5 Vietnamese paintings, 5 Laotian paintings, 5 Thai paintings and Japanese art works of painting, sculpture and lacquer are on display.

The event is on the first floor of nation theater. It is open to everybody free of charge from 9 am to 4:30 pm until May 28.—MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)

MoFA hosts 3rd Myanmar-Philippines joint commission meeting

THE third Meeting of Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between Myanmar and the Philippines was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 May 2019 at 10:00 hrs. The meeting was co-chaired by His Excellency U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and His Excellency Mr. Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr., Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines.

During the Meeting, the two Ministers discussed on a wide range of issues relating to promoting bilateral relations and cooperation; enhancing cooperation in trade and investment sectors; operating direct air linkage between the two countries; signing the MoU on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Trafficking and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs and Controlled Precursors Chemicals between the two countries; promoting people-to-people contacts; enhancing cooperation in culture, education, defense, agriculture, fishery and environment, tourism sectors between the two countries; and expanding the multi-faceted cooperation and extending mutual support in both regional and international fora. The two Ministers



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin shakes hands with Filipino Foreign Secretary Mr. Teodoro L. Locsin Jr. **PHOTO: MNA**

signed the Agreed Minutes of the Third Meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation.

Following the meeting, the Air Services Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines was signed by His Excellency U Kyaw Myo, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications, and His Excellency Mr. Eduardo E. Kapunan, Jr., the Philippine Ambassador to Myanmar.

Afterwards, His Excellency U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, hosted a luncheon in honour of His Excellency Mr. Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr., Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines and the delegation at Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw at 1230 hrs.

His Excellency Mr. Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr., Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines, and the delegation left Myanmar by air on 22 May 2019 in the evening.—MNA

Anti-trafficking body holds coord meeting on legal framework, prosecution

CENTRAL BODY for Suppression and Prevention of Trafficking In Persons held a coordination meeting on legal affairs and prosecution at the Office of the Union Attorney-General in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, the central body’s Chairman, Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint said that they are in 3rd year of 5-year framework of Anti-Human Trafficking.

Despite the scheme it is public knowledge that in the Trafficking in Persons report released by the US State Department, Myanmar had been Tier 2 watch list in 2017 and was downgraded to Tier 3, the lowest stage, in 2018.

He urged to make efforts to be upgraded to Tier 2 again for the benefits of the country and the nation, that related department discuss future work concerning American TIP Report, in detail, and to have Myanmar’s efforts in tackling the issue, known

internationally.

Next, the Secretary of Government Working Committee on Legal Framework and Prosecution Daw Khin Cho Ohn, Director-General of Department of Prosecution detailed the performances of the team and steerings for 2019.

Anti-Trafficking in Person Division Police Brig-Gen Myint Htoo explained prosecution of human trafficking, sentence for human trafficking and difficulties over prosecuting human traffickers.

Afterwards, officials from the related member departments of the government working group made suggestions over rehabilitation of the survivors of trafficking, assistances, educating people to counter human trafficking. The Deputy Attorney-General discussed on the suggestions and delivered the closing speech.—MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)



PHOTO: MNA

TV & Broadcasting Bylaw Revision, Drafting Committee holds third coord meeting

The third coordination meeting of the Committee for Revision and Drafting Bylaws on Television and Broadcasting Law was held at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The committee's Chairman, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, first reminded attendees this is the third coordination meeting for drafting bylaws for television and broadcasting. He added that since the main law has been enacted, everyone needs to work hard to ensure the following bylaws are enacted swiftly and successfully.

Attendees then discussed each paragraph of the TV and broadcasting bylaw.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, departmental heads, and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Office of the Union-Attorney General, Myanmar Lawyers' Network, and Myanmar Broadcasters Association.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint addresses the third coordination meeting for drafting TV & Broadcasting bylaw. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung meets US Ambassador



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung holds talks with American Ambassador Mr. Scot Marciel in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister for Transport and Communications, U Thant Sin Maung received a delegation led by US Ambassador Mr. Scot Marciel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they

exchanged views over 5G system and cyber security policy along with exchanging technological experiences, cooperation processes for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector development,

assistance for performances of ports and expanding cooperation between the two countries.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman receives US Ambassador

Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission, U Aung Kyi received a delegation led by US Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr. Scot Marciel at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, education programs conducted by the

Anti-Corruption Commission, prevention and investigation processes and developmental stages and effective investigation processes of international organizations were cordially discussed.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi meets US Ambassador in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu shakes hands with UNHCR Chief Mr. Filippo Grandi. PHOTO: MNA

Rakhine State Chief Minister receives UNHCR Chief

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu received UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Chief Mr. Filippo Grandi yesterday at his office in Sittway, Rakhine State.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to implementation and renewal of MoU signed between the Union Government, UNHCR and UNDP, repatriation

of the displaced persons, making the benefits of having NVC cards widely known, the affairs of internally-displaced persons and closure of IDP camps.

Afterwards, the UNHCR Chief visited Saythama Gyi IDP Camp and Khaung Dukkhar (2) IDP Camp in Sittway.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Chairman of Union Election Commission receives Vision 2020 civil society organizations



UEC Chairman U Hla Thein holds talks with Vision 2020 civil society organizations. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Chairman of the Union Election Commission received civil society organizations included in Vision 2020, at the Union Election Commission office, yesterday at 10 a.m.

During the meeting, the

Chairman urged the group on Vision 2020 to promote the participation of women in the 2020 elections.

He and the members of the commission discussed making of Voters Lists, educating vot-

ers, advanced voting and expenditure report of election.

Members of the commission and officials from the UEC office attended the event.—MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)

MraukU aims for World Heritage status by 2021



Deputy Minister U Kyi Min addresses the coordination meeting on the timely completion of the Nomination Dossier and Management Plan for MraukU yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-1

He made the remarks at a coordination meeting on the timely completion of the Nomination Dossier and Management Plan for MraukU yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, UNESCO experts Ms. Shikha Jain and Mr. Kai Weise gave a power-point presentation about the designation of MraukU cultural zone, land management, environmental conservation, people manage-

ment, disaster risk management, tourism management, and exchange of information between groups, which will raise awareness in the city.—MNA ■

(Translated by GNLM)

Yangon Theater hiring put on hold

YANGON National Theater will be renovated with the help of People's Republic of China.

The theater will be outfitted with sound system, lights,

air conditioners, auditorium chairs and automated fire extinguisher while the building will be upgraded.

As a result, hiring the

theater will be put on hold from 1st June until the renovation is completed.—MNA ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Pyithu Hluttaw mulls need for more waste-to-energy plants

FROM PAGE-2

In Dawei, Taninthayi Region, which produces about 60 tons of garbage per day, a local voluntary group is working with the Development Affairs Department to dump garbage, such as plastic, tin, and paper, after reducing its size, he said.

