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Administrative machinery must uphold rule of law, not oppress people: President U Win Myint

PRESIDENT U Win Myint met with Mandalay Region Government; Region Hluttaw; Region High Court; (Pyithu, Amyotha, Region) Hluttaw representatives; Region, and District and Township departmental officials at the Mandalay Convention Center yesterday morning and gave a policy guidance speech.

Also present at the meeting were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Thura U Aung Ko, Dr Myint Htwe, U Han Zaw and U Ohn Maung and officials.

In his guidance speech the President spoke of setting a firm resolve towards establishing a Democratic Federal Republic as the entire citizenry has a strong desire for democracy reforms. In

the same way all ethnic people want to establish a federal system. As such a policy of setting up a new democracy federal system was established. For this resolve to be successful all of us who are on the same boat going towards the same destination must coordinate and work together.

A democratic system assured the freedom, security, happiness and life of all citizens and ethnic people. In addition to this, freedom, justice and equality exist. Such were the practices of democratic countries. Ethnic nationals live together in our country. It was called a union because of the inclusion of ethnic people.

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President U Win Myint meeting with officials from administrative, legislative and judiciary sectors in Mandalay Region yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 13th regular session holds seventh day meeting

The Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 13th regular session held its seventh-day meeting at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday. At the meeting Hluttaw's approval of the Hluttaw Affairs Capacity Building Advisory Group was obtained, a question and answer session held, a motion tabled and a bill approved.

Hluttaw Affairs Capacity Building Advisory Group

In the first agenda of the meeting Hluttaw approves the number of group members, names of group leader and group members of the reformed Hluttaw Affairs Capacity Building Advisory Group.

Question and answer session

In the question and answer session that follows Deputy Minister for Defence Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Sett Aung and Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin responded to questions raised by



Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Sett Aung. **PHOTO: MNA**

the Hluttaw representatives.

U Oo Tun Win of Kyauktaw constituency asked if there was a plan to return to the farmers an unused farmland near a military area. Deputy Minister for Defence Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe replied that the subject 47.95 acres of land were adjacent to the military area but were not used by the military. The farmers were informed of this during a field visit in 2019 and the farmers were already working on the lands explained the Deputy Minister.



U Oo Tun Win of Kyauktaw constituency. **PHOTO: MNA**

Daw Ni Ni May Myint of Taungup constituency raised a question on whether a company that had signed an agreement to construct the Pyay (Nawaday)-Taungup road under BOT was following the agreement and how maintenance was conducted on it. Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin explained that during the State Peace and Development Council period a Rakhine ethnic person of owned Nay La Thitsar Construction Group Company Limited was directly assigned to construct

the subject 102 miles 2 furlong long road starting from February 2010 under a BOT system and in an MIC agreement was signed on September 2011.

On June 2013 the company returned 33 miles section from mile post 41/0 to 74/0 and Ministry of Construction Department of Highways handled that section while the company continued operating the remaining 69 miles 2 furlong section under the BOT system. The maintenance of the entire road was conducted by Ministry of Construction. The department is coordinating with Ministry of Planning and Finance to sign a termination agreement with the BOT Company to officially transfer back the road to the government and to upgrade it.

On the question raised by U Pa Htan of Matupi constituency on a plan to upgrade and widen Matupi-Mindat road Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin answered that funding request for the road from both Union fund and State fund was

made every year and in 2018 September 64 miles 6 furlong section of the road was widened. Funding request was made every year for the road and depending upon funding allocation the upgrade of the remaining portion of the road will be conducted said the Deputy Minister.

U Moe Shwe of Putao constituency on the other asked whether there was a plan to construct new bridges to replace the two dangerous bridges on the Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao Union Road during fiscal year 2019-2020. Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin replied that funding request for one bridge will be made in fiscal year 2019-2020 and for another bridge in fiscal year 2020-2021. Depending upon funding allocation a 220 ft long two lane reinforced concrete bridge and a 264 ft long two lane reinforced concrete bridge will be built said the Deputy Minister.

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Amyotha Hluttaw put queries to Central Bank of Myanmar, Home Affairs Ministry

THE 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw met for the 7th day meeting of 13th regular session yesterday, with answers to five queries and a bill discussed.

Transparency of financial statistics

U Soe Thein, MP of Kayah State constituency 9, asked for issuing a quarterly report on foreign exchange reserve, gold reserve and inflation index for better transparency of the country's financial statistics.

U Soe Thein, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, explained that the foreign exchange reserves have two portions; the first one includes foreign currencies at the Central Bank of Myanmar and other state-owned banks, as well as in the related banks abroad, while the second part is the monetary gold holding of the Central Bank of Myanmar that is also recognized as foreign currency.

The Deputy Governor also said that the update of foreign currency statistics are presented in the Quarterly Financial Statistics Bulletin of the Central Bank of Myanmar, which is published on paper and its website.

He also said the Central Statistical Organization of Ministry



Major General Aung Thu, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs. **PHOTO: MNA**

of Planning and Finance is also releasing information about the Consumer Price Index and the Rate of Inflation. These topics can be viewed on www.mmsis.gov.mm. The figures of inflation is also expressed through consumer index in the quarterly bulletin.

Questions to Home Affairs Ministry

U Kyaw Than, MP of Kayah State constituency 8, asked about the construction of a new building at Bawlakhe Township's police station; U Sai San Aung, MP of Shan State constituency 12 asked about renovation of office and staff quarters at Hopan Township in Wa Self-Ad-



U Kyaw Than, MP of Kayah State Constituency 8. **PHOTO: MNA**

ministered Division of Shan State; Daw Ei Ei Pyone, MP of Ayeyawady Region constituency 8 asked about crime news volunteer groups regarding its objectives, procedures and responsible department; U Ko Ko Naing, MP of Sagaing Region Constituency 8 asked about constructions of local fire auxiliary stations at the villages in strategically locations, but far from the towns.

Major General Aung Thu, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, explained that the ministry has proposed a budget to the Ministry of Planning and Finance on 28 March 2019 for construction of a two-storey building at the Bawlakhe police station (at-

tached with a jail), and that more budget would be submitted for next fiscal year for an additional building.

The deputy minister also pledged to request a budget for construction of an office for township police officer in 2020-2021 fiscal year.

He also said that any legal aid group for crime cases has not been registered, but it was found that the Myanmar Crime Reporters' Association has been officially registered for the period from 25 January 2017 to 31 December 2021. The name of association was applied to rename as Truth Lovers' Association (Truth Aid Group) at the Union Registration Board. He also suggested that the General Administration Department under the Ministry of Union Government Office should legally handle the registration of the so-called 'Anti-crime Aid and Volunteer Group'.

The deputy minister that for construction of sub-stations in the villages, the Myanmar Fire Services Department has taken priority based on the facts of local population, nearness of factories and markets, the possible auxiliary forces, the frequency of fire cases over 10 years, the amount of loss and the

roads for fire engines. He also confirmed that the department will construct the remaining 301 sub-stations out of the 703 local stations after it received the required land, fire engines and equipment from the respective state and regional governments.

The Rural Development Bill was discussed by Dr Tin Tin Win, MP of Bago Regional constituency 5, U Soe Win, MP of Rakine State constituency 12, U Khin Myo Win, MP of Thaninthayi Region constituency 12, Daw Shwe Sein Latt, MP of Bago Region constituency 3, and Daw Ei Ei Pyone, MP of Ayeyawady Region constituency 8.

They discussed the amendments of some provisions in the bill, regarding infrastructural development, the technology and financial supports for manageable business, employment opportunities for rural people, actions against illegal pubs and gambling, the rights for rural people, and misuse of funds and property for rural development programmes. In conclusion, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than announced to convene the next meeting on 6 August 2019.—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Administrative machinery must uphold rule of law, ...

FROM PAGE-1

If it's a union it must be a federal country. The country's sovereignty permeates into the states and regions in a federal country. The rights to sustain and develop ethnic people's literature, culture, language and tradition; for self-acturination for self-determination; for equalities are obtained. The Union Government holds onto a policy of a balance development of all states and regions.

A politically, economically and socially fair administrative system is the type of administration that we want in establishing a democratic federal republic. All citizens have equal opportunities, equalities and are equal in the face of the law. It must be an administrative system that preserves the rule of law, and not one that leads to the oppression of people. It must be an administrative machinery that ensures the safety and happiness of the people. The administrative machinery must give security of life and happiness to the people.

In a democracy the people are the parents and must be people centered. In dealing with the people, the administrative pillar must serve the people. People had given us the authority for the democratic transition. We must be dutiful and respectful in serving the people. We must continue towards the goal where sovereignty resides with the people.

