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VP U Myint Swe visits Chinese automobile factories

THE Myanmar delegation to China led by Vice President U Myint Swe travelled from Nanning to Liuzhou yesterday and visited the automobile factories of Dongfeng Liuzhou Motor Co, Ltd. and SAIC GM Wu Ling Automobile.

The Vice President and delegation were welcomed by Deputy Mayor Mr Jiao Yaoguang and officials when they arrived at the Liuzhou Railway Station at 9:35 am.

They first visited Dongfeng factory where they were welcomed by Dongfeng Company Communist Party Secretary Mr Xuan Yin and officials.

The Vice President was given a tour of the factory and observed the assembly of commercial vehicles while officials explained about their production stages, standards, quality, durability, safety, value and market share.

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Myanmar delegation led by Vice President U Myint Swe poses for a documentary photo together with Dongfeng Company Communist Party Secretary Mr Xuan Yin and officials at the Dongfeng factory yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar Permanent Representative makes rebuttal statements to Special Rapporteur and FFM at interactive dialogues

MYANMAR Permanent Representative U Kyaw Moe Tun made rebuttal Statements on the non-constructive remarks by the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar and irresponsible reports by the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) at the interactive Dialogues which

were held on 16-17 September 2019 respectively, during the ongoing 42nd Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

During the Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur, the Permanent Representative apprised the Council of Myanmar's efforts in strengthening

democracy, promoting human rights for all including ethnic minorities in remote areas, responsible investment to address inequality and drive for more balanced growth without harming natural environment, promoting religious harmony and interfaith friendship, freedom of expres-

sion and internet, ending forced labour, preventing any form of violence including violations of abuses against women and children. He updated the Council on Myanmar's decision to ratify the Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict. Speaking about

the government's firm policy on the violations of human rights, he said that perpetrators are prosecuted in accordance with the law. There is no discrimination based on gender, age, sexual orientation, status, ethnicity or religion, he said.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves 2019 Union Government Tax Bill

THE 25th-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 13th Regular Session was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Firstly, the Secretary of the Joint Bill Committee, Dr Myat Nyanna Soe, read each section of the 2019 Union Government Tax Bill.

Speaker U T Khun Myat asked for the opinion of the Hluttaw representatives who have submitted amendment proposals, Deputy Planning and Finance Minister U Maung Maung Win, and the Joint Bill Committee on each section of the bill. He then gathered the deliberation of the assembly and approved the bill.

Next, Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win explained that beginning from the date the 2019 Union Government Tax Bill

was first submitted on 7 August 2019, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and its Joint Bill Committee and Joint Public Accounts Committee, together with relevant ministry representatives and UM-FCCI officials, have gone over the entire bill, proposed amendments, debated on the matter, and have now resubmitted it.

The Deputy Minister moved for the assembly to approve the bill, with all the amendments made to it, in line with Section 91-a of The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rule. With the agreement of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw assembly, the Speaker announced that the bill has been approved.

The 26th meeting of the current regular session will convene today.—Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 13th Regular Session is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.
PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw concludes 13th regular session

THE 23rd and last day of second Pyithu Hluttaw's 13th regular session was held yesterday, with the attendees of the Union Ministers and the Deputy Minister to answer the questions of MPs.

MP U Min Thein of Taungdwingyi constituency asked for construction of a Community Centre Hall at the size of 30ft x 90 ft on the empty land of Information and Public Relations Department in Taungdwingyi Township.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint answered the area of IPRD office there is 90 sq ft, and it has an empty space. The ministry is constructing the community centres in districts and cities

with the assistance of States/Regions governments, the parliamentarians, the well-wishers and the relevant associations. A community centre has been



MP U Min Thein.
PHOTO: MNA

constructed in Natmawk Township with the collaboration of Daw Khin Kyi Foundation, and it was opened on 15 January 2017. On the empty land of



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint.
PHOTO: MNA

Taungdwingyi's IPRD office, a playground for children and another playground for the young persons will be constructed as outdoor facilities. The ministry is capable to allocate budget for construction of only one community centre each fiscal year, and that it is impossible to set up such facility in Taungdwingyi's IPRD office compound due to the list of other priorities.

MP U Aung Naing (a) U Naing Ngan Kyaw of Mogok constituency asked about the action of the ministry to address the problem of shared numbers of national registration cards in Mogok Township.

Union Minister for Labour,

Immigration and Population U Thein Swe replied the case should be reported to township immigration office, the procedures have been announced on vinyl poster in front of the office, and this case was discussed with administrators of ward and village levels. He added the ministry will take more actions to protect the citizen rights.

MP U Win Myint Oo (a) U Nay Myo of Nyaungshwe constituency asked about the plan of ministry on a hotel zone which is still with only two hotels although the 622 acres of agriculture and firewood lands were designated for this zone.

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Second Amyotha Hluttaw concludes its 13th session

THE 13th session of second Amyotha Hluttaw came to an end yesterday, with the final day meeting where the Deputy Education Minister and the Nay Pyi Taw Council Member answered to the asterisk questions and the Speaker briefed on the activities during this session.

The Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw approved, with the agreement of the Hluttaw, for the substitution of member for Ethnic Affairs Committee, replacing U Hla Oo of Sagaing Region constitution 4 with U Nyi Nyi Htwe (a) U Ko Ko Lay of Sagaing Region constitution 11.

MP U Marn Law Maung of Chin State constituency 8 asked for employment of admin staff at basic education schools. Deputy Minister replied that it will be done as a second priority after the appointment of teachers, and the employment of admin staff will be done based on the proposals, vacancies and the position of seniority in accordance with the procedures.

In appointing admin staff, the Department of Basic Education has to follow the formal procedures such as reporting to the Office of Union Government, the President's Office, the Ministry of Planning and Finance, together with

seeking approval for relevant ministries.

MP Dr Lin Wai Phyo Latt of Taninthayi constituency 5 asked for developing Mingalar Lake in Myitngal Ward of Myeik Township into public recreation site. Nay Pyi Taw council member U Nyi Tun replied that the plan is not included in 2019-2020 financial budgets as other infrastructural sectors are on the list of priorities.

MP U Myint Naing of Rakhine State constituency 5 asked for filling vacancies of teachers at two primary schools and five sub-primary schools in Kyauktaw Township; U Bwe Khein of Chin State constituency 3 asked



MP U Marn Law Maung.
PHOTO: MNA



MP Dr Lin Wai Phyo.
PHOTO: MNA

for construction of a two-storey RC building at the Basic Middle School of Bel Har village. The

Deputy Education Minister answered them.

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VP U Myint Swe visits Chinese automobile factories

FROM PAGE-1

From there, the Vice President went to Dongfeng's compact car factory and was welcomed by Deputy General Manager Mr Yao Liwen and officials.

The Vice President observed the assembly of compact cars using the latest modern technology and the different vehicle models manufactured.

Next, the Vice President was hosted a luncheon by Liuzhou Mayor Mr Wu Wei at the Lian Hua Hotel.

