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## President emphasizes effective planning to reduce unnecessary expenditures



President U Win Myint delivers an address at the National Planning Commission meeting (1/2019) at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

**P**RESIDENT U Win Myint, Chairman of the National Planning Commission (NPC), addressed the commission's meeting (1/2019) held at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

### President's opening remarks

In his speech, the President said the day's meeting was held to disclose, discuss and approve the National Plan for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 before submitting it to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The President remarked that the National Plan for this

fiscal year was linked with the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP). He said the plan included programmes that were practical and immediately beneficial to the public.

The President said the National Plan needed to be considerate of the available budget. He urged everyone to filter tasks and prioritize the ones that would have the most benefit to the nation and its people, instead of planning tasks based on the budget plans.

This was why it was necessary to draw the projects and define tasks before requesting for a budget, said the President.

He said this was something the union ministries, states and regions must follow and coordinate on.

He said it was necessary to assess beyond any project or plan and consider its results and reach as a whole. It was necessary to ensure the national budget was not wasted and the results were equal in value to the government revenue spent.

He said the results would be inadequate if the planning stage for the projects was insubstantial. Instead of coalescing tasks into one mass that exceeded the capabilities of a

department, it would be better to categorize tasks in order of their importance or immediacy and implementing them gradually, said the President.

### Listing priorities & operating transparently

He said instructions have been given already to select unfinished projects that were vital to the nation and prioritize projects that would bring actual benefits to the public, increase national production and investments that guaranteed results in the future when screening new projects.

The President highlighted

the Project Bank, which aimed to organize project implementation and encourage private sector competition by making national projects public.

He said it was important to carry out tasks in line with directives of the Project Bank. He said national projects would be handled in a transparent manner through government-private cooperation via competitive tender system. He said union and subnational level agencies were required to oversee whether projects were in line with national directives.

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# President emphasizes effective planning to reduce ...

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## Developing MSMEs, GDP

The President expressed hope that the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) would develop further in the 2019-2020 FY as the National Plan aimed to improve basic infrastructure, attract more foreign investments, continue providing capital loans, increase businesses from reducing restrictions in the investment sector, and pushing forward coordination in private sector development.

He said the National Plan also intended to develop the agricultural sector, increase electric power generation and distribution, reduce power cuts for the summer of 2020, improve transportation networks and rural roads to support travel and transporting cargo, modernizing financial services and supporting emerging new ones, and further developing the hotels and travel sector.

These objectives aimed to increase Myanmar's GDP to 7 per cent in 2019-2020 FY while experts predicted GDP would rise to 6.8 per cent during the 2018-2019 FY, said the President.

He urged everyone to continue making the numerical data for statistics comprehensive and accurate so that policy tasks could be implemented effectively.

He said it was important to assess the feasibility of each project and whether it would contribute to the public and to regional and national development while refraining from damaging the environment. He said this would allow Myanmar's limited resources to be used effectively and reasonably.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi makes remarks at the National Planning Commission Meeting 1/2019. PHOTO: MNA

## State Counsellor's speech

Next, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered a speech. She said everyone must carry out their tasks in line with the MSDP to ensure socioeconomic development across the nation. She said it was hard to implement development if there was a lack of peace and stability. Therefore, it was necessary to incorporate tasks that supported these requirements while fulfilling the needs of the people, said the State Counsellor.

She said all the projects needed to be chosen for their contribution to Myanmar's sustainable development. She said the selection must be based on the procedures of the Project Bank to ensure they met set standards.

The State Counsellor urged everyone to review the lessons from the past to strengthen ad-

vantages and amend weaknesses. She said projects should not be chosen based on the avail-

towards a democratic federal republic, the states and regions needed to envision the pend-

As Myanmar is heading towards a democratic federal republic, the states and regions need to envision the pending duties and responsibilities while drafting national and regional projects coherent with the MSDP.

State Counsellor

able budget because, while finance was important, it was more important to select that which was vital.

The State Counsellor said that as Myanmar was heading

ing duties and responsibilities while drafting national and regional projects coherent with the MSDP.

The State Counsellor requested everyone to work in

unity with Union spirit while finding solutions for the challenges and potential shortcomings on the development track for the nation. She emphasized the importance of cooperation between the central and state/regional entities for driving development in every sector. She also spoke of the need to draft projects to address climate change and emerging situations.

Afterwards, National Planning Commission Secretary Union Minister U Soe Win explained the proposed draft of the 2019-2020 FY National Plan.

## President's closing speech

The President then delivered the concluding speech where he said the proposed National Plan approved during the meeting needed to be closely followed through its guidelines and assigned tasks.

He said the national expenditure would be increased this year to fulfil more public requirements and national sustainable development tasks than the previous year.

The President reminded attendees that the expenditure needed to be done in line with the framework of national policies and directives. He asked for continuous supervision during the entire implementation period of the projects.

He urged everyone to be careful from repeating weaknesses of National Plans from previous years and to carefully consider suggestions from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Everyone must work hard to fulfil the needs and wishes of the people through cooperation and unity, said the President. —MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Central Bank Governor receives Vietnamese State Bank delegation

U KYAW KYAW MAUNG, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM), received a delegation from the State Bank of Viet Nam led by its Deputy Governor, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hong, at CBM's Gangaw Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they

openly discussed national economic development, promoting economic and banking cooperation between the two countries, and the possibility of signing an MoU of cooperation between the central banks of Myanmar and Viet Nam. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



The Central Bank of Myanmar Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung meets with Vietnamese Deputy Governor Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hong at CBM's Gangaw Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA





President U Win Myint delivers an address at the Finance Commission meeting 3/2019 at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## President U Win Myint addresses Finance Commission meeting 3/2019

**P**RESIDENT U Win Myint, Chairman of the Finance Commission, addressed the Finance Commission meeting 3/2019 held yesterday morning at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

President U Win Myint said that the Finance Commission meeting was held to discuss and approve fiscal year 2019-2020 Union Budget and fiscal year 2019-2020 Union Budget Bill.

He said the Union government's term had reached by now the fourth fiscal year and fiscal years 2016-2017, 2017-2018 and six months of 2018 have been implemented while fiscal year 2018-2019 was being implemented. The strengths and weaknesses of the past fiscal years were to be reviewed and fiscal year 2019-2020 was required to be implemented in the best possible way. Funds allocated yearly to departments and organizations were required to be effective for the country and the people. The funds must reflect the economic policies set by the State, as well as the sector wise and region wise projects and strategic projects of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP).

The allocated expenses should not to be controlled by head office and works should be completed on time, and duties and responsibilities must be delegated to sub-offices with systematic expenditure management system.

Estimated expenses and actual expenses should be as close as possible. Returning too many extra funds indicates poor budget estimation capability.

A deficit to GDP ratio in excess of 5 per cent was permitted to increase the momentum of

our works in fiscal year 2019-2020. Expenditures that immediately benefit the people like electrification, road and bridge works, rural development works will be increased to raise the people's socio-economic life. On the other hand more funds would be expended on education, health and social protection works to develop the country's human resources. Therefore, Union ministerial departments and state/region governments are asked to complete important projects that can be completed and allocated funds were to be managed and used within the financial year.

Departments and organizations responsible to obtain estimated incomes are requested to strive towards achieving them. Departments that obtained foreign assistance and loans were to draw up the actual amount that can be obtained and the foreign assistance and loans were to be used according to the time table. As loans must be returned, it was required to be used without wastage.

According to fiscal year 2019-2020 National Planning

Law, total GDP increase was estimated at 7 percent. To achieve this government's expenditure plays an important role. Benefits such as increasing production and consumption, creating employment and increasing trade can be achieved by union level and state/region level departmental organizations expending ordinary and capital expenditures allocated. In other words the Union government was increasing the economic development momentum by increasing expenditure.

The President said the fiscal year 2019-2020 budget of union ministerial departments and organizations and the fiscal year 2019-2020 Union Budget Bill that will be explained by Finance Commission Secretary Union Minister for Planning and Finance must be discussed and approved by the Finance Commission in order to send it to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in a timely manner.

Next, Finance Commission Vice-Chairman Vice-President U Myint Swe pointed out facts such as a deficit to GDP ratio in

excess of 5 per cent permitted, changing the format of allocating emergency fund in Union Budget Law and change in financial management process of State Owned Economic Enterprises before submitting the assessment status of fiscal year 2019-2020 Union budget.

