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President U Win Myint (Left) poses for photo together with Indian President Ram Nath Kovind (Centre) and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Modi at Presidential House of Rashtrapati Bhavan. PHOTO: MNA

President U Win Myint attends Indian PM Modi's oath-taking ceremony for second term

PRESIDENT U WIN MYINT and delegation departed by special flight from Nay Pyi Taw to New Delhi, India, yesterday morning and landed at 11:30 a.m. local standard time.

Arrival in India

The President and del-

egation were welcomed at Palam Airbase, New Delhi, by the Secretary for Consular Affairs Shri Sanjiv Arora, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Saurabh Kumar, officials from India's Ministry of External Affairs, Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung and

wife, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and other officials.

The President and delegation then went by motorcade to Hotel ITC Maurya, where they will be staying during their visit.

In the afternoon, the President visited the Myanmar Am-

bassador's residence in New Delhi and met cordially with staff of the embassy and military attaches office and their family members and gave words of guidance and instructions. He then handed over gifts to the staff and their families.

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President, State Counsellor congratulate South African President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa on election win

President U Win Myint and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar have sent their congratulatory messages to H.E. Mr. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa on his re-election as President of the Republic of South Africa in the General Elections held on 8 May 2019.—MNA

State Counsellor sends congratulatory message to Australian PM Scott Morrison on election victory

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent her congratulatory message to The Honourable Mr. Scott Morrison on his re-election as Prime Minister of Australia in the General Elections held on 18 May 2019.—MNA

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Second Pyithu Hluttaw 12th regular session holds 13th day meeting

THE 13th day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 12th regular session was held at Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning. At the meeting asterisk marked questions were raised and answered, a report read, a bill approved, a motion tabled and another motion discussed.

Asterisk marked question and answer session

U Zarni Min of Shwegu constituency raised the first asterisk marked question and asked for a plan to construct a rock-lined embankment on the eastern bank of Ayeyawady River in Shwegu Township where river bank erosion occurs every year. Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo replied and said embankment construction works on the eastern bank of Ayeyawady River in Shwegu Township were conducted in fiscal year 2013-2014 to 2017-2018 for a total length of 4,047 ft with Kachin State government fund K 1,268.53 million.

In fiscal year 2018-2019 a rock-lined embankment 1,000 ft long will be constructed with Kachin State government fund K 270 million. The work was 75 per cent completed and it will be fully completed in the third week of June 2019. Furthermore Kachin State government agreed on K 300 million fund to construct a 1,000 ft. long rock-lined embankment in fiscal year 2019-2020 and the matter was submitted



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

to Kachin State Hluttaw for approval said the Deputy Minister.

Legality of connecting communication cables and internet network fiber lines, responsible entity to remove the cables and lines when necessary and prevention from dangers when the cables and lines were hooked up on government owned power poles raised by U Maung Maung Oo of Insein constituency was then answered by the Deputy Minister.

Later the Deputy Minister also responded to questions raised by U Kyaw Min of Letpadan constituency on a road junction traffic light in Letpadan and U Min Kyi of Thandwe constituency on repairing a jetty in Thandwe Township, Ngapali Town.

Questions raised by U Kyaw Htay of Leshi constituency, U Soe Myint of Pindaya constituency

and U Sai Ngaung Sai Hein of Maukmai constituency over plan to provide technical support, information on preventing damage from insect and climate change to long term fruit trees like oranges, delays in returning confiscated land and a school milk program were answered by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw.

Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertaking Vetting Committee report

Following the asterisk marked question and answer session Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertaking Vetting Committee member U Tun Tun read and submitted the committee report and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the report to register their names.

Hluttaw approves 2019 bill amending Myanmar Investment Law

Afterwards Hluttaw's decision on approving 2019 bill amending Myanmar Investment Law approved and sent by Amyotha Hluttaw was obtained by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker. As there was no objection, the bill was announced as approved.

Hluttaw to discuss motion on agriculture and fishery sector

Next U Sein Win of Maubin constituency tabled a motion urging the Union Government to encourage Research and Extension System to raise production, quality and output of agriculture and fishery sector and explained in details about the reason behind it. The motion was supported by U Thein Tun of Kyaunggon constituency.

After obtaining the agreement of the Hluttaw to discuss the motion, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat made an announcement accordingly and announced further for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the motion to register their names.

Motion on drawing up short and long-term project based on cultivator-oriented agri and fishery production

As a final agenda of the day

a motion tabled by U Tin Htwe of Waw constituency urging the government to draw up short and long-term projects based on cultivator-oriented agriculture and fishery production aimed at promoting economic development was discussed by U Myint Oo of Thanatpin constituency, Dr. Than Aung Soe of Minhla constituency, U Sein Win of Maubin constituency, U Khin Maung Oo of Kyaukdaga constituency, U Kyaw Min of Letpadan constituency, Daw Khin Than Nu of Mindon constituency, U Myint Wei of Gwa constituency, Dr. U Aye Min of Kayan constituency, U Kyaw Swe Win of Kawhmu constituency and U Thein Tun of Kyaunggon constituency.

In his discussion Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw explained about the ministry's works on increasing agriculture and fishery production and discussed on putting the motion on record.

As U Tin Htwe want the motion to be put on record and keep in view and there was no objection to it from the Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw putting the motion on record and keeping it in view.

Announcement was then made about the 13th day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 12th regular session to be held on 3 June.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw holds Q & A session, decides to discuss a motion

THE thirteenth-day meeting of Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 12th regular session was held at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning where a QNA session was held and Hluttaw decided to discuss a motion tabled.

Q&A Session

In the question and answer session U Whey Tin of Chin State constituency 11 raised a question on a plan to establish an industrial zone that includes SMEs in Paletwa Township was answered by Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho who said that a field visit team was conducting Feasibility Studies and depending upon the report Chin State government and relevant ministries will coordinate and cooperate according to procedure.

Questions raised by U Myo



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

Htat @ Salai Myo Htike of Chin State constituency 12, U Khin Win of Magway Region constituency 2, U Hla Oo of Sagaing Region constituency 4 and U Bwe Khane of Chin State constituency 3 on plans to upgrade or open rural health centres were answered

by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe. The Union Minister also responded to questions raised by Dr. Zaw Lin Htut of Mon State constituency 9 on a plan to provide health care for handicapped persons free or at an affordable rate and U Tun Tun

Oo of Mandalay Region constituency 2 on a plan to ease the sale of minor medications for psychiatric patients and pain that were in the restricted for sale category.

Similarly questions raised by Dr. Win Myint of Bago Region constituency 11 on a plan to upgrade a village to a town and U Pe Chit of Yangon Region constituency 9 on a plan for allowing trespassing families planting on grazing grounds for more than 40 years to legally work on it were answered by Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Nyi Tun.

Hluttaw agrees to discuss motion on private schools

After the QNA session, U Kyaw Htway of Yangon Region constituency 8 tabled a motion urging the government to review the quality of private schools

opened in connection with a foreign university or education entity or with their own curriculum and to review and announce about the certificates issued by those schools. U Kyaw Htway also explained about the reason for tabling the motion which was supported by U Kyaw Tote of Mandalay Region constituency 7.

After obtaining the Hluttaw's agreement to discuss the motion, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced an agreement to discuss the motion and announced further for Hluttaw representatives to register their names for discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at noon and announcement was made of holding the next meeting on Monday 3 June. —Aung Ye Thwin, Lu Maw (MNA) ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)

President U Win Myint attends Indian PM Modi's oath-taking ceremony for second term

FROM PAGE-1

Next, the President and delegation visited New Delhi's national museum and viewed India's successive generations of culture, art and accessories on display. The delegation then visited India Gate and took a documentary photograph together.

India PM's oath-taking ceremony

Later in the evening, the President and delegation attended the oath-taking ceremony of Shri Narendra Modi's second term as India's Prime Minister, held at the Presidential House of Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The list of attending foreign high-ranking dignitaries included Sri Lankan President Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, Kyrgyzstan President Mr. Sooronbay Jeenbekov, Bangladeshi President Mr. Mohammad Abdul Hamid, Nepalese Prime Minister Mr. KP Sharma Oli, Bhutanese Prime Minister Dr. Lotay Tshering, Mauritian Prime Minister Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, and Thai Minister for Agriculture



President U Win Myint (Fourth from Right) poses for documentary photo together with Indian Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi (fifth from Right), Indian President Mr. Ram Nath Kovind (sixth from Left) and leaders from regional countries. **PHOTO: MNA**

and Cooperatives Mr. Grisada Boonrach as a special envoy of the Thai Prime Minister.

After the ceremony, President U Win Myint met cordially with the Indian Prime Minister,

congratulated him, and took a documentary photo together. The President then took a similar photo with the foreign heads of state and senior government officials present.

Other ministers of the Indian Government took their oaths of office together with the Indian Prime Minister during the ceremony.

Afterwards, the President

and dignitaries attended a dinner reception hosted by India's President, Mr. Ram Nath Kovind. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



The Myanmar delegation led by President U Win Myint poses for documentary photo during their visit to the India Gate (Left Photo) and the delegation visits the National Museum in New Delhi yesterday before attending the wearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. **PHOTO: MNA**

President U Win Myint arrives in New Delhi to attend Modi's swearing-in ceremony

AT the invitation of the Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, President U Win Myint left Nay Pyi Taw at 9 am yesterday for New Delhi, India, to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the Prime Minister of India for the second term.

The delegation led by President U Win Myint was seen off at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Vice President U Myint Swe, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Min Thu, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Myint Maw, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of India Mr. Sumit Seth and officials.

The delegation includes Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and officials. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



President U Win Myint is seen off by Vice Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport as he departs for India. **PHOTO: MNA**

VP U Myint Swe attends second coord meeting of National-level Committee on UPR

THE SECOND coordination meeting of the national-level committee on implementing recommendations of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) was held yesterday morning at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Home Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. Committee Chairman Vice President U Myint Swe delivered a speech at the meeting.

