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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VI, No. 153, 4th Waning of Tawthalin 1381 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Tuesday, 17 September 2019

Mid-Year Gems Emporium kicks off in Nay Pyi Taw, to close on 25 September



Vice President U Henry Van Thio observes jewellery displayed at the 2019 Mid-Year Gems Emporium in Mani Yadana Jade Hall, Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE 2019 Mid-Year Gems Emporium kicked off at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The emporium will be held until 25 September and it is 95th event as Myanmar started holding gems emporiums since 1964.

Vice President U Henry Van

Thio visited the emporium, together with Union Minister Dr Aung Thu, Dr Than Myint and U Ohn Win; Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung, Amyotha Hluttaw Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee Chairman U Kyaw Thiha, Deputy Minister Dr Ye Myint

Swe, members of Hluttaws, Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee members, Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association, local and foreign gems merchants, media and dignitaries.

The event was introduced with a video clip to the Vice Pres-

ident and the attendees before they looked around the displays of jade and jewellery lots, the exhibition booths and raw jade lots outside the hall.

A total of 6,865 merchants from 26 countries were invited to the emporium where raw jades, finished jade products,

finished gems and jade-like stones are being put on sale under the open tender system. Jewellery, statuettes, crystals and mosaic pictures will be sold at the emporium.

The local merchants will have to pay their deposits in Myanmar kyat, and their foreign counterparts in euro currency at 2,000 for the purchase of jewellery lots and 20,000 for jade lots.

The bottom price for raw jade lots is 5,000 Euro and above, while that of finished jade lots 1,000 Euro and above. The merchants are permissible to make bids for the lots up to the value of the 10-fold of the minimum deposit paid by the types of gemstones.

The sales of products and the specific dates in open tender system would be 481 jewellery lots on 19 September; jade lot number from 1 to 1311 on 20 September; jade lot number from 1312 to 2611 on 21 September; jade lot number from 2612 to 3911 on 22 September; jade lot number from 3912 to 5211 on 23 September; jade lot number from 5212 to 6511 on 24 September and jade lot number from 6512 to 7811 on 25 September. The taxes will be levied for state revenue in accordance with the Union Tax Law, and service charges have been fixed at 3 per cent for raw jewellery and 1 per cent for finished jewellery. — MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

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Pyithu Hluttaw approves Word Change Bill, puts Farmer Market System motion on record

AT the 21st-day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 13th regular session held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, Hluttaw approves the Word Change Bill. Asterisk marked questions were raised and answered earlier and a motion was later discussed and put on record.

Asterisk marked questions

In the asterisk marked question and answer session U Kyaw Htay of Leshi constituency first asked why capital expenditure allocated from Union fund for Naga Self-Administered Zone was low and whether there was any plan to raise it starting from Fiscal Year 2019-2020. Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin explained that in Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Naga Self-Administered Zone was allocated with K 112.71 million and K 121.265 million respectively from the Union capital expenditure fund.

In Fiscal Year 2019-2020 K 485.814 million from Union capital fund was allocated for upgrading a road 1 mile 3 furlong road



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

and to install 2 box culverts in Naga Self-Administered Zone Nanyun Township. In the same fiscal year K 702.5 million from Sagaing Region government fund was allocated to upgrade roads 26 miles 1 furlong long, install 5 box culverts and to construct a concrete bridge in Nanyun Township.

In Fiscal Year 2019-2020 K 240 million from Union capital fund was allocated for upgrading a road 1 mile 3 furlong long and to install 10 box culverts in Leshi Township. In the same fiscal year K 703 million from Sagaing Re-

gion government fund was allocated to upgrade roads 6 miles long, install 24 box culverts and to construct two bailey bridges in Leshi Township.

A total of K 975.814 million from Union capital fund and K 2,108 million from Sagaing Region government fund were being allocated in Fiscal Year 2019-2020 to construct rural road and bridge in Naga Self-Administered Zone said the Deputy Minister.

In replying to a question raised by U Saw Victor Clyde of Thandaunggyi constituency on a

plan to employ sufficient number of personnel in Thandaunggyi Township Rural Development Department Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said a township level personnel was responsible for about 9 villages and there were difficulties to handle all the villages in remote areas where road transport was difficult. Attrition rate of personnel was at about 150 per year and arrangements were made to employ 600 new personnel in Fiscal Year 2019-2020. Once permission was granted to employ these new personnel, priority will be given toward employing locals and will then deploy sufficient number of personnel in Thandaunggyi Township and other townships where required said the Deputy Minister.

Similarly questions raised by U Min Kyi of Thandwe constituency on managing construction companies that won construction tenders in Thandwe Township to conduct construction works according to standards and norms and U Win Win of Minbu constituency on using parts from disman-

bled old bridges in Minbu (Saku) Township to construct small bridges in the township where required was answered by Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin. In the same way questions raised by Daw Nan Kham Aye of Namtu constituency on T&C Group Co, Ltd land matter; U Ba Shein of Kyaukpyu constituency on an animal feed plant constructed in Kyaukpyu Township Pinlena Village and U Thaung Aye of Pyawbwe constituency on progress of a promised additional reply to a question raised in Hluttaw on 22 May 2017 were answered by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw.

Hluttaw approve Word Change Bill

Following the asterisk marked question session, an announcement was made of approving the Word Change Bill approved and sent without amendment by Amyotha Hluttaw after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw. There was no objection to it.

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Second Amyotha Hluttaw 13th regular session holds 21st-day meeting

THE 21st-day meeting of Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 13th regular session was held at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning. At the meeting asterisk marked questions were raised and answered, a bill committee report on a bill read, reports of Amyotha Hluttaw Ethnic Affairs Committee and Amyotha Hluttaw Education Promotion Committee were read.

Asterisk marked question and answer session

U Soe Thein of Kayah State constituency 9 first raised a question on the signing of UN Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (GCM) agreement. Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin explained that GCM was a non-legally binding agreement. It was not an international agreement and it was also not signed. A draft proposal to approve the GCM was voted at UN General Assembly on 19 December 2018 where 152 countries including Myanmar had voted in support of it. Myanmar voted in support of GCM with the majority of the



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

countries because it was clearly stated that implementation of the GCM was the sovereign right of a country. The vote in support of GCM was made after careful consideration that it would support migrants and migrant workers from Myanmar as well as increasing their well beings explained the Union Minister.

In replying to a question by Naw Chris Tun (a) Dr Arkar Moe of Kayah State constituency 7 on plan to open a township agriculture development bank branch in Thandaunggyi Township Dep-

uty Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win said a new organization setup was submitted to Union Government Office for Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank to conduct its works more effectively. The submission also includes opening of a branch in Kayah State Thandaunggyi Township and once permission is granted arrangements will be made to open it said the Deputy Minister.

Similarly a question raised by U Bwe Khane of Chin State constituency 3 on whether bor-

der posts were properly surveyed and installed was answered by Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin while questions raised by U Myint Nang of Rakhine State constituency 5 on upgrading a bypass road in Rakhine State Kyauktaw Township and U Mahn Law Moun of Chin State constituency 8 on when road widening in Chin State Mindat Township will be conducted were answered by Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut,

fairs Committee report

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Ethnic Affairs Committee member Daw Ma Ma Lay read the committee's report on its work during Second Amyotha Hluttaw's eighth regular session to 13th regular session.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker then announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the report to register their names.

Amyotha Hluttaw Education Promotion Committee report

Finally Amyotha Hluttaw Education Promotion Committee secretary U Kyaw Tote read and explained the committee's findings and study report titled "Assessing the preparation and teaching of curriculums that could face the society and economy's challenges."

Afterwards Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw putting the report on record.

22nd-day meeting of Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 13th regular session is scheduled for 18 September. — Aung Ye Thwin

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Myanmar Geoscience Council Bill

Following the asterisk marked question and answer session Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Daw Kyein Ngai Mahn read and explained the committee's report on Myanmar Geoscience Council Bill approved and sent by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments. Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the report to register their names.

Amyotha Hluttaw Ethnic Af-

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint receives Korean Ambassador

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint received Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr Lee Sang-hwa at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to press release issued during the Korean President and his wife's recent State Visit to Myanmar and cooperation in

culture and production of film of the two countries. — MNA
(Translated by TTN)

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint holds talks with Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Mr Lee Sang-hwa at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Correction

Please read "ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly-AIPA" instead of "ATPA," in the news story "Pyidaungsu Hluttaw observes International Democracy Day" on page-1 of September 16 Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar. The GNLM regrets the error. — GNLM

Research paper on PLWD job opportunities introduced

THE Research Paper on the Effects on Employment Opportunities for People Living With Disabilities was introduced at Royal Nay Pyi Taw Hotel in the capital yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung delivered an address first where he said they have already formed the National Committee on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (NCRPD) and successive working committees each with their own assigned duties. The Deputy Minister said this research paper will be of invaluable assistance to the working committees' tasks, which include ensuring PLWDs are given the same employment opportunities as everyone else and monitoring implementations, creating an obstacle-free work environment for PLWDs, and raising their skillsets.

The Deputy Minister said the assessments and suggestions in section 6 of the paper have an effect on the job opportunities for PLWDs. He said relevant ministries, businesses, organizations championing for persons with disabilities and PLWDs themselves can increase their participation in all related sectors. Next, the Chairman of Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities (MFPWD) explained the reason for compiling the research paper and Prof Dr Khin May Than (Ret.) of the Statistics Department explained the processes behind the compilation. Officials then replied to questions from the audience.