In fiscal year 2019-2020 more expenditure would be expended compared to the previous years on education, health and social protection works to develop the country's human resources. More emphasis would be placed towards increasing expenditures that were required for the State like electrification, road and bridge works and rural development works. Union level departments and organizations were to complete the ongoing projects within the fiscal year. These projects were to be included in the national plan and implemented in connection with MSDP.

On the matter of reallocating emergency fund, instead of allocating K 100 billion to respond quickly to natural disasters and conduct relief works

quickly K 50 billion would be allocated to the center while K 50 billion would be allocated to union ministerial departments and states and regions. Unforeseeable occurrence of natural disasters and matters in which expenditures must be expended are to be conducted according to work procedures.

Financial management of state-own economic enterprises (SEE) will be changed starting from fiscal year 2019-2020. SEE operating with Union Fund Account, SEE Account and Other Account is to have only UFA-SEE Account only. If the account had profit, they would have to pay income tax and all the remaining profit will have to be allocated as contribution towards the State. UFA (OA) accounts would be audited and systematically closed.

The assessed and closed fiscal year 2019-2020 budget had an income of K 25,313 billion and expenditure of K 32,340 billion. The total deficit was K 7,027 billion and deficit to GDP ratio was 5.9 per cent.

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Vice President U Myint Swe makes remarks at the Finance Commission meeting 3/2019 at the Presidential Palace. **PHOTO: MNA**



Vice President U Henry Van Thio makes remarks at the Finance Commission meeting 3/2019 at the Presidential Palace. **PHOTO: MNA**



## President addresses Finance Commission meeting 3/2019

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This income and expenditure included foreign assistance of K 704 billion and foreign loans of K 2,625 billion. Support from Union fund towards deficit of states and regions were K 2,114 billion and were K 320 billion more than the past year's support.

K 350 billion would be allocated as tax share. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw development fund would be K 32 billion, the same amount as past years. Budget drawn up and submitted by states and regions based on Union support of K 2,114 billion in fiscal year 2019-2020 budget was total income of K 1,211 billion, total expenditure of K 3,325 billion and a deficit of K 2,114 billion.

Prior to submitting state/region budget estimates to the Finance Commission the assessment of the Finance Commission was made and states and regions ordinary expenditure totaled K 995 billion and capital expenditure totaled K 2,330 billion.

In assessing the states and regions, instruction was given to prioritize expenditure on regional development and reduce expenditures on offices, guest houses, staff houses and vehicle purchases.

State and region governments had submitted that visible and priority works for the people would be conducted. The submissions were noted and would be coordinated with the Union. The state and regions were urged to ensure the timely completion of projects, reduce fund usage through change of account headings and avoid refunding huge amounts of excess funds.

The Vice President then said the budget estimate for fiscal year 2019-2020 drawn up and submitted by the states and regions were to be discussed, reviewed and approved by the Finance Commission. Afterwards Finance Commission secretary Union Minister U Soe Win explained about fiscal year 2019-2020 budget and fiscal year 2019-2020 Union Budget Bill. Finance Commission members Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and state/region chief ministers then discussed in support of fiscal years 2019-2020 Union Budget and fiscal year 2019-2020 Union Budget Bill.

Following the discussion, the President and Finance Commission Chairman said the day's Finance Commission 3/2019 approved the fiscal year 2019-2020

Union Budget and fiscal year 2019-2020 Union Budget Bill and with the approval of the Finance Commission the Union Government would submit it to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in accordance with the law on drawing up and submitting the Union budget.

The budget submitted would be assessed by Hluttaw committees and would be discussed by Hluttaw representatives. The Joint Public Accounts Committee would submit its assessment and observation report. Similarly state/region Hluttaw budgets would be assessed according to the law by the relevant state/region Hluttaws. If Hluttaws raised questions for assessment, relevant departments and organizations were required to provide detailed, complete and solid explanations. All stages of the budget process starting from drawing up, assessment, implementation and report on implementation were to be conducted systematically and with utmost care.

Union level departments and organizations, state/region departments and organizations estimating incomes were to earmark the estimated incomes as minimum amount and strive towards obtaining more income. In the same way, allocated expenses were to be considered as the maximum expenses and strive towards completing the works while reducing the expenses as much as possible.

The President and Finance Commission Chairman spoke of the need to be transparent in budget acquisition and usage, all utilizations to be according to financial management and regulations, the need to conduct systematic audits with internal audits, systematically undertaking the inspection of the Union Auditor General and to conduct budget matters while taking full responsibilities. The following dignitaries attended the above meeting: State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Finance Commission Vice-Chairmen, Vice-Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Commission Secretary Union Minister U Soe Win, Commission members the Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, the Union Auditor-General U Maw Than, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Chief Ministers from states and regions and officials.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

## State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to visit Thailand in near future

AT the invitation of General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.), Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will leave for Thailand in the near future to attend the 34<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit.—MNA

## State Counsellor receives Daw Aung San Suu Kyi Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Vuong Dinh Hue at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

H.E. DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received H.E. Mr. Vuong Dinh Hue, Deputy Prime Minister and Member of the Politburo Committee of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 17 June 2019 at 3:30 p.m.

At the meeting, the

State Counsellor and Deputy Prime Minister of Viet Nam discussed matters pertaining to the promotion of bilateral relations, trade and investment, exchange of visits between the leaders of the two countries and to maintain and strengthen the friendly bilateral relations by enhancing people to people contact.

Also present at the meet-

ing were U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, U Min Thu, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government, Deputy Ministers U Hla Kyaw, U Thar Oo, U Aung Htoo and Senior Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador of Viet Nam to Myanmar, H.E. Dr. Luan Thuy Duong and Senior Officials from Viet Nam.—MNA ■



## VP U Myint Swe, Vietnamese Deputy PM discuss bilateral cooperation

U MYINT SWE, Vice President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held bilateral talks with Mr. Vuong Dinh Hue, Deputy Prime Minister and Member of the Politburo Committee of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 17 June 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

At the meeting, Vice President U Myint Swe and Deputy Prime Minister of Viet Nam Mr. Vuong Dinh Hue cordially discussed matters on promoting bilateral relations and cooperation, cooperation in various sectors such as trade, investment, agriculture, telecommunications, construction, energy, transportation, banking and security for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

Present at the meeting were U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, Deputy Ministers U Tin Myint, U Hla Kyaw, U Thar Oo, U Aung Htoo, U Maung Maung Win, U Soe Aung and Deputy



Vice President U Myint Swe holds talks with Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Vuong Dinh Hue at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Soe Thein, Permanent Secretaries of the ministries and Senior Officials from the respective Ministries, and Deputy Ministers and Senior Officials from concerned Ministries of Viet Nam.—MNA

## Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism calls for community-based tourism development in Shan State

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism and Chairman of the Tourism Committee, U Ohn Maung, attended meeting (2/2019) of the Shan State Border Area Tourism Committee (SSBATC) held at the State cabinet office on 15 June.

The Union Minister first delivered a speech where he said his ministry has set the Look-East policy and Look-West policy to attract foreign tourists. He said they have coordinated with related ministries to relax some visa restrictions.

He said the ministry has set up a digital marketing taskforce and is increasing its cyber activities, adding that he wants the states and regions to follow suit.

The Union Minister said they have invited GTMH Telecom company to explain technical assistance for developing the tourism sector in Nyaungshwe.

He said there is a need to supervise hotels and tourism businesses in Shan State so that they may operate in accordance with the law.

The Union Minister said it is necessary to develop com-

munity based tourism in the state as well. He said they are working towards implementing a star rating system to ensure hotels are up to standard. He said they are hiring domestic and international experts for this task.

Next, SSBATC Vice-Chairman, Shan State Minister for Planning and Finance, U Soe Nyunt Lwin, reported the ongoing tasks for sustainable development of Shan State's tourism sector.

After the meeting, the Union Minister a meeting with hoteliers and related associations held at the Township General Administration Department in Nyaungshwe.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said his ministry is transitioning tourism development tasks over to the online system. He urged local hotels to make extensive use of the Online Guest List Management System.