Present at the meeting were Vice Chairmen of the committee Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye and Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, committee members Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chairman U Win Mra, Judge Advocate-General Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dway, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Thu, Maj-Gen Than Htut, U Aung Hla Tun and Dr. Daw Mya Lay Sein, Permanent Secretaries, Directors General, Secretary of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Secretary of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and officials.

In his speech Vice President U Myint Swe said the 25-member Committee was formed with five work functions by the President Office on 19 October 2018 to establish and implement short term plans systematically before submitting a Third Cycle report of UPR in response to suggestions made on the UPR Second Cycle report. The five work functions were being implemented by forming 23-member Report Preparation Work Committee,



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the speech at the second coordination meeting of a national-level committee on implementing recommendations of Universal Periodic Review in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

21-member Paper Preparation Work Committee and 7-member Committee to Communicate with Organizations on 30 April 2019.

In doing so 166 recommendations accepted by Myanmar during the Second Cycle of UPR was being implemented by setting up 12 sectors and assigning responsible ministries and organizations for each sector. Of the responsible ministries and organizations for the 12 sectors, 41 recommendations on acceding to international human rights treaties were handled by Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 7 recommendations related to national human rights commission were handled by Myanmar National Human Rights Commission. 4

recommendations related to cooperation with United Nations Human Rights Mechanism were handled by Ministry of International Cooperation. 19 recommendations on democracy, peace, rule of law and human rights reform matters were handled by Union Attorney General Office. 12 recommendations on economic development were handled by Ministry of Planning and Finance. 10 recommendations on implementing good governance system and land confiscation were handled by Ministry of Home Affairs. 15 recommendations on promoting gender equality and protection of vulnerable groups and 15 recommendations on non-discrimina-

tion were handled by Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. 13 recommendations on health and education were handled by Ministry of Education. 18 recommendations on interfaith, freedom of expression and peaceful assembly were handled by Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. 7 recommendations on citizenship assessment, internally displaced persons and human trafficking were handled by Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population. 5 recommendations on ceasefire and national reconciliation were handled by Ministry of State Counsellor's Office. According to submissions made by the ministries and organizations, of the 166

recommendations, 18 were implemented and 148 were under implementation.

The first coordination meeting of the Committee was held on 26 December 2018 where 7 decisions were made out of which one was implemented and 6 were still being implemented. The 166 recommendations and decisions made at the first coordination meeting were mostly interlinked and must be conducted in an increasing momentum. Remaining works were to be completed within the designated timeframe and responsible ministries and organizations were urged to coordinate and cooperate.

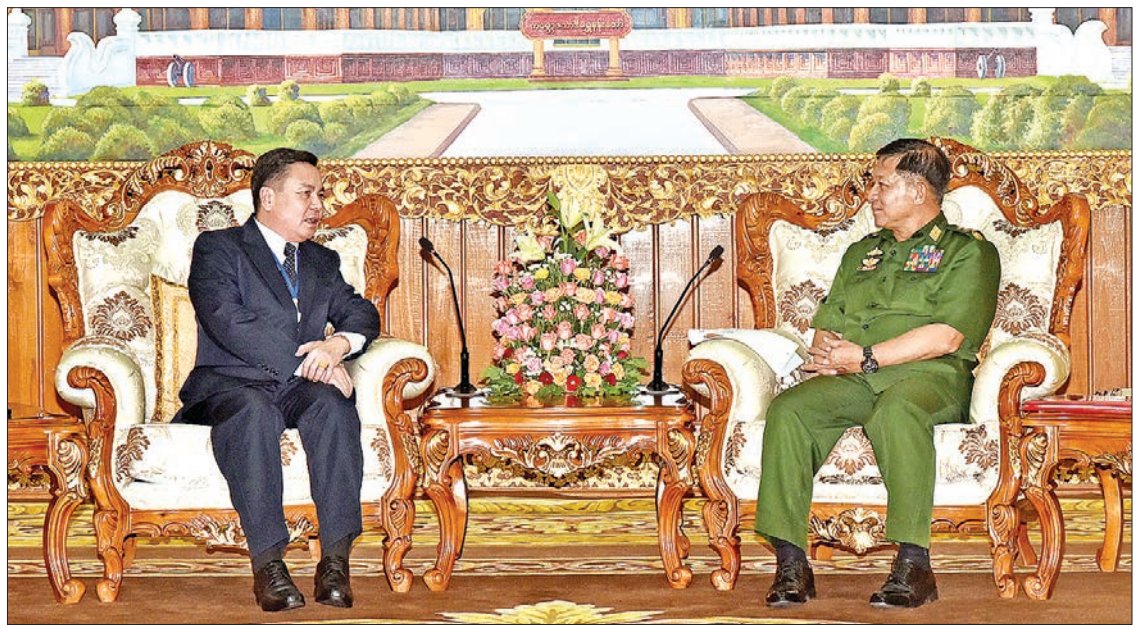
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services receives Laos Ambassador

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Laotian Ambassador Mr. Heuang-seng-Khamdalavong at the Bayintnaung guest house in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed the possibility of giving assistance for the growth of Theravada Buddhism in Laos,

development of trade and tourism between the two countries and sending groups of artistes and athletes on official visits to each other's country to cement friendship between the Armed Forces of the countries, according to a news release from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Laos Ambassador Mr. Heuang-seng-Khamdalavong. PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES

Outreach Events on IPCC Role, Activities and Findings Seminar held in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung delivers an address at the ceremony to open the "Outreach Events on IPCC Role, Activities and Findings" Seminar in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

SEMINAR titled "Outreach Events on IPCC Role, Activities and Findings" jointly organized by Intergovernmental panel on Climate Change - IPCC and Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) was held yesterday at Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union Minister for Ministry of Transport and Communications, U Thant Sin Maung and Mr. Panmao Zhai, Co-Chair of Working Group I, IPCC delivered

opening remarks at the ceremony.

Also present on the occasion were Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Deputy Ministers for Transport and Communications, Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Transport and Communications and Heads of Departments, Experts from IPCC, Professors from Yangon and Mandalay Universities, Lecturers and Students from Forestry University

and Agriculture University, representative from invited ministries and officials from Department of Meteorology and Hydrology. The seminar will be conducted with the objectives: to understand the IPCC Role, Activities and Findings on Climate Change, to support the Science-Policy Dialogue for Policy Makers, to support the climate change knowledge for Science and Research Community and Medias.

The seminar continues till today, 2019.—MNA

Second TOT for anti-six grave violations launches in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Ministry of Defence and UN Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (UNCTFMR) launched their second Training of Trainers for Prevention of the Six Grave Violations Against Children, in Nay Pyi Taw' Park Royal Hotel on 29 May.

Firstly, Brig-Gen Aung Kyaw Hein, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, delivered the opening remarks on behalf of the Chairman of the Committee for Prevention Against Recruiting Minors.

Also present at the event were committee member Maj-Gen Khun Thant Zaw and Tatmadaw officials, representatives of UNICEF and UNCTFMR departments, and Tatmadaw officials partaking in the training.

The three-day training will conclude today and includes Tatmadaw officials from offices under the administration of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and regional commands, and military recruiters.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Brig-Gen Aung Kyaw Hein delivers the opening remarks at UN Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting. PHOTO: MNA

Local, foreign media cover ground situation in Gonnar, Aung Bala villages in Maungtaw Township

A group of local and foreign media met with local communities from Gonnar Village at the Shwe Zar Kapat Kaung Village-tract and officials form General administrative office during their visit to Maungtaw Township yesterday.

During their field trip, they

covered ground situations in Gonnar and Aung Bala villages.

Afterwards, they arrived in Sittway from Maungtaw and flew to Yangon with Myanmar National Airlines.

The group of local and foreign journalists also covered

ground situation in Inndin Village in Maungtaw Township on Wednesday.—MNA

The media group interviews local people from Gonnar Village in Maungtaw Township yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



Industrial Zone Bill hearing held at Hluttaw

INDUSTRIAL Zone Bill hearing was held at Zabuthiri Hall, Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw, at 1 pm yesterday.

Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Tun Tun Hein attended the event and delivered key note speech.

Then, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee, U Khin Mg Win discussed Industrial Zone Bill, and Chairman of Investment and Industrial Development Committee, U Win Thein Zaw discussed matters concerning drawing up the bill.

Afterwards, Chairman of Industrial Zone Committee, three

Representatives of Yangon Regional Industrial zones, two of Mandalay Regional Industrial Zone and one of Saging regional Industry Zone discussed working conditions at Industrial zones and policies in affect.

Members of Bill committee, Citizen's Fundamental Rights Committee, Banking and Financial Committee, Investment and Industrial Development Committee, Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation Committee and Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development Committee attended the event. ■
(Translated by Alphonsus)



Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Tun Tun Hein delivers the speech at the Industrial Zone Bill Hearing. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu receives officials of Pact Global Microfinance Fund



Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu meets with president and CEO of Pact global Microfinance Fund, Mr. Mark Viso. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Dr. Aung Thu received president and CEO of Pact global Microfinance Fund, Mr. Mark Viso and entourage at Minister's guest hall at 11 yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters regarding support for the success of agricultural development grand strategy and increase of investments in farming and country sides.

It was reported that based

on their experience of micro-finance service in Myanmar, PGMF has been implementing microfinancing project in 56 townships in collaboration with small scale industry Department. 85% of Microfinance service in Myanmar belong to NGOs. The discussion at the meeting was directed to establishment and development of small businesses in rural areas. ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Union Minister U Thein Swe receives Resident Representative of UNFPA

UNION Minister of labour, Immigration and Population received Resident Representative of United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA) Mr. Ramanathan Balakrishnan, at the ministry guest hall in Nya Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed current status of field work to designate sites for listing for mapping and reporting

institutions for interim Census in Regions and state, the importance of the interim Census as it is preparation for 2024 census, use of CAPI technology in Interim census, the programs of UNFPA in coming World Population day celebration in Switzerland, Geneva, assistance given to UNFPA to the ministry for e-id system, assistance given to ministry

by UNFPA in Interim Census in collaboration with development organizations and donors and close collaboration of UNFPA for the success of the project.