Plans are under way to build a furnace to burn plastic waste, he added.

In Mon State, the state government and Finland-based BOKOSKI Ltd have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a waste-to-energy plant to burn garbage sourced from Mudon, Kyeikmayaw, Chaungzon, and Paung townships in the state, he said.

Mandalay Region has implemented a garbage management system and will carry out an assessment for building a waste-to-energy plant, he said.

Big cities such as PyinOoLwin, Bagan, NyaungU, Kyaukse, and Pyawbwe are practicing a semi-aerobic landfill system, with Japanese technology, to limit environmental damage, he added. A locally made furnace will become operational in Myittha in the 2019-2020 fiscal

year, he said.

The Nay Pyi Taw Council Area produces 250 tons of garbage every day, which is dumped at designated places in Pobbathiri, Lewe, and Tatkon townships, he said.

The government would consider a long-term plan for waste-to-energy plants as the investment for such plants is high, and there is still enough land available for continuing with the controlled landfill system for disposing garbage, he said.

He said waste-to-energy plants are suitable for Yangon, Mandalay, and other cities, which are facing difficulties with the controlled landfill system. But, the system is suitable for other cities which have enough space to be able to balance the financial aspects. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khun Myat sought remarks from MP U Nyan Lin, who submitted the proposal, and announced that the proposal would be put on record. The 12th session of Pyithu Hluttaw regular meeting will be held on 24 May.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■

(Translated by GNLM)

Second Amyotha Hluttaw 12th regular session holds ...

FROM PAGE-2

Experiments on agricultural products can be conducted in Taunggyi as Ywangan and Pindaya townships in Danu Self-Administered Zone are not far from Taunggyi and road accesses is not also difficult, the Deputy Minister answered.

The Deputy Minister then said there is no plan yet to open a new laboratory in Pindaya Township as setting up a new laboratory requires land, building, laboratory equipment, chemicals, electricity and experts.

Shwe Nat Taung Dam project, six Co-operative businesses in Mon State, cotton farm in Pyin Oo Lwin

On the question about the condition of Shwe Nat Taung Dam project being carried out with loans from JICA (ODA Loan) and ADB for distributing water to Mawlamyine Town in

Mon State raised by Daw Nwe Nwe Aung of Mon State constituency 2, the question raised by Dr. Kyaw Than Tun (Canton) of Mandalay Region constituency 3 on whether there is plan for resetting up silk cotton business on the 112 acres of silk cotton farm in Pyin Oo Lwin Township, Mandalay Region that was taken back from the businesspersons as they violated the terms of the rental contract by the Ministry and the question raised by U Aye Min Han of Mon State constituency 1 about the maintenance conditions of six Co-operative businesses that now do not pay State Income, citing the reason for their departments' benefit, were also answered by Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw. The tenth-day meeting of the Second Amotha Hluttaw's 12th regular session was scheduled to be held on 24 May.—Aung Ye Thwin, Lu Maw (MNA) ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Our forests, mountains are part of a lasting legacy

At the time Myanmar gained independence, more than 54.15 per cent of its geographical area was covered in lush forests. These great forests regulated the temperature and other aspects of the climate to create a balance. In addition, they prevented rainwater from being wasted, protected against soil erosion, and provided a thriving environment for local fauna.

But now, deforestation has caused the climate to change for the worse, and humans and other living beings are facing its negative consequences. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations reports that 42.92 per cent of Myanmar's land area was covered in forests in 2015. The numbers show that 1.72 per cent of Myanmar's forests were logged between 2010 and 2015, while 12 per cent of all forests have been cut down since 1957.

We will be utterly devastated to lose our mountains, the cradles of rivers and progenitors of rainclouds, which also help pump out underground wells to turn them into waterfalls. Unlike trees, mountains cannot be replanted.

With each passing year of deforestation going unchecked, we are seeing an increase in extreme temperatures, shortage of underground springs, and annual floods. A relatively more damaging event is the shrinking or destruction of mountains. We will be utterly devastated to lose our mountains, the cradles of rivers and progenitors of rainclouds, which also help pump out underground wells to turn them into waterfalls. Unlike trees, mountains cannot be replanted.

We must carefully consider mining or demolishing mountains for natural resources, and unite our efforts towards reforestation. We must also take effective action against illegal logging. The people and the governments of our neighboring countries are working in harmony to make their homes greener and their hearts serener. Meanwhile, Myanmar is facing increasing natural disasters as we are still unable to work collectively.

While the government plays an important role in conserving our forests and the natural environment, it cannot accomplish these tasks without the support and considerable strength of the people. We urge all citizens to realize the positive changes their actions can bring about and cooperate with each other and the relevant authorities to maintain our land, our home, our nation, not just for ourselves, but for generations to come.

Satellite images from NASA show India and China's forests have grown back considerably. They have accomplished eco-friendly projects despite being some of the most populated countries in the world, with a pace of natural resource consumption to match, all because of their perseverance. India planted 50 million trees within 24 hours in 2016 with the help of 800,000 volunteers. While our neighbors are making relentless efforts towards reforestation, it is deeply saddening to see illegal logging occurring daily in our own homes.

Myanmar's fiscal policy should aim at promoting Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)-related spending: IMF

FOLLOWING the visit to Myanmar on 15 March 2019, the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) concluded the Article IV consultation with Myanmar, and issued a press release on 12 April 2019.

IMF is of the view that Myanmar's economy rebounded in 2017-2018 but appears to be losing momentum, and that growth rebounded to 6.8 per cent in 2017-2018 driven by exports and a recovery in agriculture. The fiscal deficit reached about 2.7 percent of GDP in 2017-2018, and the Central Bank financing of the deficit continued to decline.

Headline inflation was moderate in 2017-2018 (4.0 percent on average) but has been rising from increased fuel prices and a depreciating kyat.

The current account deficit widened marginally in 2017-2018 to a little fewer than 5 per cent of GDP and was largely financed by strong FDI inflows keeping international reserves at around three months of imports.

Preliminary data in the transition budget year (April-September 2018) point to reduction in speed or rate of growth due to government under spending, waning investor confidence and moderating global demand.

The medium-term macroeconomic outlook

The medium-term macroeconomic outlook remains favorable. Myanmar's economy is expected to gain steam over the medium term albeit at a somewhat slower



A trader observes a monitor display at the YSX. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

pace than previously envisaged and subject to greater downside risks partly related to the humanitarian crisis in Rakhine State.

The accounts deficit for the new fiscal year is projected to increase, providing a modest fiscal stimulus on the back of higher capital spending.

A drop in international oil prices and a gradual moderation in inflation over the near term should support consumer spending. Successful implementation of the second wave of reforms in the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (2018-2030) will help sustain the growth take off and achieve the Sustainable De-

velopment Goals.