In the legislative pillar, there are laws, rules, constitution and prevailing laws related to the Hluttaw. Whether the laws were truly beneficial for the country and people, appropriate to the situation of the

respective places or not were to be reviewed and assessed. If a new law is to be enacted for the State/Region, care must be taken so that it is within the parameters of the legislative framework. A democratic country could not be established without rule of law. Rule of law was the foundation of a democratic country.

Hluttaw representatives need to coordinate with relevant officials in regional development matters. They need to be well versed in their rights, laws and rules. The legislative sector had oversight responsibility towards preventing wastage of public funds.

The three pillars namely the administrative, the legislative and the judiciary need to check and balance one another while coordinating matters together. They need to cooperate and work together towards development of the country, peace and prosperity of the citizens. The three pillars must not influence the other pillar and such influences are not a democratic practice. Having an unrivaled opportunity to perform a historic duty during a transition towards democracy, officials of the three pillars and officials from departmental organizations must not consider one another as rivals but as colleagues and are required to coordinate for the benefit of the country and the people.

The judiciary pillar must be un-biased. Judgments were to be made according to prevailing laws such as Union Judiciary Law, prevailing law, criminal and civil law etc. The judiciary upholds the basic principle of being unbiased. All citizens must be equal before



President U Win Myint applies gold leaf on Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay. PHOTO: MNA

the law. Regardless of wealth or status, all are equal in the face of the law. No one is above the law and no one must interfere in legal judgments.

Justice is the concern of all citizens. Only when justice is strengthened will the democratic system be strengthened. All need to establish a just society. We, ourselves, need to change and the outlooks and practices of all departmental personnel need to change too.

Change is connected to development and prosperity. Change or reform is not something to be scared of. It is a good friend for us and our country. Reform or change is not a threat. It is an opportunity for peace and prosperity of the future generation of the citizens.

Departmental organizations that deal with the people need to connect with the people in a pleasant way. They

need to fulfill their duties. It is human dignity to perform assigned duties. A person is valued according to how that person performs his/her historically duties. Judgment will be made by future generations. All personnel in attendance need to guide their subordinates. This is a matter that need to be done quickly. Serve for the sake of the people and for the sake of the country's development. Give priority to resolve the difficulties faced by the people, said the President.

Next, Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Kyaw Oo, and Region Chief Justice of the High Court U Soe Thein explained about regional development works, future work processes and requirements, Hluttaw affairs work and judiciary work respectively.

President U Win Myint then said the judiciary sector must uphold, protect and raise fundamental rights and human rights of the people. Responsible officials must regularly inspect police detention centres and prison cells. Cases must be tried correctly and speedily. Witness fees incurred by the government need to be disbursed properly. Confiscated evidence must be expeditiously managed and disposed to prevent wastage of state funds.

Motions tabled in State/Region Hluttaws must be beneficial for the State/Region. Pledges in Hluttaw must be given only when the Region Government is able to perform it. Hluttaw representatives must

perform their work according to rules and regulations. Departments need to resolve farm land and other land matters speedily. Released lands are to be returned to the rightful owners according to policies set. Region Governments must implement the policies, work processes and guidelines of the Union Government. The correct and speedy conduct of state/region governments were linked to development. All citizens had their own capability and beauty. These were to be used effectively in nation building, said the President.

After the meeting, the President cordially greeted the meeting attendees. Later in the afternoon the President went to the Mandalay People's Hospital to inspect health care provided to patients and donated K 1 million to Mandalay People's Hospital superintendent Dr Tin Tin Moe and Cancer Department Head Professor Dr Aung San Oo.

Next the President went to Aung Myay Mandalay Public Servants Housing in Mandalay Region Patheingyi Township and observed the transparent allocation of apartments through drawing of lots.

From there the President went to pay homage to the Maha Muni Buddha image and offered gold plates and made cash donation.

This was followed by the President visiting the Myotha Industrial Garden Project to inspect construction of factories. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



President U Win Myint poses for the documentary photo together with staff from Aung Myay Mandalay Public Servant Housing in Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Hluttaws to observe International Democracy Day-2019 on grand scale



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat addresses at the meeting for holding the International Democracy Day for 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

HLUTTAW will celebrate the International Democracy Day for 2019 on a grand scale in conjunction with the 130th anniversary of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Day on 15 September.

Regarding the holding of the two events simultaneously, a work coordination meeting was held at the Hluttaw Building in

Nay Pyi Taw at 2 pm yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung, Dep-

uty Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun, MPs and departmental officials.

Speaking at the meeting, U T Khun Myat said the purpose of the meeting was to discuss celebrating the International Democracy Day for 2019 on 15 September.

He said the Hluttaws intended to hold the 9th International Democracy Day with full essence, adding that the 130th anniversary of Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU) would be celebrated at the same event in conjunction with the International Democracy Day.

Afterwards, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than said the celebration of International Democracy Day-2019 needed to be more impressive than the previous year as the event to observe the Inter-Parliamentary Union-IPU would be celebrated at the same time.

He continued to say that he was confident that the event would be successfully held with the cooperation of the various Hluttaws and ministries concerned.

Afterwards, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Chairman of the Leading Committee for Holding

the International Democracy Day-2019, and Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung, Vice Chairman of the same committee, explained measures to be taken for holding the event.

U Kyaw Soe, Director-General of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office and Secretary of the Leading Committee for Holding the International Democracy Day reported on matters related to formation of leading committee and work committees.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture U Tun Ohn, MPs and departmental officials discussed the measures to be taken.

The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker. —MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Information Minister calls for quality newspapers to attract readers' interest



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint holds a meeting with editorial staff of the Global New Light of Myanmar in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint visited printing houses and editorial members of the Myanma Alinn Daily, the Mirror Daily and the Global New Light of Myanmar in Yangon yesterday.

He first arrived at the Myanma Alinn Daily on Natmawk Lane (1) in Bahan Township and heard reports on the numbers of its employees in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw, circulations of the newspaper and delivering a verity of contents to draw the readers' interest.

After giving suggestions on

the reports, the Union Minister inspected the editorial division, the printing house and the construction of a four-storey building with four attached units for staff quarters. The information minister and party reached the Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper on Nga Htet Kyee Pagoda Road in Bahan Township to meet the editorial staff.

They proceeded to the printing factory of Printing and Publishing Department on the same road, and inspected printing process of school books, paper storage and printing and

binding units of the factory.

In the afternoon, the information minister visited the Mirror Daily for the meeting with editorial team.

During the meetings with the officials and staff members of the newspapers, the Union Minister gave advice on creating quality newspapers to draw readers' interest, content development, presenting quality cartoons, articles and news, relations with authors and other management processes. —MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar, Italy sign MoU on agricultural sector development

MYANMAR and Italy signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the agricultural sector at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the event, Deputy Minister for MoALI U Hla Kyaw and Italian Ambassador to Myanmar Mrs Alessandra Schiavo on behalf of the Italian Ministry for Economic Development signed the MoU in the fields of irrigation and agricultural mechanization in Myanmar agricultural sector.

According to the MoU, two technological centres — an irrigation technology centre at

the Shwe Hlan Bo River Water Pumping and Applied Groundwater Training Centre in Singaing Township, Mandalay Region for irrigation technology development and an agricultural mechanization technology centre at No 61 Tractor Station, Wetlet Township, Sagaing Region for development of agricultural mechanization — will be set up in collaboration with the two countries with the use of of Italian's technological know-how and assistance during three years project. — MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)



Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw and Italian Ambassador Mrs Alessandra Schiavo exchange notes of MoU on cooperation in the agricultural sector in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation concludes 9-day visit to India

THE Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation led by Commander in Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla returned from India yesterday after concluding a 9-day goodwill visit which began on 25 July, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

On 2 August morning, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party donated flowers, water, oil lamps and Waso robe to the Buddha Image at the Mahabodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya, India. They also paid homage to the Image of the Buddha-to-be on the upper terrace of the temple before visiting the Mahabodhi Tree in the compound of the temple where they offered gold leaves.

They also paid homage to Buddha images in the Bodh Gaya Park, and donated cash for the Mahabodhi Temple.

The Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation proceeded to the Myanmar monastery in Gaya. First, they took the Five Precepts from the leading monk of the monastery, and donated Waso robe and cash to the abbot before they shared merits and offered "soon" (day meal) to members of the Sangha.

Later, they went to Rajgir, an ancient city in Bihar State and looked around significant sites in the Buddha chronicle (chronicle of Buddha's life).

After concluding the visits, the Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation left Gaya Airport on yesterday morning. They were



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla offer Waso robe to the Sayadaw in Bodh Gaya, India. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

seen off by the Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air Force) to India Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and his wife, and Brigadier

General Nirajan Kuman from the Officers Training Academy (Gaya) and his wife at the airport. The Senior General and par-

ty arrived back at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport on yesterday afternoon.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 13th regular session holds seventh day meeting

FROM PAGE-2

Similarly questions raised by U Toe Win of Tamwe constituency on a plan for Japan and Korea industrial works to invest in Myanmar, U Sai Kyaw Moe of Mongpan constituency on a plan to construct two staff houses for public servants serving in Mongpan town, U Laganze Jone of Waingmaw constituency on a plan to allow round the clock usage of Bala Min Htin Bridge and the closing down of unnecessary inspection gates were also answered by Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin.