Then, Resident Representative of UNFPA presented 2019 World Population Report to Union Minister.—MNA ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)



Union Minister U Thein Swe meeting with Resident Representative of UNFPA Mr. Ramanathan Balakrishnan. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar branch of ASEAN Law Association holds meeting 1/2019



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo delivers the address at the meeting of the ASEAN Law Association (Myanmar). PHOTO: MNA

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, in his capacity as Chairman of the ASEAN Law Association (Myanmar), attended the association's meeting No. 1/2019 at his office's meeting hall yesterday. Speaking at the meeting, the Union Attorney-General said the ALA was formed during the 'Legal Development in ASEAN Countries Conference' in Jakarta, Indonesia in February 1979 from a proposal to form a lawyers' network for the ASEAN region.

He said this association

works closely with the ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting while simultaneously promoting cooperation between law officials within ASEAN and participating in regional law affairs.

The UAG said Myanmar became a member to ALA on 18 February 2012 and formed the Myanmar branch in line with ALA's directives.

He said people working in the legal sector can contact ALA for assistance and its members regularly conduct seminars and

sharing of experiences.

Next, ALA (Myanmar) members discussed the association's development trek.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, who is the Vice Chair of ALA (Myanmar), and the Myanmar branch's members including Prof. Dr. Khin Chit Chit, Prof. Dr. Khin Bhome Myint Kyu, High Court Lawyer U Soe Tint Yi, directors-general Dr. Thida Oo and Dr. Swe Swe Aung. —MNA ■
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Joint Committee to amend 2008 Constitution holds meeting 17/2019

MEETING 17/2019 of the Joint Committee to amend 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Committee Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Chairman of the Joint Committee Amyotha

Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Joint Committee secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe, joint secretary U Htay Win Aung @ U Pyone Cho and members who were representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. – MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Japanese Automaker Toyota plans to invest in Myanmar

UNION Minister for the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission U Thaung Tun received the president of Toyota Motor Asia Pacific Pte Ltd Mr. Susumu Matsuda together with the Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Ichiro Maruyama and team on 30th May, 2019 in Yangon.

During the meeting they

discussed matters relating to the automobile business in Myanmar. The Union Minister welcomed Toyota's plans to set up a production facility in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone with investment amounting to 52.6 million USD. He stressed the need for sharing technology and human resources development. Production is expected to commence in 2021.—MNA



Myanmar Investment Commission Chairman U Thaung Tun receives Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama, President of Toyota Motor Asia Pacific Pte Ltd Mr. Susumu Matsuda and team on 30th May, 2019 in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

VP U Myint Swe attends second coord meeting...

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Some of the submissions made during the 3 month period by responsible ministries and organizations on 12 sector wise recommendations accepted by Myanmar were found to be too general and fragmented. Relevant committees were to assess and strive toward preparing a report that was complete, accurate, include what ought to be included and internationally acceptable. In order to do this related ministerial departments and organizations need to send information and data required by the responsible ministries and organizations.

Relevant ministerial departments and organizations were told to draw up a Time Frame for their work processes to implement the UPR recommendations. Furthermore a National Report on implementing UPR recommendations was to be submitted by July 2020. As such relevant ministerial departments and organizations were urged to

cooperate and coordinate toward submitting a draft on 2019 December and a complete report on 2020 April. Therefore, for the relevant ministerial departments and organizations to complete according to Time Frame, draft reports were to be prepared and sent to Report Preparation Work Committee starting from August 2019. As the UPR process was an opportunity for Myanmar to let the world know about improvement in its human rights situation, great emphasis must be placed toward it. Furthermore this will also be an opportunity for Myanmar to show that it was striving from all sides toward improvement of human rights situation like other countries of the world and the falseness of the international accusations toward it. Therefore meeting attendees were to suggest programs ought to be conducted, work committee wise implementation status and difficulties faced said the Vice President.

Next the Committee secretary Maj-Gen Aung Thu

explained about works implemented by responsible ministries and organizations of each sector of the 12 sectors set up to implement the 166 UPR recommendations during the four months period and future works that ought to be conducted. Afterwards Deputy Director General U Tin Maung Naing of Ministry of International Cooperation explained about 41 recommendations on acceding to International human rights treaties and 4 recommendations to cooperate with UN Human Rights Mechanisms, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chairman U Win Mra explained about 7 recommendations concerning its commission, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo explained about 19 recommendations on democracy, peace, rule of law and human rights reform matters, Ministry of Planning and Finance Director General Daw Thway Thway Chit explained about 12 recommendations on economic development, Ministry of Home

Affairs Myanmar Police Force Deputy Police Chief Police Maj-Gen Myo Swe Win explained about 10 recommendations on implementing good governance system and land confiscation, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye explained about 15 recommendations on promoting gender equality and protection of vulnerable groups together with 15 recommendations on non-discrimination, Ministry of Education Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training Director-General Dr. Aye Myint explained about 13 recommendations on health and education, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture Permanent Secretary U Tun Ohn explained about 18 recommendations on interfaith, freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population Permanent Secretary U Aye Lwin explained about 7 recommendations on citizenship assessment, internally displaced persons and human

trafficking and Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor Director General U Zaw Htay explained about 5 recommendations on ceasefire and national reconciliation.

Later Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chairman U Win Mra, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, General Administration Department Deputy Director General Daw Swe Swe Naing and Union Attorney General Office Legal Advice Department Director General Daw Thida Oo discussed about implementing UPR recommendations, suggestion on department wise works related to National Report and matters ought to be included in it.

Committee Chairman Vice President U Myint Swe then gave advice and comments to ensure proper coordination base on explanations and submissions made. He then delivered a closing speech after which the meeting came to a close.— MNA

Developing a culture of safety, health for workers through workplace insurance

THE Social Security Board of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, and Population has launched the Employment Injury Insurance (EII) Pilot Project in collaboration with the International Labour Organization. EII is being implemented in more than 170 countries.

The pilot projects have shown the Union Government's commitment to put in place the necessary policies and plans to help ensure occupational safety and health.

Employment Injury Insurance was first practiced in Germany. It's a system which compensates workmen who get injured at their place of work.

The EII pilot project is being implemented on a trial basis in Hlinethaya and Pyigyitagun townships of Mandalay from January to December this year.

The pilot project will ensure safety and security of workers and a decent workplace in Myanmar, where young workers are particularly exposed to workplace hazards and risks and need to be protected from them.

The pilot project will ensure safety and security of workers and a decent workplace in Myanmar, where young workers are particularly exposed to workplace hazards and risks and need to be protected from them.

In fact, our young people, the next generation of the country's working population, enter the workforce with virtually no knowledge about occupational hazards and risks, nor any awareness about their OSH (Occupational safety and health) rights.

Data collected during the trial period will be analyzed and will be helpful in raising awareness about the risks, and strategies will be developed to prevent accidents at the workplace, and ensure the expansion of the project to other regions and states.

Employment Injury Insurance guarantees healthcare and compensation to insured workers when they suffer from poor health, have a baby, or, in case of death, to

protect their families from the social and economic burden when the salary is lowered or suspended, or when workers are wounded in the workplace.

Collaborative efforts need to be made by the governments, concerned departments, and employer and employee associations to bring about convenient transportation, ensure safety in the workplace, better healthcare and job security for workers, good relations between employers and employees, and dispute resolution in accordance with labour laws.

All workplace accidents and occupational diseases are preventable. We cannot turn a blind eye to this daily toll on workers, which represents a huge cost to society. It will also hold back Myanmar's development.

But, the goal of building a safe and healthy generation can only be achieved through the combined efforts of many different actors, including the Government, employers' and workers' organizations, as well as civil society, youth organizations and importantly, young people themselves. ■■■

By Dr Aung Tun

World No Tobacco Day 2019 : Improving health, boosting economy by engaging in smoking control in Myanmar

TOBACCO is one of the world's leading health threats, and a main risk factor for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) including: cancers, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease and cardiovascular disease. According to Myanmar's "The Control of smoking and consumption of Tobacco law", Tobacco products means any material prepared for the purpose of smoking or consumption of the whole or part of the tobacco plant, leaf or stalk of the same.

Tobacco is used in many different ways around the world, but the global predominance is the use of manufactured cigarettes, which account for 96% of total worldwide sales. The next largest components are the smoking of bidis in South-East Asia, the chewing tobacco in India and Myanmar and the smoking of kreteks in Indonesia. New forms of tobacco are constantly being invented, while older forms historically localized to specific regions of the world (such as the hookah and bidi) are becoming global.

Nearly 20% of the world's adult population smokes cigarettes. About 800 million adult men and nearly 200 million adult women worldwide smoke cigarettes. Cigarette consumption historically has been highest in high-income countries. Total consumption of tobacco products is increasing globally. More than 80% of the one billion smokers worldwide live in low- and middle-income countries, where the burden of tobacco-related illness and death is heaviest. Deadly Chemicals in Tobacco smoke

Tobacco smoke contains more than 7000 chemicals including at least 70 known carcinogens that can damage nearly every organ in the human body. Tobacco smoke includes tar, carbon monoxide, nicotine and thousands of other chemicals, many of which are toxic, addictive, carcinogenic and damaging to the coronary arteries that supply the heart. The use of any tobacco product can cause disease and other adverse health effects. The adverse health effects of tobacco use are also experienced by non-smokers exposed to second-hand smoke. No tobacco product is safe.

Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death. This year, more than 7 million people will die from a tobacco-related heart attack, stroke, cancer, lung ailment or other disease. The annual death toll from the global epidemic of tobacco use could rise to 8 million by 2030. Tobacco caused 100 million deaths during the twentieth century, and if current trends continue, approximately 1 billion people will die during the twenty-first century because of tobacco use.