The event was concluded after a gratitude speech from the General-Secretary of MFPWD. — MNA
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Deputy Minister U Soe Aung delivers the speech at the ceremony for Research Paper on the Effects on Employment Opportunities for People Living With Disabilities in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister meets with officials from Mandalay, Sagaing regions agriculture sector



Union Minister Dr Aung Thu delivers the speech at the meeting with agriculture officials from Mandalay and Sagaing regions in Mandalay yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu met with agriculture sector officials of Mandalay and Sagaing regions at Mandalay Region Agriculture Department meeting hall yesterday afternoon. Present at the meeting were directors general, deputy directors general of Department of Agriculture, Department of Fisheries and Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department and districts and regions agriculture department heads. At the meeting, the Union Minister spoke of the requirement for public servants to follow the laws, rules and regulations related to their works, conduct their works without bias, impartially and transparently. Review own strengths and weaknesses, be supportive and cooperate with related departments and aim toward fulfilling own duties and responsibilities. Innovation and systematic management is required to adapt to changing

climate situation as agriculture, livestock and irrigation is dependent on the weather and climate. Only through good preparation and with a systematic management in stages within the region can the effect of unpredictable climate and natural disasters could be reduced and overcome. Irrigation water will be supplied depending upon water collected in dams and reservoirs so preparation and arrangement of input requirements such as selection of crops based on weather/climate, changing of crops, technical sector, seeds etc. are to be systematically conducted. On the work process of upgrading farmlands, sustainable and effective usage of agriculture lands must be maintained. Difficulties and problems encountered were to be resolved according to farmland law and rules. Designated tender rules and financial management procedures were to be followed exactly said the Union Minister.

Meeting attendees then discussed region wise works conducted and future works. The Union Minister remarked and coordinated on the discussions.

After the meeting the Union Minister and party went to Aungmyethazan Township Thayetkone Fishery Station and inspected the fishery research works conducted at fresh water fish research and information center where Fisheries Department Director General U Khin Maung Maw and researchers provided explanations.

Next the Union Minister and party went to Mandalay Region Amarapura Township Natyaykan Fish Hatchery where officials explained about fish hatchery works, distribution of fingerlings, courses conducted to develop capacity of fish farmers and personnel. The Union Minister commented and discussed on the requirements. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Minister Dr Than Myint receives Korean Ambassador

UNION MINISTER for Commerce Dr Than Myint received Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr Lee Sang-hwa at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed the two Memoranda of Understanding signed with Ministry of Commerce during Korean President's State Visit to Myanmar, programmes being implemented according to

the MoUs and promoting trade and investment between the two countries. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Union Commerce Minister Dr Than Myint holds talks with South Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Sang-hwa at his ministry. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye accepts a donation from the Early Childhood Intervention Team, aimed at repairing a project building in Paung Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye receives Early Childhood Intervention Team

UNION MINISTER for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye yesterday received Dr Hollie Hix-Small, the Program Coordinator of Early Intervention Program and Associate Professor, and the Early Childhood Intervention team of the Portland State University in Oregon State of the United States.

The meeting at Makhalar Hall of the ministry discussed

about early children development, policy on protection and implementation, early childhood intervention (ECI) for preventing disability of children, generating ECI experts.

The ECI team also donated K 1 million for repairing a flood-torn building of ECI project in Paung Township in Mon State.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Draft for National Drug Control Strategic Plan finalized

THE National Drug Control Strategic Plan (Draft) was given a final review during a meeting at Shwe San Eain Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Police Brig-Gen Win Naing, who is Joint Secretary of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, central committee members, departmental heads, representatives

from UNODC and affiliated organizations, experts, and CSOs attended the meeting, bringing the total number of attendees to 45.

Police Brig-Gen Win Naing first delivered the opening speech, followed by Police Lt-Col Win Myint explaining the compilation of the draft strategic plan and the objectives of the

meeting. Attendees then provided suggestions on sections of the draft, conducted group discussions and made final amendments. Afterwards, Police Brig-Gen Win Naing delivered the closing speech and concluded the meeting. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Members of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, UNODC officials and other affiliated experts pose for a documentary photo at the meeting to finalize the National Drug Control Strategic Plan (Draft). **PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Attorney-General receives Swiss Ambassador



Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint holds a meeting with Swiss Ambassador Mr Tim Enderlin. **PHOTO: MNA**

DEPUTY Attorney-General U Win Myint received Swiss Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tim Enderlin yesterday at the meeting hall of the Office of Union Attorney-General.

During the meeting, they openly discussed matters related to enactment of Myanmar administrative transformation law, protection of violence against

women law, family planning law, National Land Law enactment processes carried out by Union Attorney-General Office, and the projects in Myanmar aided by Switzerland.

Also present at the meeting were Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin and Director-General Dr Thida Oo. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Joint Committee on Amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 36/2019

MEETING 36/2019 of the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Committee Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Chairman of the Joint Committee Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Joint Committee secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe, joint secretary U Htay Win Aung (a) U Pyone Cho and members who were Hluttaw representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



The Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution convenes meeting 36/2019. PHOTO: MNA

Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment and hear Certiorari cases

CHIEF JUSTICE of the Union U Htun Htun Oo, Supreme Court judges U Myint Aung and U Myo Win of Special Appellate Bench sits at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning and passed judgment on one (Certiorari) criminal case and four (Certiorari) civil cases and heard one (Certiorari) criminal case and four (Certiorari) civil case. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

7th Ethnic Media Conference takes place in Myitkyina

THE 7th Ethnic Media Conference was opened at Majoi Hall of Manau Park in Myitkyina Township, Kachin State, yesterday, with the theme of 'Ethnic Media for Justice'.

The event will be held until 18 September. The six previous conferences were held in Mon, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah and Kayin states.

Kachin State Chief Minister Dr Khet Aung made an opening remark, with recognizing the role of news media and disseminating true news in accordance with media ethics. He also sought idea for development of the State and the contribution of media as the fourth pillar for the emergence of a democratic federal union.

On behalf of Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Director-General of Information

and Public Relations Department U Ye Naing said that in the sixth conference, ethnic media agreed to publish true news about internal peace negotiations and produced good results.

He also suggested for production of quality news in national events, especially from ethnic areas, supporting the ethnic people with media and information literacy in democratization process and 2020 General Election, and scrutinizing fake news, wrong news, hate speech and conflicts.

Kachin Ethnic Literature and Culture Committee Chairman U Hton Phu Dagun said his appreciation to host the conference, and pledged cooperation of local communities and media.

The discussions will be made by officials from the Ministry of Information, Myanmar



Kachin State Chief Minister Dr Khet Aung addresses the 7th Ethnic Media Conference in Myitkyina Township, Kachin State. PHOTO: MNA



Kachin State Chief Minister Dr Khet Aung poses for a documentary photo with attendees of the 7th Ethnic Media Conference. PHOTO: MNA

Press Council, media experts from local and ethnic media, media network groups, political parties, religious and social communities and officials from the Embassy of the United States in Myanmar.

During the three-day event, the Group 1 will discuss the topic on Journalist's Safety and Media Sustainability, Group 2 on Mega Development Project and Its Environmental Effects/Public Safety, Group 3 on Media Freedom Vs Prospects of Democratic Transition, Group 4 on Crashes, Peace Process, Reform & The Trends of Ethnic Media in Myanmar, and Group 5 on Ethnic Media Engagement with Justice.— Kachin State IPRD

(Translated by Aung Khin)

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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T&C Ministry to probe delay Y-8 plane removal

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung presided over a co-ordination meeting for civil aviation sector, which was held at the headquarters of the Department of Civil Aviation in Yangon on 14 September morning.

The meeting was attended by the Director General of Department of Civil Aviation and officials, responsible persons from Yangon Aerodrome Company Limited (YACL) and representatives of domestic airlines.

At the meeting, the Union Minister said flight schedules at the Yangon International Airport were delayed for 19 hours after a Y-8 military plane skidded off the runway. It roughly took about 2 hours to clear the way during the similar cases in the past. However, the 5 September incident resulted in losses for airlines and passengers as seven outbound flights and 25 inbound flights, totaling 32 flights, were cancelled.

After immediate discussions among officials from Department of Civil Aviation and airport of-



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung delivers the speech at the meeting at Department of Civil Aviation in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

officials, a total of 19 outbound flights could be resumed by using a 8,000-ft runway to avoid the blockage. Some inbound flights of 12 ATR planes were allowed for landing at the Yangon International Airport between 5 pm and 6:18 pm on that day after these aircrafts temporarily stranded at the airports of nearby cities.

The Union Minister urged to investigate the causes that

took some hours to remove the skidded plane from the runway, and to prepare for the methods and machinery to address such problem in the future.

The Director-General of Department of Civil Aviation briefed on the incident, the removal of Y-8 aircraft from the runway and the cancellation of flights.

In his conclusion remark, the Union Minister said the inci-

dent was handled by the Department of Civil Aviation, officials from Yangon International Airport and experts from Myanmar Railways, but it is required to do investigation about the cause of serious delay. He also suggested to upgrade the runway shoulders to reduce the incidents and to make systematic plans for minimal damages.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)

MR to set up rail coach repair workshop

By Aye Yamone

A carriage repair workshop will be built at a cost of US\$100 million for the maintenance of imported passenger rail coaches, said Dr Maung Maung Thwin, the general manager of Myanmar Railways (MR).

Upon completion, the workshop will carry out repair and maintenance operations for air-conditioning, provide cleaning services, and heavy equipment repair, among other things, for carriages plying on the Yan-

gon-Mandalay railway section and the Yangon circular railway network. The rail coaches will be imported from Japan.