The Union Minister called for the need to implement community based tourism in remote areas far from hotels via the

PPP model. He urged everyone to exercise careful consideration as the tourism sector is heavily service-oriented.

Next, Dr. Tun Hlaing, Intha Ethnic Affairs Minister, reported the necessary tasks for local organizations and the public to

cooperate on to ensure sustainable tourism development.

Afterwards, U Myat Ko Ko Sein of GTMH Telecom explained on the technical assistance to be provided for developing tourism in Nyaungshwe. This was followed by the Hlut-

law representatives, departmental officials, businesspersons and associations raising questions to which the Union Minister and officials provided clarifications.—MNA

*(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*



Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung attends the meeting of the Shan State Border Area Tourism Committee on Saturday, calling for community-based tourism in Shan State. **PHOTO: MNA**



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## Sittway farmers granted over K13 bln in loans for growing rice in rain-fed fields

THE Myanma Agricultural Development Bank has disbursed more than K13 billion in loans to farmers in Sittway Township for planting rice in rain-fed fields this year.

"Out of the 26 Village-tracts in the township, farmers from 24 Village-tracts have obtained loans at K150,000 per acre so far. Farmers can get loans for up to 10 acres of land," said U Kyan Gyi, the Manager of the Sittway branch Myanma Agricultural Development Bank.

The bank branch has been disbursing agricultural loans to Sittway rice farmers since 13 May, covering over 1,700 farmers cultivating rice on 9,100 acres of land. The bank had disbursed more than K15 billion to farmers in Sittway last year and has so far recovered 99 per cent of the loans.

Agricultural loans for cultivating rice in rain-fed fields are disbursed no later than September, and farmers who have Land Use Form-7 are eligible to obtain



Local farmers gather at the Sittway branch Myanma Agricultural Development Bank to get loans for planting rice in rain-fed fields in Sittway Township. **PHOTO: HAN MIN**

the loans, which are granted at an interest of 8 per cent per annum.

Farmers have been granted loans at an interest rate of 8 per cent. However, those who fail to pay back their loans within the

set time frame are required to pay one kyat per month as fine, according to the bank.

Statistics show the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation has issued Form-7s to

more than 6 million farmers.

Last year, paddy was planted on 7,137 acres of farmland, with the yield topping 5.8 million baskets.—Han Min

(Translated by GNLM)

## Minister takes stock of development works in Myitta Township



Taninthayi Region Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Hla Htway inspects a mining site at Heinda village in Myitta Township. **PHOTO: MYITTA IPRD**

THE Taninthayi Region Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, U Hla Htway, inspected a mining site operated by Myanmar Pongpipat Co. Ltd at Heinda Village in Myitta Township of Taninthayi Region on Sunday.

The minister met with the Managing Director of the company, Mr. Kraingkrai Chavaltanpipat, General Manager U Khine Swam, Heinda mining manager U Htay Aung, and

other officials from the company.

During the meeting, Minister U Hla Htway gave instructions to ensure that there is no environmental fallout from lead mining at the Heinda mine and promote occupational safety.

Afterwards, Mr. Kraingkrai Chavaltanpipat explained the lead mining production process, planting of trees such as casuarina and Oreashar

Padauk to mitigate the negative environmental impact of the project, measures being taken for preventing occupational hazards, and safety arrangements for emergencies.

Thereafter, the minister, accompanied by the concerned personnel, toured Sides B and C of the MPC Company. The minister and his party left Heinda Village for Dawei Town at 2.20 p.m. —Myitta IPRD

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## Water scarcity leads to drop in cabbage yield, price rise

THE production of cabbage has declined due to extreme heat and water shortage in Aungban of southern Shan State, which, in turn, has led to a low supply of the vegetable in the Yangon market in the second week of June, driving up prices.

With large cabbages priced at K3,500 per viss (1.6kg), most restaurants have replaced the vegetable with papaya and onion. Some spring rolls sellers have currently suspended operations as the price of cabbage has doubled in the market, according to one seller.

When the wholesale price of cabbage stood at K3,700 per viss in December, 2015, the price ranged between K500-1,000 for one cabbage, depending on the size. At present, onions are priced at K800-K850 per viss, and the price of cabbage has risen to K500-600 from K200-K250.

Cabbage cannot be cultivated in regions with scarce water supply. Although the price of cabbage has increased due to low yield, it is expected to fall in July.—Khin Sai

(Translated by La Wonn)



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## We must establish an inclusive society for the nation to flourish

EVERYONE around the world is working hard for equal rights and opportunities. The need to endeavor for equality is because there is still a lot of discrimination among people. The truth is, all people are equal. But, some humans continue to segregate others on the basis of wealth and status.

Since ancient times, people have separated each other into groups of different social status, sects, and lineages that have resulted in some of the worst abuse and perpetuated inferiority in many. Yet, despite the advances in technology and civilization as a whole, the modern world is still fraught with discrimination. There is discrimination based on wealth, gender and disability.

Among these segregations, people living with disabilities (PLWDs) are outcasted the most when it comes to education and employment opportunities. This is why Myanmar has enacted laws and bylaws in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and is working tirelessly to implement the rights ensured in these laws.

Slowly but surely, people of all races, faiths and physical or mental impairments will be fully integrated into society and become part of the valuable human resource that serves as the foundation of a strong democratic federal republic.

There are many reasons for disabilities. A person can be born with them or they could be the result of an unfortunate incident. Regardless, they are still people with the same beating hearts and thoughtful brains as the global population. Lack of empathy and wisdom can lead to PLWDs ostracized by their communities.

However, PLWDs have a greater resilience than the average person and work extra hard to take their place in society. Though they may be 'disabled' they are very much capable.

The Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (2018-2030) has three pillars in its framework and the third pillar focuses on people and planet with goal 4 specifically targeting towards human resources and social development for a 21st Century society. This includes everyone, including PLWDs. Their success in education, careers and other aspects of life will be supported through the MSDDP.

The development plan also includes financial support programmes for PLWDs and the unemployed. Relevant ministries and organizations have formed committees and are pursuing the objectives outlined in MSDDP.

Because of socioeconomic inequality, PLWDs are more vulnerable to poverty and lack access to many opportunities that every citizen is entitled to. But now, the government is pressing onward with laws and bylaws that guarantee equality for PLWDs and the same gusto from the community has pushed development for people living with disabilities to a satisfying degree.

Slowly but surely, people of all races, faiths and physical or mental impairments will be fully integrated into society and become part of the valuable human resource that serves as the foundation of a strong democratic federal republic.



# Economic growth through coordination

By Maung Than Win Shwe



MYANMAR now is gaining acceleration in its move towards reaching the age of robust economic growth. The new economic formation began in 2017, under the Myanmar Companies Act. The country is also writing partnership law in accord with the prevailing situation. After undergoing a step-by-step reform process, the Union of Myanmar Investment Law (2016) was enacted, and the country has been attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) through it.

The most important part of the economic strategy is the warmer international relations Myanmar has been enjoying since 2016. This positive trend has paved the way for the establishment of foreign banks and insurance companies in the country, which can be said the dawn of the new economic age. We hope that we will certainly reach the stage of welcoming international capital flows.

### Projects to shape the economy

The Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan-MSDP (2018-2030) is being implemented through various modules including the public-private partnership (PPP), State budget allotments, development aids, and other financial assistance.

Public-private partnership (PPP) is a funding model for a public infrastructure project such as a new telecommunications system, airport or power plant. The public partner is represented by the government at a local, state and/or national level. The private partner can be a privately-owned business, public corporation or consortium of businesses with a specific area of expertise. Different models of PPP funding are characterized by which partner is responsible for owning and maintaining assets at different stages of the project. Examples of PPP models include:

1. Build-Own-Operate (BOO): The private-sector partner finances, builds, owns and operates the infrastructure component in perpetuity. The public-sector partner's constraints are stated in the original agreement and

through ongoing regulatory authority.

2. Build-operate-transfer (BOT) or build-own-operate-transfer (BOOT): It is a form of project financing, wherein a private entity receives a concession from the private or public sector to finance, design, construct, own, and operate a facility stated in the concession contract.

3. Build-Transfer-Lease (BTL): A lease P3 involves the public owner leasing a facility to a private firm. The private company must operate and provide maintenance for the facility per specified terms, including additions or a remodeling process.