The Risks to Lung Health posed by Tobacco

Tobacco smoke has major implications for the lung health of smokers and non-smokers globally. Exposure to tobacco is a principle contributor to the development of the following lung diseases. -Lung cancer: Tobacco smoking is the primary cause for lung cancer; responsible for over two thirds of lung cancer deaths globally. Second-hand smoke exposure at home or in the work place also increases risk of lung cancer. -Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary disease (COPD). Globally, 45% of all deaths from COPD are attributed to tobacco use. -Asthma. Exposure to tobacco also aggravate asthma. -Tuberculosis. Tobacco smoking increases the risk of developing TB, and it makes treatment for TB less effective. People who smoke are twice as likely to get ill with TB. Active TB, compounded by the damaging lung health effects of tobacco smoking, substantially magnifies risk of disability and death from respiratory failure. -Across the life-course. Infants exposed in-utero to tobacco smoke toxins, through maternal smoking or maternal exposure to

second-hand smoke, frequently encounter reduced lung growth and function. Young children exposed to second-hand smoke are at risk of the onset and exacerbation of asthma, pneumonia and bronchitis, and frequent lower respiratory infections. Globally, an estimated 165 000 children die before the age of 5 of lower respiratory infections caused by second-hand smoke. Those who live on into adulthood continue to suffer the health consequences of second-hand smoke exposure, as frequent lower respiratory infections in early childhood significantly increase risk of developing COPD in adulthood. -Air pollution. Tobacco smoke is a very dangerous form of indoor air pollution: Though smoke may be invisible and odourless, it can linger in the air for up to five hours, putting those exposed at risk of lung cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, and reduced lung function.

World No Tobacco Day 2019

May 31 is World No Tobacco Day, a day designated by the World Health Organization to draw global attention to the and to advocate for strategies to reduce tobacco use. The theme for 2019 is "Tobacco and Lung Health". World No Tobacco Day 2019 will highlight on the multiple ways that exposure to tobacco affects the health of people's lungs worldwide. The specific goals of The World No Tobacco Day 2019 campaign are as follows:

- risks posed by tobacco smoking and second-hand smoke exposure;
- awareness on the particular dangers of tobacco smoking to lung health;
- magnitude of death and illness globally from lung diseases caused by tobacco, including chronic respiratory diseases and lung cancer;
- emerging evidence on the link between tobacco smoking and tuberculosis deaths;
- implications of second-hand exposure for lung health of people across age groups;
- importance of lung health to achieving overall health and well-being;
- feasible actions and measures that key audiences, including the public and governments, can take to reduce the risks to lung health posed by tobacco.

Tobacco Control in Myanmar

Myanmar has one of the highest rates of tobacco use (Smoking and Smokeless) among men and women compared to other countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region. More than two in five men and nearly one in ten women smoke, which puts the health and wellbeing of themselves and their families at risk. Smokeless tobacco use is a problem where more than half of men and a quarter of women use this type of tobacco. Tobacco use in Myanmar claims the lives of approximately 64,000 citizens per year; with 56 percent of deaths occurring among individuals under age 70. The poor are disproportionately impacted by tobacco use in Myanmar, as 28 percent of tobacco-related

deaths occur in Myanmar's poorest income quintile.

Tobacco control is one of the priority programmes of Ministry of Health and Sports. In July 1998 when WHO reorganized efforts within a new structure, the Tobacco Free Initiative (TFI), this movement greatly enhanced the momentum of the anti-tobacco activities in Myanmar. The National Programme on Tobacco Control was officially launched in January 2000 with the drafting and approval of the National Policy on Tobacco Control and Plan of action. The National Tobacco Control Committee was formed in March 2002. The Control of Smoking and Consumption of Tobacco Product Law was adopted on 4th May, 2006. In accordance with new administrative structure, the National Tobacco Control Committee was reformed in January 2011, headed by the Minister for Health and included heads of related departments and chairpersons of

several national NGOs as members. In 2018, Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS) signed a new MOU with International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) to strengthen tobacco control program in Myanmar. Several achievements were made between 2013 and 2018. These include adoption of a 100% smokefree notification and adoption of a 75% pictorial health warning. During the period, Myanmar has also signed Illicit Trade Protocol which will be endorsed in near future of 2016. Myanmar hosted a SEARO and Asia Pacific meeting on Illicit trade protocol in 2015. Recently Ministry of Health and Sports established a tobacco Control Unit under the Non-Communication Disease (NCD) Division with dedicated human resource.

Ministry of Health and Sports works with Attorney General and parliament health committee for legislation development. It works with Ministry of Finance for taxation and establishment of health fund for tobacco control. MOHS works closely with Ministry of Manpower, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Trade for their support to make effective enforcement of law and legislation. The collaboration will be further strengthened.

Ministry of Health and Sports has identified subnational government's role is very crucial to implement the tobacco control program as well as countering tobacco industry interferences at the local. Thus, MOHS has already established a subnational government alliance to accelerate their consolidated efforts for making tobacco control possible at each level. Working with subnational leaders would further expand the people's participation in tobacco control movement. It also works with non-government sector such as World Health Organization, International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, People's Health Foundation, Universities, and media for policy advocacy and technical assistance.

In May 2018, the WHO Convention Secretariat,

UNDP, WHO and the FCTC Knowledge Hub on Tobacco Taxation (Cape Town) undertook a joint mission to Myanmar to conduct needs and situational assessments as part of the FCTC 2030 project. The FCTC 2030 Project is a global initiative funded by the UK Government to support countries to strengthen FCTC implementation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Myanmar is one of just 15 countries worldwide receiving this dedicated project support.

The Investment case for Tobacco Control in Myanmar: The Way Forward

According to FCTC 2030 project report (2018), tobacco use costs Myanmar MMK trillions in economic losses and causes substantial human development losses annually. Fortunately, the investment case shows that there is an opportunity to reduce the social and economic burden of tobacco in Myanmar. Enacting the recommended multisectoral tobacco control provisions would save tens of thousands of lives each year and reduce the incidence of disease, leading to savings from averted medical costs and averted productivity losses. In economic terms, these benefits are substantial, adding up to ~3.3% of GDP in 2016 and MMK 8 trillion over the next fifteen years. Further, the economic benefits of strengthening tobacco control measures in Myanmar and implementing new ones greatly outweigh the costs of implementing them (MMK 8 trillion in benefits versus just MMK 0.036 trillion in costs).

By investing now in tobacco control provisions, Myanmar would not only improve health and grow the economy, it would also reduce hardships on the poor. The investment case shows that, contrary to common misperception, tobacco control would benefit lower income earners the most. Raised cigarette taxes would not only help the poor (and others) avoid out-of-pocket health expenditures, it would also raise revenue for the Government to advance any of its sustainable development priorities. The investment case has identified the strongest tobacco control investments for Myanmar to take.

With the support of the FCTC 2030 project, the FCTC Secretariat, UNDP and WHO, The Government of Myanmar will pursue the following actions to reduce the enormous burdens that tobacco continues to place on its country.

1. Raise awareness among the public and government of the true costs of tobacco and the enormous development benefits of tobacco control.
2. Strengthen tobacco control coordination and planning
3. Strengthen the current tobacco control law and/or introduce a newer, stronger and more comprehensive one
4. Ensure adequate funding and resourcing of tobacco control measures
5. Strengthen Enforcement
6. Advocate for additional increases in tobacco taxes Ref:

- Word No Tobacco Day Tool Kit, WHO, 2019

- Investment case for tobacco control in Myanmar: The Case for Investing in WHO FCTC Implementation, MOHS/WHO/UNDP/FCTC Secretariat/RTI Int. December 2018

- The Tobacco Atlas, 6th Edition, American Cancer Society, 2018

- The Health Consequences of Smoking-50 years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General, US CDC, 2014.

■■■

AS I was born and raised in rural area, the rural culture influenced me much. In rural areas, tobacco use has been socially and culturally recognized since ancient times.

In those days, I used to see our rural folks including my parents smoke cheroots almost everywhere in our native town. To make matters worse, according to the rural customs, (big) cheroots were used as gifts to the visitors at the Shinbyu or novitiation ceremonies, wedding ceremonies and other social gatherings. These social customs made the rural people including young people and even children smoke cheroots.

It was during my schooling days when I started smoking. I was then ten. I got into the bad habit simply because I could not discriminate between what is good and what is bad. So, I used to smoke on the sly. Whenever my parents caught me smoking, I was beaten black and blue. However, that punishment put me nowhere. When they punished me, a strange question came over to me. The question was "Why did they punish me for smoking while they kept holding big cheroots in their hands?" I was flabbergasted.

One of the reasons why I started smoking was that I saw adults smoking. I simply thought that it was a 'grown-up' thing to do. Consequently, I smoked in order to impress my friends. To be frank, I did

SMOKING AND I

By Maung Hlaing



not really believe that smoking will do me any harm. Quite reasonably, I was not impressed when adults warned me about the dangers of smoking. If smoking is dangerous, why do so many adults do so?

For the individual, smoking fills a lot of empty moments. It acts as a stress reliever. It gives smokers something to do with their hands and provides satisfaction. Some maintain that cigarette and cheroot smoke itself provides visual stimulation and may act as a comforting smoke-screen. These reasons occupied me and I fell a prey to tobacco. Then, what happened to me? When I started to write, I hardly finished a single article without smoking a big cheroot. I would have barely written a few lines or sentences before taking several puffs. This bad habit had been torturing me until the time when I retired at 60. It was too late. However, better late than never! Although we cannot definitely say the time when people started to smoke, they have smoked tobacco for thousands of years. The historical records reveal that in the 1500s, many Europeans began smoking because they believed tobacco had medicinal benefits. Today, people smoke mainly for relaxation and pleasure, and to satisfy a craving for nicotine, a chemical substance in cigarette. However, during the 1900s, scientists found increasing evidence that smoking can endanger a person's health. In spite of the dangers, many people became smokers. Many young people began smoking as an act of independence. Most adults smoke to reduce their craving for nicotine of which effects help make smoking pleasurable. However, its effect on the nervous system also causes many people to become addicted to it.

Such an addiction makes it hard for people to give up smoking. According to the World Book Encyclopedia, the first study on the effects of smoking showed that men who were lifelong smokers died almost 18 years earlier than men who had never smoked. According to the report, a 30-year-old man who smokes can expect to die at the age of 64; a man of the same age who has never smoked can expect to live until the age of 82 years. The survey was carried out in Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

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Pegu Club gets blue plaque from heritage trust

THE Yangon Heritage Trust (YHT) awarded its 30th Blue Plaque to the historic Pegu club, located on Zegawa Street in Dagon Township of Yangon Region on 30 May.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, YHT Founder and Chairman Dr. Thant Myint U, and officials attended the ceremony for installing the plaque at the club.