"For now, we have called for bids, and the process has not ended yet. The deadline for filing tenders is 18 October. The workshop will be developed on MR-owned land. Many Japanese companies are expected to participate in the bidding. The workshop's construction is estimated to cost around \$100 million," said U Maung Maung Thwin.

Tenders were invited for the

construction of the workshop in July. Four firms have obtained Expression of Interest forms in the past two months.

As per the tender rules, only wholly-owned Japanese companies or joint ventures with Japanese companies can participate in the bidding.

"The project will be implemented under an ODA loan. The construction time is estimated to be three years. However, it will depend on the starting date. We will conduct a tender screening and evaluation process. As we are

implementing the project with Japan, it will take some time," said U Maung Maung Thwin.

The workshop will be funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency's Official Development Assistance (ODA). The project is slated to take three years to complete, and construction work is likely to start in 2020.

The coach repair workshop will be developed on 14 acres of land owned by the MR in the Ywathagyi station compound.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Pakokku villages to receive solar power system

FIVE villages located 10 miles from the nearest connection to the national grid in Pakokku Township, Magway Region, will receive one-house solar power systems installed using K100 million from the 2018-2019 FY, according to the township's Rural Development Department.

The villages are Myingyun, Thaphanpin, Nhone Poet, Gawanlay Taing, and Kyun Pulu. Installation will begin on the last week of September.

Each household in the five villages will receive either a 60W or 100W system depending on their needs. The price for a 60W solar panel and related accessories is K50,000 while the price for the 100W package is K150,000, and they are collected as public funds.

According to the township's rural development head Daw Kyi Kyi Mar, if more than 30 per cent of the households have them installed, then public spaces such as

roads, schools, clinics and religious buildings will receive them for free.

Daw Kyi Kyi Mar said the local residents only have to pay a quarter of the price for a solar panel installation. She said the 535 houses will install 60W (163 units) or 100W (372 units) while three primary schools, one high school, two clinics, forty-nine street lights and eight religious buildings will receive them for free. — Than Lwin

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Solar power system installed at a village in Pakokku Township, Magway Region. PHOTO: THAN LWIN

Foreign demand lifts elephant foot yam prices this harvest season

WITH steady demand from markets in China and Japan, elephant foot yams are fetching higher prices in the current harvest season than during the year-ago period, according to traders.

The prices of fresh elephant foot yams produced from Chin State ranged from K600-1,000 per viss (1.6 kg) in the Mandalay market last year. This year, the opening price has reached K1,000-1,800 per viss, while dried yams are fetching K9,000-12,000 per viss. The price of fresh yams has gone up by K300-600 per viss, depending on the quality.

Yams produced in Chin State are getting a higher price than those from other regions as they have better quality and taste, said traders.

Myanmar's elephant foot yams are primarily purchased by China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. Japan offers higher prices than China for yams.

There are currently seven factories for drying elephant foot yams in Myanmar. Additionally, two more elephant foot yam drying factories, with a production capacity of 30 tons per day, are being constructed in Mon State, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Elephant foot yam production has become a lucrative business. Therefore, val-

ue-adding technology is crucial for boosting elephant foot yam production and expanding its market, according to the Myanmar Fruit, Flower, and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association (MFVP).

According to the association, Myanmar is currently exporting only raw yam, and value-added products made from yam will help the market grow in the long term. Myanmar is only producing semi-processed yam at present, it stated.

Elephant foot yams are the main product of Chin State, where they are cultivated on over 8,800 acres of land. Kanpetlet, Mindat, and Matupi townships produce about 1 million viss (a viss is equal to 1.6 kg) of elephant foot yams. The yams are also grown in Northern Chin State.

Elephant foot yams can be planted across the country. Over 13,000 acres of land is under yam cultivation in the current fiscal year. In addition to Chin State, yams are being grown in Kayin, Mon, and Shan states, and Taninthayi and Bago regions.

Myanmar exported 4,200 tons of elephant foot yams in the 2014-2015 fiscal year, 1,300 tons in the 2015-2016FY, and 20,000 tons in the 2016-2017FY, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce. —GNLM
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Elephant foot yam. PHOTO: ZO HAY HSAR

Senior officials meet for Myanmar-Viet Nam trade talks



Senior officials from Myanmar and Viet Nam discuss preparations for the 10th Myanmar-Viet Nam Joint Committee Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

SENIOR officials from Myanmar and Viet Nam held a preparatory meeting yesterday for the 10th Myanmar-Viet Nam Joint Committee Meeting which is scheduled on 17 September.

The meeting held at M Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw focused on promotion and

smooth functioning in bilateral trade, investment, energy, tax, agriculture, forest, livestock, fishery, transport, consumer protection, banking and cooperation in regional affairs.

The meeting was attended by Director General of Department of Trade U Min Min and representatives from

the departments of Ministry of Commerce, private sectors, Mr Nguyen Phuc Nam, Deputy Director of the Asia-Africa Market Department of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, and the Vietnamese representatives. —MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

International Rubber Conference 2019 to be held in Sept-end

By Nyein Nyein

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI) and the Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association (MRPPA) will jointly hold the International Rubber Conference 2019 on 30 September and 1 October at the Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw, according to the MRPPA.

The conference aims to serve as a platform for sharing international work experience related to rubber cultivation and production, said U Khaing Myint, the secretary of the MRPPA.

“The conference aims to enable the exchange of knowledge on growing methods and share the experiences of seed germination for plantation from participating countries. It will also include a research reading session by foreign experts,” said U Khaing Myint.

The MRPPA and Myanmar's Agriculture Department will also read research papers to show their findings, and approximately 70 researchers have

been invited so far.

“The conference is held every year. Our rubber planters and producers can benefit greatly by joining it. If they go abroad to attend this kind of conference, it will cost them around US\$2,000-3,000. Here, participants can attend the conference free of charge,” said U Khaing Myint.

The MRPPA became a member of the International Rubber Research and Development Board (IRRDB) in 2007. The IRRDB has over 20 member countries, and Myanmar has become a member in 2017. The annual meetings of the IRRDB rotate between the member countries, and this is the first time Myanmar will host the conference. Annual meetings and International Rubber Conferences are always organized together, the MRPPA stated.

Seventy per cent of Myanmar's rubber production goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, Korea, India, Japan, and other countries.

Myanmar rubber is primarily produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions. There are over 1.6 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, with Mon State accounting for about 500,000 acres.

About 150,000 tons of rubber were exported in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Myanmar has sent over 190,000 tons of rubber to external markets in the past eleven months of the current fiscal year.

The International Rubber Conference is a research and development network which brings together natural rubber research institutes. It will provide a platform to rubber scientists, technologists, academics, and industrialists for sharing knowledge, and it focuses on topics themed around engineering applications of elastomers, polymer innovations, process and manufacturing advancements, filler and additives development, with additional themes on sustainability, material characterization, and modeling.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Hospital-cum-rehabilitation facility offers hope to leprosy patients

THE Ministry of Health and Sports is planning to turn the Yenantha Leprosy Hospital in Madaya, Mandalay Region, into a hospital-cum-rehabilitation center for patients.

The move has brought fresh hope to leprosy patients, who often feel neglected and isolated from the rest of society.

The ministry has declared that it would provide funding and manpower to the hospital in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe said the ministry will fulfil the requirements of the hospital step by step, to ensure that it becomes a model one, like the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Yangon.

According to a survey in 2018, the leprosy rate in Myanmar was 0.39 per 1,000 people. Though the number of leprosy cases has declined nationwide, an estimated 2,000 cases continue to be reported every year.

Leprosy-related discrimination, stigma, and prejudice are the most powerful barriers to ending leprosy for good, given the fact that the disease is 100 per cent curable when detected early.

Though the number of leprosy cases has declined steadily worldwide, an estimated 200,000 cases continue to be reported every year.

Leprosy patients may suffer from physical deformities, but they can still receive an education and become valuable, productive citizens, who can support their family members and serve the country.

The most basic task in fighting leprosy is to seek out those who have contracted the disease and ensure they receive treatment so they

can be free of the malady. Timely treatment can also help prevent patients from becoming disabled, and providing them support through rehabilitation and recovery is also important.

Although leprosy is often equated with serious deformities and disabilities, the percentage of patients that present with these symptoms is down to just 6 per cent, which shows the disease is being diagnosed earlier than ever.

Leprosy needn't lead to disability and deformity, which fuel leprosy-related discrimination, stigma, and prejudice.

Once discrimination sets in, an opportunity for tackling the disease may get wasted, thereby leaving a negative impact on the patients, their family members, and the nation.

Helping leprosy patients form psycho-social support networks to reduce emotional and economic distress is a must. We must promote the active participation of persons affected by leprosy in society.

To combat the disease in Myanmar, efforts to eradicate discrimination against leprosy patients and their families must be given a top priority by promoting the right attitude among people towards patients.



Stanley Bing
American-business columnist

FROM explorers to producers in Myanmar I would like to introduce a valuable resource to help companies better understand, identify and obtain appropriate financing and the associated technical requirements of these funding options. Then I would like to share some comments by Bill on Amended Myanmar Mines Law (2015) for local companies to move forward and to avoid the alternative – as noted in Bing's reference to the shark. Because nobody wants to go backwards.