Risks are tilted to the downside

Risks are tilted to the downside. A prolonged humanitarian crisis and any withdrawal of trade preferences could reduce concessional donor financing and investment leading to lower growth.

Macro-financial spillovers, an instance of overflowing or spreading into another area, from the ongoing banking sector restructuring process may be more severe if banks delay recapitalization.

Risks on the global front include trade tensions and related global financial market volatility,

Myanmar's economy is expected to gain steam over the medium term albeit at a somewhat slower pace than previously envisaged and subject to greater downside risks partly related to the humanitarian crisis in Rakhine State.

high crude oil prices and spillovers from exposure to China.

On the upside, a faster resolution of the humanitarian crisis would facilitate higher external financing that allows greater SDG-related spending and rebuilding of international reserves.

Executive Directors recognized Myanmar's positive long term prospects, reflecting its growing demographic dividend, competitive labor force, and strategic location. They noted, however, that economic activity is losing momentum and near-term downside risks have increased.

They expressed particular concerns with the potential effects of the prolonged humanitarian crisis in the Rakhine State and the weaknesses of the banking sector.

In this context, Directors welcomed the second wave of reforms embedded in the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan

financial management, strengthen budget execution, and enhance state owned economic enterprise efficiency and governance.

Directors supported keeping current monetary conditions tight to anchor market interest rates and control inflation. They also endorsed further upgrades in the monetary framework and interest rate liberalization that would help enhance the transmission mechanism.

Directors welcomed recent reforms, such as the market based reference exchange rate, which should provide a cushion against exogenous shocks, such as that of events from outside the economic system that affect its course.

Fragilities in the banking sector

Directors emphasized the need to swiftly address the systemic risks and fragilities in the banking sector. They stressed the need to improve compliance, loss recognition and ensure recapitalization, where needed. They also affirmed the need to quickly form contingency plans to address systemic risks in the banking sector and to strengthen the resolution framework.

Directors noted that capacity development from the Fund will be critical in supporting the goals of the MSDP. They welcomed the authorities' progress on the MSDP thus far such as liberalization of restrictions on foreign investment but noted that there is room to further improve governance, including the fiscal transparency of natural resource management, financial sector regulations and AML/CFT regime, and implementation of the anti corruption framework.

Finally, Directors welcomed the recent improvements in data quality and coverage, and encouraged the authorities to address remaining data shortcomings.

It is expected that the next Article IV consultation with Myanmar will be held on the standard 12 month cycle.

References : IMF Executive Board Concludes 2018 Article IV Consultation With Myanmar (Press Release No 19/115); Newspaper article, appears on the Mirror Daily, written by Khin Maung Nyo (Economics)

Complied by UMT (Ahlron)



A customer using an ATM machine in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 22nd May, 2019)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 23rd-May, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, (Southern, Northern) Shan, Kayin and Mon States, scattered in Naypyitaw, Mandalay, Magway, Upper Sagaing, Kachin, (Eastern) 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: Continuations of thundery activities in Southern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23rd May, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23rd May, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 23rd May, 2019: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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MFF seeks to end mixed farming of poultry and fish

By Aye Yamone

THE Myanmar Fisheries Federation said it will ask the government to review mixed farming of fish and poultry as it is leading to the occurrence of infections involving multi-drug resistant bacteria in fish, which poses a hazard to consumer health.

"Mixed farming of fish and poultry, which is being practiced all parts of the country, and chiefly in Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady regions, can have a negative impact on the local fish farming industry. Additionally, the mixed breeding system can adversely affect the marine export sector. So, we will request the government to end this system once and for all," according to the MFF.

"It can adversely affect particularly in fish farming. Most countries do not allow mixed farming. As far as I know, 80 per

cent of those practicing mixed farming are foreigners. So, we will submit a complaint to the Myanmar Investment Commission and ask who made the imprudent decision to permit entrepreneurs to do this sort of mixed farming. Do they have permission from the MIC? As far as we know, the authorities are issuing fish farming licenses only; they are not issuing poultry farming licenses to fish breeders. So, we would like to know the rationale of the entrepreneurs behind the implementation of such an inappropriate method of mixed farming. We will also submit this matter at the Vice President and entrepreneurs' meeting. This mixed breeding system is a big obstacle to our fish farming industry, and so, we will try our best to raise our voice against it," said Dr. Toe Nanda Tin, the Vice Chairperson of the MFF.

China enacted a law to re-

strict mixed fish and poultry farming in 2010. The practice of mixed fish and poultry farming began in Myanmar after 2010, with entrepreneurs building poultry farms over fish ponds, she said.

"Therefore, the Myanmar Fishery Products Processors and Exporters Association (MPEA) is sending fish samples to laboratories in foreign countries to check whether they contain chemical residues, spending K240 million per year, because there aren't enough laboratories in our country," she said.

"Fish can become infected with multi-drug resistant bacteria when they eat chicken manure. And when people consume such fish, they can also get infected with the same bacteria," she added.

"To ensure huge flows of exports of Myanmar fishery prod-

ucts, local farmers must practice Good Aquaculture Practices. Mixed farming of fish and poultry is not in compliance with GAQP," said Dr. Toe Nanda Tin.

The Fisheries Department is waiting for an order to abolish the mixed fish and poultry farming system.

"Our states and regions could not reach a decision on the issue because the mixed farming system is being practiced across the country. Only the Union government can make such a decision. As soon as we receive the order from the Union government, we will clamp down on mixed farming of fish and poultry," said U Hla Win, head, of Fisheries Department, Yangon Region. The Fisheries Department is abiding by GAQP with respect to fish farming in ponds, in cooperation with GIZ, he said. ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Minbu solar plant to supply 40MW power to national grid

THE solar power plant located on Minbu-An Road in Minbu Town of Magway Region will begin supplying 40MW of power to the national grid in July, according to Magway Region authorities.

Initially, the power plant will supply 20MW of power to the national grid in May. In the second stage from July, it will provide an additional 20MW of power to the grid.

"We plan to supply 40MW of power from the solar plant to the national grid, starting with 20MW of power from 30 May, and then adding 20MW more a-month-and-a-half later," said U Myint Zaw, the Magway Region Minister for Environmental Conservation Natural Resources, Electricity, and Energy. The Green Earth Power (Myanmar) Co. Ltd and the government signed an MoU on 2 May, 2013 for the solar power plant project. They signed a power purchase



Officials inspect a solar power farm at the Minbu Solar Plant in Minbu, Magway Region. PHOTO: MNA

agreement on 20 March, 2016. The company is producing power by installing solar panels over 700 acres of land.

"During the previous government's term, the two parties

agreed upon a rate of US\$12.75 cent (equivalent to K190) per unit under the PPA. We will conduct further negotiations to reduce the rate for the upcoming power supply," said U Myint Zaw.