4. Under a build-transfer-operate P3, the private partner builds the facility and transfers it to the public partner. The public partner then leases operation of the facility to the private party under a long-term lease agreement.

## PPP

Public Private Partnership

5. Operation and maintenance (O&M): With an operation and maintenance P3, the private component of the partnership operates and maintains the project, while the public agency acts as the owner of the project. Examples of these contracts include bridges and tollways. Ongoing maintenance may provide revenue for the private party through tolls or other fees paid through public use.

6. PPP also involves Design-Build-Operate and Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Transfer models. Design build-operate P3s are similar to design-build P3s but include ongoing operation and maintenance of the property facility or

Debt to Equity Ratio. In making Environmental Impact Assessment and Social Impact Assessment of the PPP projects, all the existing laws, with, 2012 Environmental Conservation Law as the foundation, and rules, regulations and directives in force must be observed. PPP projects can get share loans or foreign loans in accord with the provisions of Foreign Currency Management Law (2012).

### Stipulations of the agreement

In reaching agreements that are related to the PPP project, the party to the agreement can adopt the Availability Payments, BOO, BOT, BTL, BTO, O & M or other PPP models to share the cost of possible risk.

The Governing Law of the agreements should be the existing law of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Arbitration Rules can include international arbitration rights, which are in conformity with the 2016 Arbitration Law of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the provisions of the agreements. The organizations concerned must state the relinquishment of their Waiver of Immunity from Jurisdiction and Execution by Statute in the agreements in implementing the PPP projects. The PPP has stood as a new model in today's economic system. There are many examples of rapid economic progress gained by the developed countries for the broader use of the model.

### Economic reform

Myanmar is strictly complying with the Standard Operating Procedures while carrying out economic reforms, with might and main. Without coordination, investments will not be meaningful. We must take the economic thrust from both the internal and external sources. So, coordination is a must in the economic sector. Placing both the Horizontal Coordination and Vertical Coordination in the right position is a new model that will surely benefit the PPP Economic management, the rule of law, systematic budgeting system and increase in investment are basic requirements for economic growth of a nation.

(Translated by TMT)

## President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures acting on tip-offs

THE Office of the President issued Press Release No. 23/2019 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 15 June.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 15 June.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 19 June issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar.—GNLM



### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2019)

**BAY INFERENCE** : Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2019** : Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, Shan and Chin States and widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavyfalls in Bago, Yangon, Ayeeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**STATE OF THE SEA** : Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (8-10)feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS** : Likelihood of increase of rain in Coastal areas.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2019** : Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2019** : Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2019** : Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



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## 10,000 tons of rice stockpiled at Muse to be sent to China: traders



A truck is loaded with sacks of rice for export to China. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

By Nyein Nyein

PREPARATIONS are under way to export 10,000 tons of the total rice stockpiled at the Muse gate to China, said U Min Thein, the vice chair of the Muse rice depot.

The move follows discussions between China and Myanmar businesses, during which, they agreed upon the export of rice to China through the legal trade channel.

“Even though businessmen from the two countries have reached an agreement on exporting 10,000 tons of rice (or, 200,000 bags of rice), the price is K3,000-4,000 lower than the prevailing market rate for a bag of rice. At present, those rice varieties are priced above K20,000 per bag,” said U Min Thein.

“We are facing trading losses, but we can't help selling the rice at a reduced rate as it has been sitting at the Muse gate. We are looking at a loss of K3,000-4,000 per bag,” he added.

Traders are selling at a loss to deal with the rice pile-up at the Muse gate, according to the Muse depot.

“As rice from Muse will flow into China legally under a mutual trade agreement between China and Myanmar companies, more legitimate channels will hopefully open up in future. However, we are not happy with the current price gap,” said U Than Oo, secretary, Bayintnaung rice depot.

Myanmar primarily exports rice to China through the border gates. However, trade in agricul-

tural products has been halted on account of China clamping down on illegal trade. Therefore, Myanmar could export just 500,000 tons of rice to China in the first eight months (Oct-May) of the current fiscal year, which is half the volume registered in the year-ago period.

During the State Counsellor's visit to Beijing for the second OBOR forum in April, the two governments agreed on Myanmar shipping 100,000 tons of rice through the maritime route to China under a government-to-government (G-to-G) agreement.

Export of rice under the G2G pact is slated for October this year, said U Aung Htoo, the Deputy Minister for Commerce. *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

## Imports exceed exports in Myanmar's trade with Singapore in Oct-Apr

THE value of Myanmar's imports surpassed exports in bilateral trade with Singapore in the first seven months (October-April) of the current fiscal year, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

Singapore is Myanmar's second largest trading partner in the region, after Thailand. Between October and April, Myanmar's exports to Singapore were valued at US\$315.8 million, while imports were pegged at \$1.9 billion, with

trade totalling \$2.23 billion.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, footwear, textiles and clothing, minerals and animal products to Singapore, while it imports plastic, fuel oil, capital goods, intermediate goods, consumer products, metals, and chemicals.

Myanmar's bilateral trade with Singapore was registered at \$1.9 billion during the last mini-budget, \$3.83 billion in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, and \$2.96 billion in the 2016-2017FY.

Twenty Singapore-listed enterprises brought in more than \$1.57 billion in investments in the October-April period, according to data released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

In addition, Singapore topped the list of countries with the largest FDIs in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, followed by Japan and Thailand. —Mon Mon *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

## Gold gets sheen back, domestic prices up on positive global cues

WITH gold surging to US\$1,337 per ounce in the global market, the price of the yellow metal in the domestic market touched a high of K1,082,700 per tical (0.578 ounce or, 0.016 kilogram) on 17 June, according to the Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

Gold gained in the global market on the back of an escalating trade war between the US and China.

On 1 June, the price of gold stood at K1,048,000 per tical. Thereafter, the price has seen fluctuations, finally crossing K1,081,000 last Friday.

Domestic gold price is positively linked to global gold price. With global gold price climbing up, the domes-

tic price has hit fresh peaks this year.

According to gold traders, in the month of January, the domestic gold price reached its lowest level of K1,043,400 on 1 January and the highest level of K1,061,000 on 31 January. It hit a low of K1,058,400 on 2 February and a high of K1,087,300 on 20 February. In March, the lowest price recorded was K1,048,600 (30 March) and the highest was K1,069,000 (21 March). In April, gold price touched a low of K1,037,200 on 24 April and a high of K1,054,700 on 11 April. The lowest price for gold in May was K1,035,200 (2 May) and the highest was K1,059,200 (14 May). —GNLM

*(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*



Gold jewellery displayed on a shop in downtown Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

## Thailand tops \$3 bln among regional trade in seven months

THE value of trade between Myanmar and the neighbouring country Thailand reached US\$3 billion from October, 2018 to April, 2019 of the current fiscal year, comprising export worth \$1.86 billion and import valued \$1.23 billion, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Thailand tops on regional trade line-up with the largest trade value, followed by Singapore.

Myanmar's main export items are fishery products such as crab, fish and shrimp,

as well as onions, sesame, dry tea leaves, coconut and turmeric, while consumer goods, cosmetic machinery, food products, while agricultural equipment and truck cars are imported into the country from Thailand.

Bilateral trade was registered at \$2.95 billion in the past mini-budget period, \$5 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, \$4.28 billion in the 2016-2017 FY and \$4.86 billion in the 2015-16 FY respectively. —GNLM

*(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*



## Paper reading on translation from Myanmar into English to be held in August

A paper reading session on translating from Myanmar into English will be held in the last week of August at the head office of the News and Periodicals Enterprise on Theinbyu Road in Yangon.

A second coordination meeting on conducting the event was held at the Printing and Publishing Department on Theinbyu Road in Yangon yesterday.

The participants of the meeting tentatively selected the titles of the papers and resource persons and confirmed that the event will be held for

two days.

The committee will also invite papers on translating economic and legal affairs.

The meeting was attended by experts from the Myanmar Studies Group. The paper reading session is to be organized by the Ministry of Information.

The paper reading session is aimed at developing translation works in Myanmar, sharing the art of translation, promoting production of high-quality translated literary works and producing new generation of translators.—MNA

(Translated by GNLM)



Second coordination meeting held at the Printing and Publishing Department on Theinbyu Road in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Nearly 8,000 cattle vaccinated against foot-and-mouth disease in NyaungU Township

NyaungU Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and the World Health Organization jointly carried out a foot-and-mouth vaccination program in NyaungU Township from 5<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> June.