The mining sector in Myanmar

The Union of Myanmar has a long history of mining in gemstones, gold, silver, antimony, cinnabar, copper sulphate and amber which could be traced back to the regimes of ancient Kings of Myanmar since the fifteenth century. Myanmar has been known throughout for the high quality beautiful and rare rubies in Mogok and best quality jade in Phakant and Hkamti. In 1989 Myanmar introduced a policy for direct foreign investment in the country's mineral sector. The economic enterprises of the Ministry of Mines seek foreign investors as joint venture partners to explore, develop and exploit mineral resources. During the period from 1995 to 2000 several joint ventures were established by bidding system up to fourth round bidding. The Department of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration under Ministry of Mines (Now Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation) initiated Foreign Joint Venture programme in mineral exploration and production in 1995. It was so serious and sensitive item before 1995 exploration and exploitation of mineral resources by foreign companies were prohibited.

First Round Bidding has been held in 1995 and six Companies won 14 Blocks for (Au, Cu) including Ivanhoe Myanmar Holdings, Ltd.

Second Round Bidding was held in 1996 and six Companies won 9 Blocks (Au, Cu, Pb, Zn, Ag) including notorious Moedi

Taung Prospect.

- Third Round Bidding in 1998 obtained three successful companies for 4 Blocks (Au, Cu, Pb, Zn).
- Fourth Round Bidding was unsuccessful due to unattractive Blocks.



Myanmar has been known throughout for the high quality beautiful and rare rubies in Mogok and best quality jade in Phakant and Hkamti. PHOTO: KUN(WIN PA)

Taung Prospect.

- Third Round Bidding in 1998 obtained three successful companies for 4 Blocks (Au, Cu, Pb, Zn).
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According to 1994 Mines Law the foreign investors are expected to provide 100% of the exploration expenses until completion of feasibility study. After a positive feasibility study, the joint venture is structured 50% for the foreign investor, with a 35% working interest for the State Mining Enterprise, and a 15% carried interest for the government.

The raising of finance at the exploration stage of a mining project will invariably involve equity. Debt financing will usually not be available until such time as a project has been proved to be bankable. This will require extensive drilling and other exploration activity, which is traditionally an equity risk.

Mining companies have numerous equity platforms available to choose from such as the London Stock Exchange (LSE),

Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) or Australian Securities Exchange (ASX). Mining companies situated in developing countries will often list in a country other than the host country because (i) there is likely to be wider access to investors, and (ii) there may not be a viable stock market in their host country.

Discovering or acquiring valuable mineral deposit is, alas, only the first step in establishing a profitable mining operation. The process of technical and financial evaluation will examine the project in minute detail and from many different points of views.

The principle areas of risk to a potential investor may be categorized as follows:

1. Country
 - consists of opportunity, political stability, domestic climate, economic climate, foreign relations, mining culture, mining regulations, labour force, infrastructure, ownership, creeping expropriation, nationalization, free currency exchange, remittance of capital and profits
2. Market
 - includes commodity, structure, pricing, company role, im-

perfect, demand, synergy, strategic consideration, by/co-production, internal consumption or export

3. Technical
 - involves geological environment, reserve base, expertise, experience, resources, competitive advantages

4. Environmental Protection
 - consists of existing liabilities and potential pitfalls, the existing and growing lobbies,

5. Financial
 - accreditation for green production practice, the base line study, Environmental impact, community disruption, closure and reclamation

6. Recent Advances
 - Option value Approach

7. Implementation
 - contains corporate structure, Corporate style, executive, method, the hidden factor

8. Implementation
 - involves people, financial, equipment, planning and schedules, project management

Forecasting the level of future investment in mining is very difficult.

It assumes that one can examine past growth rates for mineral commodities and identify technological and economic factors affecting consumption in order to predict future commodity demand.

We are all familiar with cases where project capital costs have exceeded the initial capital estimates by 30-50 percent. Many of these increases are not primarily caused by inflation but occurred because the ultimate infrastructure requirements were not initially recognized or because sufficient engineering had not been completed prior to reaching a decision to undertake the project (John Hammes, 1991).

Today, as mining projects get larger and larger, and as depletion leads to the development of lower grade and more refractory ore bodies, the mining company often cannot economically start up a small mine and expend it with its own cash flow.

The mining industry is faced with an environment where the profitability of current operations is unsatisfactory, where the historical way in which new mines have been developed or in which mining companies have grown is often no longer feasible, and where the alternative of borrowing heavily in the money markets to finance new projects leads to risks for the borrower which are not always commensurate with rewards.

Banks and mining project

Banks lend to the mining industry in two main forms: corporate finance and limited resource project finance. In project finance the implication is that the borrowing will be repaid only from the cash flows generated by the project with no recourse or only limited recourse to the company as a whole. The bank is therefore exposed to the risks that grade, tonnage, recovery factors, costs, saleable production or sales price will not be as forecast. The bank therefore must be given all the information needed to assess these risks and forecast cash flows in order to decide if it will provide finance, in what amount and on what terms (F.D. Scott, 1991).

In broad terms what a bank wants to see before financing a

mining project are:

Bankable Documents

- Final Feasibility Report
- Information Memorandum
- The Project Site Bankable Documents
- Final Feasibility report

In the mining industry it would be normal for a Final Feasibility Report to have been prepared, and if it demonstrates an acceptable rate of return which meets the company's target, for Board approval to have been given to go ahead with the project and to seek bank finance.

The Final Feasibility Report which triggers Board approval is the first essential bankable document

Global Mine Financing

The raising of finance at the exploration stage of a mining project will invariably involve equity. Debt financing will usually not be available until such time as a project has been proved to be bankable. This will require extensive drilling and other exploration activity, which is traditionally an equity risk. One can consider below some of the alternative global platforms for the raising of equity in the public markets.

Equity

Mining companies have numerous equity platforms available to choose from such as the London Stock Exchange (LSE), Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) or Australian Securities Exchange (ASX).

Mining companies situated in developing countries will often list in a country other than the host country because (i) there is likely to be wider access to investors, and (ii) there may not be a viable stock market in their host country.

Canada:

The Canadian TSX and TSX Venture Exchange (TSX-V) have a reputation as the leading global mining exchanges. The TSX-V is suitable for early-stage mining companies which are looking to raise smaller amounts of capital to finance ongoing exploration. Certain disclosure is required, including audited financial statements and some (minimum) exploration work must have been undertaken.

In broad terms what a bank wants to see before financing a

SEE PAGE-10

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

The Office of the President issued Press Release No. 35/2019 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 14 September.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 14 September.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 18 September issue of *The Global New Light of Myanmar* — GNLM

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of H.E. Mr. Agustin Garcia Lopez Loaeza as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Mexican States to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr. Agustin Garcia Lopez Loaeza was born in 1962. He holds Bachelor and Master in Economics. He served as an adviser for Economic Affairs of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs from 1986 to 1989. He was responsible for Economic Affairs and Foreign Policy at the Embassy of Mexico in the United Kingdom from 1989 to 1993. He also served as a Director of Treasury Affairs with North America, the Caribbean and the Pacific in the Secretary of Finance and Public Credit from 1993 to 1995. Afterwards, he served as a General Director for Economic Cooperation in the Mexican Institute of International Cooperation (IMEXCI) of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs from 1995 to 1998. He also served as a General Directorate of International Finance Affairs in the Secretary of Finance and Public Credit in 2000. He was part of the Executive Board of the Inter-American Development Bank and the Inter-American Investment Corporation representing Mexico and the Dominican Republic from 2000 to 2007. He also served as a Permanent Representative of Mexico to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) from 2007 to 2013, as an Ambassador of Mexico to France from 2013 to 2016, as an Ambassador of Mexico to Canada from 2016 to 2017, and as an Executive Director of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) from 2017 to 2019 respectively. He can speak English, French and German.

H.E. Mr. Agustin Garcia Lopez Loaeza will be concurrently accredited as Ambassador of the United Mexican States to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Singapore.—MNA

MCF to organize Myanmar Unicode system workshop in Nay Pyi Taw

MYANMAR Computer Federation (MCF) will organize a workshop on Myanmar Unicode System at Pho Waziya Hall of Kyemon newspaper house near Khayaybin Junction, Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 September.

Anyone can join the workshop and ask what they want to know about the system. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

MINE FINANCING AND MYANMAR MINES LAW

FROM PAGE-9

The TSX-V enables multiple financing rounds and provides a logical progression to a TSX listing. TSX is the main market for senior equities and is better suited to producing mining companies wishing to raise greater capital.

Australia:

Listed mining companies make up about one-third of all ASX-listed companies. The Joint Ore Reserves Committee (JORC) code, also known as the Australasian Code for Reporting of Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves, is a code of practice that sets minimum standards for public reporting of minerals exploration results, resources and ore reserves, which is recognised internationally and has become a blueprint for similar initiatives worldwide.

JORC and the Canadian equivalent, NI 43-101, use the same resource and reserve categories (proven, probable, measured, indicated and inferred) and are in most cases interchangeable.

The LSE is home to some of the world's largest mining companies.

There were 37 mining companies admitted to trading on the LSE's Main Market with a combined market capitalisation of more than £206 billion. AIM, the LSE's growth market (for smaller and growing companies), had a further 141 mining companies admitted to trading as at August 31, 2013, with a combined market capitalisation of approximately £4.9 billion. Under the United Kingdom (UK) listing regime, depending on whether a company is seeking to have its shares admitted to a regulated market governed by the EU Prospectus Directive, such as the Main Market, or to AIM, which has a more flexible regulatory structure, different admission criteria and listing rules will apply.