In the afternoon, the Vice President and delegation visited the Wuling automobile factory where they were welcomed by Wuling Company Communist Party Secretary and Deputy General Manager Mr Yao Zuoping and officials.

The Vice President observed the production of compact class electric cars, asked some questions, and was shown the assembly line of a two-seater electric car while receiving explanations about the different stages of manufacturing, standards, quality, durability,



Vice President U Myint Swe holds talks with the Governor of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Mr Chen Wu at the State Guest House in Nanning yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



safety, value and market share.

Later in the evening, the Vice President returned to Nanning City with his delegation and went by motorcade to the Liyuan State Guest House.

Afterwards, the Vice President held a meeting with the Governor of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Mr Chen Wu, and officials at 5:30 pm at the State Guest House.

A worker assembles a vehicle body at motor car production line of Wuling automobile factory in Liuzhou yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

They discussed increased cooperation in the economic, social, education, investment, agricultural, trade and travel sectors between Myanmar and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

The Vice President was accompanied by Union Minister Dr Than Myint, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Myo Thant Pe, Myanmar Consul-General in Nanning U Soe Thet Naung, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce U Aung Soe and other officials during the meeting. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Dr Win Myat Aye discusses humanitarian issues with UNHCR rep, Turkish Amb

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye met separately with UNHCR Representative Mr Johan Cels and Turkish Ambassador Mr Haydar Kerem Divanlioglu at his ministry yesterday.

During the meeting with the UNHCR Representative, they discussed the repatriation efforts for displaced persons in Bangladesh, cooperation with ASEAN nations on this matter, how high-level officials from Myanmar and ASEAN representatives have disseminated information in Cox's Bazar, plans moving forward, possible cooperation with UNHCR, and how a Myanmar delegation will attend the 70th ExCom meeting in Geneva and hold a meeting with the High Commissioner for Refugees.

Afterwards, in the meeting with the Turkish Ambassador,

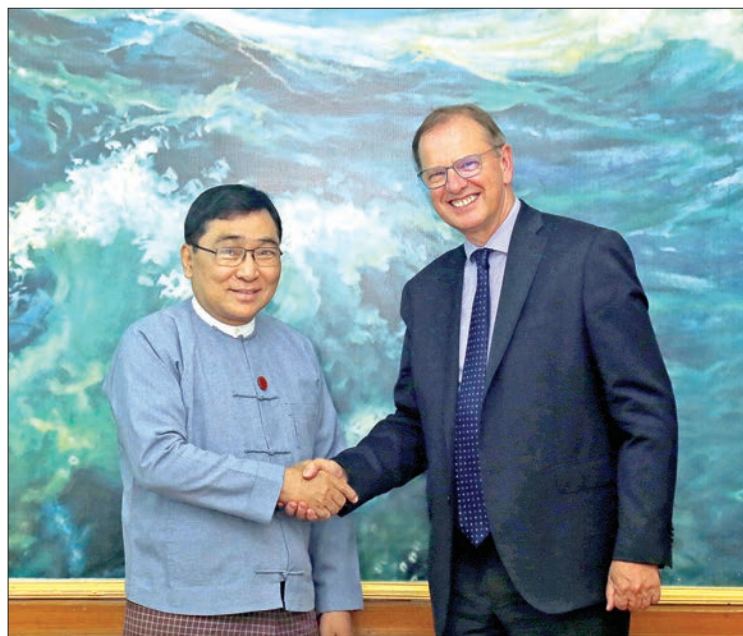
both sides discussed processes for establishing stability and socio-economic development in Rakhine State, Myanmar's adherence to the agreement

with Bangladesh in repatriating displaced persons, cooperation from ASEAN nations, cooperation on action plans between the Committee on

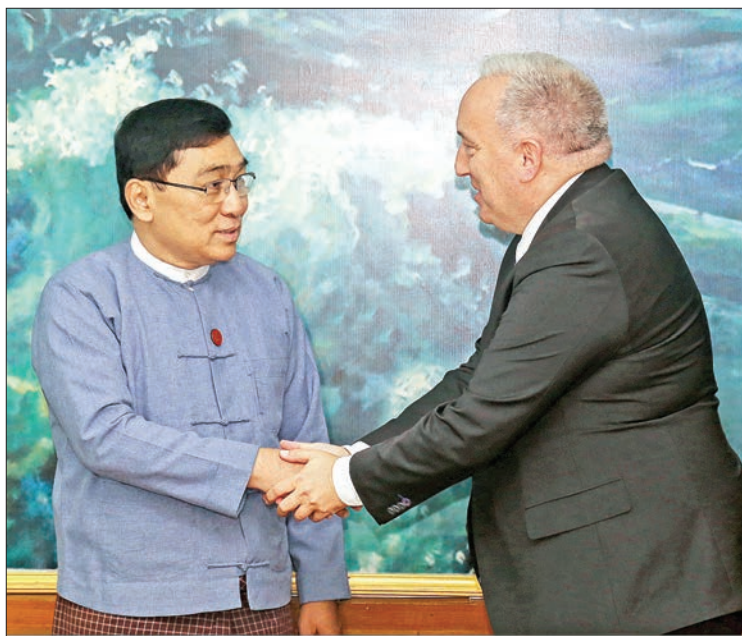
Implementing Recommendations on Rakhine State and relevant ministries, resettlement of IDPs and implementing the strategic plan to close down

temporary shelters, and possible cooperation from Turkey on related matters. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye shakes hands with UNHCR Representative Mr Johan Cels in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye shakes hands with Turkish Ambassador Mr Haydar Kerem Divanlioglu in Nay Pyi Taw

Coord meeting aims to produce ethnic rights strategic plan

A two-day coordination meeting to familiarize the public with the Ethnic Rights Protection Bylaw and initiate drafting of a strategic plan for ethnic rights was held at Mingalar Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Firstly, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin addressed the meeting. He said they collected the opinions of the ethnic people into a survey while conducting information sharing sessions on the Ethnic Rights Protection Law with them.

He said they began the legislative process for the accompanying bylaw in 2017 and was finally ratified on 23 August, 2019. He said they will continue working to materialize a strategic plan which will serve as a roadmap for ethnic affairs in conjunction with yearly action plans.

The Union Minister pointed out that different unique ethnic races reside side by side in Myanmar and everyone is entitled



Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin delivers the opening address at the coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

to the same human rights and constitutional rights.

He said if the prioritized tasks in the strategic plan are implemented properly every year then the unequal development rates between the ethnic

brothers and sisters will lessen, armed conflicts will come to an end, and support national peace and the establishment of a democratic federal republic.

Next, Deputy Ethnic Affairs Minister U Hla Maw Oo said the

outcome of this meeting and the decisions made by the ethnic people will be recorded. He said they will develop the National Races Village (Yangon) so that ethnic festivals can be organized there at the national level while

coordinating with the administration of the Yangon Region government.

The coordination meeting then commenced with attendees discussing the survey and the draft strategic plan. The second day of the meeting will continue today and will focus on the related bylaws and the National Races Village.