Myanmar's power sector has been suffering mounting losses for years, pegged at K400 billion per year.—Zeyatu (Magway) ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Sagaing forest officials to provide over 57,000 seedlings

SAGAING Township's Forest Department will provide over 57,000 seedlings to villages, universities, schools, and government departments to increase the green cover regeneration in the region through people participation.

"The Forest Department will purchase seeds and grow them in a nursery owned by the

department. The seedlings will be distributed to villages in June and July," said U Nyunt Hlaing, the Head of the Sagaing Township Forest Department.

"The nursery is located in Mingun. Over 57,000 plants, including teak, eucalyptus, hardwood, pyinkatoo, and padauk will be cultivated there.

The seedlings will be dis-

tributed in villages, universities, schools, and government departments in Sagaing Region free of charge, and the regional Forest Department will distribute the seedlings every year," he said.

The aim is to improve the environment and climatic conditions, and to encourage residents to participate in planting

activities, he said.

Therefore, the department will offer free seedlings in rural areas, he added.

In addition to plant distribution activities, the department has been working to curb illegal extraction of timber, mining, land excavation, wildlife hunting, and trade.—Ko Min (Indaw) ■ (Translated by La Wonn)

Kyaukpyu Deep Sea Port will help boost trade: Chinese ambassador

IF the strategically important Kyaukpyu deep sea port in Rakhine State is developed systematically, it will help the country's trade sector grow, said Mr Hong Liang, the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar.

Myanmar is implementing three special economic zones, including the Kyaukpyu Deep Sea Port and the Kyaukpyu SEZ.

"The deep sea port will play a pivotal role in the development of the country. Imported goods are flowing into Myanmar through Singapore, resulting in additional cost. There is still no deep sea port in Myanmar. By doing so, the implementation of the Kyaukpyu Deep Sea Port will promote trade as well as foreign

investment. It will also contribute to the peace and stability of Rakhine State," said the Chinese ambassador.

He made the remarks at the 1st China-Myanmar tea party with media agencies.

The Kyaukpyu SEZ aims to build an economic corridor between China, India, and the ASEAN countries. The initiative began in December, 2015. A Chinese corporation is developing the deep sea port and the SEZ.

The deep sea port will have the capacity to handle 7.8 million tons of goods and 4.9 million containers yearly. The Kyaukpyu SEZ will be established over 1,000 hectares of land.

The government is inviting



A cargo ship docks at a jetty in Kyaukpyu township, Rakhine state. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

investors to invest in building fundamental infrastructure, such as electricity, telecommu-

nication, water facility, and road upgrade. The deep sea port is expected to reach a developed

stage in 20 years.—Myint Maung Soe ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Local gold price likely to continue slide

By Nyein Nyein

WITH the global gold price dipping, the price of the yellow metal in the domestic market is likely to remain on the low side, said U Ohn Myaing, General Secretary, Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

The prevailing price of gold in the domestic market is around K1,044,500 per tical (0.578 ounces), while gold is priced at around US\$1,273 per ounce in the global market. "As global gold price has cooled a bit, the local gold price has declined to around K1,044,500. With the global gold price seeing a downward trend, the domestic gold price is likely to continue declining," said U Ohn Myaing. At present, the demand for gold is decreasing in the domestic market, he said.

The domestic gold price is positively related to the global gold price. During the second week of April, the global gold price crossed \$1,300 per ounce, but it has now dipped to \$1,273,

according to gold traders.

With the global gold price increasing earlier this year, the local gold price hit fresh peaks, reaching K1,050,000 per tical between 17 and 29 January, crossing K1,060,000 between 30 January and 7 February, topping K1,070,000 from 8-18 February, and rising above K1,080,000 between 19 and 21 February. Thereafter, it gradually declined to reach the current level of K1,044,500 per tical.

Over the past few months, the local gold price reached a minimum of K1,043,400 on 1 January and a maximum of K1,061,000 on 31 January. It hit a low of K1,058,400 on 2 February and a high of K1,087,300 on 20 February. In March, the price touched a low of K1,048,600 on 30 March and a high of K1,069,000 on 21 March. Last month, the gold price reached a low of K1,037,200 on 24 April and a high of K1,054,700 on 11 April, according to gold traders. ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Yangon Region Government to handle upgrade of industrial zones

By Aye Yamone

THE Yangon Region Government will plan the upgrade of industrial zones in the region and take on the task of their management, said U Phyo Min Thein, the Chief Minister of Yangon Region.

He made the remarks at the 27th Regular meeting held on 22 May at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI). The meeting was attended by Vice President U Myint Swe and entrepreneurs.

"We are planning to upgrade industrial zones. Previously, in-

dustrial zones were handled by the Housing Department, under the Ministry of Construction. Now, the regional government is making plans to upgrade the industrial zones, in addition to managing them, in accordance with the Law," said U Phyo Min Thein.

The Ministry of Construction has already announced that the Yangon regional government will handle all industrial zones in Yangon Region.

To fulfill the requirements of all industries, an Industrial Zone Management Committee and an Industrial Zone Upgrading Supervision Committee will

be formed.

"We will make sure with the private sector to supply electricity and water, as well as ensure smooth and secure transportation. We will take effective measures to upgrade the industrial zones to match the development of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone," said U Phyo Min Thein.

The industrial zones will be upgraded with the aim of promoting foreign direct investment as well as improving the country's exports. At present, Yangon Region has 29 industrial zones, which is higher number than other regions. ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

Yangon Govt to support, develop SMEs: U Phyo Min Thein

By Aye Yamone

THE Yangon Region Government is planning to support and develop Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) that are currently registered with the Yangon City Development Committee, said U Phyo Min Thein, the Chief Minister of Yangon Region.

He made the remarks at the 27th regular meeting held on 22 May at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI). Vice President 1 U Myint Swe and entrepreneurs were present at the meeting.

"We have already listed the SMEs in Yangon Region. They are registered with the YCDC. We are planning to nurture the SME sector and to bring about the development of SME products, depending on the registration," he added.

"Among the local products, those which are produced by SMEs need to be able to penetrate the international market. We can climb the next step after bringing about the development of SME products in the country," he said. "To develop Myanmar's SMEs, we need to resolve some legal issues in order to protect them. We will hold a coordination

meeting on the development of the SME sector in the next fiscal year," said U Phyo Min Thein.

"Local SME entrepreneurs have asked the Private Sector Development Committee, formed in 2016, to control illegal trade with other countries. The committee has formed anti-illegal trading groups in nine states and regions to curb smuggling," said U Myint Swe.