“Every historical building has its exact background and that will be preserved from generation to generation. The Blue Plaques will give the historical background and other information when people visit the buildings. If those historical buildings didn’t exist, future generations would not get a chance to know their history,” said U Phyo Min Thein, the Chief Minister of Yangon Region.

The Yangon Heritage Trust’s Founder and Chairman, Dr. Thant Myint U, said Pegu



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and unveil the blue plaque at the Pegu Club in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: AYE MIN THU**

Club was the premier social club of British-Burma and the heart of Yangon.

“In its new incarnation, the club should seek to overturn history and be the opposite of what the club was in colonial times, educating Burmese people about the ills of colonialism. That would be an imaginative

and fitting use for this wonderful renovation,” he said.

The original Pegu Club was founded in 1871, and was relocated to its current address in 1882. The club was reconstructed in 1921, and the Prince of Wales Great Hall was added to the building. Pegu Club was well-known for its cocktails, which

were popular all over the world in 1930.

In 1965, the club was closed down and transformed into a barrack for military officers. For many years now, the KT Group has been leasing the club for parties and events.—Zar Ni Maung ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

Myanmar supports Mozambique in sharing open source code of National Trade Repository Website

MYANMAR is helping and supporting Mozambique in sharing open source code of National Trade Portal and Trade Repository Website in order to help set up southeast African nation’s Trade Portal, according to the Ministry of Commerce online release.

Mozambique, as a member of World Trade Organization, want to provide transparency on the trade and customs laws and procedures. This being so, it requested Myanmar to study experience of Myanmar’s successful launch of trade portal.

The signing ceremony of the MoU between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government

of the Republic Mozambique was held on 21 May at the Ministry of Commerce. U Min Min, Director-General of the Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce and Mr. Amilcar Carlos Arone, National Director of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce inked a MoU. Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce, International Organizations, the USAID attended the ceremony.

Myanmar expects to strengthen the ties with Mozambique and promote trade potentials between two countries.

The ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA), Article 13, requires the establishment of a

website containing all the customs and trade laws of ASEAN members, that includes tariff nomenclature used; MFN tariffs and preferential tariffs under ATIGA and other relevant preferential agreements; rules of origin; non-tariff measures; national trade and customs laws and rules; procedures and documentary requirements; administrative rulings; best practices in trade facilitation; and list of authorized traders of member states.

As members have contributed to ASEAN Trade Repository, Myanmar’s Trade Repository www.myanmartradeportal.gov.mm was launched on 26 May, 2016, with the support of USAID.

Myanmar trade portal shows information of tariff nomenclature, MFN Tariffs and Preferential Tariff Schedule of FTA, rules of origin, non-tariff measures, national trade and customs laws and rules, procedures and documentary requirement, administrative rulings, best practices in trade facilitation and administrative rulings/ court ruling in Myanmar and English language version.

When Myanmar started to establish that website, the country shared source code from Laos and with the support of USAID, the update website was uploaded on 19 November, 2018.—GNLM ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Import value down by \$756 mln in current fiscal year

THE value of imports between 1 October, 2018 and 17 May, 2019 during the current fiscal year stood at US\$11.43 billion, which declined by \$756 million from the corresponding period in the last FY, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Capital goods, such as auto parts, vehicles, machines, steel and airplane parts are imported

into the country, with estimated import values of \$3.6 billion. This figure was down by \$630 million compared to the same period in the last FY.

During over past seven and half month period, Myanmar imported \$2.09 billion worth of consumer products, including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and palm oil. The figure showed a decrease

of \$150 million in import values of consumer products, compared with the corresponding period last year.

Intermediate goods make up most of the imports, with petroleum products and plastic raw materials being the main import items. The import of raw materials was valued at \$4.27 billion, which is down by \$223 million

from the same period in the last FY. The value of imports of consumer, capital and intermediate goods fell slightly in the current fiscal year, against the last FY.

During the same period, \$1.46 billion valued raw materials for the Cut-Make-Pack (CMP) garment sector were also imported.—Ko Khant ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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

China accuses US of 'naked economic terrorism'

BEIJING — China accused the United States of “naked economic terrorism” on Thursday as Beijing ramps up the rhetoric in their trade war.

The world's top two economies are at loggerheads as trade talks have apparently stalled, with US President Donald Trump hiking tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods earlier this month and blacklisting telecoms giant Huawei.

“We are against the trade war, but we are not afraid of it,” vice foreign minister Zhang Hanhui said at a press briefing to preview President Xi Jinping's trip to Russia next week.

“This premeditated instigation of a trade conflict is naked economic terrorism, economic chauvinism, and economic bullying,” Zhang said, stressing that China opposes the systematic use of sanctions, tariffs and protectionism.

“There is no winner in a trade war,” he warned.

China has hit back with its own tariff increase on \$60 billion in US products that will take effect Saturday, while state media has suggested that Beijing could stop exports of rare earths to the United States, depriving Washington of a key resource used to make hi-tech products.

TV debate

Meanwhile, state media and officials have stepped up the rhetoric as the Communist Party digs in for what could be a long fight with the United States.

An anchor for the Eng-



China accuses US of “naked economic terrorism” as Beijing ramps up the rhetoric in their trade war. The world's top two economies are at loggerheads as trade talks have apparently stalled. **PHOTO: AFP**

lish-language state broadcaster China Global Television Network (CGTN) even held a rare debate on Thursday with a presenter from Fox Business Network to discuss the trade war after jousting on social media.

The debate between CGTN's Liu Xin and Fox Business's Trish Regan was civil, with the American journalist saying “I appreciate you being here” and the Chinese anchor inviting her to come to China, adding “I'll take you around”.

But China's propaganda apparatus has hardened the tone. The party's mouthpiece, The People's Daily, warned in an editorial on Wednesday that rare earths could be used as a counter-measure, adding that the US shouldn't “say we didn't warn you.”

China produces more than 95 percent of the world's rare earths, and the United States relies on the Asian superpower for upwards of 80 percent of its imports.

“It is unacceptable for any country to use rare earth products exported

by China to curb and suppress China's development,” commerce ministry spokesman Gao Feng said Thursday. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, asked about the rare earths threat during an interview, said that Americans have already “lost and suffered for decades under the current rules” and that Trump's “singular focus is to push back” on China.

He renewed his attack on Huawei, saying there was a “deep connectivity” between the company and the Chinese state.

“If it's the case that the Chinese Communist Party wanted to get information from technology that was in the possession of Huawei, it is almost certainly the case that Huawei would provide that to them,” he told the Fox Business Network.

Huawei has rejected the accusations and on Tuesday filed a motion for summary judgment in a US court, hoping it would swiftly win a lawsuit against US legislation that bars federal agencies from using the company's equipment. — AFP ■

Announcement of Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticides

Distribution of the following Pesticides registered by **Huynh Zaw Co., Ltd.** is transferring from **Huynh Zaw Co., Ltd.** to **Diamond Light International Trading Co., Ltd.** Any objection regarding this transfer can notify at Joint Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, west Gyogone, Insein within two weeks.

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The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Yangon City Development Committee

Invitation for Prequalification Greater Yangon Water Supply Improvement Project Phase 2

Date: 31 May 2019
Loan Agreement No: MY-P19
IFP No: MY-P19/PQ-04

- The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency toward the cost of the Greater Yangon Water Supply Improvement Project Phase 2. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract resulting from the bidding for which this prequalification is conducted.
- The Yangon City Development Committee intends to prequalify contractors and/or firms for Renovation of Kokkine Service Reservoir and Construction of Distribution Networks in Zone 1 (Low Subzone).
 - Renovation of the existing Kokkine Service Reservoir having its design capacity of 20MG (90,920m³)
 - Construction of distribution main pipe of Ductile Iron Pipe (DIP, DN450-1500mm) with total length of approx. 21.0km, including pipe jacking for railway crossing (DN800mm x L=70.0m, DN1500mm x L=88.0m)
 - Construction distribution network of HDPE pipe (OD110-630mm) with total length of approx. 250.0 km
 - Replacement and new installation of house connections and water meters, with total number of 113,900 connections (including both existing and new connections)
- It is expected that Invitation for Bids will be made in September 2019.
- Prequalification will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Applicants from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement.
- Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the Prequalification Documents at the office of Head of Department, Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation), Yangon City Development Committee from 9:30am to 4:30pm.
- A complete set of the Prequalification Documents may be purchased by interested Applicant(s) on the submission of a written Application to the address above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of MMK20,000 (Twenty thousand Myanmar Kyat).
- Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address above by 15 July 2019, and be clearly marked “Application to Prequalify for Package No. ICB-04 Renovation of Kokkine Service Reservoir and Construction of Distribution Networks in Zone 1 (Low Subzone) under the Greater Yangon Water Supply Improvement Project Phase 2.”

U Myint Zaw Than,
Head of Department, Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation),
Yangon City Development Committee
No. 390, 12-Storey New Building, Merchant Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
Myanmar
e-mail: kokkowa5@gmail.com

Myanma Port Authority “Notice of High Tide”

Exceptionally high spring from 20.00 feet to 20.30 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of June 4th to June 6th, 2019. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

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Mahathir says Malaysia will use Huawei 'as much as possible'

TOKYO — Malaysia will continue using Huawei products “as much as possible,” bucking a global trend prompted by security concerns and a US ban on the Chinese firm, the country’s prime minister said Thursday.

Mahathir Mohamad, speaking at a conference in Tokyo, acknowledged the security con-

cerns but said they would not deter Malaysia.

“Yes, there may be some spying. But what is there to spy (on) exactly in Malaysia? We are an open book,” the 93-year-old said at the Future of Asia forum.

Mahathir said Huawei had access to research “far bigger than the whole of Malaysia’s re-

search equivalent.”

“So we try to make use of their technology as much as possible.” “Everybody knows, if any country wants to invade Malaysia, they can walk through, and we will not resist because it’s a waste of time,” he added.