Attending the meeting were state/regional ministers for ethnic affairs, chairpersons and representatives from self-administered zones Division, members from Nay Pyi Taw Council, Pyithu Hluttaw Ethnic Affairs and Internal Peace Implementation Committee, and Amyotha Hluttaw Ethnic Affairs Committee, ministry representatives, CSOs related to ethnic affairs, directors-general from the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, and officials from the Department of Protecting Ethnic Rights.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Myanmar Permanent Representative makes rebuttal statements to Special Rapporteur and FFM at interactive dialogues

FROM PAGE-1

He also explained about Myanmar's peace-making and peace-building efforts with ethnic armed groups and said participation of civil society, women and youth, persons with disabilities presents "a testimony of inclusive peace process" in Myanmar.

With regard to Rakhine issue, he stressed, the government is taking "the holistic and inclusive approach". He recalled the terror attacks of ARSA on 30 police outposts as well as their threat and horrific atrocities against innocent people, which is the main cause of the exodus. He further explained about the 3 visits of Myanmar high-level delegations to Cox's Bazar and 3 attempts to commence repatriation. He talked about the movement in the Camps to hinder repatriation, including ARSA's threat and NGOs and stated, "The plight of displaced persons has been exploited for political agenda". He highlighted the need of creating conducive condition in the camps for displaced persons to express the truth without any fear or influence.

He reaffirmed that Myanmar is "willing and able" to address accountability issue and rejected any mechanism or attempt to



Myanmar Permanent Representative U Kyaw Moe Tun makes rebuttal statements at the interactive Dialogues in Geneva. PHOTO: MNA

refer Myanmar to international judicial body.

With regard to Myanmar's position on Ms. Yanghee Lee, he mentioned the Parliament unanimously denounced on her absence of impartiality, objectivity and good faith. Then, he explained Myanmar's cooperation with the relevant UN mechanisms. He stated that non-constructive approach, selective manner, retributive measures and undue pressure in the name of human rights, will, in no way, stimulate any positive change in Myanmar. He stressed the need of constructive support by international community to achieve human rights realization in Myanmar.

In the rebuttal statement to

FFM and its reports, the Permanent Representative underscored the strong rejection of whole of Myanmar - the Government, Chambers of Commerce, Confederation of Trade Unions in Myanmar (CTUM), UEHRD, private companies - to FFM's reports and its unfounded allegations. Those reports are simply called "the Darusman's reports". He reiterated Myanmar's strong rejection to FFM since its establishment and its less than objective reports as well as its purported conclusions and recommendations. He reaffirmed that Myanmar strongly rejected its extension, the IIM, and said it is "selective discriminatory scrutiny on Myanmar".

"People of Myanmar, who

used to stand with the UN in their long struggle for democracy and human rights, are increasingly disappointed with less than objective stand taken by some elements of the UN with regard to Myanmar", strongly stated by the Permanent Representative. He stressed that the work of FFM should not be allowed "to cast a dark shadow" over the Human Rights Council and the UN system as a whole. He expressed Myanmar's concern about the narrative of FFM for economic isolation as it could inflict economic hardship to millions of innocent people and cause negative impact on the enjoyment of all human rights, including the right to development.

He pointed out that the re-

port painted a distorted picture of UEHRD, the humanitarian body. He rejected FFM's blame on Myanmar for border fencing as Myanmar has the sovereign right to construct border fencing along its demarcated boundary for security and to prevent illegal border crossing.

He also pointed out that FFM fully adheres to what it wants to focus. The atrocities and massacre of hundreds of innocent ethnic minorities by ARSA were "deliberately discounted in FFM's findings", he said.

Furthermore, he apprised the Council of the efforts by the Government in preventing sexual violence, addressing alleged violations by taking action upon credible evidence. He stated, "Impunity is not accepted by policy or by practice". He clarified the wrong usage of the terminologies by FFM with regard to the word "Clearance Operation", which was counter-insurgency operation and not clearing the whole area. He concluded by calling for constructive support and cooperation of international community to promote social and economic progress, strengthen democratization process, and benefit to further political reforms, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw concludes 13th regular session

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Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung replied that the land area was designated for a hotel zone with the order of President's Office on 9 May 2012. A total of 116 farmers were compensated with K 775.689 million, and K 33.478 million for 10 monasteries for the zone. Amidst some protests in setting up hotel zones, the ministry will work together with Shan State Tourism Com-

mittee for this industry in the future.

MP U Thein Tun of Kyau-gone constituency asked about increment of pension rate for the retired education staff like other civil service staff. Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win replied that the pension rates have been fixed in accordance with paragraph 3 of Order No 30/2018 in accordance with Civil Service Regulation.

MP U Khin Cho of Hlaing-

bwe constituency asked about issuing certificate of tax exemption for those whose incomes are lower than the rate for paying tax. It was answered by Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win. MP Dr Khin Maung Maung of Dagon Myothit (north) constituency asked about complaint process against misuse of public funds collected by the committee members in wards and village tracts; MP Dr U Sein Mya Aye of Dala constituency asked about the

implementation of water supply project signed between the Japan International Cooperation System and the Yangon City Development Committee in Dala Township. The two questions were answered by Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun.

In his conclusion remark, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker said the Hluttaw handled 164 asterisk questions and 554 non-asterisk questions; tabled 14 motions; approved 11 bills.

During the 13th regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw, the four Tatmadaw representatives took the oaths, the Advisory Group on Parliamentary Capacity-Building was formed, chairmen and secretaries in some committees were replaced, the research team could provide information on 70 questions of MPs, and 11 short research papers were released.— Aye Aye Than, Kyaw Zin Hteik ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

India Technical and Economic Cooperation-ITEC Day observed in Nay Pyi Taw

A CEREMONY to observe the India Technical and Economic Cooperation-ITEC Day was held at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was attended by Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Auditor-General U Maw Than, members of the UEC, Indian Ambassador Mr Saurabh Kumar, permanent secretaries of the ministries, directors-general, those who attended the trainings in India under the ITEC programme.

The ceremony began with opening remarks by Ambassador Mr Saurabh Kumar and Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi.

Afterwards, the trainees detailed about ITEC programme and shared their experiences in India.

Afterwards, the event continued with Vaishnav Jan To song to mark the 150th Birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.

Next, Mr V K Talwar, Second



Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein, Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Auditor-General U Maw Than and Indian Ambassador Mr Saurabh Kumar pose for a documentary photo with officials at the ceremony of the India Technical and Economic Cooperation-ITEC Day in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Secretary of the Embassy of India expressed thanks.

Before enjoying the dinner, UEC Chairman U Hla Thein, Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi,

Union Auditor-General U Maw Than, Ambassador Mr Saurabh Kumar and dignitaries posed for the documentary photo.