According to official statistics from the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection, over 70,000 SMEs are legally registered with the Ministry of Industry. ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

Correction

Please read "Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Myint Thu" instead of "Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Myat Thu," in the news story "Union Minister U Kyaw Tin hosts dinner in honour of Philippines Foreign Affairs Secretary" on page-11 of May 22 Issue of the *Global New Light of Myanmar*. — GNLM

Duterte tightens grip on power in Philippine polls

MANILA (Philippines) — Allies of President Rodrigo Duterte stormed to a landslide victory in midterm polls, final results showed Wednesday, dissolving a last check on his controversial rule.

Loyalists won both houses of the legislature, shutting out all opposition candidates in the Senate, which had served as a buffer against Duterte's most contentious plans.

The results open a path for Duterte -- who has remarkably high approval ratings -- to make good on his call to bring back the death penalty and advance his project to re-write the constitution.

"It's a clear signal that the people will be behind him as he pushes bills and processes that went nowhere previously," political analyst Ramon Casiple told AFP.

With nine Duterte backers and three nominally unaligned politicians taking the 12 seats at stake in the 24-member Senate, only four opposition members will remain, results from the elections authority showed.

Duterte allies kept control of the lower House of Repre-



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's allies have stormed to a landslide victory in midterm polls. **PHOTO: AFP**

sentatives, which has approved legislation to bring back capital punishment and re-write the constitution since Duterte's 2016 election.

Among the new senators is former national police chief Ronald dela Rosa, the first enforcer of Duterte's narcotics crackdown that has killed over 5,300.

Campaigners say the true toll is at least triple that and may amount to crimes against humanity.

"Number one on my agenda is the reimposition of the death penalty for drug trafficking," dela Rosa told reporters. "I will focus on that."

Senate seats also went to Christopher "Bong" Go,

Duterte's long-time advisor, and Imee Marcos, the daughter of deceased dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who was ousted in a 1986 popular uprising.

Duterte family wins

The top vote-getter in the Senate race, Cynthia Villar, thanked the president for his backing and asked for a round of applause for him in a speech after the results were announced.

"The laws we craft or legislate must consider all interests involved," she added. "A strong and independent Senate has always been our goal."

Opponents fear the majority will allow Duterte to push forward his legislative agenda, which includes re-writing the constitution.

In addition to opening avenues for him to stay in power beyond his legally mandated single term that ends in 2022, a charter change could reshape the Philippines for decades.

Duterte has pitched constitutional reform to turn the Asian country into a decentralised federal republic where regions would have the power to fix local problems.

But the various initiatives launched in his first three years in office have also included proposals dropping term limits, allowing him to run for another term and weakening checks on presidential power.

"The pessimistic assessment is that what we're looking towards is the complete transformation of the Philippine political system in the years to come, well beyond 2022 when Duterte's term is supposed to end," political analyst Richard Heydarian said.

The landslide victory was a crushing defeat for the opposition, leaving it mostly in disarray.

"Voters were unable to relate to the issues highlighted by the opposition in the election, which was all about defeating Duterte," Casiple said.

The pro-Duterte electoral tsunami was also a win for the Duterte family.

Daughter Sara, touted as a possible 2022 presidential candidate, retained her post as mayor of the southern city of Davao, with sibling Sebastian winning as vice-mayor. The eldest son, Paolo, won a seat in the House of Representatives. —AFP ■

Fears rise China could weaponise rare earths in US tech war

BELJING (China) — The US has hit China where it hurts by going after its telecom champion Huawei, but Beijing's control of the global supply of rare earths used in smartphones and electric cars gives it a powerful weapon in their escalating tech war.

A seemingly routine visit by President Xi Jinping to a Chinese rare earths company this week is being widely read as an obvious threat that Beijing is standing ready for action.

"We should firmly grasp the strategic basis of technological innovation, master more key core technologies and seize the commanding heights of industry development," Xi said during the visit, the official Xinhua news agency reported Wednesday.

"Rare earth is not only an important strategic resource, but also a non-renewable resource," he added, in comments likely to further fuel speculation.

However, analysts say China appears apprehensive to target the minerals just yet, possibly fearful of shooting itself in the foot by hastening a global search for alternative supplies of the commodities.

Xi's inspection tour "is no accident, this didn't happen by chance," said Li Mingjiang, China programme coordinator at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) in Singapore.

"At this moment, clearly the policy circles in China are considering the possibility of using a rare earth exports ban as a policy weapon against the US."

The United States last week threatened to cut supplies of US technology needed by Chinese telecom champion Huawei, which Washington suspects is in bed with China's military.

The US move has fanned speculation that Xi could impose retaliatory measures and in an indication of the importance of rare earths to the US, Washington did not include them in a tariffs increase on Chinese goods this month.

China has leverage

China occupies a commanding position, producing more than 95 per cent of the world's rare earths, and the United States relies on China for upwards of 80 per cent of its imports.

Rare earths are 17 elements critical to manufacturing everything from smartphones and televisions to cameras and lightbulbs. That gives Beijing tremendous leverage in what is shaping up largely as a battle between the US and China over who will own the future of high-tech.

"China could shut down nearly every automobile, computer, smartphone and aircraft assembly line outside of China if they chose to embargo these materials," James Kennedy, presi-

dent of ThREE Consulting, wrote Tuesday in National Defense, a US industry publication.

China has been accused of using its rare earth leverage for political reasons before.

Japanese industry sources said it temporarily cut off exports in 2010 as a territorial row flared between the Asian rivals, charges that Beijing denied. In 2014, the World Trade Organization ruled the country had violated global trade rules by restricting exports of the minerals. —AFP ■



People browse for items in a Huawei store in a shopping mall in Shanghai on 22 May 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Three killed, 15 injured in car bomb blast in E Afghan province

GHAZNI — Two police officers and an assailant were killed and 15 people wounded after a car bomb blast near an army camp in Afghanistan's eastern province of Ghazni on Wednesday, a local official confirmed.

"The explosion occurred roughly at 01:50 p.m. local time along a main road on outskirts of provincial capital Ghazni city," spokesman Harif Noori told Xinhua.

"A militant driving a car bomb tried to enter Ghazni city but security forces intercepted the car. The vehicle exploded after security forces fired on it, leaving the casualties," Ramazan Ali Mohsini, deputy provincial police chief, told Xinhua. The injured included 10 civilians and five police officers, he said. Rescue teams, police and security forces rushed to the site and shifted the wounded to the hospitals. Witnesses said the militant used a hijacked armored military vehicle in the attack. —Xinhua ■

World nations failing the poorest on energy goals: study

WASHINGTON (United States) — More than 150 million people are gaining access to electricity every year, reducing the ranks of those who live without power, but this is not enough to meet global development goals, according to a report released Wednesday.

Furthermore, efforts to cut pollution from cooking food and promote renewable power for heat and transportation are likewise far behind the goals that world nations set in 2015, according to the report produced by the World Bank and other international bodies.

Fatih Birol, executive director of the International

Energy Agency, which jointly produced the report, said the findings were a call to action.