Motion on construction tenders and works to be

completed in first quarter of fiscal year

After the question and answer session Dr U Soe Moe Thu of Myaungmya constituency tabled a motion urging the union government to effectively implement fiscal year change by calling for construction tenders and works to be completed in the first quarter of the fiscal year starting from the forthcoming fiscal year. He also explained in detail on the reason for tabling the motion. The motion was supported by U Phyo Zeya Thaw of Zabuthiri constituency.

As the Hluttaw agreed to discuss the motion an announcement was made for

Hluttaw representative who want to discuss the motion to register their names.

Hluttaw approve 2019 New Tree Species Protection Bill

As a final agenda of the day Hluttaw approves the entire 2019 New Tree Species Protection Bill as amended and approved by Amyotha Hluttaw and announcement was made of the bill to be handled according to Pyithu Hluttaw rule.

The eighth-day meeting of The Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 13th regular session is scheduled to be held on 6 August it is learnt. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Plant built to treat effluents from leather businesses

A WASTEWATER treatment plant has been constructed to treat wastewater released during the leather manufacturing process on the 51st Street near Kanaung Min Thar Gyi Road in Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay Region.

The plant was built at a cost of K500 million. While 35 per cent of the cost was borne by 26 local entrepreneurs, 65 per cent

of the funds for the project were contributed by the Denmark Fund. The construction took six months.

At about 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Mandalay Mayor Dr. Ye Lwin and the Mandalay City Development Committee members inspected the fully operational plant and observed the step-by-step treatment of the wastewater released during the

leather production process.

The wastewater is being purified by using two methods — the Anaerobic Digester Method and the Aerobic Digester Method. The plant is targeting to produce electricity after collecting methane gas, which is also produced during leather production. —Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Special stamp to be issued in commemoration of 52nd anniversary of ASEAN

MYANMAR Post of the Ministry of Transport and Communications announced yesterday that it will issue two kinds of special postage stamps of denomination K100 to commemorate the 52nd anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN. The special stamps will go on sale from 8 August 2019 at all post offices in states and regions.

As a special programme, Central Post Offices in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay will stamp post mark and date on the commemorative stamps and Firstday Covers on 8 August 2019. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)



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Over 30 Yangon municipal markets to be upgraded in 2020 under PPP

OVER 30 municipal markets in Yangon will be upgraded in 2020 through public-private partnership and a private management mandate, said the Joint Secretary of the Yangon City Development Committee.

Currently, the YCDC is planning to hand over the management of 10 markets to a private operator, and later, 21 more

markets will be upgraded under a PPP model, he said.

"The upgrade of the markets through PPP will help the government save money. In addition, a private operator would be able to run things more systematically," the Joint Secretary of the YCDC had said at a media conference, held on 15 July.

"If we work with companies,

they will manage the affairs. But they will have to give the municipal authorities a share of the scheme profit. If we switch to the private operator system, the municipal authorities will not do any direct supervision," he added.

"The stairs in the market are not convenient for customers. Therefore, customers do

not wish to climb up the stairs to make purchases. This is what the shopkeepers on the upper floors have complained. Therefore, we are going to upgrade the markets," he added.

Currently, about 180 markets are being operated under the supervision of the YCDC. —Aye Cho ■

First Cloud, AI contest to be held in Myanmar

THE first Cloud and AI contest for university students nationwide has been organized in Myanmar to help a new generation emerge in the technology field, according to a media conference held on 2 August at the Huawei office in Myanmar Plaza.

The contest also aims to connect Myanmar with the international AI community with the help of the Department of Research and Innovation, under the Ministry of Education, which is making efforts in this respect along with the Myanmar Computer Federation and the Myanmar Rectors' Committee.

"The Myanmar Rectors' Committee was formed in April

2018, under the new 2015 Education Law, with the aim of ensuring cooperation in the higher education sector. The committee was formed with a total of 162 rectors across the country. The committee is taking cooperative measures to effectuate the development in research and innovation in universities. Now, we have launched the Cloud and AI technology contest for university students," said Dr Zaw Wai Soe, the chairman of the Myanmar Rectors' Committee.

The registration for the Cloud and AI technology contest, which is open to university students from across the country, closed on 31 July. About 83 teams have registered for the



A press conference on Myanmar National Cloud and AI Contest 2019 held in Yangon. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG**

contest, and they are required to submit a Cloud and AI technology solution by 20 August.

The contest convening committee will announce the 10 final-

ist teams at the end of August. The award presentation will be held on 7 September. —Myint Maung ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Illegal drugs confiscated in Maungtaw, Loilem, Nawngkhio

AUTHORITIES have seized illegal drugs from four different cases in Maungtaw, Loilem and Nawngkhio townships on 31 July, according to Myanmar Police Force.

Police from Maungtaw confiscated 72,000 stimulant tablets worth K 144 million from a boat which is left by a man

who rowed it and then ran away while he was stopped by the police near the shore of Ma Gyi creek in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State.

Similarly, police from Loilem seized 1,000g of ICE, 4,000 stimulant tablets, K525,000 in cash, three mobile phones, one gold ring, one silver ring,

a pair ear ring and a watch from a motorcycle driven by Soe Naing and Kyaw Thura and Daw Thin Thin Nwe on board at Loilem-Taunggyi road near Hotint Village in Loilem Township.

There were also two cases in Nawngkhio Township, Shan State on the same day. Police seized 7,020 stimulant tablets from the house of Daw Aye Aye Aung in Pin Phaya Village of Kyaukgyi Village-tract in Nawngkhio Township.

Police also seized 3,960g of heroin, K 100,000 in cash and three mobile phones from two motorcycles driven by Sai Sam Yum and Sai Sein and Ma Thinzar Kyaw on board near 80/4 mile post on Muse-Mandalay Pyidaungsu road in Nawngkhio Township. —GNLM ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Sai Sam Yum, Sai Sein and Ma Thinzar Kyaw seen together with illegal drugs. **PHOTO: MPPF**

Electric fire breaks out at Shwepaukkan plastic bag factory

AN electric fire broke out around 1:14 am on Friday in a plastic bag factory at the Shwepaukkan industrial zone in the North Okkalapa Township of Yangon Region.

According to the official report, the fire was caused by a short circuit. An overheated wire sparked the fire, which spread to a plastic bag lying nearby. The 80x40 feet one-storey wooden building and two other brick buildings were engulfed by the flames which destroyed goods stored inside. The fire was completely extinguished at 1:48 am with the help of 41 fire engines, 268 firefighters, and 134 auxiliary firefighters. No casualties could be confirmed. The Shwepaukkan Township Police have initiated action against the factory's manager, U Min Zar Tun, under Section 285 of the Penal Code. —Pwint Thitsar ■ (Translated by La Wonn)

Over 5,200 tons of rice exported to China via border gates within one week

OVER 5,270 tons of rice, worth more than US\$1 million, was exported to the neighbouring country of China through the border gates between 13 and 19 July, according to news released online by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's rice exports to China were higher in the week ended 19 July compared to the previous week, with exports exceeding 4,860 tons at the Muse gate, crossing 360 tons at the Chinshwehaw gate, and reaching over 40 tons at the Lwejel gate.

During the period, 20,000 tons of rice, with an estimated value of over \$6 million, was shipped through the sea route. Through the maritime trade, over 8,600 tons of rice was shipped to the Philippines market, while nearly 5,000 tons was exported to China, over 3,000 tons was placed on the

European market, and 2,000 tons was sent to African countries. There was a slight decrease in rice exports via the sea route as the volume of rice exported to African countries dipped.

In addition, exports of broken rice also registered a drop against the previous week, with over 9,500 tons of broken rice worth \$2 million shipped to the EU, Indonesia, Côte d'Ivoire, Malaysia, Thailand, and Singapore.

The prices of rice in the export market have continued to fall, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Between 1 October and 19 July in the current fiscal year, 1.89 million metric tons of rice and broken rice, with an estimated value of \$573 million, was shipped to foreign countries.—GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



YSX stock trade falls in July due to price dip

THE value of stocks traded on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) last month slid to K1.2 billion, despite an increase in trading volume compared to June, due to a decline in stock prices.

In July, 256,241 shares of five companies listed on the Yangon Stock Exchange were traded on the exchange, according to the monthly report of the YSX. The

ruary and K396 million in March as share prices decreased. In April, 102,682 shares, worth K506 million, were traded on the YSX.