Being the sixth programme since launching in 2016, the number of cattle

which received the vaccination reached over 7,950 cattle in 64 villages, according to Dr. Aung Lin of the NyaungU Township Veterinary Department.

This programme was carried out in 24 townships in Mandalay and Sagaing regions.—Ye Win Naing (NyaungU)



A veterinarian vaccinating cattle in a village in NyaungU Township. **PHOTO: YE WIN NAING (NYAUNGU)**



Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Vuong Dinh Hue visits Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister visits Nay Pyi Taw

A Vietnamese delegation led by Mr. Vuong Dinh Hue, Deputy Prime Minister and Member of the Politburo Committee of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, who is paying a working visit to Myanmar, visited Uppatasanti Pagoda and Myanma

Gems Museum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister and delegation first visited Uppatasanti Pagoda and offered flowers, water and other offertories to the the Buddha images.

From there, the delegation arrived at the gems museum and observed the gems, jades, pearl and silver on display in the museum and gems market.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)

## Thai tourists drive into Myanmar via Tachilek border

A LARGER number of tourists are visiting Myanmar these days, attracted by the nation's scenic beauty, eco-tourism sites, and archaeological sites. Culture-based tours which allow tourists to observe the traditions, customs, and cultural mores of the ethnic people are also proving popular among travellers.

Tourists are arriving by air, sea, and land. Of late, tourists from other countries have also been arriving on vehicles, motorbikes, and bicycles.

A Thai tour group comprising 34 tourists drove into Myanmar through the Tachilek border gate on 23 May in their own cars. They visited Myanmar under an arrangement with the Miraculous Myanmar Travel and Tours Co. Ltd, and under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

The tourists visited places of interest in Myanmar from 23 to 26 May, and during their tour, they purchased souvenirs, which

helped boost the income of local shopkeepers.

The tourists took the Tachilek-Kengtung-Maha Muni pagoda-Wutzunkan pagoda-Myoma market-Nat Taung lake-Yat Taw Mu pagoda route. They also visited well-known tourist spots in those towns.

They headed back to Thai-

land via the Tachilek border gate on 26 May.

To attract more travellers, the authorities are establishing new tourist sites and have relaxed some restrictions, with the result that more tourists are visiting important places of cultural interest in Myanmar.—GNLM

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Thai tourists pose for a photograph together with local people. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**



## Argentina, Uruguay restore power after massive blackout



A woman prepares milk bottles by candle lights at her home in Montevideo during a massive power failure. **PHOTO: AFP**

BUENOS AIRES (Argentina) — Electricity services have been restored to all of Argentina and Uruguay following a massive blackout that left around 48 million people without power on Sunday, authorities said.

The cut, which began just after 7:00 am, also caused short, localized losses of power in Paraguay, but didn't impact Tierra del Fuego in Argentina's extreme south because the region is not part of the national system.

The episode was the first time a power cut had affected the majority of Argentina, with a population of more than 44 mil-

lion, and the entirety of Uruguay, which has 3.4 million inhabitants.

"These are failures that occur (even) with diligence. The amazing thing is the chain of events that took place to cause the total disconnection," Argentina's Energy Ministry Gustavo Lopetegui told a press conference.

He said the outage took place "automatically to protect the system." "We don't have any more information right now on how it occurred. We're not ruling out any possibility, but a cyber attack is not among the main alternatives being considered."

### Hospitals, clinics on generators

Argentina's energy secretariat had earlier said the "interconnection system" had "collapsed," producing "a massive power cut" for which its generators had been unable to compensate, but that the causes had not been determined.

Sources from the official energy agency of Paraguay, which borders Argentina to the northeast, told AFP that cuts there had been "momentary."

A spokesperson for RGE, the biggest energy distributor in Brazil's southern Rio Grande do Sul state that borders both Argentina and Uruguay, said they'd had no reports of cuts.

Earlier in the day, power had returned to some sectors of Buenos Aires but the metro and trains were still halted.

Public hospitals and private clinics were running on generators.

"The only inconvenience is the elevators. We only have one working, but all services are operating without problems," said an employee at the Fernandez Hospital.—AFP ■

## Europe's air forces risk falling behind as US and China bulk up

PARIS (France)— As European leaders prepare to formalise Monday the launch of a next-generation combat jet, analysts warn the continent's air forces are increasingly outpaced by American and soon Chinese aerospace industries that are swimming in cash.

President Emmanuel Macron will attend the opening of the Paris Air Show where the defence ministers of France, Germany and Spain will sign the cooperation framework for the Future Combat Air System (FCAS).

The new jet is part of a broader push to unify Europe's military might and reduce its reliance on US equipment, and the project will also include drones and cruise missiles.

It will be spearheaded by Airbus and France's Dassault Aviation, which aim to have the plane in the skies by 2040, and other nations might sign on as well.



France's Dassault, producer of the Rafale fighter jet, is one firm involved in the Future Combat Air System project designed to reduce European reliance on US equipment. **PHOTO: AFP**

Yet the jet already has a rival on home turf — Britain's Tempest stealth fighter project, which Italy and the Netherlands have also joined.

And European defence spending still lags far behind the billions being spent in the US as well as China, which has made no secret of wanting to bulk up its military muscle.

European firms also face much bigger American rivals, underscored by the

mega-merger of Raytheon and United Technologies announced earlier this month.

"There's an increasingly glaring imbalance between the way Europe is constructing its aeronautic, space and defence industry, and that way it's happening in the two blocs that are challenging it, the United States and China," said Philippe Plouvier at the Boston Consulting Group in Paris.—AFP ■

## Former first lady Torres takes lead in Guatemala presidential vote



Former first lady Sandra Torres has pledged health and education reforms as well as jobs to stem the flow of migrants to the US. **PHOTO: AFP**

GUATEMALA CITY (Guatemala)—Former first lady Sandra Torres was in the lead after partial results early Monday from Guatemala's presidential election, following a tumultuous campaign that saw two leading candidates barred and the top electoral crimes prosecutor flee the corruption-weary country.

With 49 per cent of votes counted after Sunday's polls, Torres was on just under 24 per cent while her closest rival Alejandro Giammattei was on 15 percent, the Electoral Supreme Court (TSE) said.

With a crowded field of 19 candidates, counting has been slow and no one is expected to poll more than the 50 per cent required to avoid a runoff on 11 August.

After casting her ballot, Torres, of the center-left Unity of Hope party (UNE), said she was "optimistic, we've worked hard... I'll be the first woman president."

Her closest rival, Giammattei, a doctor from the conservative VAMOS party, denounced an "irregular" electoral process after several candidates were excluded from the race to succeed unpopular outgoing president Jimmy Morales.

Morales had called on Guatemalans to turn out in droves to vote, but when he did so he was accosted by a young man who blasted him for being "the worst president in Guatemala's history."

Morales, sporting a Guatemala football jersey, kept his calm, replying: "May God bless you, my friend."

Voting went smoothly, apart

from a few isolated exceptions, the TSE said.

In San Jorge, a town in the eastern Zacapa department where drug traffickers are particularly active, voting had to be suspended due to death threats made against electoral authorities, Interior Minister Enrique Degenhart said.

Eight million Guatemalans were eligible to vote and some 40,000 police were on duty for the election, with the military deployed to guard "critical points", including prisons.

Separately, police arrested former general Luis Mendoza in the town of Salama after he had cast his ballot.

He is accused of participating in massacres of indigenous people during Guatemala's civil war from 1960 to 1996.

### Gangs, poverty, migrants

Gang violence, poverty and news of the streams of US-bound Guatemalan migrants dominated campaigning.

The country's top anti-corruption campaigner, former attorney general Thelma Aldana, is not among the candidates.

She was expected to poll strongly, but was barred from running last month over allegations of irregularities dating from when she was a barnstorming public prosecutor.

Torres, a 63-year-old businesswoman, led opinion polls but was a polarizing figure from her years as first lady, and analysts believe she would struggle in a second round, given Giammattei's ability to unify the conservative vote against her.—AFP ■



## Businesses clamor for Trump's ear as \$300 bln in new China tariffs loom

WASHINGTON (United States) — Washington is planning another tidal wave of tariffs on Chinese imports that represent a worst-case scenario for markets and major industries on both sides of the Pacific.