India Technical and Eco-

nomical Cooperation-ITEC began in 1996 offering normal trainings and special trainings.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations grants scholarships to

Myanmar students every year. The programme has introduced advanced trainings such as e-ITEC.—MNA ■ (Translated by GNLM)



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, officials from ASEAN countries press the button to open the ceremony of First China-ASEAN TV Week and Film Songs in Nanning. PHOTO: MNA

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun attends first China-ASEAN TV Week, Film Theme Songs Fest

OPENING ceremonies of the First China-ASEAN TV Week and Film Theme Songs Festival were held at Guangxi Radio and Television in Nanning, Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, the People's Republic of China, on 18 September.

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, senior officials responsible for information sector of ASEAN countries, Permanent Secretary of Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region Party Committee, In-

formation Ministry Mrs Fang Xiaoli, Director-General of International Cooperation Department, the National Radio and Television Administration Mrs Marli, Director-General of Guangxi Radio and Television Mrs Jiang Hon and officials.

Officials from China and ASEAN countries attended the opening ceremonies. This event was followed by songs and performances of artistes from China and ASEAN countries.— MNA ■ (Translated by TTN)

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Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung gives compensation to farmers at the General Administration Department Office in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: TUN TUN WIN

Nay Pyi Taw hospital project: Farmers get over K99.5 mln in compensation

THE authorities on 19 September disbursed over K99.5 million in compensation for 98.36 acres of farmland, which is being used to implement the Nay Pyi Taw 1,000-bed General Hospital project, at the General Administration Department Office hall in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw. The event for the distribution of compensation to farmers was attended by Dr Myo Aung, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council; council members Colonel Min Naung and U Aye Maung Sein; U Phyo Zayar Thaw, Hluttaw representative of the Zabuthiri

constituency; Dr Thida Hla, Deputy Director General, Medical Service Department; officials from related departments; and, farmers.

Dr Myo Aung delivered the opening speech at the event, and the Medical Superintendent of the Nay Pyi Taw 1,000-bed hospital explained matters related to compensation. Afterwards, Dr Myo Aung, Dr Thida Hla, and officials disbursed over K99.5 million to 21 farmers, and U Hla Win, a farmer, gave words of thanks to the government. —Tun Tun Win (Translated by La Wonn)

YRTA yet to receive report on issuing of import slips for de-registered vehicles

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA) said it is yet to receive a report on issuing of import slips for family-use cars in return for de-registration of old vehicles from the 1999 to 2003 model years.

Although the report has not been submitted to the YRTA, vehicle owners are preparing to take out import slips, said U Hla Aung, the joint secretary of the transport authority.

"The YRTA has granted permission for de-registration in return for import slips. So, we have requested car owners to register

with the YRTA to de-register car models manufactured between 1999 and 2003. Some vehicle owners are now making preparations in this respect. Some are still in discussions with the companies to de-register the vehicles," he added.

The Yangon Region government had obtained permission from the Ministry of Transport and Communications to issue import slips and de-register buses from the 1999 to 2003 model years, which are in poor condition, have low energy efficiency, and do not match the city features.

"The owners of old model

buses should not suffer great losses when they de-register their buses. They should be given a chance to buy shares in the company. This means that we ought to let them invest in the YRTA. Even if the owners do not want to invest in the company, they should not suffer great losses in disposing of their vehicles," said U Hla Aung.

With the granting of the permission for de-registration, bus owners will be at ease, said Ko Tayote Lay, the managing director of Power Eleven public company.

All bus lines have been apprised of the situation. Currently,

there are over 700 YBS buses from the 1999-2003 model years. Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) purchase permits for buses that are de-registered and whose owners are granted import slips will have to be surrendered.

"CNG is being provided for cheaper transport of passengers. So, they will have to give the CNG permit back. And this has been practiced for a long time," said U Hla Aung. The Union government has been allowing de-registration of old vehicles since 2011. Earlier, only buses from the model year 1999 were allowed to be de-registered. (Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar Build and Decor 2019 to showcase over 70 companies

THE Myanmar Build and Decor 2019 will be held from 3 to 5 October at the Fortune Plaza in Tharkayta Township, Yangon Region. Over 70 local and international technical companies will exhibit products at the expo, according to a press conference held on Wednesday morning at the Yangon Novotel Hotel.

The expo is being organized under an arrangement by ICVeX Thailand Company, with the cooperation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Association of Myanmar Architects (AMA), Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Federation (MCEF), and Associates of Government Technical Institute (AGTI).

At the press meet, Mr Chinakrit Viphavakit, the General Manager of ICVeX said: "This



A press conference on Myanmar Build and Decor 2019 held in Yangon. PHOTO: SEIN KHET

expo will support the mutual relations between Myanmar construction businesses and international businesses by sharing of technical awareness.

Moreover, technicians, businessmen, and other entrepreneurs from over 70 interna-

tional companies will participate in the exhibition."

During the three-day expo, architecture and construction materials, interior decoration designs, furniture, and other home appliances will be displayed, and international

architects and officials from UMFCCI, AMA, MCEF, and AGTI will hold discussions on architecture, construction, and natural disaster protection techniques, among other topics. —Sein Khet (Translated by La Wonn)

Monywanites investing in properties worth over K100 mln

HIGH-priced properties are selling well these days, with Monywanites investing in properties in the K100-600 million price range in downtown Monywa, said Ko Htay Thein, a real estate agent from Monywa.

“Earlier, property owners quoted high prices. Now, they are open to selling their estates at a reduced price. So, purchasers are showing their willingness to buy apartments downtown. From 2019, some downtown areas such as Aung Mingalar, Ahlae, Sulegon, and Phonesoe along the Bogyoke Road have become a favorite among buyers. The main purchasers of Monywa real estate are businessmen, Yangon companies, private hospital investors, and private school investors,” said Ko Htay Thein.

Earlier, entrepreneurs and real estate agencies were buying and selling prime properties in Monywa town for K1 billion. But

now, properties worth K100-600 million are finding buyers in the market.

“Annually, properties in Chanmyawady which are located near Monywa University sell better than those situated in other places in the market. After 2017, property prices in Chanmyawady have become stable, and the properties are being sold at normal prices,” said Ko Htay Thein.

“Earlier, the price of an 80x60 square feet ground floor apartment was around K20 million. Now, a flat of this measurement near Thazi road is being sold in the range of K30-K40 million.

Although the house owners have decided to sell apartments at lower prices, the agencies are increasing the prices of the properties for their own profit,” he added.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)



An aerial view of Monywa City with high-rise buildings. PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)

High wages, input costs hit businesses at start of beekeeping season

WHILE plum flowers are in full bloom in Kani Township, Sagaing Region, labor wages and input costs for relocating beehives have climbed up this season, according to beekeepers.

Normally, over 30 villages in Kani Township undertake honey production during the plum blossom season. But, bee business owners are spending more on workers' wages and input costs this year compared to the previous year.

In the present production

season, the wages of workers have risen to K6,000 per day, and the cost of renting a 17-foot vehicle is in the range of K280,000 per trip. Last year, the wages of workers were K4,000 per day and the rental rate for vehicles was K250,000 per trip, according to beekeeping business owners.