At present, shares of five listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), and TMH Telecom Public Co Ltd. —

stock exchange and knowledge of share trading at Stock Investment Seminars.

The YSX has doubled the stock-trade matching time from two to four per day. In addition to this, it held a promotional event to attract new investors and encourage existing investors to trade more actively. The YSX has also sought the government's support to get more public companies to participate in the stock market and to help more institutional investors, such as financing companies, investment banks, and insurance companies, to emerge.

In 2016, shares of only three companies were traded on the YSX — First Myanmar Investment, Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings, and Myanmar Citizens Bank. One more public company, First Private Bank, was listed on the YSX in 2017. Last year, TMH Telecom Public Co Ltd debuted on the exchange.

More than 2.5 million shares of three listed companies were traded on the YSX in 2016, and their value was estimated at K70 billion. In 2017, despite an increase in the stock trading volume to 2.6 million shares, the trading value was only K22 billion. In 2018, 2.3 million shares of five companies, worth K11.5 billion, were traded on the exchange, according to the annual report of the YSX.—GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



The YSX building is seen in downtown Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

trade volume was lower than in the previous two months.

The value of shares traded was the highest this year in May, when 275,325 shares worth K1.4 billion were traded, according to the YSX report. In the month of June, 233,994 shares of five companies listed on the exchange, worth around K1.32 billion, were traded, according to the report.

In January, 89,576 shares worth K526 million were traded on the exchange, and the trade value slid to K409 million in Feb-

are being traded on the stock exchange.

In July, the shares of FMI closed at K11,000, MTSH at K3,350, MCB at K8,000, FPB at K24,500, and TMH at K3,050. Compared to June, the volume of trade was higher in July, but the value of trade was lower on account of the dip in share prices from the previous month levels.

The YSX was launched three years ago to improve the private business sector. It disseminates rules and regulations for the

Number of companies registered on MyCO crosses 66,000 within a year: DICA

By Nyein Nyein

THE number of companies registered on the online registry system MyCO has surpassed 66,000 within one year of its launch, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Registration and re-registration of companies on the MyCO website commenced on 1 August, 2018, in keeping with the Myanmar Companies Law 2017. Since then, more than 20,000 new companies and 46,000 existing companies have registered and re-registered on MyCO, which brings the total number of registered companies to over 66,000. Over 90 per cent of companies have submitted online applications for registration, while the rest filed have their applications manually, according to data from the DICA.

MyCO is receiving more than 1,000 applications from new companies every month, according to the DICA.

The DICA had set a six-month deadline from 1 August, 2018 to 31 January, 2019 for registration and re-registration. At the time, it had said that companies which failed to re-register would be struck off from the register list.

Over 60,000 companies were previously registered in Myanmar and all of them were notified to re-register on MyCO. When the deadline closed, 46,377 old compa-

nies had re-registered on MyCO and over 10,000 companies had failed to do so.

After the deadline ended, U Myo Min, Director, DICA, had said that companies which wanted to restore their corporate status would have to shell out a fee and provide sufficient reasons. "According to regulations, companies will have to provide sufficient reasons why they failed to register before the deadline. They must shell out a fine after the lapse of the six-month deadline" he had said. As per Chapter III of the notification 66/2018 issued by the Ministry of Planning and Finance on 23 July, 2018, if an existing company failed to re-register on the electronic registry system within the deadline, the registrar could strike its name off the register and publish a notice in the Gazette. Once the notice was published, the company would be dissolved, while the liability of the directors and the members of the company would continue to be enforced.

Under Section (d) of Chapter III, a registrar could restore an existing company or corporate body which had failed to re-register, if it provided sufficient cause before its name was struck off the register. Such companies were to be restored after they shelled out a fee prescribed by the Union Minister.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Amending the Constitution in the interest of the State

OUR MPS are currently debating amending the 2008 Constitution in the parliament, as part of our nation's transition to democracy.

Efforts to amend the constitution are being made to fix weaknesses and provisions that have no relevance in the present era. No law is perfect, or flawless.

There are 3,765 points which have been suggested by the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution. The debate over the proposed amendment has reached a certain stage, with all stakeholders marching towards the goal, within the legal framework, and through unbiased dialogue. Democracies don't happen overnight, and it takes time to strengthen democratic foundations.

In a democracy, everyone values their own rights as much as those of others, while adopting an attitude of responsibility amid different opinions.

The completion of our democratic transition must necessarily involve the realization of a truly democratic constitution.

fall of the single-party system.

After the Tatmadaw rule was established, the then military government convened a National Convention in 1993, which continued until 2007, and resulted in the emergence of the 2008 Constitution. It took 14 years to finish the 2008 Constitution. We have seen the strong and weak points of the constitution during the 14-year period of nation building. Now, the time has come to assess and review whether the 2008 Constitution is apt for the situation we have experienced for 25 years, starting from the year it emerged.

The amendment of the constitution is one of the goals of the incumbent government. The completion of our democratic transition must necessarily involve the realization of a truly democratic constitution.

Today, the duty of making the transition to democracy is resting on the shoulders of the MPs. We would like to urge the MPs to take this opportunity to fulfill their responsibilities as representatives of the people, and build a federal democratic country aspired by the people.

Migration of Myanmar Workers to Thailand

By Lokethar

UNSKILLED labour migration from Myanmar to neighbouring countries, both legal and "illegal" are reaching high proportions. The large scale migration is creating a shortage of unskilled/semis killed labour in many States and Regions of Myanmar. Beside the population density in these areas will decline in the long run. Estimates are that more than 3 million workers have migrated over the past 3 to 4 decades to neighbouring Thailand alone and that many more are still doing so.

According to a high official of the Department of Labour, Myanmar workers who were legally sent under an MoU between Myanmar and Thailand by (106) Authorized Licensed Agencies from June 2010 to May 2019 was around 70,000. The Nationality Verification Process for issuing of temporary passports to "irregular" Myanmar workers who

had been working in Thailand for decades, was carried out through the establishment of Temporary National Verification Centres from July 2009 to August 2013 and around 1.7 million Myanmar workers were documented.

For those workers from Myanmar who could not provide evidence of their identity, under a special arrangement with the Thai Authorities, Mobile teams were formed to go to the areas they were employed and around 1 million workers were issued Certificates-of-Identity.

As for the Myanmar workers in Thailand who have valid passports or Certificates-of-Identity, they will probably be given renewed work permits by the Thai Authorities for the time being. According to the high labour official, visas and work permits of the Myanmar workers with valid passports /Identity Papers, will be extended up to 2020 instead of up to 2022 as was requested

by the Myanmar side. Besides, it seems that even under the MoU System, only the workers who are now legally working in Thailand, after their present work permits and visas end, will be allowed to re-enter Thailand for a further period of employ-

ment. Setting up Industrial Zones or Commercial Agricultural Ventures in Myanmar along the Myanmar border with Thailand could be a solution to absorb the returnee migrant workers.

Hence systematically establishing "Border industrial Zones" within Myanmar with Government initiative, could enable Myanmar workers seeking to migrate to Thailand as well as "returnee workers" to be employed in the said "Border Industrial Zones".

ment.

In fact, even now Thailand has been sending back batch by batch, Myanmar workers who were sent to Thailand "illegally" by the "brokers" and those who have no specific jobs. In all probability Thailand will be

small Sector, stand to be abused and exploited by their employers, more so those working on fishing boats.

Absorbing the returnee workers back into Myanmar's economy will likely pose a challenge for the Myanmar Gov-

ernment. Setting up Industrial Zones or Commercial Agricultural Ventures in Myanmar along the Myanmar border with Thailand could be a solution to absorb the returnee migrant workers.

Even now it is learned that Thai private investors, to access low cost Myanmar labour as well as the GSP status of Myanmar, are shifting their labour intensive-low energy consuming industries to border areas in the Karen State. Hence systematically establishing "Border industrial Zones" within Myanmar with Government initiative, could enable Myanmar workers seeking to migrate to Thailand as well as "returnee workers" to be employed in the said "Border Industrial Zones". In a manner of speaking, the employers will be coming to where the workers are instead of the other way around.

Myanmar national investors could also invest either on their own or in joint ven-

tures with the Thai investors and themselves take advantage of the GSP status given to Myanmar. Unfortunately the Myanmar Industrial Investment Culture seems to have lost its "lustre" since the Socialist era and investment risk taking in setting up industries by those with access to capital is "weak" even now so to speak. Hence, they may have to be given additional incentives to invest in the "Border Industrial Zones".

The Border Industrial Zone, if managed well, could become successful like the Thilawa Industrial Zone in Yangon Region. With the "Economic Corridors" of ASEAN in the offing, it will not be a problem for the Industries and other enterprises within the "Border Industrial Zone" to move the raw materials and/or finished goods across the border to Thailand or to export them to other countries.