His comment came after a wave of controversy over the Chi-

nese telecommunications firm, which has been hit by allegations of espionage and faces a US ban.

A number of countries have blocked Huawei from working on their mobile networks and companies have stepped back from the firm after the US ban, citing legal requirements.

The spat comes as the Unit-

ed States and China raise tariffs in tit-for-tat moves along with blistering rhetoric accusing each other of unfair trade practices.

Mahathir warned about the heated exchanges between Beijing and Washington, which come as the powers and their allies lock horns in the hotly contested South China Sea.—AFP ■

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar



Ministry of Education Invitation for Bids

Date:	31 May 2019
Loan/Grant No. and Title:	MYA 3472 – Equipping Youth for Employment
Contract No. and Title:	MYA 3472/EYE/ICB/CW/Schools/01
Deadline for Submission of Bids:	16 July 2019

- The Government of Myanmar has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of **Equipping Youth for Employment Project (EYE) Project**. Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contract named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.
- The Ministry of Education (represented by the Department of Education Research, Planning & Training) (“the Employer”) invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the **construction and completion of additional classrooms blocks and students’ dormitories (male – female segregated) at (“the Works”)** as outlined below:

Lot 1 – Construction of 3 units of Classroom Blocks and 3 units of Dormitories at existing school locations (at Townships – **Paduang, Paungde and Thegon**) in Bago (W)

Lot 2 – Construction of 3 units of Classroom Blocks and 3 units of Dormitories at existing school locations (at Townships – **Bago, Kawa and Waw**) in Bago (E)

Lot 3 – Construction of 3 units of Classroom Blocks and 3 units of Dormitories at existing school locations (at Townships – **Taungoo, Phyu and Oktwin**) in Bago (E)

Lot 4 – Construction of 2 units of Classroom Blocks and 2 units of Dormitories at existing school locations (at Townships – **Thabaung and Kyaunggon**) in Ayeyarawady

Lot 5 – Construction of 3 units of Classroom Blocks and 3 units of Dormitories at existing school locations (at Townships – **Pyapon, Kyaiklat and Dedaye**) in Ayeyarawady

Lot 6 – Construction of 2 units of Classroom Blocks and 2 units of Dormitories at existing school locations (at Townships – **Ngapudaw and Kangyidaunt**) in Ayeyarawady

Lot 7 – Construction of 3 units of Classroom Blocks and 3 units of Dormitories at existing school locations (at Townships – **Kyonpyaw, Zalun and Myanaung**) in Ayeyarawady

Lot 8 – Construction of 3 units of Classroom Blocks and 3 units of Dormitories at existing school locations (at Townships – **Magway, Natmauk and Yesago**) in Magway

Lot 9 – Construction of 3 units of Classroom Blocks and 3 units of Dormitories at existing school locations (at Townships – **Taunggyi, Hsihseng and Pekon**) in Shan (S)

Lot 10 – Construction of 2 units of Classroom Blocks and 2 units of Dormitories at existing school locations (at Townships – **Kut Kai and Kyaukme**) in Shan (S)

Lot 11 – Construction of 3 units of Classroom Blocks and 3 units of Dormitories at existing school locations (at Townships – **Myingyan, Kyaukpadaung and Nyaung U**) in Mandalay

Lot 12 – Construction of 3 units of Classroom Blocks and 3 units of Dormitories at existing school locations (at Townships – **Yamethin, Pyawbwe and Wundwin**) in Mandalay

Lot 13 – Construction of 3 units of Classroom Blocks and 3 units of Dormitories at existing school locations (at Townships – **Pathengyi, Kyaukse and Sintgaing**) in Mandalay

Lot 14 – Construction of 2 units of Classroom Blocks and 2 units of Dormitories at existing school locations (at Townships – **Tada U and Ngazun**) in Mandalay

Lot 15 – Construction of 2 units of Classroom Blocks and 2 units of Dormitories at existing school locations (at Townships – **Katha and Banmauk**) in Sagaing

Lot 16 – Construction of 3 units of Classroom Blocks and 3 units of Dormitories at existing school locations (at Townships – **Khin - U, Wetlet and Kanbalu**) in Sagaing

Lot 17 – Construction of 3 units of Classroom Blocks and 3 units of Dormitories at existing school locations (at Townships – **Monywa, Ayadaw and Yinmarbin**) in Sagaing

Lot 18 – Construction of 2 units of Classroom Blocks and 2 units of Dormitories at existing school locations (at Townships – **Pale and Kale**) in Sagaing

Bidders may submit bids for one or several contracts, as further defined in the bidding document. Bidders wishing to offer discounts in case they are awarded more than one contract will be allowed to do so, provided those discounts are included in the Letter of Bid.

3. International competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB’s Single Stage One Envelope procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.

4. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding.

Key Experience Requirement

Participation in at least (1) one contract as a Single Entity or (2) two contracts as a Joint Venture (either one partner must meet requirement Or any two partners must each demonstrate one (1) contract) that have been successfully or substantially completed within the last 5 years and that are similar to the proposed works, there the value of the Bidder’s participation exceeds the contract amounts indicated below:

Lot 1 - (MMK 930,172,500)

Lot 2 - (MMK 980,981,500)

Lot 3 - (MMK 915,837,000)

Lot 4 - (MMK 605,779,500)

Lot 5 - (MMK 995,317,000)

Lot 6 - (MMK 671,842,000)

Lot 7 - (MMK 901,501,500)

Lot 8 - (MMK 915,837,000)

Lot 9 - (MMK 930,172,500)

Lot 10 - (MMK 620,115,000)

Lot 11 - (MMK 930,172,500)

Lot 12 - (MMK 930,172,500)

Lot 13 - (MMK 915,837,000)

Lot 14 - (MMK 620,115,000)

Lot 15 - (MMK 605,779,500)

Lot 16 - (MMK 930,172,500)

Lot 17 - (MMK 915,837,000)

Lot 18 - (MMK 605,779,500)

The similarity of the Bidder’s participation shall be based on the physical size, nature of works, complexity, methods, technology or other characteristics as described in Section 6 (Employer’s Requirements) in the Bidding Document.

Key Financial Requirement

Minimum average annual construction turnover of (as indicated below) calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last 3 years.

Lot 1 - (MMK 1,860,345,000)

Lot 2 - (MMK 1,961,963,000)

Lot 3 - (MMK 1,831,674,000)

Lot 4 - (MMK 1,211,559,000)

Lot 5 - (MMK 1,990,634,000)

Lot 6 - (MMK 1,343,684,000)

Lot 7 - (MMK 1,803,003,000)

Lot 8 - (MMK 1,831,674,000)

Lot 9 - (MMK 1,860,345,000)

Lot 10 - (MMK 1,240,230,000)

Lot 11 - (MMK 1,860,345,000)

Lot 12 - (MMK 1,860,345,000)

Lot 13 - (MMK 1,831,674,000)

Lot 14 - (MMK 1,240,230,000)

Lot 15 - (MMK 1,211,559,000)

Lot 16 - (MMK 1,860,345,000)

Lot 17 - (MMK 1,831,674,000)

Lot 18 - (MMK 1,211,559,000)

The Bidder must demonstrate that it has the financial resources to meet the requirements for the Subject Contract in the minimum amounts of:

Lot 1 - (MMK 620,115,000)

Lot 2 - (MMK 653,987,666)

Lot 3 - (MMK 610,558,000)

Lot 4 - (MMK 403,853,000)

Lot 5 - (MMK 663,544,666)

Lot 6 - (MMK 447,894,666)

Lot 7 - (MMK 601,001,000)

Lot 8 - (MMK 610,558,000)

Lot 9 - (MMK 620,115,000)

Lot 10 - (MMK 413,410,000)

Lot 11 - (MMK 620,115,000)

Lot 12 - (MMK 620,115,000)

Lot 13 - (MMK 610,558,000)

Lot 14 - (MMK 413,410,000)

Lot 15 - (MMK 403,853,000)

Lot 16 - (MMK 620,115,000)

Lot 17 - (MMK 610,558,000)

Lot 18 - (MMK 403,853,000)

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

EYE Project Management Unit (PMU)
Department of Education Research, Planning & Training,
Ministry of Education, Bldg No 13,
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Telephone: +95 67407261
Fax: +95 67407406
E-mail address: projectmanager.EYEPMU@gmail.com
With copy to: procurement.EYEPMU@gmail.com

- To purchase the Bidding Documents in English, eligible bidders should

- write to the address above requesting the Bidding Documents for MYA3472/EYE/ICB/CW/Schools/01 specifically indicating the Lot numbers for which bidding document is requested.
- pay a nonrefundable Bidding Document Fee of MMK 15,000 (Equivalent in 10 USD) by cash for each Lot either by cash payment or through bank transfer to:

Bank A/C No: MD-012898
Bank Name: Myanmar Economic Bank
Bank Address: Thiri Kyaw Swa Street, Near Bank Zone, Zabu Thiri Township, NayPyi Taw
Account Name: Department of Education Research, Planning & Training, Ministry of Education

- Deliver your bid to the address above
 - on or before the deadline: **16 July 2019 (13.00 Hours MST)**
 - together with a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document

Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of Bidders’ representatives who choose to attend. Late Bids will be rejected. Electronic Bid submission is not permitted.

- When comparing Bids, ADB’s Domestic Preference Scheme will be applied in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the Bidding Document.

India's Modi to hold bilateral meetings with visiting leaders after swearing-in



Indian Prime Minister-elect Narendra Modi pays tributes at Rajghat, the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, before the swearing-in ceremony for his second term as Indian prime minister in New Delhi, India, 30 May, 2019. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

NEW DELHI — Indian Prime Minister-elect Narendra Modi will hold bilateral meetings with the visiting six heads of state and government in New Delhi after taking the oath of office and secrecy, said official

sources on Thursday.

Modi's swearing-in ceremony is slated to take place at 7:00 pm at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan (President House).

According to sources in the External Affairs Ministry, Modi will hold a bilateral meeting with Kyrgyzstan's President Sooronbay Jeenbekov late evening.