There are around 900 registered beekeepers in Myanmar. The country produces 7,000 tons of honey a year. It exports 2,400 tons of honey annually.

Myanmar honey is exported

annually to the United States, Canada, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, China, and Japan. Beekeeping businesses could help reduce the poverty rate in rural areas by creating more job opportunities, said officials.

Myanmar produced 10,875.81 metric tons of honey in the past three fiscal years from 2013-2014 to 2015-2016, of which 8,471.24 metric tons was exported.—Win Oo (Zayar Tine)/ Ko Htet ■ (Translated by La Wonn)

Domestic investments reach K1,677 bln in current fiscal

BETWEEN 1 October and 14 September in the current fiscal year, domestic investments by Myanmar citizens reached K1,677 billion and US\$469.78 million, including expansion of capital by existing enterprises, according to a recent press statement issued by the Myanmar Investment Commission.

During the eleven-and-a-half-month period, 165 local enterprises were allowed to invest in various sectors, with estimated capitals of over K1,416 billion and \$376.6 million.

Investments primarily flowed into the real estate sector. Investors also parked funds

in the manufacturing, hotels and tourism, construction, industrial estate, energy, mining, livestock and fisheries, agriculture, and other services sectors, according to figures from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

To simplify the verification process of investment projects, the Myanmar Investment Law has allowed the regional and state investment committees to endorse local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or \$5 million.

While some projects no longer need MIC approval, businesses that are strategic to the

government require a permit from the commission. In addition, businesses that have large capital investments exceeding \$5 million and projects which may have a possible impact on the environment and the local community need to be approved by the DICA's proposal assessment team.

With a fast-track way of setting up a business in Myanmar having been introduced, investors can apply to the MIC or the state and regional investment committees for endorsement of their investment proposals, depending on the business type.—GNLM ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar fishery exports up \$15 mln in Oct-Aug

By Aye Yamone

EXPORT earnings from the fishery sector for the period from October 2018 to August 2019 in the current fiscal year amounted to around US\$667.007 million, which is an increase of \$15.778 million compared to the year-ago period, according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF).

During the October-August period in the 2017-2018FY, Myanmar had exported 536,396.005 tons of fishery products, worth \$651.219 million. During the same period in the 2018-2019FY, the country has exported 544,533.187 tons of fishery products, worth \$667.007 million. So, the export volume has increased by 8,137.132 tons, worth \$15.778 million, in the current FY.

“Myanmar has earned \$667 million from export of fishery products within 11 months. This means it has earned just \$60 million per month. If we add \$60 million for the month of September, our earnings will total only \$720 million, which will be a slight increase compared with last year. This is because of problems in the trade route between China and Myanmar. This could have affected the export of fishery products. In

addition, Myanmar had also banned fishing in the no-fishing season,” said U Win Kyaing, the general secretary of the MFF.

Between 1 April, 2018 and 31 March, 2019, export earnings from the fisheries sector reached an all-time high of \$720 million.

Myanmar earned \$482 million from the fisheries sector in the 2014-2015FY, \$502 million in the 2015-2016FY, and \$652 million in the 2016-2017FY.

Currently, the Myanmar government has permitted exports of only natural fishery products such as fish and prawns to China because China has restricted fishery imports due to concerns over food safety. Therefore, the export of some fish and prawns, which are not listed with the General Administration of Customs (GACC), may prove to be difficult.

“The volume of Myanmar's fishery exports is still much lower than its neighboring countries. Therefore, we need to adopt good breeding practices to promote exports,” according to the fisheries department.

Myanmar exports fishery products such as fish, prawns, and crabs to over 40 countries, including China, Saudi Arabia, Japan, and Thailand. ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

UNESCO Global Geopark tag for Mount Popa would bring pride to local community

MYANMAR has some sites which are worthy of being designated as Global Geoparks by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Of these sites, an area spanning over 360 square miles around Mandalay Region's Mount Popa has good potential as a UNESCO Global Geopark site.

Geologists have discovered animal fossils, including jaws of elephants that could be between 20 and 25 million years old, teeth fossils, and deer horns, and a furnace from the Bagan era in the area around Mount Popa, which is also rich in biodiversity.

The discoveries at the Popa Geopark area are invaluable for geological studies. Steps are under way to get the area designated as a Global Geopark.

The purpose of establishing geoparks is to protect important and rare geological resources and the natural environment, carry out geoscience research, and promote the sustainable development of the local society.

UNESCO's work with geoparks began in 2001. At present, there are 147 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 41 countries. UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas, where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed through a holistic approach involving protection, education, and sustainable development.

A UNESCO Global Geopark uses its geological heritage, in connection with all other aspects of the area's natural and cultural heritage, to improve awareness and understanding of key issues facing society, such as using our earth's resources in a sustainable manner, mitigating the effects of climate change, and reducing natural disaster-related risks.

By raising awareness of the importance of the area's geological heritage in history and society today, UNESCO Global Geoparks give local people a sense of pride in their region and strengthen their identification with the area.

As the nature of a geopark is different from Ramsar sites and sanctuaries, which are under the management of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, we need cooperation from the ministries and organizations concerned to get the Mount Popa area designated as a Global Geopark.

According to the UNESCO's description of geoparks, a Global Geopark designation requires a commitment from local communities and a long-term agenda that involves "showcasing and protecting the area's geological heritage".

The Global Geopark Working Committee, which was formed recently, would work to reach that goal and carry out necessary tasks once the area gets the UNESCO tag.

The inclusion of the Mount Popa area on UNESCO's list would be the first such honor for Myanmar.



The Global Geopark Working Committee, which was formed recently, would work to reach that goal and carry out necessary tasks once the area gets the UNESCO tag.

Myanmar Motion Picture Museum to celebrate 100 years of Myanmar movies

By Maung Thinn Pyant, PHOTO : Zwe Man

Continued From Yesterday's Article

DURING the long journey of one hundred years, shortage of raw films had been experienced in movie world.

Production of movie had been totally stopped in 1945 during the Second World War, which pushed the artistes in engaging the performances of stage show called drama or play during day time, as the night time performance was unsafe from aerial bombing from aircrafts if they saw lights on the grounds.

Movie production re-started after the war with all the strain, struggling and stumbling blocks. The most difficult part of the film industry was the shortage and scarcity of movie films.

He continued by saying that among the difficulties, the film that can be dubbed and recorded with the dialogues while shooting were extremely in short supply and mostly out of stock. It was therefore, the film under referral was to be divided and cut into two portions and kept for the future.

It has been quite a journey of one hundred years with many difficulties having a hard time in the production of Myanmar movies which eventually has to be proud of. Myanmar movies had started with "Myittar and Thuyar". Moreover, the Centenary of Myanmar Movies event is coincided with two other events, and therefore, the commemoration would be memorable, he continued.

During the Second World War in 1945, there was no shooting of films and that the artistes were displaced elsewhere in the country evading from the war at their own villages or small home towns, resulting with the stoppage of Myanmar movie production for some years.