Breastfeeding: A formula to advance health and promote sustainable development

By Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh
(Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia)

How to empower and enable parents to give their newborns the best start possible

Breastfeeding is on the rise across the WHO South-East Asia Region. The Region's newborns will be better for it. Last year, approximately 54% of all infants were exclusively breastfed up to the age of six months. That's up from 47% in 2015 and 50% in 2017, and compares to 38% of newborns across the world and just 18% in industrialized countries. The Region's average is the highest of any WHO region, and is already above the 2025 global target of ensuring at least 50% of newborns are exclusively breastfed for the first six months of life.

We can be proud of the Region's leadership, which reflects several of its Flagship Priorities, including ending preventable newborn and child deaths and preventing noncommunicable diseases. We should also look at how the Region's leadership can be sustained and accelerated, and at the innovative policies that can make that happen. The benefits of breastfeed-



Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh

ing are, after all, substantial, with WHO recommending each newborn be breastfed within the first hour of life, that they be exclusively breastfed for the first six months, and that they be breastfed while taking appropriate complementary food for at least 18 months thereafter.

For newborns, breastfeeding strengthens the immune system and protects against chronic and infectious diseases. It also enhances sensory

and cognitive development and helps prevent malnutrition – including obesity – throughout the life-course. For mothers, breastfeeding helps space children and increases health and well-being by reducing the risk of ovarian cancer and breast cancer among other benefits. For communities and countries, breastfeeding is a sustainable way to increase family and national resources. Inadequate breastfeeding is estimated to cost the global economy around USD 302 billion annually.

As natural as breastfeeding is, however, and as strong as the evidence may be for its increased uptake, it is a learned behavior. As such, it requires active support to establish and sustain. Crucially, that support should apply to both parents, with an inclusive approach needed to ensure all families are empowered and enabled to give their newborns the best start possible. WHO is committed to supporting Member States do precisely that, including by focusing on three key areas of action.

First, Member States should augment the commendable work already being done to protect and support breastfeeding. That means increasing awareness and knowledge beyond mothers and sensitizing fathers, families and communities on the importance of breastfeeding and the need to actively support it. It also means enhancing the efficiency of breastfeeding counselling in pre-conception and antenatal programmes, and strengthening baby-friendly practices in maternity care facilities using WHO and UNICEF's new joint guidance and programme tools. As part of this, increasing the number, skills and capacity of health workers is vital.

Second, Member States should accelerate the implementation of the International Code of Marketing Breast-milk Substitutes, as well as several World Health Assembly resolutions and decisions aimed at protecting breastfeeding from commercial interests. Though the Region already has some of the strongest legislation in the

world to protect and support breastfeeding, there is room for further gains, particularly on the promotion of breast-milk substitutes and related products to health workers and in health care settings, as well as via digital marketing. Doing so is crucial to pushing back against the commercial determinants of newborn and child health, and to protecting and supporting breastfeeding and the many benefits it brings.

And third, health authorities Region-wide should work across sectors to promote breastfeeding and support the development of innovative policies that help families practice it. Given that workplace pressures are a leading motive for early weaning, for example, the implementation of paid maternity leave for at least six months would be a gamechanger, as would be paid paternity leave. This is especially so in the informal sector, where employer insurance and social protection schemes hold immense potential to deliver such policies. These and other mechanisms

should be explored and, where appropriate, pursued. Equally important is the uptake of parent-friendly workplaces and gender-equitable social protection, both of which enable breastfeeding and promote its social value.

We must continue to strive for those outcomes. Though the South-East Asia Region is already the world's leader in the promotion and uptake of breastfeeding, there is always progress to be made and new ways to make it. To that end, WHO will continue to provide actionable support to Member States via technical and operational assistance, and will continue to advocate for all families to be empowered and enabled to give their newborns the best start possible. Breastfeeding is humanity's oldest and most powerful formula to advance newborn health and promote sustainable development. It is a formula we must harness to maximum effect.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 141/2019

2nd Waxing of Wagaung, 1381 ME
(2 August, 2019)

Permission to register as a political party

The Chin National Party (CNP) headquartered at Kyauk Oh Taung Village, Kyauk Oh Taung Village-tract, Aunglan Township, Thayet District in Magway Region, has been permitted to register as a political party in accordance with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 2 August 2019.

The registration number Chin National Party is 118.

Sd/-
(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission



Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 2nd August, 2019)

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

SPECIAL FEATURES: According to the observations at (15:30)hrs MST today, the Tropical Storm "Wipha" over the Gulf of Tomkin is centered at about (165)miles East-Northeast of Hanoi(Vietnam). It is forecast to move Westwards slowly.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 03rd August, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, fairly widespread in Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavyfalls in Taninthayi Region, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states and isolated heavyfalls in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h. Wave height will be about (9- 12)feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Strong monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 03rdAugust, 2019: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 03rdAugust, 2019: Some rain or thundershowers which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 03rdAugust, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay Pyi taw and Yangon Region and scattered in Mandalay Region.

Trade Mark Ads

Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355,09974424848

MoPF Minister inspects operations of MIC Bank

Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win looked into the functions of Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank at the corner of Merchant Road and Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Yangon, yesterday morning.

The MICB is linking between the local financial market and the foreign sources through Bloomberg and Refinitive IT.

Other businesses of the bank include commercial loan for export and import sector, FX market for currency exchange, treasury bills in Myanmar kyat, treasury bonds, bilateral inter-

bank lending, short-term loans in kyat by taking foreign currency deposit and giving mid-term and long-term loans in line with the instruction of the Central Bank of Myanmar to prevent any loss in business.

Daw Cherry Lwin, Managing Director of MICB, presented about the working processes of the bank.

The Union Minister suggested to learn about foreign financial market and to reduce non-performing loan before leaving the bank. — MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Minister U Soe Win inspects Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank operations in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Experts meet to discuss resettlement of Kachin IDPs



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye along with representatives from UN organizations and INGOs poses for a photograph at the meeting yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Working Group on Resettling IDPs in Kachin State under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held talks with the UN organizations and INGOs at the meeting hall of the ministry yesterday afternoon.

The coordination meeting was attended by the representatives of UNOCHA, UN-

HCR, UNDP, UNRC Office, ICRC, IFRC and MRCS.

At the meeting, they discussed about systematic closure of IDP camps, safe return of the displaced persons, clearance of landmines, resuming school classrooms, livelihoods for them, ways for electrification, construction of buildings, schools and clinics,

nutrition plans for women and children, financial supports, cooperation among the relevant ministries and with other organizations, working with the Kachin Humanitarian Concern Committee (KHCC), ensuring voluntary return and undertaking pilot projects.— MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)

Yangon airport shut for 2 hours after nose gear failure on domestic flight

THE Yangon International Airport reopened at 6:30 pm yesterday after a two-hour closure due to a technical failure reported by a domestic flight while landing on the runway.

At 4:40 pm yesterday, Golden Myanmar Airlines flight Y5-506 encountered a problem with the aircraft's nose gear during landing, which resulted in the Yangon International Airport temporarily closing runway operations.

"When the plane was landing, the wind was blowing, and the nose wheel got broken. The airport is expected to be closed for three hours because of the plane blocking the runway. No passengers or crew were in-

jured in the accident," said U Ye Htut Aung, the Deputy Director-General of the Aviation Department.

The aircraft was towed to the apron and the runway was vacated, with normal airport operations resuming at 6:30 pm.

No significant damage to the aircraft was reported, and none of the 71 people on board were injured.

Due to flight delays and heavy rain in Yangon Region, the YIA has advised all travelers to check with their respective airlines for updates. —Wun Yan Kha

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Passenger plane with aircraft's nose gear failure safely lands at Yangon International Airport in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

US, Russia rip up Cold War-era INF missile treaty

BANGKOK — The United States and Russia ripped up a Cold War-era missile pact on Friday in a move that raised the spectre of an arms race between the global superpowers.

The 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty limited the use of medium-range missiles, both conventional and nuclear.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced Washington's formal withdrawal in a prepared statement at a regional forum in Bangkok, minutes after Russia pronounced the treaty to be "dead".

Both sides had signalled their intention to pull out of the treaty for months, trading accusations of breaking the terms of the deal. "Russia is solely responsible for the treaty's demise," Pompeo said in a statement issued at an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) foreign ministers' meeting.

Shortly before Pompeo's announcement, Russia's foreign ministry in Moscow said the deal had been terminated at the "at the initiative of the US".

But deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov also urged the US to implement a moratorium on deploying intermediate-range nuclear missiles after leaving the INF. Washington has for years



Russian Defence Ministry officials show off Russia's new 9M729 missile at the military Patriot park outside Moscow on 23 January, 2019. PHOTO: AFP

accused Russia of developing a new type of missile, the 9M729, which it says violates the treaty -- claims that NATO has backed up.