His bilateral meetings scheduled for Friday are with Bangladeshi President Abdul Hamid, Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena, Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Nepali Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, and Bhutanese Prime Minister Lotay Tshering, added the sources. Immediately after Thursday's swearing-in ceremony, President of India Ram Nath Kovind will host a banquet in the honor of the visiting leaders.—Xinhua ■

SMOKING AND I

FROM PAGE-9

Now, medical experts have tried to prove that this bad habit causes ill health. It is medically and scientifically established that smoking increases the risk of such killer diseases as lung cancer, heart and respiratory diseases. The nicotine inhaled from cigarettes makes the heart beat faster, and makes the arteries contract. This can lead to blockages in the arteries, particularly in the legs. Cancer and bronchitis are caused by the tar and carbon monoxide taken into the lungs.

New studies are showing that teenagers with parents who smoke cigarettes are at higher risk of heart disease than non-smokers' children. This is because the smoke that the teenagers breathe "second hand" raises the cholesterol level of their blood.

Although these harm-

ful effects are well-known, people continue to smoke. Some people carry on even after having a heart attack or a leg amputated. Notwithstanding these facts, we have found it hard to quit smoking. Why? In fact, smoking is widespread and the habit is within easy reach for every person. And youths start the habit at first as a fashion and soon get addicted to it. However, all over the world, people who are intelligent want to be healthy. And they come to discover that one of the smartest things to do to attain and maintain health is to avoid smoking.

To make matters worse, while those who realize the harmful effects of tobacco are striving to wipe out the bad habit, new forms of tobacco use are constantly being invented. Those who smoke traditional cigarettes have come to use electronic cigarettes,

known as e-cigarettes. Due to globalization, some Myanmar adults have tried e-cigarettes which may be illegally imported. Although e-cigarettes appear to have far fewer of the toxins found in smoke compared to traditional cigarettes, the impact on long-term health may be affected. No matter how new ones are substituted for traditional ones, tobacco is tobacco and the smoke can harm those who smoke.

Regarding the tobacco menace, Myanmar never loses sight of combating the threat. Myanmar had implemented its tobacco-free programmes since 1980. Prohibition of Smoking at Theatres Act was enacted in 1959 and Public Health Law, in 1972. The Control of Smoking and Consumption of Tobacco Products Law was enacted in May, 2006 and it came into effect in May, 2007.

While countries of the world are now carrying out activities that lead to

reduction of tobacco in various ways, Myanmar has come to prohibit smoking at public places and designate smoking-restricted areas, ban all forms of advertisement, put up warning labels on cigarette packages, and promote health education programmes on the danger of tobacco. You can see the warning of "No-Smoking Area, Penalties Apply!" "Tobacco Kills You?" "Tobacco Smoke Can Harm you and your Children!" "Don't Smoke!" at almost government departments and work establishments.

We should not ignore the millions of tobacco and its related deaths in the world. Today, almost everyone comes to know the dire effects smoking. However, people are trying to go to hell through the short-cut of smoking.

Don't burn your money!
Don't smoke to kill yourself!
Ref: 1. The World Book Encyclopedia (S-sn)
2. The Global New Light of Myanmar

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V CHERRY VESTA VOY. NO. (015N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CHERRY VESTA VOY. NO. (015N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V TROUNG MINH DRAGON

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TROUNG MINH DRAGON VOY. NO. (5) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of SPW6 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 BEN LINE AGENCIES
(SINGAPORE) PTE,LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK WESTPORT VOY.NO.(920S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK WESTPORT VOY.NO.(920S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY.NO. (009W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY. NO. (009W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KULDHUMRONG

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KULDHUMRONG are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of WILMAR where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EAST SHIPPING
MANAGEMENT LIMITED.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY.NO. (033 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (033 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT 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 INTER ASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Israel to hold election rerun after coalition deadlock

JERUSALEM — Israel's parliament voted early Thursday to hold new elections only months after April polls in an unprecedented move provoked by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's attempts to remain in power despite failing to form a coalition.

Parliament voted 74-45 in favour of dissolving itself and setting elections for 17 September.

It came as the deadline for Netanyahu to form a coalition expired and followed raucous moments in parliament that saw opposition members chant "Shame!"

The vote was prompted by Netanyahu's failure to reach a coalition deal even though his Likud party, along with its right-wing and religious allies, won a majority of 65 of 120 seats in the April 9 elections.

In a matter of weeks, Netanyahu has shifted from victory celebrations to tense, behind-the-scenes efforts to ensure his long tenure in power continues, eventually opting for new elections.

The move prevents Netanyahu's nightmare scenario of Israeli President Reuven Rivlin selecting another person to



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu looks set to push for a new general election just months after an April poll, for fear that he might otherwise lose control of coalition talks just as graft charges are set to be pressed against him. **PHOTO: AFP PHOTO**

try to form a government, but also sends the country into what is likely to be another divisive election campaign.

Holding elections so close to together will be unprecedented for Israel and the stakes could not be much higher for the 69-year-old premier.

Netanyahu is facing possible indictment for bribery, fraud and

breach of trust in the months ahead and is reportedly seeking legislation in the new parliament that would result in him being granted immunity.

He is also on track to become Israel's longest-serving prime minister in July, surpassing founding father David Ben-Gurion — and he is no doubt aware of the weighty milestone.

'Capitulation'

His efforts to form a new coalition hit a brick wall due to ex-defence minister Avigdor Lieberman's refusal to abandon a key demand, with his nationalist Yisrael Beitenu party's five seats just enough to torment Netanyahu.

Lieberman wants legislation he supports aimed at having ultra-Orthodox Jews perform mandatory military service, like other Jewish Israelis, to be approved without changes.

The issue is highly sensitive in Israel and the legislation is opposed by ultra-Orthodox parties, who control 16 seats in parliament and are a key part of Netanyahu's alliance.

Netanyahu sought to place full blame on Lieberman after the parliament vote, alleging he "had no intention to reach agreements and just wanted to bring down the government."

"We will have a clear and strong election campaign and win," he said. Lieberman repeatedly described his refusal to go along as a matter of principle.

He has long championed the issue and speaks out regularly against attempts by the ultra-Orthodox to impose religious

restrictions on Israeli society at large.

"Everything that was proposed, all the so-called compromises, were intended to waste time and fade out the law," Lieberman said as he entered parliament ahead of the vote.

"It's a capitulation to the ultra-Orthodox."

'Part of the left'

While the prime minister and Likud members blamed Lieberman, others pointed to Netanyahu's legal troubles as an obstacle.

The main opposition Blue and White, a centrist alliance involving several former military chiefs, said a unity deal with Likud would be possible if Netanyahu would allow someone else from his party to form a government.

Blue and White's leaders say they cannot join a government led by Netanyahu due to the corruption allegations he faces while the premier is seen as wanting partners willing to support legislation that could result in his immunity. But there was no sign of Likud members being willing to turn against Netanyahu. —AFP ■

Criminal probe launched into Hungary boat tragedy

BUDAPEST — Hungarian police said on Thursday they have launched a criminal investigation into one of the country's worst boat accidents that left seven South Korean tourists dead and 21 others missing.

The "Mermaid" sightseeing boat sank late Wednesday on the Danube river in the heart of Budapest after colliding with a larger vessel in pouring rain.

"A criminal investigation has been launched. Police are investigating at the scene," police colonel Adrian Pal told a news conference.

Police showed security camera footage from a bridge that showed the two boats colliding.

"It sank within seven seconds," Pal said of the Mermaid.

Heavy rain in the past few weeks has left the Danube swollen, and the current stronger than usual. —AFP ■

Over 750,000 EU nationals seek UK residence for Brexit

LONDON — Britain has received 750,000 applications from EU citizens seeking to settle in the UK in the first four months of 2019, with Poles leading the way, official data showed Thursday.

The government's scheme for offering an estimated 3.8 million EU nationals the right to live permanently in Britain after Brexit has been riddled with controversy.

Responding to a public outcry, Prime Minister Theresa May in January scrapped a £65 (\$82, 74-euro) fee that would have been imposed had a so-called "no-deal Brexit" gone into effect.

The programme's status has been weighed further by uncertainties over when — or even if — Britain pulls out of the EU.

The UK interior ministry said 103,000 Polish citizens had applied for permanent residence in the first four months of the year.

Romanians filed 90,000 applications and Italians 71,000,

the figures showed. Portugal and Spain rounded out the top five.

The scheme is being overseen by Home Secretary Sajid Javid, who is one of 11 declared candidates in the race to succeed May as government chief

in July.

"EU citizens are our friends, neighbours and colleagues who contribute so much to this country. Whatever the outcome of Brexit we want them to stay," Javid said in a statement.

"Our free and straightforward EU Settlement Scheme has already seen 750,000 applications — which is immensely encouraging. I hope this early success continues in the coming months." —AFP ■



Hundreds of thousands of pro-Europeans thronged London in March, 2019, calling for another referendum on EU membership. **PHOTO:AFP**

RBF supporting development of over 500 SMEs

TO help develop Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in Myanmar, the Responsible Business Fund is providing financial assistance to 504 SMEs in seven sectors.

The fund has been providing monetary assistance, particularly to innovation-related projects in seven sectors, for the development of the practice of doing business in a responsible manner. Additionally, the RBF is aiming to encourage tough competition in conducting business.

The seven sectors receiving assistance are

concerned with energy wastage, water resource utilization, disposal and recycling of waste, healthcare and security, food safety, supervision and monitoring technologies, and empirical and theoretical technologies.

The RBF is funding 50-80 per cent of the total cost of the projects in the seven sectors, said U Thar Lin Htet, Grant Manager, RBF.

“The RBF has provided 65 per cent funding to the Kaung Myat lathing and iron melting factory, which belongs to the ener-



Machinery weaving is one of the popular SMEs in Meiktila. PHOTO: CHAN THAR (MEIKTILA)

gy wastage sector. There are 504 SME entrepreneurs across the country we have been providing assistance to from the seven sectors.