However, the large cities such as Yangon and Mandalay had hosted with entertainments such as play or drama during day time, literally, a transfer of artistic presentation from movie to a play performed on stage rather than broadcast or made into a film.

Artistes from the Myanmar movie sphere engaged themselves in jobs that they could catch up during the war time.

Entering back into the arena of movie production, they faced the difficulties in the shortage of films. Lack in equipments and need of expertise, they tried to stand on own two feet locally and struggled through the years.

Cutting the movie films with sound recordings into two parts of films, they survived.

Veteran movie actor U Than Win said, "I had entered into the movie world in 1967, and now, it is time to celebrate Movie Centenary. As I have had the opportunity in celebrating the Golden Jubilee and the Diamond Jubilee, I am looking forward



Motion Picture Museum displays the influential people in the motion picture history of Myanmar.

to celebrating the Myanmar Movie Centenary with much pride and honor. The Diamond Jubilee event was celebrated at the Pavilion in the premises of Myoma State High School and the Tatmadaw Hall. During our time, the movie production was made with the film and therefore, we had to handle with extreme care never to spoil the film in anyway. Time has changed and that we could produce the movies at our own convenient and time. The acting process of the movie stars had also changed compared to our times. Nowadays, movie could be shot from many views and angles, which was not possible during our times."

U Than Win continued that a full movie could be shot in twenty days and that some movie took time for one month. We all worked in happy mood in unity and helped each other, and above all, we accorded respect to each other. We are on the eve of celebrating the Myanmar Movie Centenary, and that we are very much grateful to the movie lovers and the people who always support and encourage Myanmar movies.

Until today, those who had worked in the Myanmar movie domain for many years really deserved high praise and honor for their dedication. Passing on from one generation to the next, they carried the onerous job through fate, intellect, wisdom, and diligent.

With these at the backdrops, the stakeholders in the movie world and the movie lovers as a whole have the opportunity to celebrate the Myanmar Movie Centenary.

In recent days in the movie domain, the artistes those are alive in the memorable old days of the Silver Jubilee of 1970 remained very few in number, and therefore, the celebration of the Myanmar Movie Centenary is to be proud of.

The Golden Jubilee celebration was first held in Mandalay, and then in Yangon. The Diamond Jubilee was celebrated in

remain in the back row on the instruments and apparatuses and the expertise in movie production. Artistic presentation as she considered is on same degree, footing, level, place, and position.

With regards to the cultural aspect of the artists, she endorsed to value own nationals and people along with the implication of arts so as to have compact national culture. Otherwise the bad dress code and too showy of flesh would be leading to bad behavior and poor culture. She pointed out the independence of Myanmar which was regained through the sacrifice of many lives. She warned that if the nation's independence was lost, there is no way to get it back.

She said that "United we stand, divided we fall" is very well-known saying which is designed to stir people up to greater unity, including the movie world. One must have optimistic outlook, and if someone is pessimistic, the person is to be extended with helping hand. When the cynical people are on the rise, one must exemplify for good nature and persuade the others. If we could create such good scenario in real life, the artistic world

The religion, culture, and fine arts of a nation stand out as its intangible and priceless heritage, and the lofty beginnings of the Myanmar fine arts would be chronicled at the Myanmar movies centenary.

Mega star Daw Nwe Nwe Sann, who is still entertaining the audience, has recounted, "Time passes by very quickly as we are ready to celebrate Myanmar Movie Centenary. I am proud as I could take part in the celebration. During one hundred years time we were able to produce skillfully in script writing, cinematography, editing, sound, well acted, cohesive and internally consistent story that has the ability to elicit emotion, set mood and guide a reaction. Of course, there were sub-standard Myanmar movies. Whatever it may be, an actor needs to work hard, though the ambition to be a star has no easy way out. To become a top-notch movie director would be laborious, hard, arduous, strenuous and demanding so also in producing a good movie."

Among the top mega actresses, the list was filled with the names such as Daw Khin Ohn Myint, Daw May Thit, and Daw Myint Myint Htay, whose acting in the movies were perfect and stylish, but actually the decent clothing had successfully won the hearts of the movie lovers. Their styles are to be emulated.

Over the years, it could be termed as the time for disgusting sentiments over the ostentatious outfits showing too much flesh by some female movie stars.

Myanmar mindset are embedded with sense of shyness, sense of propriety, full of compassion, and feel for pity that other people on this planet have lesser chance to catch up with.

Self-respect and self-esteem are to be

valued and that the traits are to be shared and disseminated to the young ones with the mutual respect basis. Culture and the fine arts are to be preserved.

Most popular Myanmar movies namely "Htar Thakin" and "Mone" are no more in our hands. Moreover, the famous movie "Bo Aung Din" was also gone. Preservation is the needy aspect in the Myanmar movie realm.

Paradoxically, most of the professionals in the movie sphere just survived in lesser income, and remained poor. They lacked in technical know-how for the preservation of films. The most essential part in this topic is the interest, the natural bent and the hobby.

When all the stakeholders uphold the values of fine arts, the chronicle of Myanmar movie would remain more colorful and shining. Daw Nwe Nwe San sincerely wishes for the emergence of persons coming up with the determination in uplifting the standard of Myanmar movie so as to remain in the annals of Myanmar movie history forever. Wishing for the development of Myanmar Motion Picture Museum with the modern technology is also her aspiration.

May the Myanmar movie domain stays in sustainable status is also her prayer.

Myanmar movies stand tall to a certain extent on this planet by showing some innovations in their movie production. Citation for this statement is the movie "Mya Ga Nine" which presented with daring adventures including the flying of hot air balloon in the movie production.

Many good movies had been produced by the founding fathers of Myanmar movie world.

Myanmar movie Centenary is just around the corner.

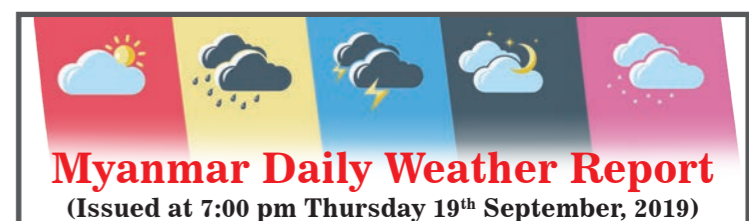
Doors of the Myanmar Motion Picture Museum are going to open up for the public soonest in the month of October 2019.

The religion, culture, and fine arts of a nation stand out as its intangible and priceless heritage, and the lofty beginnings of the Myanmar fine arts would be chronicled at the Myanmar movies centenary.

Sustainable development of the Myanmar Motion Picture Museum is on the agenda and the unity and unison among the stakeholders of the Myanmar movie sphere would remain strong with strength for many years to come.