The missile has a range of about 1,500 kilometres (900 miles) according to NATO, though Moscow says it can only travel 480 kilometres. The INF treaty limits the use of missiles with ranges of 500 to 5,500 kilometres.

"Russia failed to return to full and verified compliance through the destruction of its noncompliant missile system," Pompeo said, referring to the 9M729 ground-launched cruise missile.

The White House launched a six-month withdrawal procedure

for leaving the treaty early this year. Soon after Moscow began its move to pull out, and last month Russian President Vladimir Putin formally suspended its participation.

'New era'

Signed in 1987 by then US president Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the INF treaty was considered a cornerstone of the global arms control architecture.

But the United States said the pact had given other countries -- namely China -- free rein to develop its own long-range missiles and has accused Russia

of repeated violations.

US-China tensions -- mainly over trade and maritime disputes -- have been centre stage at the ASEAN meeting in Bangkok this week, where Pompeo has pedalled Washington's "Indo-Pacific" strategy to counter Beijing's economic and military might in Asia.

Pompeo said Friday the US was "seeking a new era of arms control that moves beyond the bilateral treaties of the past", calling on Beijing to join discussions.

"The United States calls upon Russia and China to join us in this opportunity to deliver real security results to our nations and the entire world." --AFP ■

US to slap 10% tariff on \$300bn more in Chinese goods

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump announced Thursday he will hit China with punitive tariffs on another \$300 billion in goods, escalating his trade war after accusing Beijing of renegeing on more promises.

The sudden deterioration meant the world's two largest economies have now erected

trade barriers covering virtually all of their \$660 billion in annual trade in merchandise -- confirming economists' fears and sending shudders through Wall Street.

The 10% duties will take effect Sept 1, and come on top of the 25% tariffs on \$250 billion in imports already in place.

He later raised the possibil-

ity he could increase the duties further.

"The 10% is a for a short-term period and then I can always do much more or I can do less, depending on what happens with respect to a deal," Trump said at the White House, adding, "it could be lifted up to well beyond 25%."

After resuming face-to-face talks in Shanghai this week, trade negotiators were set to reconvene in Washington in early September for another round of discussions, which means they will take place just after the new tariffs take effect.

When he announced the tariffs on Twitter, Trump said Beijing had agreed "to buy agricultural product from the US in large quantities but did not do so."

"Additionally, my friend President Xi said that he would stop the sale of fentanyl to the United States -- this never happened, and many Americans continue to die!" Trump said, referring to the highly potent and addictive

opioid. Trade relations with China have swung between progress and disaster, appearing to collapse in May only to be revived two months later after a meeting in Japan between Trump and Xi Jinping, his Chinese counterpart.

The leaders declared a truce at that meeting in late June, but the new tariffs makes good on a threat Trump made in May.

"The core motivation is the talks clearly weren't going to (g) o anywhere without more pressure on the Chinese," said Derek Scissors, an expert on US-China economic ties at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank.

"Of course, they could react badly now and the talks could end entirely. It's a measured risk," he told AFP.

'Not concerned'

In prior tariff rounds, US officials had worked prevent the higher costs from hitting popular consumer items. --AFP ■



Trade relations with China have swung between progress and disaster, appearing to collapse in May only to be revived two months later after a meeting in Japan between Trump and Xi Jinping, his Chinese counterpart. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Maldives former vice-president detained in India

NEW DELHI — Former Maldives vice-president Ahmed Adeeb was detained Thursday by Indian authorities for trying to illegally enter the South Asian nation on a tug boat, officials said.

Adeeb, who was released from a Maldives jail in May after a court quashed a conviction for attempting to kill then-president Abdulla Yameen in 2015, was taken into custody in the port city of Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu state, the officials told AFP.

He is due to face a new trial over the attempted murder case and also faces corruption investigations dating back to when he was deputy to Yameen, who was defeated in an election last year.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Adeeb did not have a passport when he was detained on the tug.

The Maldives government made no immediate comment. --AFP ■

Saudi wins praise, ire as guardianship rules eased

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia's decision to allow women to travel independently was hailed in the kingdom Friday as a historic leap for gender equality, but it also drew anger from religious conservatives.

The Muslim kingdom announced it was effectively allowing women over the age of 21 to obtain passports and travel abroad without securing the permission of their "guardians" -- husband, father or other male relatives. The reform, which also covers civil rights such as allowing women to register childbirth, marriage or divorce, does not dismantle but diminishes the male guardianship system that has long been a symbol of repression against women.

"The new regulations are history in the making," Princess Reema bint Bandar, named earlier this year as Saudi Arabia's first woman ambassador to Washington, said on Twitter. --AFP ■

South Korean campaigner, two journalists, and a human rights activist win Ramon Magsaysay Award

MANILA — Kim Jong-ki, whose 16-year-old son took his life after being bullied in school, received the 2019 award for helping South Korea face one of the developed world's highest suicide rates.

Kim, 72, was recognised for “his quiet courage in transforming private grief into a mission to protect Korea’s youth from the scourge of bullying and violence”, the Manila-based award foundation said in a statement.

Over 24 years, Kim’s Foundation for Preventing Youth Violence has carried out wide-ranging anti-bullying campaigns, run a hotline that now takes up to 50 calls a day, introduced counselling and mediation, and lobbied the government for new policy and laws.

Suicide was the second leading cause of death among teenagers in South Korea as recently as 2005, with school bullying directly related to more than half of the cases, the award foundation added.

Journalists Ravish Kumar of India and Ko Swe Win of Myanmar were also winners of this year’s award, along with Thai human rights campaigner Angkhana Neelapaijit, and Filipino composer Raymundo Cayabyab.

Neelapaijit, 63, is the widow of a prominent human rights lawyer who was abducted and later murdered after publicly accusing the military of torturing detainees



Ko Swe Win, 41, is the editor of the Myanmar Now, an independent online news service known for its well-researched, in-depth articles on the country’s under-reported human rights and social justice issues, the award foundation said. **PHOTO CREDIT: ANADOLU AGENCY**

in the troubled Muslim region of southern Thailand.

The former housewife took up her late husband’s cause and established the Justice for Peace Foundation to document the situation in the area, provide legal aid to victims, and put pressure on

the government to act on human rights cases.

Neelapaijit, who later served as commissioner of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, was cited for “her systematic, unflagging work to reform a flawed and unfair legal

system”.

Ko Swe Win, 41, is the editor of the Myanmar Now, an independent online news service known for its well-researched, in-depth articles on the country’s under-reported human rights and social justice issues, the award foundation said.

“The effort to build a strong, independent and socially responsible press has to contend with draconian laws, rabid intolerance, repression and persecution,” it added.

The editor spent seven years in prison as a young man, where he endured torture and starvation for taking part in student protests against the ruling military junta.

India’s Ravish Kumar, 47, is the host of NDTV India’s “Prime Time” programme that sheds light on Indian society’s under-reported problems and who has endured harassment and threats for calling the country’s highest officials to account.

Cayabyab, 65, was recognised for “his compositions and performances that have defined and inspired Filipino popular music across generations”.

The annual award, widely considered Asia’s version of the Nobel Prize, is named for the Filipino president who died in a 1957 plane crash. This year’s winners will receive a cash prize and a medallion at a Manila ceremony on September 9.—AFP ■

Social media sites block controversial Singapore race rap

SINGAPORE — Facebook and other sites Friday blocked access to a rap video about race in multi-ethnic Singapore that is under police investigation after authorities asked for the footage to be removed.

The video features an ethnic Indian comedian and YouTube star railing against an advert in which the skin of an actor of Chi-

nese origin is darkened to make him look Indian.

The ad sparked fierce criticism this week in the city-state, where race is highly sensitive — the country has an ethnic Chinese majority and is also home to Muslim and ethnic Indian minorities, as well as many foreigners.

In her video, comedian Preeti Nair delivers an expletive-filled

rap alongside her brother Subhas that appears to target the city-state’s Chinese inhabitants, while standing in front of the advert.

Police in tightly-controlled Singapore, which has strict laws against sowing divisions between races, have launched an investigation into the video.

After a request from regulators, some posts of the vid-

eo could not be accessed on Facebook in Singapore, and a message appeared that said local laws prohibited the site from showing it.

The video was blocked on YouTube alongside a message that it was not available due to a complaint from the government. Twitter also blocked posts related to the footage.—AFP ■

Four injured in explosions in Bangkok as ASEAN members meet

BANGKOK — Four people were injured in a series of explosions in Bangkok on Friday morning, Thai authorities said, as the country played host to a series of meetings among ASEAN members and other countries.