Among them, 88 SMEs are based in Mandalay region. Entrepreneurs who wish to receive support from RBF need to submit quarterly

reports to us on the implementation of the projects concerned.

Then, after scrutinizing the reports, the RBF chooses SME entrepreneurs to support. Those who want to know about RBF can look up our website (www.rbfmyanmar.com) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/FCGRBF/),” he added.

“We submitted the application for our project in the energy wastage sector in October, 2018. We have received K50 million (65 per cent of the total cost

of the project) in monetary support from the RBF. We only need to focus on developing our business. We have to submit reports on the progress of work every three months. But, we don't need to give back anything in return,” said U Hla Moe Than, the owner of the Kaung Myat lathing and iron melting factory. The Ministry of Planning and Finance and the Denmark Embassy signed an agreement on 1 December, 2016 to support SMEs in Myanmar.—Than Zaw Min (IPRD) ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

Investor interest low for industrial zones outside Yangon: Yangon Region Chief Minister

By Nyein Nyein

INVESTORS have shown little interest so far in industrial zone projects in 11 townships outside the Yangon City Development Committee area, said U Phyo Min Thein, the Chief Minister of Yangon Region.

“We would like to set up industrial zones in all 11 townships. However, the

projects have not yet attracted investors. We showcased the projects at the Yangon Investment Forum and highlighted business opportunities to attract investors and pull in investments,” said U Phyo Min Thein. “At present, workers engaged in industrial zones within the YCDC area are facing problems related to accommoda-

tion and other issues, as the cost of living is higher here than outside Yangon City. If industrial zones emerge outside Yangon, local residents will not have to travel far for work,” he said. “After investments were invited for the industrial zones in 11 townships outside Yangon at the Yangon Investment Forum held on 10 May, the

Htantabin industrial zone project was signed at the forum. A Singaporean enterprise is also conducting a feasibility study for establishing an industrial zone in Hlegu Township,” said U Phyo Min Thein. He said the power infrastructure plays a pivotal role in attracting foreign investments. “Growth in investments involves

an increase in electricity consumption. We need to provide the fundamental infrastructure to investors as other regional countries — Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Laos — are competitively attracting investments. But, we have our concerns about electricity meeting the growing demand. That is a big challenge for us,”

said U Phyo Min Thein.

The 11 new industrial zones are proposed in Kawhmu, Kungyangon, Twantay, Kayan, Thongwa, Taikkyi, Hmawby, Hlegu, Thanlyin, Kyauuktan, and Htantabin townships. The area under each industrial zone is estimated at 700-1,600 acres. ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar's ice apples to penetrate international markets

ICE APPLE, also known as palm fruit, will soon be purchased from Yesagyo Township for the purpose of export. The move is expected to help save palm trees from extinction, and create job opportunities for locals, according to a representative of Green Morentum company.

“Ice apples will be purchased from Yesagyo Township in Pakokku District of Magway Region. Branch offices will be opened in Ywar Thit village, Tharsi village, Myay Phyu village,

and Kokkozu village for the purpose. We have already assigned village representatives who will purchase the toddy fruit,” said U Aye Min Tun, in charge of Myanmar ice apple sale. “Myanmar ice apples are being purchased with the aim of protecting palm trees from extinction and to create more job opportunities for villagers in Yesagyo Township. We have been trying to purchase ice apples for more than three years. We have already opened a company under the name

of Green Morentum (GM) and a factory in Myingyan Town,” he said. “In 2018, our company contacted a Chinese company and negotiated the export of two containers, each carrying 20 tons of toddy palm fruits. We have already made arrangements to export more containers in 2019. We have also received offers from European countries for purchase of ice apples,” he said.

“Countries usually buy toddy palm seeds for making apple jelly. At present, Viet Nam is producing canned ice apples, and they are selling well in the market. Our company also plans to produce value-added ice apples,” he added. A single palm tree bears 230 palm seeds. Merchants from abroad purchase only the white seeds, called ice apples, for 20 kyats per piece.—GNLM ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)



Ice apples being processed at a factory. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

MR earns revenue of K2.5 mln from tenders in Myitkyina



MYANMA RAILWAYS has earned a revenue of K2.5 million from tenders this year at the Myitkyina Railway Station in Kachin State, said U Khin Thaw, the station master. “We invited tenders for toilets, parking, and seven suppliers. The winners were selected through competitive bidding, in accordance with the rules and regulations of Myanma Railways,” he said.

Tenders for the Myitkyina Station were announced on 16 February, and the Tender Evaluation Committee selected the winning bidders on 23 February. The Myanma Railways selected nine bidders — seven vendors, one contractor for toilets, and another for parking.

“I have been selling fruits at the Myitkyina Station for 15 years. Most vendors

did not know when the tenders were announced. We cannot make a profit by purchasing fruits from the winners of the tenders. So, we sold fruits outside the station. But, we did not earn a profit. Had we known about the tender invite, we would have applied,” said Daw Wai Wai Mar, a vendor at the station. There were over 40 fruit vendors in Myitkyina Railway Station last year. Now, Myanma Railways has earned over K3.5 million through toilet tenders, K15 million through a vehicle tender, and K2.5 million through a parking tender. MR began inviting tenders from vendors from 1 April, 2018, and bidding for other facilities has been conducted for two years and six months at the Myitkyina Railway Station. —Nadi Hlaing ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

Myanmar U-22 beat K-League's Pohan Steelers 3-1 in friendly match

THE Myanmar U-22 men's national football team beat Korean League-1 club Pohan Steelers F.C. by 3-1 in a friendly match yesterday at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

Myanmar kept up the pressure on the K-League club from the kick-off and displayed good understanding of their attacking style.

Myanmar lined up with keeper Phone Thitsar Min, Ye Yint Aung, Ye Min Thu, Hein Phyo Win, Kyaw Thu Tun, Aung Naing Win, Lwin Moe Aung, Kyaw Myo Naing, Myat Kaung Khant, Win Naing Tun, and Hein Htet Aung.

With speedy attack and long passes, Myanmar earned the first goal at 23 minutes. A surprise long kick by Aung Naing Win sent the ball over several defenders and straight into the goal net, landing just beside the goalkeeper.

The goal lifted the team's spirits and Myanmar used counter attacks frequently.

Myat Kaung Khant scored



Myanmar's Hein Htet Aung (11) vies for the ball against a player from Pohan Steelers F.C. during a friendly match yesterday at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. **PHOTO: MFF**

the second goal for Myanmar with a fast delivery off Hein Phyo Win's pass, which had landed the ball in front of the

keeper.

Myanmar led the first half with a score of 2-0.

In the second half, Myanmar

changed all ten new players and tested a fresh tactic with the K-league team.

The change made team

Myanmar's playing style innovative.

Myanmar earned their third goal, with strikers Htet Phyo Wai, Aung Kaung Mhan, and Kaung Htet Soe using one-touch delivery.

Kaung Htet Soe managed to get the ball past the Pohan Steelers keeper.

The single goal for the K-League club was scored by Korean star player Kim Dong-bum.

Assisted by his team, he kicked the ball over the Myanmar Keeper.

The match ended 3-1 in favour of Myanmar.

Myanmar head coach Pobog said he was pleased with the team's performance, but they need to work on their physical play. He promised team Myanmar will get better and better.

Myanmar will next play a friendly match against the Viet Nam U-22 on 7 June, according to the Myanmar Football Federation. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Europa League Final: 'We deserved it' — Sarri toasts Chelsea's triumph over Arsenal

BAKU — Chelsea coach Maurizio Sarri insisted winning the Europa League against Arsenal in Baku was more important to the club than for the Italian personally despite it being his first major trophy in management.

"I am really very happy but the trophy is very important for the club. The name of the player and coach is less important," Sarri said after Chelsea blew away their London rivals in the second half to win 4-1.

The victory caps a season in which they finished third in the Premier League to secure a return to the Champions League before coming into this match.

Despite that, Sarri has been strongly linked with a return to Italy this summer with Juventus.

"Of course the trophy is very important because we were in trouble in January and February and then we reacted.



Chelsea's Italian head coach Maurizio Sarri (R) reacts during the UEFA Europa League final football match between Chelsea FC and Arsenal FC at the Baku Olympic Stadium in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 29 May, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

"It is not easy to do that in the Premier League because the level is really very high.

"In the end we got into the Champions League, we played the final of the League Cup and lost on penalties to Manchester City, and in the Europa League we played 15 matches and won 12 and drew three so

I think we deserved to win it."

Eden Hazard scored twice, including from the penalty spot, after Olivier Giroud and Pedro Rodriguez had netted to put the Blues in control in Azerbaijan.

Sarri added: "It is very important for me but I am really very happy for my players." —AFP ■

Myanmar-Thai Lethwei challenge to be held today in Mandalay

A Lethwei competition, featuring bouts between Myanmar and Thai fighters, will take place at 6 p.m. today at the Mandalay Thiri Lethwei Stadium in Mandalay, the last royal capital of Myanmar, according to the Myanmar Lethwei Federation.

The contest, which is being organized under the supervision of the federation, will be broadcast live on the Canal Plus Channel, according to the organizers.

The competition will feature 9 men's bouts, and three of the nine bouts will pit Myanmar players against Thailand players.

Tickets for the contest are priced at K1,000 for ordinary stand and K30,000 for VIP stand.

The widely anticipated main fight will feature Myanmar's Kyaw

Swar Win and Thailand's Flathtae.

In the second bout, Myanmar's Byat Kha will fight Bankhon.

The third main bout will pit Myanmar's Aout Chin Lay against Thailand's Phit.

In other bouts, Soe Moe Oo (Myanmar) will fight against Win Htet Aung (Myanmar), and Bwai Kar (Myanmar) will take on Thar Daie (Myanmar).

Meanwhile, Ye Win Aung (Myanmar) will fight with Nye-in Chan Moe (Myanmar), and Aung Bo Hein (Myanmar) will take on Aout Chin Thwe (Myanmar).

Antt Bwar (Myanmar) will fight with Aung Tai Maung (Myanmar), and Shwe Taung Thar (Myanmar) will face Mite Thwe (Myanmar). —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■