In conclusion, I wish that a red carpet is literally laid out for dignitaries to walk on at the Myanmar movie Centenary celebration with the high honor for those who involved in making the Myanmar movie bright and shiny.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)



BAW INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 20th September, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Northern Shan States, scattered in Ayeeyawady Region and Rakhine State, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Yangon Regions and Eastern Shan, Chin and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of thundery activities in Central Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20th September, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20th September, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20th September, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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Second Amyotha Hluttaw concludes its 13th session

FROM PAGE-2

U Aye Bo of Yangon Region constituency 11 asked to distribute water from Gyobu and Thalbyu river sources to the wards and villages of Hlinethaya Township, and he also asked to know the timing for completion of Kokkova river water project which is being implemented with the JICA loan. The questions were answered by Nay Pyi Taw council member U Nyi Tun.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced receiving the Word Change Bill sent back by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments, and he invited to enlist the names of MPs who want to discuss the bill.

Amyotha Hluttaw Bill committee member Daw Hla Htay (a) Daw Ohn Kyi read out the report of bill committee the National Records and Archives Bill sent by the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments. The Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw passed the bill with the approval of the Hluttaw.

MP U Wai Sein Aung of Rakhine State constituency 1 and MP Daw Nan Moe Moe Htwe of

Kayin State constituency 4 discussed the report on the works of Amyotha Hluttaw Ethnic Affairs Committee from 8th to the 13th sessions of second Amyotha Hluttaw. MP Daw Nan Moe Moe Htwe discussed the legal rights and fundamental rights for ethnic nationalities in less developed areas, and pointed out the need of frequent meetings with ethnic affairs ministries of the respective states/regions and social communities.

Amyotha Hluttaw Ethnic Affairs Committee's Chairwoman Daw Nwe Nwe Aung sought for the approval of this report. The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker approved the report with the agreement of Hluttaw.

Then, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker explained the activities of the Hluttaw during the 13th regular session, in 23 days of meeting, from 15 July to 19 September 2019. The MP raised 134 asterisk queries and 191 non-asterisk queries to the Hluttaw.

The Union-level officials answered the questions of MP

verbally or in letters.

MP U Khin Win of Magway Region constituency 2 tabled a motion on upgrading water supply facilities to the Union Government. The motion was approved by the Hluttaw. A motion to urge the Union Government for promoting the lives of rural women and another motion to scrutinize the quality of private academic institutions were approved by the Hluttaw.

However, the Hluttaw turned down a motion to approve loan programme for students who will continue higher education.

A new Aquaculture Bill was discussed by Amyotha Hluttaw and the discussions on this report was sent back to the Bill Committee. The Amyotha Hluttaw's 13th regular session also approved the 5th amendment bills on Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law, Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law and Region/State Election Law, and sent these laws to the Pyithu Hluttaw. The Hluttaw also worked on the Word Change Bill, Protect from the Rise of Imported Goods Bill,

and Bill on Urban and Regional Development Scheme.

Amyotha Hluttaw also passed 4th Amendment Bill on Union Judiciary Law in accordance with recommendation of Pyithu Hluttaw. The bill was signed into law by the President in accordance with Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No 25 for 2019.

The New Plant Variety Protection Bill 2019 was sent back to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw due to some disagreements with the Pyithu Hluttaw on their amendment.

The lists of MPs were invited to discuss the Bill to Amend Farmland Law. The Amyotha Hluttaw discussed the Rural Development Bill, the Myanmar Medical Degree, Diploma and Certificate Bill and the National Records and Archives Bill and sent back to the Pyithu Hluttaw. The list of MPs has been invited to discuss The Myanmar Geosciences Council Bill tabled by the Bill Committee.

The Basic Education Bill and the Education Research, Planning and Training Bill were sent

back to the Pyithu Hluttaw after being discussed them.

The report No 1/2019 sent by the Committee on Public Letters of Complaints was approved by the Hluttaw. The report of Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee was also approved after discussions of MPs.

The Amyotha Hluttaw also approved the working reports of Ethnic Affairs Committee between the 8th and 13th regular sessions of second Amyotha Hluttaw. The investigation report the Education Promotion Committee was also put on the record.

The Amyotha Hluttaw committees organized a total of 143 meetings during the session, the six debates were held to promote capacities of Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, the Research, Public Relations and International Relations Department released six short papers for the MPs, and answered 85 questions out of 100 for information by 53 MPs.—Aung Ye Thwin, Han Lin Naing ■ (Translated by Aung Khin)

40 gems lots worth euros 0.378 mln sold out on 4th day of mid-year gems emporium

A total of 40 gems lots were sold through open tender system at the Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium-2019 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Over 480 gems lots were put on sales through open tender system yesterday and the sales of 40 gems lots fetched over 0.378 million euros.

Similarly, it was reported that jade lots No. 1 to 1311 would be sold through open tender system on 20 September; over 1300 jade lots from No. 1312 to 2611 on re September; about 1300 jade

lots from No. 2612 to 3911 on 22 September; about 1300 jade lots from No. 3912 to 5211 on 23 September; about 1300 jade lots from No. 5212 to 6511 on 34 September; about 1300 jade lots from No. 6512 to 7811 on 25 September will be sold through the open tender system respectively.

The emporium was crowded with local and foreign traders. Over 3060 foreign traders and 1865 local traders registered to attend the sales.—Hmwe Kyu Zin ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Gem merchants checking jade lots before putting their applications with the proposed prices in the tender boxes. PHOTO: HTAN PHONE



Indian cyclist Ji Ingobi Chingtham. PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN

Indian solo cyclist on 7-nation tour arrives in Yangon

Ji Ingobi Chingtham, a 21-year-old cyclist from Imphal, Manipur, India arrived in Yangon on 18 September as part of his solo seven-nation tour. The seven-month tour will spread the idea of One World One Family, or global integration, he said.

Ji Ingobi Chingtham visited the Shwedagon and Botataung Pagodas and the Indian Embassy in Yangon.

"In Myanmar, I feel so real-

ly happy because the people of Myanmar show kindness and sympathy to foreigners. When I was travelling from Mandalay, one of the locals on the roadside asked me: 'Brother, where do you come from? Did you have any food?' He offered me breakfast. So, I had some breakfast with him. The people are really good. Now, the country is developed. Earlier, a people were wary of travelling through the border

pass between India and Myanmar. Nowadays, people from India and Myanmar can easily travel to and fro, and I would like to share my message with the people of both the nations. The road is very nice, somewhere between Tamu and Mandalay, the road is very hilly."

During his solo trip, Ji Ingobi Chingtham will cover about 10,000 km and pass through Southeast Asian countries, in-

cluding Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, and Singapore.

He said he will travel from Yangon to Bago and Myawaddy via the Thai-Myanmar friendship bridge and continue to Thailand, where he will participate in the Global Goals MUN 2.0 International Youth Leadership event from 30 September to 9 October. Thereafter, he will proceed to Malaysia. —Thant Zin Win ■

China urges US to stop pushing for Hong Kong bill

BEIJING — China on Thursday urged the United States to stop supporting a Hong Kong human rights and democracy bill scheduled to be voted on by US congressional committees next week.

“China expresses its strong dissatisfaction and resolute opposition” to the Hong Kong-related bill and calls on the United States to “stop acting as a violent radical force in Hong Kong,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a regular press briefing.