The apparently coordinated explosions were reported at multiple locations in the capital, including one near Rama 9 Road

that left three women working as street cleaners slightly injured.

A man was also wounded at the bomb blasted under Chong Nonsi Station of the Skytrain elevated railway system in central Bangkok. In a Facebook post, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha condemned those behind the apparently coordinated explosions.

He said the incidents are aimed at destroying the peace and tarnishing the country’s image.

Prayut, who is also defense minister, also instructed police to investigate the incidents while stepping up security measures in particular areas, government spokeswoman Narumon Pinyosinwat said.

The premier also urged the public not to panic and to inform police officers if they notice unusual objects, according to the spokeswoman.

Of the locations affected in Friday’s incidents, Chong Nonsi Station is the closest to the venue of the ASEAN-related meetings, but it is still at least 4 kilometers away.—Kyodo News ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

China, EU agree to safeguard Iran nuclear deal

BANGKOK — China and the European Union (EU) on Thursday agreed to continue safeguarding the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), or the Iran nuclear deal, during a meeting here Thursday between Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and European Union (EU) High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini.

Regarding the Iran nuclear issue, both sides also agreed to safeguard the United Nations-centered multilateralism and oppose the campaign of “maximum pressure,” while calling on relevant parties to maintain restraint and prevent the escalation of the situation.

With regard to the China-EU ties, Wang said China is pleased to see the successful change of leadership of the EU institutions, and expects the EU to achieve greater achievement in promoting integration and addressing challenges.

China will maintain the stability and continuity of its policies toward the EU and provide continuous support in the European integration process, for the unity and growth of the EU, and a more important role by Europe in international affairs, Wang said.

China hopes that the new EU institutions will also maintain continuous and forward-looking policies towards China, he said.—Xinhua ■

Philippines’ second top resort escapes Boracay-style shut down

MANILA — A threat to close a second world-famous but pollution-threatened beach in the Philippines was averted Thursday (Aug 1), drawing a sigh of relief from the beleaguered local tourism industry.

President Rodrigo Duterte shuttered the white-sand resort of Boracay island for six months last year, calling it a “cesspool”, and his government had since threatened to do the same with the El Nido resort. Boracay regained its old beauty in a government-led cleanup that also left thousands of people out of work, and hotels and restaurants in limbo.—AFP ■

Golden brew: rare Assam tea bags world record at auction

NEWDELHI — A rare Assam tea has sold for a world record price at auction in India, highlighting a boom for speciality teas while the industry as a whole is in crisis.

A two kilogram (4.4 pound) lot of Maijan Orthodox Golden tea sold for 141,002 rupees (\$2,035) on Wednesday.

An unidentified Belgian trader bought the tea

through a local agent, an auction official said.

Guwahati Tea Auction Centre secretary Dinesh Bihani said it was a record price at auction, shattering the 50,000 rupees a kilo paid

for some Manohari Golden tea the day before.

Buyers from Germany, Britain, the United States and Iran are active in the Assam market and higher prices are believed to have

been paid in private sales.

Maijan Orthodox comes from 100-year-old bushes on plantations owned by Assam Company India Limited, one of the world's oldest tea en-

terprises.

The company is bouncing back from having been declared bankrupt last year when it was taken over by Indian tycoon B.R. Shetty.—AFP ■

Japan decides to revoke S Korea's preferential trade status



PROTEST AGAINST JAPAN. South Korean protesters hold up placards reading "No Abe!" during a rally denouncing Japan for its recent trade restrictions against Seoul over wartime slavery disputes, near the Japanese embassy in Seoul on 20 July, 2019. PHOTO: AFP

TOKYO — Japan decided Friday to revoke from later this month South Korea's preferential status as a trade partner for the purchase of goods that can be diverted for military use due to what it says are security concerns, igniting angry protests from Seoul.

The Cabinet of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe approved plans to remove South Korea from a "white list" of countries subject to simplified trade procedures, raising the stakes in a bitter diplomatic row between the neighbors that concerns wartime history as well as trade policy.

South Korea reacted sharply to the decision, with President Moon Jae In denouncing Tokyo's decision as "very reckless" and demanding its withdrawal.

The removal of South Korea from the list will take effect on 28 August following necessary domestic procedures, Japanese trade minister Hiroshige Seko said at a press conference.

The removal from the list could hurt South Korea's world-leading tech industry, which is already under pressure from Japan's decision to require from 4 July individual licenses to export to South Korea key materials used to manufacture semiconductors and display panels for smartphones and TVs.—Kyodo News ■

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Closed view of Mural painting. **PHOTOS: MARN THIT NYEIN (ARCHAEOLOGY)**

Mya Khanauk (or)

Kabani mural painting in Stone Age

By Marn Thit Nyein (Archaeology)

INVALUABLE ancient historical heritages are being preserved in Myanmar. U Win Bo from Tawtwin Village in Mongmaw Village-tract in Myittha Township informed that he found mural paintings created by stone age humans in pre-historic era, southwest of Kinda Dam in Ywangan Township of southern Shan State. According

the survey trip on 14 June. The site was called the Kabani mural paintings in stone age because it is located near Kabani Village. Local people know the site as Mya Khanauk. It is because seven large rocks are located in a form of a triangle.

The site of Kabani mural paintings in stone age is situated in 21 degree 4 minute and 27.9

shale rocks at the foot of Pehtwe Hill, west of Taunggyi District, at the border of Mandalay Region and southern Shan State.

Ancient mural paintings were found at two large rocks in the southern centre of seven large rocks. The largest rock has a shape of 80 feet long and 40 feet wide roof. Its lower surface like a ceiling has been bearing mural paintings such as works of animals and palms of hand with the use of natural colours.

During our trip together with Dr Noel Hidalgo Tan, we saw dimming mural paintings on an elephant picture with 14 feet in length and nine feet in height and others in the west of the large surface of the 22 feet high rock, southwest of the pile of rocks. Likewise, we saw some works of mural paintings seemed as pictures of deer and weapons on the ceiling of the mushroom shaped shale rock. It was found that some works of mural paintings were dim due to impacts of water, dust and soot. One of the reasons to cause dimming the works was that the visitors at about 1973 wrote scripts about their arrivals on the walls with the use of lime, chalk, paint and charcoal. That was why the original mural paintings became dim and disappeared.

During our trip, we saw three sites of mural paintings in stone age from the south to



Rock with mural painting. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

to the information, officials concerned made a field trip to the scene where the mural paintings in the stone age on 27 May 2016.

Dr. Noel Hidalgo Tan, Senior Specialist in Archaeology, SEAMEO Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts SEAMEO SPAFA, invited by the Director General of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw joined us on

second N and 96 degree 16 minute and 12.23 second E. As it is located southwest of Kinda Dam in Ywangan Township of Taunggyi District in southern Shan State, we went to Ywasoepyin Village by boat passing Kinda Dam. The boat docked near Pehtwe Hill. Then, we took about three hours of walking to the site of mural paintings. Exactly, the site of mural paintings is at the group of

the north of rocks. According to the clarification of U Win Bo, we knew situations of the mural paintings depicting the scenes of flying birds and the rising sun on the mountain range found by U Win Bo in about ten years on the ceiling of the mushroom shaped shale large rock. But, the ceiling is full of soot now. Pictures of animals were created in sketch lines. Dr. Noel Hidalgo Tan said these mural paintings were similar to the works of animal picture mural paintings from Gua Tambun in Ipoh of Malaysia. The colour of mural paintings on the rock may be dark red but these works could not be clearly seen with full of gray soot due to inappropriate acts of humans in

successive eras. Some pictures and scripts on the walls were made by local people on their arrival at the site. Due to these evidences, it was sure that local villagers had known existence of mural paintings in stone age on the walls of rocks since the period from 1970 to 1990.

When the 14 feet long and nine feet high elephant picture and other works on the western large surface of the 22 feet high large rock were assessed through modern photographic software, it was found that the elephant picture was sketched in double lines. The work consisted of legs. Moreover, we saw a picture of palm of hand of a child near the legs of two humans, two



The site of Kabani mural paintings of rocks was about seven miles from that of Pyadalin Cave in stone age. Now, travellers can reach the two sites passing the water of Kinda Dam. However, stone age humans in pre-historic era could reach the sites from one place to another while hunting and searching foods. Although the site where Pyadalin mural paintings in stone age was located might be the residence of stone age humans in successive eras, it is too early to say that the site of Kabani mural paintings was a constant residence of stone age humans. Only when detailed surveys and excavations have been conducted, can we disclose such an issue completely. Some stone rings and stone weapons in Neolithic age were found from the site during the survey period.