INVESTMENT POLICY FOR MINING SECTOR

- Allow 100% foreign owned companies
- Allow joint ventures with local companies
- PSC 30-70 split MOM-private party
- Does not allow mining companies to export raw ore
- Must make value added or mineral processing
- Require processing plants with the latest technology

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Country	Market Type	Main Minerals	Political Stability
Australia	Developed	Coal, copper, diamonds, iron ore, nickel	Stable
China	Developed	Coal, gold	Stable
Indonesia	Developing	Copper	Not very stable
India	Emerging	Bauxite, chromite, coal, diamonds, titanium	Stable
Mongolia	Emerging	Coal, copper, gold	Not very stable
Vietnam	Emerging	Bauxite, antimony, coal, gold, rare earths	Stable

(After Merrick White, 2012)

COMMENTS on the law amending Myanmar Mines Law by Bill. (2015, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No.72)

The 2015 Myanmar Mines Law Amendments represent something of a lost opportunity to create a legal and regulatory environment conducive to world class foreign investment in the Myanmar mining industry.

Many important issues remain outstanding and much further work is required before world class mining.

The term "JV" and "PSC" should be clarified to agree with Myanmar Foreign Investment Law and Rules.

The power and resource sharing between Region/State and Union is unavoidable and has to be harmonized with constitution and Mines law and rules.

Type of production should be clearly mentioned since the exploration stage to avoid argument in development stage.

Whatever the case may be the negotiation between investors and Governmental Institutions, out of law and rules, is unacceptable.

Companies will look seriously at large scale investment in Myanmar.

It is possible the new Mines Rules may help to address some of the outstanding issues.

Accordingly, the 2015 MML Amendments should really be seen as the intended starting point rather than as the intended finishing point for the reform process in respect of the 1994 Myanmar Mines Law (Bill, 2016).

Many foreign investors will be disappointed but probably not unduly surprised by the relative lack of progress, in later 2015, in reforming the 1994 Myanmar Mines Law.

Due to lack of adequate knowledge of mineral exploration and mining bottom up approach for making Mines Law may not reach the point for the time being in Myanmar.

Therefore, to educate all levels of citizens who are involving in mining business is strongly recommended, otherwise, nothing will be changed.

MINERAL POLICY

Mineral policy is the source of Mines Law and rules and minerals resource are being the vital raw material for infrastructure, capital goods and basic industries. As a major resource for development the extraction and management of minerals has to be integrated into the overall strategy of the country's economic development. The exploitation of minerals has to be guided by long-term national goals and perspectives. Just as these goals and perspectives are dynamic and responsive to the changing global economic scenario so also the national mineral policy has to be dynamic taking into consideration the changing needs of industry in the context of the domestic and global economic environment. It is, therefore, necessary to establish the National Mineral Policy, including elements newly evolved, for the development of the mineral resources of the country.

The policy provides conducive, stable, predictable, legal and fiscal environments to attract foreign and local investment for exploration and mine development. It also encourages local entrepreneurs to develop small-scale mines so as to gradually build-up capacity to offer employment and alleviate poverty among the rural population. It is envisaged that with this strategy, the mineral sector will increase substantially its contribution to serve as an engine of growth towards industrial development, employment creation, infrastructure development, increased revenue and foreign exchange earnings as well as socio-economic development. The draft Mineral Policy of Myanmar is under processing and expected to come out end of this year.

(Than Htun is a retired Professor of Geology and from the Myanmar Geosciences Society, and the views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily represent or reflect the views of the The Global New Light of Myanmar.)

Pyithu Hluttaw approves Word Change Bill

FROM PAGE-2

Motion on establishing a Farmer Market System put on record

Afterwards a motion tabled by U Sein Win of Maubin constituency urging the Union Government to establish township wise Farmer Market System for agriculture and livestock breeding products to have fair price and a sustainable market was discussed by Tatmadaw representative Major Zaw Win Naing,

Tatmadaw representative Major Naing Lin Aung, U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Papun constituency and U Myat Lay Oo of Htilin constituency. In discussing the motion Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said there's a requirement to set a base price that was equally beneficial to both the producer and consumers of agriculture and livestock products and to assure safety and quality throughout the entire supply chain.

Arrangements were made to

obtain quality seeds and breeds, technology and to be competitive in the market. G to G (government to government) discussions and negotiations were held, agreements signed to raise the prices of export products.

Ministry of Commerce also established 65 trade centres in Yangon, Ayeyawady, Bago, Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions, Shan, Mon, Kachin, Kayah and Rakhine states that were much similar to Farmer Market System and were supporting the

farmers by helping them obtain a fair price and market for their products. The main requirement to establish a Farmer Market System was the establishment of strong farmers groups. Only such groups and entities could control and manage the market. At the moment, efforts were being made toward establishment of such groups and entities.

Infrastructures such as storage and distribution facilities were also required and a certain time frame was required for such infrastructures to become established. Although the

motion tabled was a good motion, much steps and time was needed to establish a Farmer Market System said the Deputy Minister and explained that the motion should be put on record. As U Sein Win agreed for the motion to be put on record and there was no objection from Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the motion being put on record by the Hluttaw. 22nd-day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw 13th regular session will be held on 18 September. — Aye Aye Thant, Kyaw Zin Htike (MNA)

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Indonesia arrests nearly 200 over raging forest fires



The fires — usually started by illegal burning to clear land for farming — have unleashed choking haze across Southeast Asia. PHOTO: AFP

JAKARTA (Indonesia)—Indonesia has arrested nearly 200 people over vast forest fires ripping across the archipelago, police said Monday, as toxic haze sends air quality levels plummeting and sparks flight cancellations.

Jakarta has deployed thousands of personnel to battle blazes that are turning land into charred landscapes and consuming forests in Sumatra and Borneo islands, where thousands of schools have been shut over health fears.

The fires — usually started by illegal burning to clear land

for farming — have unleashed choking haze across Southeast Asia, triggering diplomatic tensions with Indonesia's neighbours.

On Monday, authorities said they had arrested some 185 people suspected of being involved in activities that led to out-of-control fires sweeping the country.

"Indonesian Police will enforce the law against anyone who is proven to have carried out forest and land burning, whether it was done intentionally or through negligence," National Police spokesman

DediPrasetyo told reporters in Jakarta.

"This is a last resort. The most important thing is prevention."

Four corporations were also being investigated, he added.

Last week, Indonesia sealed off dozens of plantations where smog-belching fires were blazing, and warned that owners — including Malaysia and Singapore-based firms — could face criminal charges if there was evidence of illegal burning.

Some of the most serious fires occur in peatlands, which are highly combustible when drained of water to be converted into agricultural plantations.

Thick haze in Borneo — where air quality levels have plummeted to "dangerous" levels in some areas — caused the cancellation of about a dozen flights Sunday, national airline Garuda said.

Rival Lion Air said about 160 Borneo flights had been affected at the weekend.

Meanwhile, nearly 150,000 people have been treated for acute respiratory infections linked to the haze in recent months, according to Indonesian health authorities.—AFP ■

Australia, Fiji attempt to bury climate hatchet

SYDNEY (Australia) — The leaders of Fiji and Australia agreed to boost bilateral ties Monday as they sought to smooth relations following a highly publicised clash over climate change at a Pacific summit last month.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison welcomed his Fijian counterpart, Frank Bainimarama, just weeks after the Pacific leader branded him "very insulting, very condescending" for his response to criticism of Australia's reluctance to make climate change a policy priority.

There was uproar at the Pacific Islands Forum after Morrison rejected regional leaders' demands his government ban new coal mines and coal-fired power plants as part of their call for urgent climate action.

The conservative Australian politician countered that his government was the leading provider of development aid to the Pacific region, drawing Bainimarama's rebuke.

But the two leaders struck a conciliatory tone at Monday's bilateral meeting, where they signed a "Fiji-Australia Vuvale Partnership".

Vuvale — or family in Fijian — is "a term of intimacy, it's a

term of family and that's very much always been the basis of our relationships", Morrison said.

"The people-to-people relationships, the strategic relationships, the economic partnerships, they're not new, they go back many, many, many generations," he told reporters in Canberra.

Bainimarama also adopted a more diplomatic tone in his public comments, saying "members of any family are entitled to their disagreements".

"No-one expects that our differences can be resolved quickly or easily, but we must never fall down in forging common ground, and common ground is what I intend to seek in our discussion on the issues that impact the lives of Fijian, Australians and all the Pacific people this morning," he said.

The agreement aims to strengthen defence and economic cooperation as well as "people-to-people links", but little detail was provided.

Relations between Fiji and Australia improved in 2014 when Bainimarama, a one-time coup leader, won a long-awaited democratic election that was followed up by another victory last year.— AFP ■

Dozens of tigers dead after confiscation from Thai temple

BANGKOK (Thailand)— More than half of the 147 tigers confiscated from a controversial Thai temple have died, park officials said Monday, blaming genetic problems linked to in-breeding at the once money-spinning tourist attraction.

For years, the WatPhaLuang Ta Bua temple in the western province of Kanchanaburi pulled tourist hordes who could be photographed — for a fee — next to scores of tigers.

But in 2016 park officials began a lengthy operation to remove the big cats amid allegations of mismanagement, and claims the creatures were being exploited.

Dozens of dead cubs were found kept in freezers, sparking claims the carcasses were being sold by a temple rumoured to have raked in hundreds of thousands of dollars each year from visitors.

Tiger parts can fetch enormous sums in China and Viet Nam, where they are falsely believed to have medicinal properties.



More than half the 147 tigers removed from a Thai temple since 2016 over fears of mistreatment have died, officials say. PHOTO: AFP

The surviving adults were taken to two breeding stations in nearby Ratchaburi province but only 61 of the 147 have survived so far, parks officials told reporters.

"It could be linked to in-breeding," PattarapolManeeon, of the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation said.