“I am particularly concerned by the dramatic lack of access to reliable, modern and sustainable energy in certain parts of the world, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, a region where we need to really concentrate our efforts,” Birol said in a statement.

In 2015, all United Nations member states adopted 17 goals for sustainable development by 2030 in areas such as education, climate, and gender equality as well as access to energy.

The goals call for delivering universal access



About 89 per cent of the world had access to electricity as of 2017, up from 83 per cent in 2010, according to a report produced by the World Bank and other international bodies. **PHOTO: AFP**

to energy, increasing the use of renewable energy and doubling the pace of gains in efficiency, among other objectives.

But with 11 years to go, according to the report released Wednesday, signs still point to failure.

About 89 percent of the

world had access to electricity as of 2017, up from 83 percent in 2010, with notable recent progress made in Bangladesh, Kenya and Myanmar, according to the report. But if governments do not make faster progress, 650 million will still live in the dark by 2030, 90 percent of whom will be in Sub-Saharan Africa, it said.

Furthermore, about three billion people, mainly in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, had no access to clean cooking in 2017, resulting in serious health problems — a figure that had barely budged over the prior seven years.

On current trends, 2.2 billion should still be in this

situation by 2030, according to the report.

Meanwhile, the share of renewable energy sources like wind and solar power in the overall mix hit 17.5 percent in 2016, a sluggish increase from the 16.6 percent recorded in 2010.

But only nine percent of heat came from renewable sources in 2017 and just 3.3 per cent energy used in transport — and in the United States and Brazil most of this came from biofuels. The report was also jointly produced with the International Renewable Energy Agency, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Statistics Division.—AFP ■

Iraqis turn to budding ecotourism to save marshes

CHIBAYISH(Iraq) — Thirty years after Saddam Hussein starved them of water, Iraq's southern marshes are blossoming once more thanks to a wave of ecotourists picnicking and paddling down their replenished river bends.

A one-room home made of elaborately woven palm reeds floats on the river surface. Near it, a soft plume of smoke curls up from a firepit where carp is being grilled, Iraqi-style.

A few canoes drift by, carrying couples and groups of friends singing to the beat of drums.

“I didn't think I would find somewhere so beautiful, and such a body of water in Iraq,” said Habib al-Jurani.



Iraq's southern marshes are blossoming again, thanks to a wave of ecotourists. **PHOTO: AFP**

He left Iraq in 1990 for the United States, and was back in his ancestral homeland for a family visit.

“Most people don't know what Iraq is really like -- they think it's the world's most dangerous place, with nothing but killings and terrorism,” he said. Looking around the

lush marshes, declared in 2016 to be Iraq's fifth UNESCO World Heritage site, Jurani added: “There are some mesmerising places.” Straddling Iraq's famous Tigris and Euphrates rivers, the Mesopotamian marshes are a rare aquatic ecosystem in a country nearly half of which is covered in cracked desert.

Legend has it, they were home to the biblical Garden of Eden. But they were also a haven for political opposition to dictator Saddam Hussein, who cut off water to the site in retaliation for the south's uprising against him in 1991.

Around 90 percent of the once-expansive marshes were drained, and the area's 250,000 residents dwindled down to just 30,000. In the ensuing years, severe droughts and decreased water flows from the twin rivers' source countries -- Turkey and Iran -- shrunk the marshes' surface from some 15,000 square kilometres (5,792 square miles) to less than half that. —AFP ■

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Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com
Dated: 23rd May 2019

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (127 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (127 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE LTD

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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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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MOONDANCE II VOY. NO. (JD1901)

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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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Six dead after election riots in Indonesia's capital



Police in Jakarta clashed with some anti-Widodo protesters who had refused to leave after the end of an otherwise peaceful demonstration. **PHOTO: AFP**

JAKARTA (Indonesia)—At least six people were killed as Indonesia's capital erupted in violence on Wednesday when police in riot gear clashed with protesters opposed to President Joko Widodo's re-election. Dozens were arrested and parts of Jakarta were littered with debris and burned-out cars, as the violence triggered security advisories from the US and Australian embassies.

Authorities also restricted access to some social media in a bid to stop the spreading of rumours and fake news. National police chief Tito Karnavian said six people had died, but denied authorities had fired live rounds on the crowd and called for calm.

"Some had gunshot wounds, some had blunt force wounds but we still need to clarify this," he told reporters. The violence came after Indonesia's election commission on Tuesday confirmed Widodo, 57, had beaten retired military general Prabowo Sub-

ianto for the presidency in a poll held on April 17. Subianto has said he would challenge the results in court, but also warned his claims of widespread cheating could spark street protests. That was borne out Wednesday as protesters set market stalls and cars on fire while hurling fireworks and rocks at authorities who ordered them to disperse, according to an AFP reporter on the scene. Later, roads were blocked off in parts of the sprawling metropolis—with some shopping malls, businesses and schools also closed as small groups of protesters engaged in skirmishes with police. More than 30,000 troops had been deployed in anticipation of unrest when the official poll figures were announced.

Social media partially blocked

Authorities said nearly 70 demonstrators were arrested and portrayed the violence as a planned act by "provocateurs".

Chief security minister Wiranto said access to social media was going to be partly blocked—including photo and video sharing—to limit Internet hoaxes. Election officials and analysts have discounted Subianto's claims, but many supporters appeared convinced of fraud in the world's third-biggest democracy.

"I need to support the sovereignty of the Republic of Indonesia—there has been massive fraud in this election," Puji Astuti, a 42-year-old Subianto supporter, told AFP at a rally in central Jakarta Wednesday. Several allies of the retired army general have been arrested recently, including a former special forces commander accused of smuggling weapons destined for the protests. The protests in support of Subianto have sparked a backlash online from opponents with the hashtag #TangkapPrabowo (#ArrestPrabowo) trending widely on social media.—AFP ■

Human Holdings to open Japanese language school in Philippines

MANILA—Japanese management services company Human Holdings Co. is expanding its language education business to the Philippines with the aim of helping those who hope to work in Japan, which is easing immigration rules to alleviate labor shortages. The company said it will set up Magsaysay Human Language Institute Co. in Manila in July with Magsaysay People Resources Corp., a leading human resources firm in the Philippines. Magsaysay will own 60 percent of the company while Human Holdings will hold 10 percent and its subsidiary Human Academy Co. 30 percent.

The school will offer Japanese-language courses

in classrooms and online. Lecturers are mostly from Japan but some locals will also teach. It targets enrolling 1,000 students. The school will help those who wish to go to Japan with "custom-made" programs for various fields focusing on specific industries, according to Human Holdings. "Students at the Magsaysay Human Language Institute will acquire necessary communication skills for each relevant industry in Japan," Human Holdings said in a statement Monday. Since 2017, Human Holdings has been teaching Japanese to students in Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand to help them get trainee jobs in Japan.—Kyodo News ■

Fake news rampant after Sri Lanka attacks despite social media ban

COLOMBO (Sri Lanka)—Sri Lankan social networks saw a surge in fake news after the Easter suicide bombings a month ago despite an official social media blackout, highlighting the inability of governments to contain disinformation, experts said.