And on Monday, seven days of public hearings are due to begin as major businesses issue their loudest warnings yet about layoffs, lost business and America's waning industrial predominance.

Some industries, such as steel and aluminum producers, have benefited from President Donald Trump's trade policies and strongly support tariffs.

But the lion's share so far are pleading with his administration to spare the imports they depend on — if not to step back from the brink of an unprecedented all-out trade conflict that economists say would prove dire for global growth.

Should they take effect, the newest \$300 billion round of tariffs — which follow last month's sudden crackup in trade negotiations with Beijing — would mean stinging duties cover just about all of the more than half trillion dollars in goods that Americans buy from China every year.

Major trade bodies share Trump's principle grievances with Beijing, accusing it of rampant industrial espionage and

massive state intervention in markets.

But in a letter to Trump on Thursday, hundreds of US companies large and small, including retail giants Target and Walmart, warned Trump the new tariff round could cost two million jobs and cut US GDP growth by a full percentage point. So far, Trump has imposed tariffs on more than \$250 billion in Chinese goods but this has spared most consumer items from major price increases.

Still, William Reinsch, a trade policy expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, told AFP the new tariffs were likely to pinch ordinary consumers far more.

"Unlike the previous times, I think there'll be a sharp negative reaction from the public," he said. "If these things go into effect in July, what you're going to see is fairly immediate price increases on a whole bunch of things right at the point where people are gearing up to shop for the fall season, for winter clothes and for Christmas."

Trump has pinned hopes for resolving the impasse on a planned meeting with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping later this month at the Group of 20 summit in Japan.

### America makes no tea

Should Xi fail to attend, Trump told CNBC

this week, he could impose the new tariffs "immediately" — although the period for public comment on the tariffs extends beyond the conclusion of the summit.

At the hearings, more than 300 people are scheduled to testify. And the US Trade Representative's office has collected more than 1,200 written comments and requests to appear in person.

"We are not able to quickly or simply shift all manufacturing to other sourcing countries, resulting in price increases for the average US consumer," wrote Patrice Louvet, CEO of Ralph Lauren Corporation. "This ultimately undermines American competitiveness."

Oilfield services giant Halliburton warned of job cuts and decreased US oil-and-gas exploration if duties rise to 25 per cent on barite, a key mineral used in drilling fluids for which China has the world's largest reserves. Smaller businesses also came forward.

"We would like it to be known that the retail segment of the economy is preparing for a big hit and pray that the present administration consults God," said an anonymous retailer in western Kentucky that imports outdoor seating and artificial Christmas trees, among other items, but supported Trump's trade policies overall.—AFP ■



Chinese shipping containers unloaded at the Port of Los Angeles in Long Beach, California in May 2019. PHOTO: AFP

## Facebook to unveil new cryptocurrency

LONDON (United Kingdom)— Facebook is set Tuesday to unveil a bid to bring cryptocurrency payments into the mainstream, reportedly with the endorsement of governments and financial giants.

The world's biggest social network is expected to outline details of a virtual currency launching next year that it hopes will avoid the rollercoaster volatility of "blockchain" technologies such as bitcoin.

Facebook is setting up a consortium called "Libra" which, according to the Wall Street Journal, has been joined by more than a dozen companies including Visa, Mastercard, PayPal and Uber.

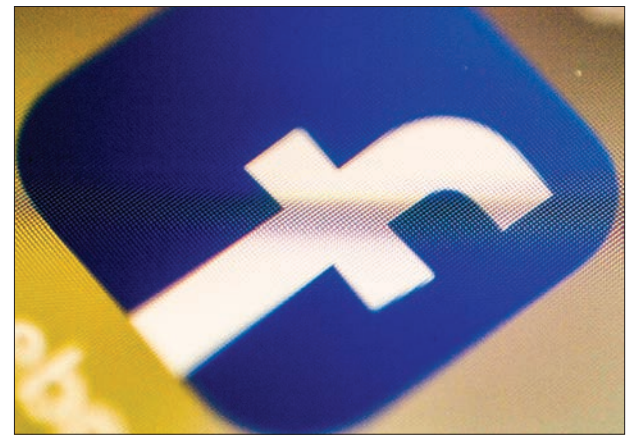
The companies along with venture capitalists

and telecommunications firms will reportedly invest around \$10 million each into the consortium.

Facebook has been trying to ward off hostile regulatory scrutiny after a series of privacy abuses and the spread of fake news. The consortium will be managed externally and

seek to build trust among consumers by pegging the virtual coin to a basket of currencies including the dollar and euro, the Journal said.

Facebook has already sought blessings from the US Treasury and the Bank of England, the BBC reported last month.—AFP ■



Analysts say launching a cryptocurrency could help propel Facebook forward in terms of engagement with users and creating new revenue streams. PHOTO: AFP

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### Notice for Changing of Tender Closing Date for Medical Equipment

Ministry of Health and Sports, Department of Medical Services has already invited open tender for Medical Equipment of NYSH in (2018-2019) Budget Year.

Now the tender closing date is changed to (9-7-2019), 12noon instead of (20-6-2019), 15:00 hour. Tender documents are available during office hours at the Procurement and Supply Division, Department of Medical Services, Office No (4), Ministry of Health and Sports.

For detailed information, please contact the phone No. 067-3411510, 067-3411544, Procurement and Supply Division Office, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports, Myanmar.

Procurement and Supply Division  
Department of Medical Services  
Ministry of Health and Sports, Myanmar

### The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation No.(2) Mining Enterprise Invitation for Opening Tender

1. No. (2) Mining Enterprise, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation invites to submit the tender quotation for the following materials.

Sr. No.	Materials Classifies	Weight (MT)	Location	Tender Closing Date / Time	Remark
1	Tin and Wolfram Mixed Concentrate	65.806	Dawei	17.7.2019 12:00 PM	F.O.B (Dawei)
2	Tin Concentrate	3.180			
3	Tin Concentrate	31.390	Myeik		F.O.B (Myeik)
4	Tin and Wolfram Mixed Concentrate	1.327			
5	Tin Concentrate	58.712	Loikaw		F.O.B (Loikaw)
6	Tin, Wolfram & Scheelite Mixed-Low Grade	3.280			
7	Tin, Wolfram & Scheelite Mixed-55%	91.444	Lasho		F.O.B (Lasho)
8	Tin, Wolfram & Scheelite Mixed-Low Grade	25.126			
9	Tin, Wolfram & Scheelite Mixed	49.787			
10	Tin, Wolfram & Scheelite Mixed-Low Grade	5.600			

2. No.(2) Mining Enterprise could provide necessary documents to interest companies and contact to No.(2) Mining Enterprise, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Office Building No.(19), Nay Pyi Taw, Ph:+95-(0)67- 3409391, E-mail; metwo@e-monrec.gov.mm, within office hours.

Tender Committee  
No.(2) Mining Enterprise



## Huawei phone sales plunge, cutbacks planned as US pressure bites

SHENZHEN (China)— Huawei's founder said Monday the Chinese telecom giant's overseas smartphone sales have tumbled since the US last month threatened to blacklist the company, and he warned the embattled firm would slash production to weather the US drive to isolate it.

The announcements by Huawei founder and CEO Ren Zhengfei marked the first clear indication from the company of the impact of the US pressure, which is being applied over concerns in Washington that Huawei is in bed with China's security apparatus.

Speaking at a panel discussion organised by the company

at headquarters in the city of Shenzhen in southern China, Ren was asked if he could confirm media reports citing anonymous sources which said its overseas smartphone sales had fallen by up to 40 per cent.

"Yes, (sales) have fallen 40 per cent," said Ren.

He gave no further details on the sales plunge but a Huawei spokeswoman later clarified that he was referring to a 40 per cent fall from May to June in the wake of the US blacklist threat.

Ren added, however, that sales growth in China's domestic market remained "very fast".

Huawei was the world's number two smartphone pro-

ducer last year, ahead of Apple and behind South Korea's Samsung, as well as the largest provider of telecom networking equipment.

Huawei has said it shipped a total of 206 million smartphones in 2018, about half in China and half overseas.