"They had genetic problems which posed risks to body and immune system."

Many suffered from tongue paralysis, breathing problems and lack of appetite that led to fatal seizures.

Legal cases ongoing

"Most of the tigers were already in distressed state stemming from the transportation and change of location... later their health problems emerged," SunthornChaiwattana, another department official said.—AFP ■

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

သတင်းစာများကို ဤဆိုင်များတွင် ဝယ်ယူဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

- မြန်မာ့အောင်စာပေ**
အမှတ် ၅၈၊ ကိုယ့်မင်းကိုယ်ချင်းလမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့။
- ကြေးမုံခင်စာပေ**
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Remittances from Filipinos abroad reach 2.9 bln USD in July 2019

MANILA – Personal remittances from overseas Filipinos (OFs) totaled 2.9 billion US dollars in July 2019, 7.2 per cent higher than the 2.7 billion US dollars recorded in July 2018, the country's central bank said on Monday.

On a cumulative basis, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) or the central bank of the Philippines said personal remittances for the period January to July 2019 increased by 3.6 per cent to 19.1 billion US dollars from last years' level of 18.5 billion US dollars.

BSP Governor Benjamin Diokno said the steady growth in personal remittances during the first seven months of 2019 drew support from the remittance inflows from land-based OF workers with work contracts of one year or more, which aggregated to 14.6 billion US dollars from 14.2 billion US dollars in the same period last year.

The BSP said inflows from the compensation of sea-based workers and land-based workers with short-term contracts also contributed to this growth and totaled 4.1 billion US dollars from 3.8 billion US dollars a year ago.

By country and region source, the BSP said the United States registered the highest share of overall remittances for January to July 2019 at 36.8 per cent. It was followed by Saudi Arabia, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Britain, Japan, Canada, China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Germany and Kuwait. The Philippine government estimates the number of overseas Filipino workers at 12 million, accounting for more than one-tenth of the country's population. In 2018, personal remittances from overseas Filipinos grew 3.1 per cent to 28.9 billion US dollars.

Overseas Filipinos remittances are one of the largest sources of foreign exchange income in the Philippines. —Xinhua ■

EU urges US to 'make deal' in Airbus-Boeing row

BRUSSELS (Belgium) — The EU on Monday urged the US to make a deal to end a 15-year long Airbus-Boeing row, just days before Washington is expected to announce a raft of new tariffs in the epic tit-for-tat battle.

"We have enough tariffs in the world as it is, so imposing tariffs on each other, which strictly speaking we are allowed to do according to the WTO, would not be a good solution," said EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia

Malmstrom.

"We have offered the US to try and make a deal

in order to jointly find a negotiated solution and see what we can do to dis-



An Airbus A350-1000 takes off at Le Bourget on 21 June 2017 on the at the International Paris Air Show. PHOTO: AFP

TRADEMARK CAUTION

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TAIHO

Reg. No. 4/23938/2019 (19.8.2019)

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Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw La Min May, H.G.P
For **TAIHO PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD.**,
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.**,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyu Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 17th September 2019

lmm@kcyangon.com

cipline ourselves (on subsidies) when it comes to aircraft," she told reporters.

The legal battle between Airbus and Boeing at the World Trade Organization began in 2004 when Washington accused Britain, France, Germany and Spain of providing illegal

subsidies and grants to support the production of a range of Airbus products.

A year later, the EU alleged that Boeing had received \$19.1 billion worth of prohibited subsidies from 1989 to 2006 from various branches of the US government.—AFP ■

Invitation for Bids

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT
SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE
IDA Credit No.: 5727-MM

Date: 17th September, 2019

Contract Title: **ACSR Conductor for National Electrification Project**
Reference No. : **MOEE-NEP-P2/C1-G4/19**

1. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for ACSR Conductor for National Electrification Project.

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply of ACSR Conductor to be delivered in 2020 to multiple destinations in all Regions and States of Myanmar. Domestic preference with the margin of 15% will apply. The goods will be grouped into 5 lots and bidders may submit bid for any one or more lots. Evaluation and award of contract will be on a lot-wise basis.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers [edition of January 2011 revised in July 2014] ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to the paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting for the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Manager, Office No (27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, nep.pmomoep@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 10:00 to 16:00 hours at the address given below.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through email only.

Attention : Project Manager
Project Management Office (National Electrification Project) Office Building No.27
Ministry of Electricity and Energy

City : **Nay Pyi Taw**

ZIP Code : **15011**

Country : **The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

Telephone : **+95 67 3431176**

Facsimile number : **+95 673431176**

Electronic mail address : **nep.pmomoep@gmail.com**

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 am, 1st November, 2019. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives at the address below at 10:00 am, 1st November, 2019.

Yadanar Hall, Grand Floor, Office Building No.27,

Ministry of Electricity and Energy

City: **Nay Pyi Taw**

ZIP Code: **15011**

7. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as stated in ITB 19.1 Bid Data Sheet of the bidding document.

8. The address referred to above para 4 and 5 are:

Attention: Project Manager

Project Management Office

(National Electrification Project)

Office Building No.27, Ministry of Electricity and Energy

City: **Nay Pyi Taw**

ZIP Code: **15011**

Country: **The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

Telephone: **+95 67 3431176**

Facsimile number: **+95 673431176**

Electronic mail address: **nep.pmomoep@gmail.com**

In show of bond, Trump to join Modi in mass Houston rally

WASHINGTON (United States) — President Donald Trump will join Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a massive gathering of Indian-Americans in Houston, the White House said Sunday, in a symbolic show of the bond between the two leaders and countries.

The September 22 rally — dubbed, with a touch of Texan twang, “Howdy, Modi!” — will mark a rare joint appearance between a US president and a foreign leader before an ethnic community, and be the pair’s third meeting this year. Organizers say that more than 50,000 people have registered for the event, which will take place inside the NRG Stadium of the Houston Texans football team.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump meet in Biarritz, France during a Group of Seven summit in August 2019. PHOTO: AFP

The gathering is “a great opportunity to emphasize the strong ties between the people of the United States and India, to reaffirm the strategic partnership between the world’s oldest and largest democracies and to discuss ways to deepen their ener-

gy and trade relationship,” the White House said.

The White House said Trump would travel the same day to Ohio to showcase an Australian-owned factory alongside Prime Minister Scott Morrison, who will be on a state visit.—AFP ■

Erdogan hosts Putin, Rouhani for Syria summit

ANKARA (Turkey) — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will host his Russian and Iranian counterparts on Monday for their latest summit on Syria, with attention focused on Damascus’s push on the last rebel-held bastion of Idlib.

Presidents Vladimir Putin and Hassan Rouhani will join Erdogan in the Turkish capital Ankara for their fifth summit on the conflict since 2017.

Iran and Russia have been staunch supporters of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, while Turkey has called for his ouster and backed opposition fighters.

But with Assad’s position looking increasingly secure, Turkey’s priority has shifted to preventing

a mass influx of refugees from Idlib in Syria’s northwest. Turkey is concerned by the steady advance of Syrian forces into the region, backed by Russian airpower, despite a series of ceasefires.

Turkey has 12 observation posts in Idlib to enforce

a buffer zone agreement struck a year ago with Russia to prevent a full-scale Syrian offensive.

But the posts look increasingly threatened, with one of them cut off from the rest of Idlib when Syrian forces advanced last month.—AFP ■



Iran and Russia have been staunch supporters of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, while Turkey has called for his ouster and backed opposition fighters. PHOTO: AFP

Japan, US foreign ministers to hold talks in late September

TOKYO — Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said Monday that he will hold talks with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York later this month.

Motegi told reporters after talks with Pompeo on the phone that they agreed to hold their first meeting since the Japanese foreign minister was newly appointed in the Cabinet reshuffle last Wednesday.

Motegi said he and

Pompeo also affirmed that instability in the Middle East would have a negative impact on the global economy following drone strikes on two oil facilities in Saudi Arabia on Saturday that cut the country’s daily production of crude oil by nearly half, with the United States casting blame on Iran.

During the talks, they also shared the view that it would be a major problem if Japan-US-South Korea relationships are broken.

Relations between Japan and South Korea have sunk to their lowest point in years since a series of South Korean court rulings that ordered Japanese companies to pay compensation for wartime forced labor during Japan’s 1910-1945 colonization of the Korean Peninsula.

Japan has maintained that both nations agreed to settle the issue of compensation finally and completely in 1965.

The Asian neighbors

are also at loggerheads over Tokyo’s tightening of export controls, which Seoul sees as retaliation for the dispute over wartime compensation.

The bilateral spat has also moved into the security realm as South Korea decided in August to terminate an intelligence-sharing pact with Japan despite the need for the US allies to coordinate closely in addressing North Korea’s missile threat.—Kyodo News ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK ABERDEEN VOY. NO. (937W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK ABERDEEN VOY. NO. (937W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-09-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.IT.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

News Release

TTCL Power Myanmar Company Limited (TPMC) is planning to build a 388 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant supplied in Natural Gas. The project consists of three main components, which includes the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) power plant in Ahlone, the LNG receiving facility in Dala, and natural gas (NG) pipeline in Dala and Seikgyikanaungto, as well as a 28km Transmission Line in Twantay and Hlaingtharyar Townships.

TPMC, Environmental Resources Management (ERM), and Sustainable Environment Myanmar (SEM) have prepared an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) study for the proposed activity, and have submitted the study to the Environmental Conservation Department (ECD), on 4 September 2019. Hard copies of the ESIA study are publically available at Ahlone, and Dala Township GAD, and at TPMC’s office in Yangon. Electronic copies of the study are publically available on TPMC’s website as follows: <https://ttcl.com/news/activities>.