A nine-day ban on platforms including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and WhatsApp was introduced following the Islamic State-claimed attacks on churches and hotels on April 21 which killed 258 people and wounded nearly 500. Many anxious social media users switched to virtual private networks (VPNs) or the TOR network to bypass the order and keep communication open with friends and relatives as the extent of the carnage became clear.

But for others, the tools were a means to spread confusion and vitriol as the island struggled to come to terms with one of the worst terror attacks in its history. Sanjana Hattotuwa, who monitors social media for fake news at the Centre for Policy Alternatives in Colombo, said the government blackout had failed to prevent "engagement, production, sharing and discussion of Facebook content", and that he had seen a significant increase in false reports.



Sri Lanka struggled to contain the spread of fake news and disinformation in the wake of the Easter attacks. **PHOTO: AFP**

Old coffins

AFP has published half a dozen fact-checks debunking false claims made on Facebook and Twitter after the Easter attacks.

Some had dug out photos of coffins and funerals from Sri Lanka's brutal decades-long civil war and claimed they showed victims of the blasts.

One video posted to Facebook showed police arresting a man dressed in a burqa and claimed he was involved in the bombings. The video was actually from 2018, and showed a man who had used a burqa to hide his identity while he sought to attack someone over a debt issue. Another used a five-year-old photo from India that showed a group of men wearing T-shirts with "ISIS", another name for Islamic State, written on them to claim there was an active IS cell in eastern Sri Lanka.

One Twitter user claiming to be a high-ranking Sri Lankan army brigadier used the platform to accuse neighbouring India of being involved in the attacks. The account was later taken down by Twitter after the Sri Lankan army complained. Authorities in Sri Lanka—where ethnic divisions still linger after decades of war—previously blocked Facebook in March 2018 after Buddhist hardliners used incendiary posts to fan religious violence that left three people dead and reduced several hundred homes and shops to ashes. The surge in fake news has further blemished the troubled reputation of social media—which several years ago had been seen as a means to expand freedom of information—in the region.

Since the attacks, Sri Lankan authorities have imposed other short bans on social media, including earlier this month after mobs in the northwestern town of Chilaw attacked Muslim-owned businesses in anger at a Facebook post by a shopkeeper.—AFP ■

Natray Wellness launches new product in Yangon

NATRAY Wellness, the one and only authorized distributor of Life Fitness World's Famous Gym Equipment from U.S. in Myanmar and together with the other famous fitness brands: Schwinn, Impulse, Bowflex and Ecore Flooring, has launched the

newest product "Airdyne AD8 and ICG6 Launching on 16th May 2019 at Novotel Yangon Max".

Not all fitness bike are built the same, "AIRDYNE AD8 Bike", an unmatched durability and performance with air resistance technology gives you an easier

adjustment, a much quieter and smooth ride more than most air bike in the market, said the statement released by the Natray.

Both Airdyne AD8 Bike and ICG 6 Bike is the newest product in Myanmar.

ICG 6 Bike" is an indoor

cycling offers a challenge for all skill levels with Coach by Color monitor an interactive LCD display.

Including Bluetooth and ANT + connectively to help the user to view, save and track without history.—GNLM ■

US Postal Service to launch test of self-driving trucks

WASHINGTON (United States) — The US Postal Service said Tuesday it would begin its first tests of self-driving trucks to deliver mail between two distribution centers in the southwest.

The two-week project is being launched with California startup TuSimple, which will haul postal trailers between centers in Dallas, Texas, and Phoenix, Arizona.

"This pilot is just one of many ways the Postal Service is innovating and investing in its future," the postal service said in a statement. "We are con-

ducting research and testing as part of our efforts to operate a future class of vehicles which will incorporate new technology to accommodate a diverse mail mix, enhance safety, improve service, reduce emissions, and produce operational savings."

USPS will be working with TuSimple, which was founded in 2015 and has been developing artificial intelligence and computer vision with a stated "perception range" of 1,000 meters (3,200 feet) to allow up to 35 seconds of reaction time at highway speeds.

"It is exciting to think that

before many people will ride in a robo-taxi, their mail and packages may be carried in a self-driving truck," said Xiaodi Hou, founder and president of TuSimple.

"Performing for the USPS on this pilot in this particular commercial corridor gives us specific use cases to help us validate our system, and expedite the technological development and commercialization progress."

During the 1,600-kilometer (1,000-mile) trips, the trucks will have a safety engineer and driv-

er on board "to monitor vehicle performance and to ensure public safety" during the estimated 22-hour journey, according to a company statement.

The move comes amid stepped-up testing of autonomous driving technology for ride-hailing as well as freight by companies including former Google car unit Waymo, Uber and Tesla.

The needs in freight transport are expected to grow amid a growing shortage of truck drivers in the United States.—AFP ■

Multipurpose lab module Nauka to be launched to ISS in autumn 2020



The relevant decree was signed by the head of Roscosmos.
PHOTO: TASS

MOSCOW — Multipurpose laboratory module Nauka will be launched to the International Space Station (ISS) in the autumn of 2020 at the earliest, a source in the space rocket industry told TASS.

"The Nauka module will be launched at the end of October or November 2020 at the earliest," the source said. He added that the module will be delivered to the orbit by a Proton-M carrier rocket.

The source noted that "the relevant decree was signed by Roscosmos head Dmitry Rogozin."

The Nauka module is currently at the Khrunichev State Research and Production Space Center. In October 2019, after a round of trials, the module will be transferred to the Korolev Rocket and Space Corporation Energia. In July 2020, the module will be delivered to the Baikonur spaceport. — Tass

Bio-imaging breakthrough developed by China-Australia collaboration

SYDNEY — A China-Australia research collaboration has resulted in a revolutionary new imaging contrast agent, with the potential for doctors see more deeply and clearly inside the body than ever before as they conduct internal surgeries.

Scientists from Fudan University in China and the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), combined forces to create the agent which so far has been tested on mice with very promising results.

"It's really about how we use optical agents to get better resolution and deeper penetration through the body," study senior author and director of the UTS Institute for Biomedical Materials and Devices, Professor Dayong Jin told Xinhua on Wednesday.

The agent reacts to light in a way that when introduced to the human body should give doctors and surgeons a much clearer picture of what is occurring internally.

"From a medical point of view, this is very good for optical

guided real time surgery. On tumours for example, the contrast agent will show the boundary between the tumour and healthy tissue with much higher resolution," Jin said.