Ren, 74, said Huawei planned to cut production by \$30 billion over the next two years to ride out the storm. He did not specify which lines of business would be hit most.

Huawei earned just over \$100 billion in revenue in 2018, so a \$30 billion reduction would equate to about 30 per cent of last year's overall business.

But Ren, who compared

Huawei to a damaged but still-flying aircraft, added that he expected the company to soon back on track.

"In 2021, we will regain our vitality and (continue to) provide services to human society," he said.—AFP ■



Huawei's founder says overseas smartphone sales have tumbled after US pressure on the Chinese firm. PHOTO: AFP

## Indian doctors strike over violence from patients and families

NEW DELHI (India) — Tens of thousands of Indian doctors went on strike Monday calling for more protection against violence by patients and their families, as parliament met for the first time since national elections.

The nationwide strike, which will last until Tuesday morning, is in solidarity with doctors in the eastern state of West Bengal after three were viciously attacked by the relatives of a man who died.

The Indian Medical Association (IMA), representing 350,000 of India's 900,000 doctors, called for tougher punishments for those assaulting medical staff.

Blaming the attacks in part on "high expectations" by patients, poor infrastructure and

inadequate staffing, the IMA said hospitals should have more security cameras and that the entry of visitors to hospitals should be restricted.

The strike, which does not include emergency services, takes place as parliament convened for the first time since Prime Minister Narendra Modi was re-elected in a landslide last month.

Doctors in West Bengal's capital Kolkata have been on strike since last Monday, when a family assaulted three doctors after a relative died during treatment at a state-run hospital. The family, who blamed the death on negligence by the doctors, lashed out violently and left two of the medical staff critically injured.

The strike in West Bengal, which has also been wracked by weeks of political violence with almost 20 people killed, has crippled medical services for the state's 90 million people.

On Monday doctors in the state were due to discuss the strike with Mamata Banerjee, the state premier and fierce Modi opponent. India spends less than two per cent of its GDP on health care, making it one of the lowest investors in the sector globally, with the World Health Organization placing it below both Iraq and Venezuela. However, Modicare — a quietly successful part of Modi's surprising re-election — is a huge public health initiative set to benefit the poorest. —AFP ■



Indian doctors are striking to demand better protection from patients and their angry relatives. PHOTO: AFP

## Xi to pay state visit to DPRK

BEIJING — Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and Chinese president, will pay a state visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) from 20 to 21 June, at the invitation of Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK.

Hu Zhaoming, spokesperson for the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, made the announcement here on Monday.

This will be the first visit to the DPRK by the top leader of the CPC and China's head of state in 14 years, and also General Secretary Xi's first visit to the country since the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012, Song Tao, head of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, said here Monday when briefing the press on the upcoming visit.

The visit, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of China-DPRK diplomatic ties, is of great significance for efforts to build on past successes to further advance bilateral relationship, Song said.

Noting that China and the DPRK are good neighbors with a well-established and long history of bilateral ties, Song said the CPC and the Chinese government have always attached great importance to the relations with the DPRK.

The two political parties and two countries have maintained the tradition of high-level visits since forging diplomatic ties 70 years ago, and have conducted cooperation and exchanges in culture, education, science and technology, sports, and in areas important to people's livelihood, he said.

Stressing that the CPC and the Chinese government have stayed committed to the China-DPRK ties since the 18th CPC National Congress, Song said Xi and Kim have met four times in less than a year, exchanging in-depth views on bilateral ties and the situation on the Korean Peninsula and reaching a series of important consensus, which opened a new chapter for China-DPRK relations.

Both sides have agreed that it is in the interests of the two countries and the two peoples to safeguard, consolidate and develop bilateral relations, said Song. — Xinhua ■

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# Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong leaves jail, vows to join protests

HONG KONG (China) — Leading Hong Kong democracy activist Joshua Wong walked free from prison Monday and vowed to join historic anti-government protests rocking the finance hub, as activists kept up pressure on the city's embattled pro-Beijing leader.

Organisers said some two million people — more than a quarter of the population — marched in tropical heat on Sunday calling for the resignation of chief executive Carrie Lam and protesting against a bill that would have allowed extraditions to the Chinese mainland.

Hundreds were still blocking a road outside Lam's office on Monday, demanding dialogue with the authorities.

The city has witnessed unprecedented scenes with two record-breaking rallies a week apart punctuated by violent clashes between protesters and police armed with tear gas and rubber bullets.

Wong, the poster child of the huge pro-democracy "Umbrella Movement" protests of 2014, became the latest voice to call for Lam's resignation as he was released from a sentence imposed over his leadership of those demonstrations.

"She is no longer qualified to be Hong Kong's leader," said Wong, who was sent to prison in May but released early for good behaviour. "I will also fight with all Hong Kongers to oppose the evil China extradition law."

Opposition to the extradition bill united an unusually wide cross-section of Hong Kong in

recent weeks, from influential legal and business bodies to religious leaders.

And while the spark for the last week of protests has been the threat of extradition to China, the movement has since morphed into the latest expression of public rage against both the city's leaders and Beijing.

Many Hong Kongers believe China's leaders are stamping down on the financial hub's unique freedoms and culture.

They point to the failure of the "Umbrella Movement" to win any concessions, the imprisonment of protest leaders, the disqualification of popular lawmakers and the disappearance of Beijing-critical booksellers, among recent examples.

Critics feared the Beijing-backed extradition law would entangle people in China's notoriously opaque and politicised courts and damage the city's reputation as a safe business hub, sparking unprecedented protest turnouts.

In an interview with HK01 on Monday, Lam's top advisor Bernard Chan said no chief executive would dare reintroduce the bill now.

The estimate for Sunday's massive rally has not been independently verified but if confirmed it would be the largest demonstration in Hong Kong's history.

Police, who historically give far lower estimates for political protests, said 338,000 people turned out at the demonstration's "peak" — still their largest crowd estimate on record.

Beijing, meanwhile, reiterated its backing of Lam, saying it would "continue to firmly support the chief executive and efforts by the government of the Special Administrative Region to govern according to law".

## Xi Jinping dealt a blow

But analysts say China's powerful president Xi Jinping has been dealt a rare setback with the suspension of the extradition law — although they warned Beijing would bite back by tightening its grip on the semi-autonomous city.

"It's a massive repudiation of the idea that Hong Kong will be effectively, over time, fully absorbed into mainland China," said Bill Bishop, publisher of the Sinocism China Newsletter.

"You will see a redoubling of efforts by the party to squeeze Hong Kong in ways that are not necessarily going to be totally obvious," he said.

The violent crowd control measures on Wednesday, used by police as protesters tried to storm the city's parliament to stop the bill being debated, have proved enormously costly for Lam's government.

"I think she has lost any remaining credibility or legitimacy to rule in Hong Kong because of her own mishandling of this whole affair," lawmaker Charles Mok told RTHK Radio.

Protesters have called on her to resign, shelve the bill permanently and apologise for police using tear gas and rubber bullets on Wednesday. They have also demanded all charges be dropped against anyone arrested.—AFP ■



File photo shows the reactor building at Bushehr nuclear power plant in Iran. PHOTO: AFP

# Iran to surpass uranium stockpile deal limit from 27 June: nuclear official

TEHRAN (Iran) — Iran will surpass the uranium stockpile limit set under the nuclear deal agreed with world powers from 27 June, a top official said Monday on state television.

"Today the countdown to pass the 300 kilogrammes reserve of enriched uranium has started and in 10 days time... we will pass this limit," Iran's atomic energy organisation spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said at a press conference broadcast live.

"This is based on the Articles 26 and 36 of the (nuclear deal), and will be reversed once other parties live up to their commitments," he added, speaking from the Arak nuclear plant south-west of Tehran.

On 8 May, President Hassan Rouhani announced that Iran would stop observing restrictions on its stocks of enriched uranium and heavy water agreed under the 2015 nuclear deal.

He said the move was in retaliation for the unilateral US withdrawal from the accord a year earlier, which saw Wash-

ington impose tough economic sanctions on Tehran.

Iran has threatened to go even further by 8 July unless remaining partners to the deal — Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia — help it circumvent US sanctions and especially enable it to sell its oil.