TPMC office address: 16B, 16th Floor, Centre Point Tower, No. 65, Corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, Yagon, Myanmar.

ပို့ဆောင်ရေးနှင့်ဆက်သွယ်ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

မြန်မာ့မီးရထား

အိတ်ဖွင့်တင်ဒါ (Open Tender) ခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ မြန်မာ့မီးရထားမှ (၂၀၁၉-၂၀၂၀) ဘဏ္ဍာနှစ် ပထမ(၂)လစာ လိုအပ်သော ဒီဇယ်ဆီ (HSD) (1760000-Gals) အား အထူးလိုအပ်ချက် အနေဖြင့် အောက်ပါ နေရာများအရောက် မြန်မာ့ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်- တင်ဒါအမှတ် - ၀၁/မမ/ပတ/ဒီဇယ်ဆီ (HSD) (CME/CE) 2019-2020

စဉ်	ပေးပို့ရမည့်နေရာ	အရေအတွက် (ဂါလံ)
၁	မနိတော	1705400 - Gals
၂	တင်တ	25600 - Gals
၃	ပခုက္ကူ	15200 - Gals
၄	ကလေး	5500 - Gals
၅	စစ်တွေ	700 - Gals
၆	ကျောက်တော်	7600 - Gals
	စုစုပေါင်း	1760000 - Gals

တင်ဒါပိတ်မည့် နေ့/အချိန် - (၄. ၁၀. ၂၀၁၉) (သောကြာနေ့) (၁၄:၃၀) နာရီ
၂။ တင်ဒါပုံစံများကို အောက်ဖော်ပြပါဌာနတွင် (၁၆. ၉. ၂၀၁၉) ရက်နေ့မှစ၍ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ကြောင်းနှင့် အသေးစိတ် သိရှိလိုပါက ၎င်းဌာနသို့ မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။
ထောက်ပံ့ဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့မီးရထား၊ ကုန်သည်လမ်းနှင့် ၅၁ လမ်းထိပ်၊ ပို့လ်တထောင်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း-294352, 291988, 291994

Johnson the Brexit 'Hulk' finally meets EU's Juncker

LUXEMBOURG (Luxembourg) — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson met EU chief Jean-Claude Juncker for talks Monday insisting a Brexit deal is possible, despite deep scepticism from European capitals with just six weeks to go before departure day.

After a weekend in which he compared himself to comic book super-smasher Hulk, the British leader will enjoy a genteel working lunch of snails and salmon in Luxembourg with the EU Commission president.

Downing Street has confidently billed the Luxembourg visit as part of efforts to negotiate an orderly divorce from the union before an October 17 EU summit.

A UK spokesman said Johnson would tell Juncker that “pro-



Johnson insisted a Brexit deal was still possible while Juncker was “cautiously optimistic”. **PHOTO: AFP**

gress has been made, given that before the summer recess many said reopening talks would not be possible. “The UK needs to enact

the referendum result and avoid another delay; the UK wants to deliver Brexit and move on to other priorities, and EU member

states’ leaders want to renegotiate an orderly Brexit.”

But Brussels has played down talk of a breakthrough, insisting Johnson has yet to suggest any “legally operable” proposal to revise a previous withdrawal accord.

As he shook hands with Johnson, Juncker declared himself “cautiously optimistic” and insisted that “Europe never loses patience” despite the tortuous Brexit saga dragging on over three years.

Finland’s European affairs minister, Tytti Tuppurainen, who was chairing an EU ministerial meeting in Brussels, gave a more downbeat assessment, repeating the bloc’s long-standing complaint that London has

simply not come up with detailed ideas for replacing the so-called “Irish backstop” section of the divorce deal.

“The European Union is always ready to negotiate when a proper proposal from the UK side is presented,” Tuppurainen said.

“So far I haven’t seen any proposal that would compensate the backstop.”

The EU’s chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier, who joined the leaders for their talks in Juncker’s native Grand Duchy, said last week he has “no reason to be optimistic”.

The European Parliament will this week vote on a resolution rejecting Johnson’s demand that the backstop clause be stripped from the deal.—AFP ■

US hints at military response to Saudi attacks as oil prices surge

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Oil prices made their biggest jump since the Gulf War on Monday after President Donald Trump warned that the US was “locked and loaded” to respond to attacks on Saudi oil infrastructure that Washington blamed on Iran.

It is the first time the president has hinted at a potential American military response to the drone attacks, which slashed Saudi oil production by half and led both the kingdom and the United States to announce they may tap their strategic reserves.

“There is reason to believe that we know the culprit, are locked and loaded depending on verification, but are waiting to hear from the Kingdom as to who they believe was the cause of this attack, and under what terms we would proceed!” Trump tweeted.

Russia on Monday called

on “all countries to avoid hasty steps or conclusions that could exacerbate the situation” while the European Union stressed all sides should show “maximum restraint”.

China also urged the US and Iran to “exercise restraint... in the absence of a conclusive investigation or verdict.”

The Tehran-backed Huthi rebels in Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition is bogged down in a five-year war, claimed Saturday’s strikes on two plants owned by state energy giant Aramco.

But US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo pointed the finger squarely at Tehran, saying there was no evidence the “unprecedented attack on the world’s energy supply” was launched from Yemen. “The United States will work with our partners and allies to ensure that energy markets remain well supplied and Iran is

held accountable for its aggression,” the top US diplomat said.

That drew an angry response from Tehran, where foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said: “Such fruitless and blind accusations and remarks are incomprehensible and meaningless.” The White House said on Sunday that Trump may still meet Iran President Hassan Rouhani at the UN meeting in New York next week, but Tehran said Monday it did not think “such a thing would happen”.

Baghdad, caught between its two main allies — Tehran and Washington — also denied any link to the attacks amid media speculation that the drones were launched from Iraq. Saudi de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has said the kingdom is “willing and able” to respond to this “terrorist aggression.” —AFP ■



A satellite image provided by NASA Worldview shows fires following drone strikes on two major oil installation owned by the state giant Aramco, in eastern Saudi Arabia. **PHOTO: AFP**



Nabil Karoui, Tunisian media magnate, on the left and independent candidate Kais Saied appear to be leading the polls with just over a quarter of the votes counted. **PHOTO: AFP**

Outsider leads after divisive Tunisia presidential poll

TUNIS (Tunisia) — Political outsider Kais Saied was leading Tunisia’s elections with just over a quarter of votes counted, the electoral commission said Monday, in the country’s second free presidential vote since the Arab Spring.

Saied was on 19 percent, leading imprisoned media magnate Nabil Karoui, who was on 14.9 percent, and ahead of the candidate from the Islamist-inspired Ennahdha party Abdelfattah Mourou (13.1 percent), according to the electoral organ (ISIE).

Prime Minister Youssef Chahed, a presidential hopeful whose popularity has been tarnished by a sluggish economy and the rising cost of living, could well turn out to be the election’s biggest loser.

ISIE figures showed him in fifth on 7.4 percent of votes, behind Defence Minister Abdelkarim Zibidi, who was on 9.6 percent.

“The anti-system strategy has won,” ISIE member Adil-

Brinsi told AFP, warning however there was still a lot to play for among the three leading players.

“It’s not finished yet. Mourou could very easily move from third to second place, in front of Karoui,” he added. Local papers splashed photos across their front pages of law professor Saied and magnate Karoui, after exit polls showed they had qualified for the second round of voting. “An unexpected verdict,” ran a headline in La Presse. Le Temps titled its editorial “The Slap”, while the Arabic language Echourouk newspaper highlighted a “political earthquake” and a “tsunami” in the Maghreb. It all points towards a major upset for Tunisia’s political establishment, in place since the 2011 uprising that ousted dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. It could also usher in a period of immense uncertainty for the fledgling north African democracy, the sole success story of the Arab Spring revolts.—AFP ■

N Korea says working-level talks with US possible in a few weeks

BEIJING — North Korea said Monday that working-level talks with the United States are “expected to be held in a few weeks,” but warned denuclearization negotiations would not move forward unless perceived threats to the political system under leader Kim Jong Un are eliminated.

Pyongyang hopes that the possible talks will be “a good meeting,” a director general in charge of US affairs at the nation’s Foreign Ministry said in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.

The unnamed senior official added that “the discussion of denuclearization may be possible when threats and hurdles endangering our system security and obstructing our development are clearly removed beyond all doubt.”

Ensuring the continuation of

the current political system led by the Kim family is a long-sought goal by North Korea.

“Whether the DPRK-US negotiations will be a window for chance or an occasion to precipitate crisis is entirely up to the US,” the official said, referring to the country by its formal name, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

Earlier this month, a North Korean senior diplomat suddenly extended an olive branch, saying Pyongyang is ready to hold dialogue with Washington in late September.

“We have willingness to sit with the US side for comprehensive discussions of the issues we have so far taken up at the time and place to be agreed late in September,” First Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui said in a statement carried by KCNA.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

New York could be a possible venue for the working-level talks, with leaders from various nations scheduled to gather for the general debate of the UN General

Assembly in late September, pundits say.

In Washington, US President Donald Trump told reporters following the release of Choe’s statement, “We’ll see what happens.” At their 30 June meeting in the inter-Korean truce village of Panmunjeom, Kim and Trump agreed that Pyongyang and Washington would resume stalled negotiations within weeks, but such talks have yet to be held.