While the method is yet to be tested on humans, Jin said it will allow doctors to use light rather than high intensity lasers to illuminate what they are operating on inside the body, making it much safer and less invasive for patients.

The partnership between Fudan University and UTS resulted when Jin travelled to China around five years ago, beginning a process of discussions to determine how the institutions can work together and combine their specialities.

UTS specialized in the physics side of design and detection, while scientists at Fudan manufactured the material and conducted animal testing.

"This research is not by accident, you know, this is a very logical design and progress in the past couple of years," Jin said.—Xinhua ■

Two new lizard species discovered in Australia

SYDNEY — Researchers in Australia have discovered two new lizard species on Wednesday, however one of them might already be extinct.

Set up by a National Recovery Team from the Department of Environment, the year-long project wanted to find out if the Grassland Earless Dragon from south-eastern Australia was one single species.

"Over the last year, I've been working with them and researchers at the University of Canberra, and we've been looking at the genetics and the morphology of the lizards," author of the study Dr Jane Melville from Museum Victoria told Xinhua on Wednesday.

"What we've discovered is that it's not one single species, but it's in fact four species."

A tiny green, brown and yellow patterned lizard weighing only about eight grams, Melville compared the genetics of historic specimens at the state museum which were collected in the late 1800's, against samples that found recently in areas across Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

"They've developed some ingenious ways of catching them," Melville said.

"These lizards hide in spider burrows and out in the grassland there are big wolf spiders, so one of the ways researchers catch them is to make artificial spider burrows in the ground and when they come back they will check if there is a little lizard in there."

While the discovery should give conservationists a much better understanding of how to protect the creatures, one of the new species categorized has not been sighted since 1969, sparking fears it may be the first ever reptile to become extinct on the Australian mainland.

With researchers now trying desperately to locate the species, Melville said "I'm optimistic. I really hope they find it." —Xinhua ■

Myanmar to play friendly match against Viet Nam in Hanoi

THE Myanmar U-23 national football team will play a friendly match against Viet Nam's team in Hanoi, Viet Nam, on 7 June, according to a statement issued by the Myanmar Football Federation. Team Myanmar has been camping in Yangon since 21 May, said officials from the football federation. The Myanmar squad comprises 26 players, and their strength has been boosted by the presence of Sagaing United midfielder Myo Min Phyto, said an official with the MFF.

The team will train at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon till 5 June, and will leave for

Viet Nam on the evening of 5 June, said a source with the football federation. Exercise programmes are being conducted for the team at Training Stadium-1 of the Thuwunna Stadium twice a day, at 9 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Special exercise sessions will also be conducted for them on the turf of the Thuwunna Stadium on 3 and 4 June, said officials.

Although the players are in training, they will get a chance to participate in the General Aung San Shield 2019, which will be held on 25 and 26 May, the officials added. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



The Myanmar U-23 national footballers undergoing training in Yangon yesterday for the friendly match against Viet Nam in Hanoi on 7 June. **PHOTO: MFF**

Kohli's India boast firepower to make World Cup charge

NEW DELHI (India) — India boast the game's undoubted superstar batsman in Virat Kohli but their bowling attack could hold the key to their hopes of World Cup glory. Despite their status as the game's global powerhouse, India have only won the showpiece tournament twice, in 1983 and 2011. But Kohli's men, second behind England in the one-day international rankings, will start the tournament in England and Wales among the favourites alongside the host nation and defending champions Australia.

For all the focus on captain Kohli, the number one batsman in the world in the 50-over format and Test cricket, the ability of India's seamers to exploit the conditions could be the most important factor. Jasprit Bumrah, the top-ranked ODI bowler in the world, leads the pace battery alongside Mohammed Shami, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Hardik Pandya.

Wrist spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal add

variety to India's attack.

Former India skipper Rahul Dravid believes the tournament could be a high-scoring affair. "I believe, having experienced some of the conditions in England last year with the A-team tour, it would be a high-scoring World Cup," he told Star Sports.

"And in a high-scoring World Cup, having bowlers who can take wickets in the middle will be very important. I think India is lucky in that regard.

"People like (Jasprit) Bumrah, Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal... (India have) got bowlers who can take wickets." The 25-year-old Bumrah, with his ability to bowl yorkers at the death, has picked up 85 wickets in 49 ODI matches since making his international debut in January 2016. Yadav and Chahal did not have a great Indian Premier League season but have played an important role in India's recent successes. —AFP ■

Match against Sagaing United crucial for advancing to final: Yangon United coach

YANGON United head coach U Tin Maung Tun said his team will do their best to beat Sagaing United in the semifinals of the General Aung San Shield 2019, as the match is crucial for reaching the finals of the tourney.

Yangon United have advanced to the semifinals of the tourney after beating Southern Myanmar F.C. 5-4 in a penalty shootout.

Sagaing United have entered the semi final stage by beating Yadanarbon F.C., the frontrunners for the championship.

"Sagaing United has beaten Yadanarbon F.C. in recent matches, and the team has made a confident stand in the national league, too. The team put up a tough fight in home play, and we have to be careful of them. The match will be really difficult, and we will try hard to reach the final," said U Tin Maung Tun. Speaking of his team, the head coach said: "Though they have done well in the tourney, my team does need to work on some areas such as their finishing skills and football deliveries, which are crucial for advancing to the next stage."

In a recent national league match at the home stadium of Yangon, Sagaing United and Yangon United were tied at 1-1. The first match between Yangon United and Sagaing United will take place at the Monywa Stadium on 26 May, and the second will take place at the home stadium of Yangon United on 2 June. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Hazard is my Chelsea benchmark, says Pulisic

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Christian Pulisic says he wants to make the same impact that Eden Hazard has had at Chelsea and hopes to play alongside the Belgium superstar at Stamford Bridge.

The US international signed a five-and-a-half year contract with Maurizio Sarri's team in January but was immediately loaned back to Germany to finish the season at Borussia Dortmund. "It is incredible to see what Eden can do," Pulisic, 20, told the BBC. "He (Hazard) is a guy to look up to and what I would love to become.

"It is definitely a goal. Any player would be dumb not to want to be in the same team as him." But the £58 million (\$73 million) signing appears unlikely to get his wish to play alongside Chelsea's star man, with Hazard persistently linked with a move to Real Madrid.

Pulisic, who scored four times in 20 league appearances last season for



Christian Pulisic hopes to match Eden Hazard's achievements at Chelsea. **PHOTO: AFP**

Dortmund, who finished as runners-up to Bayern Munich, said he wanted to inspire young American footballers.

"I don't want to be looked at as someone who is the youngest to do this or that," said Pulisic, who is both the youngest player to captain the United States and to

score for them in a World Cup qualifier. "I just want to be an established player and someone people respect, who is successful in this league.

"It is completely new to me and something not a lot of American players have experienced." —AFP ■