Under the agreement, Iran pledged to reduce its nuclear capacities for several years and allow international inspectors inside the country to monitor its activities in return for relief from international sanctions.

The deal set a limit on the number of uranium-enriching centrifuges, and restricted its right to enrich uranium to no higher than 3.67 per cent, well below weapons-grade levels of around 90 per cent. It also called on Iran to export enriched uranium and heavy water to ensure that the country's reserves would stay within the production ceiling set by the agreement, yet recent US restrictions have made such exports virtually impossible.—AFP ■



Hong Kong democracy activist Joshua Wong (R) speaks to the media after leaving Lai Chi Kok Correctional Institute in Hong Kong on 17 June 2019. Hong Kong democracy activist Joshua Wong called on the city's leader to resign. PHOTO: AFP

# Two missing, over 120,000 families affected by adverse weather in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO — Two people were missing and over 120,000 families affected by days of heavy rains and strong winds which lashed out across Sri Lanka, the Disaster Management Center said in a statement here Monday.

According to the latest situation update, 45 houses were fully damaged from the adverse weather while 89 houses were partially damaged. Two business enterprises in the north were also totally damaged.

Two people in the north have been reported missing while one

person has been injured, the Disaster Management Center said. The north has been the worst affected with over 56,000 families affected.

Fifty-two families were affected by landslides in the Ratnapura district, in south central Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka is facing heavy rains and strong winds due to its annual south west monsoons which have established over the island country, the Meteorology Department said in its latest weather update on Monday.—Xinhua ■



## Sylla Sekou scores 200<sup>th</sup> goal of MPT MNL 2019

SYLLA SEKOU from Yangon United F.C. has scored 200th goal of the MPT Myanmar National League 2019 in Week 12, according to the league's Facebook page.

Although he landed just one goal in Week 12, it was the 200th of the MPT MNL 2019.

Sylla Sekou scored the goal against Rakhine United F.C. on Sunday. The match ended with Yangon United beating Rakhine United 4-0, and reaching the top of the standing table, a position that was previously held by Shan United F.C.

Yangon United F.C. has so far garnered 23 points from seven wins, two draws, and three losses.

Shan United F.C. have climbed down to the second place in the standing table after a draw against Chinland F.C. Shan United has earned 22 points so far from five wins and seven draws.

In another Week 12 match, Southern Myanmar F.C. was beaten by Ayeyawady United F.C., and has moved down to twelfth place from the tenth place in the standing table.

Hantharwady United F.C. is third in the standing table, with 22 points from six wins, four draws, and two losses.— Kyaw Khin ■



Sylla Sekou from Yangon United F.C. PHOTO: MNL

## MPT MNL U-18: Week 10 matches to be held today

THE Week 10 matches of the MPT Myanmar National League (U-18) 2019 tourney will take place at 3:30 p.m. today at different venues, as the tenth week of the matches between the U-20 teams concluded yesterday.

### MPT MNL (U-18) 2019

In the tenth week of the MPT MNL Youth (U-18) 2019, which will be held today, University F.C. will compete against Mawyawadi F.C. at the University Stadium, while Silver Stars F.C. will take on Myawady F.C. at the Padonmar Stadium.

Royal Thanlyin F.C. will play Kachin United F.C. at the Sa Lin Stadium, while Chin United F.C. will face ISPE F.C. at the South Dagon Stadium.

### MPT MNL (U-20) 2019

In the Week 10 matches of the MPT MNL (U-20) 2019, held yesterday, Myawady F.C. beat University F.C. 4-1, Chin United F.C. was defeated by ISPE F.C. 0-5, Kachin United F.C. managed a win over Mawyawadi F.C. 5-3, and Silvers Star F.C. drubbed Royal Thanlyin F.C. 4-1. In the match between Myawady F.C. and University F.C. at the University Stadium yesterday, the goals for Myawady were scored by Zaw Lin Htet at the 18<sup>th</sup> minute, Phone Kyaw Zin at the 49<sup>th</sup> minute, Nyi Nyi Lwin at the 57<sup>th</sup> minute, and Kung Myat San at the 87<sup>th</sup> minute. The lone goal for University F.C. was scored by Kyaw Sint at the 88<sup>th</sup> minute.— Kyaw Khin ■

## 'Pretty good' says US Open good-guy champion Woodland

PEBBLE BEACH (United States) — A lifetime of work came to fruition for Gary Woodland at Pebble Beach, where the 35-year-old from Kansas — who turned to golf when he felt his basketball dream just wouldn't pan out — captured his first major title at the 119th US Open.

"I've worked hard my whole life," Woodland said. "I've been surrounded by amazing people and I always just wanted to be successful.

"I fell in love with golf, and it's transcended to today."

Woodland, long known as a long-hitter, has worked tirelessly on other aspects of his game.

But the wins have been few — three on the US PGA Tour since he first joined in 2009, none in 30 prior majors that didn't even produce a top-10 finish until the PGA Championships of 2018 and '19.

"It's getting there," he said of his game, and he certainly had everything he needed this week.

With Brooks Koepka — winner of four of his last eight majors, runner-up at this year's Masters and chasing an his-



Gary Woodland poses with the trophy after winning the 2019 US Open at Pebble Beach Golf Links. PHOTO: AFP

toric third straight US Open — breathing down his neck, Woodland didn't blink.

His gutsy three-wood second shot at the par-five 14th on Sunday led to a birdie and a two-shot lead.

He preserved it with a perfect pitch from the green at 17, where his tee shot left him on the wrong end of the hourglass putting surface.

Even playing partner Justin Rose, his own hopes ended by a trio of back-nine bogeys, gave him a little fist bump after

that one.

By the time he got to 18, a raft of the popular player's peers were at the green, where he punctuated the victory by rolling in a 30-foot birdie putt.

When it was all over, Woodland had four rounds in the 60s — including a second-round 65 that matched the lowest ever shot in a US Open at Pebble Beach.

His 13-under total was one better than Tiger Woods' 12-under winning total on the same course in 2000.—AFP ■

## Kyrgios backs Barty to 'pile up' Grand Slam wins

LONDON (United Kingdom) — French Open champion Ashleigh Barty has the talent to dominate women's tennis for years to come, according to fellow Aussie Nick Kyrgios.

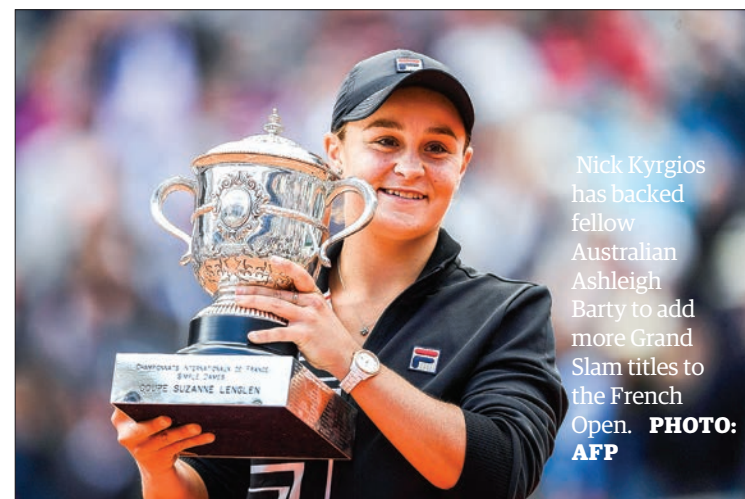
Barty, who took a hiatus from tennis early in her career to play cricket, ended an eight-year wait for an Australian player to win a singles Grand Slam at Roland Garros earlier this month.

But Kyrgios is not surprised by the sudden rise of a player he has known since they travelled the world together as juniors.

"I think she's probably the most talented tennis player I

have seen in a long time," said Kyrgios ahead of his participation at Queen's Club in London this week. "I played juniors with her. I grew up with her. Literally we were travelling to Thailand through Asia and playing juniors. She was raking up titles in juniors. I always knew that she was going to be a champion at some stage, just how bad she wanted it.

"Obviously she took that break to get her mind right and step back from the sport, and then she came back and was so dominant. I actually think she's probably one of the favourites for Wimbledon, for sure.—AFP ■



Nick Kyrgios has backed fellow Australian Ashleigh Barty to add more Grand Slam titles to the French Open. PHOTO: AFP