The site of Kabani mural paintings is the most famous one in Myanmar apart from Padalin Cave. Mural paintings can be seen at both sites. Although mural paintings in Pyadalin Cave have been distinct till today due to lesser number of visitors, works of mural paints at

humans in clothes on the side of elephant head, five fingers from a palm of adult hand outside the double lines from the stomach of elephant, and a palm of hand with six fingers. As per the observation, it can be estimated that all the works were created in same age. Moreover, as a string of rope tied around the neck of elephant might be held by human, we



View from inside the largest shelter. There is rock art on the ceiling, but mostly obscured by soot. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

guessed that elephant breeding started development at that time. If so, the event may happen in c.1500 BCE of bronze age based on the calculation of the term of Southeast Asia. Chipped pieces of stone from the left upper part of the rock were found at its base. So, we noted that pieces of face from human might include in the chipped pieces. If excavation starts, it needs to take care of tasks. These damaged pieces may prove connections of archaeological heritages.

The mural paintings seemed as pictures of two or three humans were created on the ceiling of the smallest stone wall in the northernmost of the large rocks with the use of red colour.

Kabani are slightly dim due to undisciplined acts of visitors. All the citizens visiting these sites need to systematically lit garbage, not to smoke cigarettes and cheroots, not to cook, not to script on the walls of rocks and not to touch them. Among these points, smokes from cigarettes and cheroots as well as cooking may cause damage to the mural painting works. That is why visitors need to take care of their activities. As abiding by disciplines is an act of preserving Myanmar's cultural heritages, all the citizens should follow the prescribed disciplines as a national duty.

Translated by Than Tun Aung



Cannons, mines and marching formation of Yadanabon era

By Nway Nady (Myitnge)

STANDING in front of the Mya Nan San Kyaw Golden Palace, an invaluable historic heritage of ancient Myanmar, antique cannons of Yadanabon era have reflected the advanced idea of Myanmar people and the innovative armed power of the country.

Those iron cannons were bought from the 'Woolwich' (Royal Arsenal) armament factory in England to boost the defensive strength of the country.

Originally these cannons could move only forwards and backwards, but Myanmar people upgraded them to be able to swivel around 360 degree on a carriage.

When it is needed to fire, gunpowder and a cannon iron ball were pressed into the cannon and lit the fuse to be fired.

Now, a museum is under construction in front of the Mya Nan San Kyaw Golden Palace to display these iron cannons together with other ancient weapons. An archaeologist in Mandalay has collected some samples of iron cannon balls used in these big guns.

These historical evidences have shown that ancient Myanmar people in Yadanabon era tried to develop the country into an industrial nation, like the western countries. In this attempt, scholars were sent to western countries to establish a weapon industry and to turn the country into a modern armed power.

Myanmar successfully invented naval mines in those days.

On 16 May, 1865 in Yadanabon era, the King Mindon visited Kyauktawgyi pagoda at the foot of Mandalay hill in a royal process. During the visit, he put an artillery troop in front line, followed by six frontier troops or battalions, royal protection guards and auxiliary forces, according to an ancient Parabaik, a folding and illustrated manuscript.

Parabaik is a collection of coated thick papers used for writing and drawing in the past. These paper sheets are made from bamboo and palm leaves. Parabaiks were mainly used for writing message and information at that time.

Department of Indian Stone Inscription released the copies of parabaik in printed version, with the depicts of an artist explaining how the King visited the Kyauktawgyi pagoda in a royal process.

Ancient kings used to go outside the palace to enjoy water-throwing festival, to observe the new royal building and to do meritorious deeds. During these visits, the king was protected by 12 guard forces—six in front line and six in back line. Forts of Yadanabon era were well protected by huge cannons. Some of those can still be found at the northeastern side of Myanansankyaw Palace in Mandalay.

Translated by Ye Htut Tin (NLM)



Cannons of Yadanabon era being seen in front of the Mya Nan San Kyaw Golden Palace. **PHOTO: NWAY NADY (MYITNGE)**

AFF U-15 Boys' Championship: Myanmar loses to Viet Nam 0-3



Myanmar's Kaung Htet Paing (red) vies for the ball against a Viet Nam player (white) during yesterday's AFF U-15 Championship group match in Chonburi, Thailand. **PHOTO:MFF**

MYANMAR suffered a 0-3 loss against Viet Nam in the group stage of the AFF U-15 Boys' Championship yesterday in Chonburi, Thailand.

Myanmar lined up with keeper Htet Arkar Win, Htoo Myat Khant, Kaung Htet Paing, Kaung Khant, Wai Yan Lin Thu, Zin Myo Aung, Htet Aung Win, Wai Phone Myint Kyaw, Sai Sai Enn Htoo, Captain Lat Wai Phone, and Aung Ko Min.

Vietnam landed their first goal at three minutes, and the goal, scored by Cai Van Quy, boosted the team's spirits and determination to score. And, by the end of the match, they were three goals up, and still third in the standing table.

In the early minutes of the match, an unruffled Nguyen Dinh Duc brought the ball down in the box and sent it towards the goal, but keeper Htet Arkar Win managed

to deflect it. Cai Van Quy, who had scored three goals in earlier ties, pounced on the rebound, scoring an impressive opening goal for his team.

Later, Myanmar keeper Htet Arkar Win blocked a header from Nguyen Phu Nha at 18 minutes.

Myanmar did not give up and made every effort to break through, but Viet Nam were strong in both attack and defense.

Viet Nam's defence line was solid and blocked all attempts that went their way.

Viet Nam scored their second goal at 44 minutes through a big mistake by Myanmar defenders.

At 68 minutes, Viet Nam landed their third goal, and it was scored by Vo Anh Quan.

The match finished 3-0 in favour for Viet Nam, as Myanmar players seemed to

have run out of stamina in the later minutes of the second half.

Viet Nam coach Dinh The Nam said he was happy with the result.

"I am satisfied with my players, but we have to continue to work and improve with every game," he said.

Myanmar coach Torssten Frank Spittler said that Viet Nam were a good team, and played very well under their youth development programme.

"They are a step above us. It's probably a result of the youth development that they have had for a long time, and they are getting the fruits now. Our players gave their best today. As I said to my players, at the moment we are here to learn from these teams, who have had longer time together and good development," he said. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Week 19 MNL matches to be broadcast live on free-to-air channels

THE Week 19 matches of the Myanmar National League will be broadcast live on free-to-air channels, according to a statement issued by the league.

Week 19 will feature numerous matches, including Shan United vs Yadanarbon FC match.

Dagon FC will take on Rakhine United at 4 pm on 3 August at Thuwunna Stadium in Yagon. The match will be broadcast live on Mizzima TV.

Meanwhile, Hantharwady United will take on Sagaing United at Grand Royal Stadium in Bago at 3:30 pm on the same day, and the match will be broadcast live on MRTV.

Another match scheduled for 3:30 p.m. will pit Ayeyawady United against Magwe FC. The match will take place at Pathein Stadium in Pathein, and seen on Fortune TV.

There are also big matches scheduled for Sunday. Yadanarbon United will play against Shan United at 3:30 pm on Sunday at Taunggyi Stadium, and the match will be broadcast live on MRTV and MRTV-4.

Also Sunday, Southern Myanmar FC will face Zwegapin United at Mawlamyaing Stadium, and be streamed live on My Sports Facebook Page.

Chinland FC will also take on Yangon United on Sunday at Thuwunna Stadium, and can be seen on Mizzima TV.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

K-League blasts Juventus 'deception' over Ronaldo no-show

SEOUL — South Korea's K-League has accused Juventus of "deception" after superstar Cristiano Ronaldo sat out last week's friendly in Seoul, enraging thousands of fans.

The Korean league said it felt "disappointed and cheated" and demanded an apology from the Italian football champions after the Portuguese forward spent Friday's game on the bench.

A sell-out crowd of 65,000 made its displeasure known during the game against a K-League all-stars team, which was delayed for an hour after Juventus arrived late from the airport.

After a flight delay, Juventus requested a police escort and also asked for the game to be cut to two 40-minute halves — a proposal that the K-League branded "ridiculous and insulting".

"K-League cannot help but feel disappointed and cheated by Juventus for its shamelessness," a K-League statement said.

More than 2,000 fans plan to sue the sports agency that organised the game, one of a series of pre-season appearances by European teams keen to promote themselves in Asia.

The K-League was unhappy with Juventus's response to an

initial complaint, saying it did not contain an apology or explanation.

The football body accused Juventus of a breach of contract by not playing Ronaldo, rejecting its explanation that he was rested on medical advice.

"Ronaldo did not play even for a minute, contrary to the contract guaranteed that he will play for at least 45 minutes," the K-League said.

"If Ronaldo was unable to play, it would be a blatant deception to include Ronaldo as a substitute on the start list," it added.—AFP



The Korean league said it felt "disappointed and cheated" and demanded an apology from the Italian football champions. **PHOTO: AFP**