Instead, North Korea has continued to test its weapons technology in recent months. Earlier this month, it fired two projectiles believed to be short-range missiles into the Sea of Japan — Pyongyang’s eighth round of such launches since late July.

At their 27-28 February summit in the Vietnamese capital Hanoi, Kim and Trump fell

short of bridging the gap between Washington’s denuclearization demands and Pyongyang’s calls for sanctions relief. In a speech to the nation’s legislature in April, Kim asked the United States to shift its policy on denuclearization negotiations by the end of this year, lambasting Washington for making what he claimed are one-sided demands.

At the first-ever US-North Korea summit in June 2018 in Singapore, Trump promised to provide security guarantees to Pyongyang in return for “complete” denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The United States and North Korea technically remain in a state of war as the 1950-1953 Korean War ended in a cease-fire. The two countries have no diplomatic relations. — Kyodo News ■

Japanese food producers target health-focused Aussies at expo

SYDNEY — Gluten-free ramen noodles and tofu jerky were among the many products exhibited Monday by Japanese food companies appealing to health-conscious Australians at a Japanese food expo in Sydney.

A record 22 companies participated in the Premium Japanese Food Showcase, an event hosted by the Japan External Trade Organization to help introduce food producers in Japan to potential importers, wholesalers and restaurants in Australia.

According to JETRO, Australian consumers are sensitive to culinary trends such as gluten-free and organic foods. Moreover, they enjoy an average annual income roughly 1.5 times that of Japan, meaning Australians are willing to pay top dollar for high-quality foods.

Cooking workshop coordinator Pamela Woods said that while impressed by the selection of seafood on display, she was also keen to find options for individuals with dietary restrictions.



Photo taken on 16 September 2019 shows staff from Maruzen NayaShoten kelp retailer showcasing their products at the JETRO Premium Japan Food Showcase in Sydney. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

“Food provenance is quite important, so it’s helpful to speak with the sellers,” she said.

Among the retailers was Hokkaido-based kombu seller Maruzen NayaShoten, whose dried kelp products meet Australia’s strict food standards for

iodine levels in seaweed.

“People are able to use our kombu to create safe and delicious stock which can also be used in vegan cooking,” said Managing Director Taro Naya.

Australia is the 10th largest export destination for Japanese

agricultural and seafood products, according to JETRO.

Agricultural and seafood exports from Japan to Australia increased by almost 9 per cent in the last financial year ended June, and have doubled since 2013. — Kyodo News ■

UN says living standards in Sri Lanka can drop due to climate related vulnerabilities

COLOMBO — The United Nations has said living standards in Sri Lanka can drop by 5 to 7 per cent because of climate-related vulnerabilities, local media reports said here Monday.

UN Resident Coordinator Hanaa Singer, speaking at the 2019 AIESEC Youth Speak Forum - “Transforming Youth, Transforming Sri Lanka,” said about 19 million people in Sri Lanka live in locations that will become moderate or severe climate hotspots by 2050.

“The country has faced continuous cycles of floods and drought,

making it one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. The future is dependent on taking action on these issues now because living standards in Sri Lanka can drop by 5 to 7 percent because of climate-related vulnerabilities,” Hanaa said.

She said she was pleased to recognize that Sri Lanka has taken great strides in allowing private and domestic sector investments in renewable energy and tapping the last vestiges of hydropower available to the country.—Xinhua ■

NEWS In BRIEF

Chinese premier arrives in Russia for official visit

ST. PETERSBURG — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang arrived in St. Petersburg Monday for a three-day official visit to Russia.

During the visit, Li and Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev will co-chair the 24th regular meeting between Chinese and Russian heads of government. — Xinhua

Three killed, Nine injured in road accident in central Thailand

BANGKOK — Three people were killed and nine injured as a van overturned in Saraburi in central Thailand, police told local media on Monday.

Police said the van driver and eight other passengers were injured and were rushed to the Saraburi Hospital.

One passenger was hurled out of the van by the impact and died on the spot, and two passengers died inside the van after the crash, police said.

The injured told authorities that the van was traveling from Phetchabun Province in central-north Thailand to Bangkok when the accident happened, according to police. — Xinhua

Myanmar team's matches at 2020 AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers to be broadcast live

Myanmar team's matches in Group (K) of 2020 AFC U-16 Championship qualification to be held in Thuwunna Stadium will be broadcast live on Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV), Myanmar Radio, MRTV Sports Channel and MRTV Facebook Page.

Myanmar U-16 football team

will play against Thailand on 18 September, South Korea on 20 September and Chinese Taipei on 22 September at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

All the matches will take place at 5:45pm of their respective dates. —MNA(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Chelsea striker Tammy Abraham trains with his teammates ahead of their Champions League match against Valencia. **PHOTO: AFP**

Lampard trusts young guns for Chelsea Champions League bid

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Frank Lampard said he “believed and trusted” in striker Tammy Abraham as he prepared to unleash his young players against Valencia in Chelsea’s Champions League opener on Tuesday.

Abraham, 21, scored a hat-trick in a 5-2 win at Wolves on Saturday but his form has come as no surprise to Lampard.

“I never had clear expectations for him apart from the fact that I believed in him and trusted him,” he said at a press conference on Monday at Chelsea’s training base.

“I know a lot was made of the (transfer) ban giving opportunities for young players. But I thought now was his time.”

As for the possibility of England missing out on Abraham should he opt to play for Nigeria, Lampard said: “That’s not a question for me.

“He has put himself in a bracket by being a top-scorer in England. It is one for (England boss) Gareth (Southgate) but it is clear Tammy will be wanted.”

Abraham who is the Premier League’s joint leading scorer alongside Manchester City’s Sergio Agüero with seven goals,

has two senior England caps won in friendlies.

Nigeria have been hoping Abraham can be persuaded to switch allegiance to them.

And when asked about the Nigeria interest, he was quoted by the Telegraph newspaper as saying: “I have heard the talks and I’ve not really been focused on that yet. “I think when the time comes, the time comes. We never know.” Lampard has put his faith in youth during a transfer embargo for the club and has been rewarded with some impressive performances.

As well as Abraham’s three goals, Fikayo Tomori, 21, also struck his first goal for the club at Molineux, while 20-year-old Mason Mount continued the form that earned him an England call-up with his third goal in four Premier League games.

Former Chelsea midfielder Lampard, who won the Champions League with the club as a player, will be making his debut in the competition as a manager.

“I will be proud to do it,” he said. “I had multiple incredible nights in the Champions League — and some bad ones — but it is the ultimate for me.”—AFP ■

Matic welcomes Man Utd focus on youth but wants game time

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Nemanja Matic is excited to see young talent getting a chance at Manchester United but hopes there is also room for experience as he looks for more game time.

Ole Gunnar Solskjær’s men ended a three-match winless run by overcoming previously unbeaten Leicester at Old Trafford on Saturday, where Marcus Rashford’s early spot-kick was the difference in a 1-0 triumph.

The match-winning forward was joined by fellow 21-year-olds Daniel James and Aaron Wan-Bissaka in the line-up, with Andreas Pereira, 23, and Scott McTominay, 22, also starting.

Tahith Chong, just 19, came off the bench for a United side that has an accent on youth under Solskjær, something Matic, one of the few older heads, likes to see. “I don’t believe in age — good players or bad players,” the midfielder, one of three starters in their 30s, said.

“It doesn’t matter if you are 18 or 35, so I think who played today deserved to play.”

“They (young players) get



Manchester United midfielder Nemanja Matic. **PHOTO: AFP**

the opportunity to play. It’s not always normal in big clubs that you get that opportunity so young and Manchester United is giving opportunity to the guys who grew up here in the academy and that’s good.”

Energy and options will be needed as United juggle domestic and European commitments.

United kick off their Europa League campaign at home to Astana on Thursday, when Matic will be hoping to make his second start of the season.

The 31-year-old, who was the subject of speculation over his future in the summer, came in for the injured Paul Pogba against Leicester.

“Of course (it has been frustrating),” Matic said. “I want to play, I always give my best for the team.

“The coach is the man who picks the team and when you are on the bench you are not happy but I am trying to convince him to change his mind and pick me to play.”—AFP ■

Broad ‘got into Warner’s head’ during Ashes, says Langer



Australia’s David Warner had a miserable Ashes series. **PHOTO: AFP**

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Australia’s cricket coach Justin Langer said David Warner allowed England paceman Stuart Broad to “get into his head” during a miserable Ashes series for the opener.

Warner ended with the unwanted record of the fewest runs scored by a Test opener across 10 innings of a series.

The 32-year-old, who regis-

tered a cumulative total of just 95, was dismissed seven times by Broad during the drawn contest and encountered jeers from home crowds following his role in the 2018 ball-tampering scandal.

Langer plans to persist with the experienced batsman heading into the Australian summer but expressed some doubt that he would fully recover from a dismal Ashes display.

“I’ve learned over a long period you never write off champion players, it doesn’t matter what sport, you never write off champion players,” said Langer, whose side retained the urn following the 2-2 draw.

“He had this series, it didn’t go to plan, but he’s seen how successful he’s been and the impact he can have on Australian cricket teams winning, so I’m confident he’ll come good.

“Actually, I’m hopeful he comes good. Talking frankly, I thought he let Stuart Broad get into his head and I think he thought way too much about it.”

Langer feels Warner, who was the second-highest run scorer at the World Cup, will be pleased to be returning home.

“In this instance I don’t think David solved the puzzle, and he’ll be the first to admit that,” said.

“He’ll probably be very relieved (when) he gets on the Qantas flight knowing he doesn’t have to face Stuart Broad for a while, I reckon.”—AFP ■