In reiterating that “Hong

Kong affairs are purely China’s internal affairs and should not be interfered by any foreign forces,” Geng also advised the United States to abide by the basic norms of international law and “earnestly respect China’s sovereignty.”

On Wednesday, US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi held a press conference with both Republican and Democratic House members along with Hong Kong pro-democracy activists to support the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019. If passed, the current



File photo shows Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

version of the legislation would require annual assessments of whether Hong Kong is “sufficiently autonomous from China” to justify its unique economic treatment, which allows the city to evade US export controls and sanctions.—Kyodo News ■

Lebanon exhibits drones used in alleged Israeli attack

BEIRUT — Lebanon’s defence minister on Thursday exhibited two drones he said Israel had sent last month into a Beirut bastion of the Shiite militant group Hezbollah.

Elias Bou Saab displayed a

pair of drones — one intact and the remains of the other — and used slides to give a detailed account of the alleged Israeli operation.

He said the devices were “advanced military production”

and even listed the name and address of one Israeli company he said made some of the components.

The August 25 drone incident in Beirut, which came a day after Israeli strikes targeted Hezbollah operatives in Syria, drastically raised tensions in the region.

Lebanon’s government and Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah both described the apparently botched operation as an act of aggression. Israel’s and Hezbollah’s respective patrons, the United States and Iran, have been locked in an escalating tit-for-tat proxy war in recent months.

Bou Saab said that the data retrieved from the intact drone — from which the explosive charge was purportedly removed for the press conference — offered a set of detailed times and locations.—AFP ■



Lebanese soldiers display an alleged Israeli drone that fell in a southern Beirut suburb last month. PHOTO: AFP

Venezuelan gov’t, agricultural industry discuss output expansion amid US sanctions

CARACAS — The Venezuelan government and agricultural producers on Wednesday discussed increasing production to cope with shortages caused by U.S. sanctions, a top official said.

The government’s economic team met with representatives from the agricultural sector as part of renewed

conciliation talks between the ruling socialist party and the opposition groups, Vice President Delcy Rodriguez said.

“We can say it is a true economic dialogue to continue to consolidate the expansion of the productive forces,” she said.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has called on the

productive sector to help combat sanctions imposed by Washington in a bid to pressurise the South American country.

“It is a total embargo against Venezuela, it is a shipping blockade against Venezuela, and the way out is production,” said Rodriguez.—Xinhua ■

Germany targets Airbus in military spying probe

FRANKFURT AM MAIN — German authorities on Thursday were looking into how Airbus employees came to see confidential military documents, the latest in a series of scandals to hit the aerospace giant.

Munich prosecutors “are investigating 17 named suspects and further thus far unknown perpetrators over revealing, or incitement to reveal, trade and company secrets,” the investigators told AFP.

Airbus said in a statement Wednesday that it had reported itself to the authorities.

“Some of our employees had documents that they shouldn’t have had,” an Airbus source said.

The confidential documents relate to two planned military procurement projects. In cooperation with prosecutors, the defence ministry is “clearing up what kind of documents are involved,” said a spokesman, Lieutenant Colonel Lars Ebinger. “We can’t rule out that these might be documents Airbus had permission to see.”

The Airbus workers concerned were at the Munich-based Programme Line Communications, Intelligence and Security (CIS), which handles cybersecu-

rity and related activities.

In its statement, the company said it had “self-declared to German authorities potential wrongdoing by several employees with respect to certain customer documents relating to two future German procurement projects” handled by CIS.

It added it was conducting an “ongoing internal review with the support of an external law firm” and “fully cooperating with relevant authorities to resolve the matter”. Politicians were quick to call for consequences for the contractor firm. “In normal life, a company would be shut out from the tender process for the projects in question” after such revelations, Greens party defence spokesman Tobias Lindner told daily Die Welt.

It is “problematic that employees at a defence firm should know in advance the army’s requirements for its future projects,” agreed fellow defence committee member Alexander Mueller of the Free Democratic Party (FDP). Defence spokesman Ebinger said before results from the investigation are available, it will be impossible to predict the impact on procurement.—AFP ■



German authorities on Thursday were looking into how Airbus employees came to see confidential military documents, the latest in a series of scandals to hit the aerospace giant. PHOTO: AFP

Senior Saudi military commander killed in bomb explosion in Yemen

ADEN — A senior commander of the Saudi Arabia-led coalition forces and five of his bodyguards were killed in a bomb explosion in Yemen’s southeastern province of Hadramout on Thursday.

“A roadside bomb blast struck a military patrol of the Saudi-led coalition forces in the historic town of Shibam in Hadramout province,” said a government official who asked to remain anonymous.

The Yemeni official based in Hadramout pointed out that the roadside bomb blast resulted in

killing a Saudi army commander named as Abu Nawaf along with five of his bodyguards. Around 11 other soldiers were injured as a result of the bomb blast that struck their military patrol in Shibam controlled by Yemeni government forces, according to the official.

A medical official confirmed to Xinhua that “leader of the Saudi forces in Hadramout was killed along with two Saudi soldiers and three members of the Yemeni forces during the same explosion.”—Xinhua ■

Australia blocks 'unacceptable' South Korean coal mine

SYDNEY — An Australian planning watchdog on Wednesday blocked the development of a large South Korean-owned coal mine, citing concerns about long-lasting “environmental impacts” that would hurt future generations.

Korean electricity giant KEPCO proposed the mine for New South Wales' Bylong Valley — a four-hour drive northwest of Sydney — promising more than 2,000 jobs and an Aus\$300 million (US\$205 million) boost to the economy. The project was slated to produce 120 million tonnes of coal over the next 25 years, the latest large-scale coal project in Australia — a leading global exporter. But New South Wales' Independent Planning Commission struck the project down, saying the impact on groundwater was



The project was slated to produce 120 million tonnes of coal over the next 25 years, the latest large-scale coal project in Australia — a leading global exporter. **PHOTO: AFP**

“unacceptable” and that there was no evidence supporting KEPCO's environmental rehabilitation claims. The Korea Electric

Power Corporation is by far the country's largest electric utility.

The watchdog said that it was unfair for current gener-

ations to reap the benefits of a project that would leave the environmental costs to be “borne by the future generations.”—AFP ■

India bans e-cigarettes as vaping backlash grows

NEW DELHI — India announced on Wednesday a ban on the sale of electronic cigarettes, as a backlash gathers pace worldwide due to health concerns about a product promoted as less harmful than smoking tobacco.

The Indian announcement, also outlawing production, import and distribution, came a day after New York became the second US state to ban flavoured e-cigarettes following a string of vaping-linked deaths.

“The decision was made keeping in mind the impact that e-cigarettes have on the youth of today,” Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told reporters in New Delhi.



The vapour is missing the estimated 7,000 chemicals in tobacco smoke but does contain a number of substances that could potentially be harmful. **PHOTO: AFP**

E-cigarettes do not “burn” but instead heat up a liquid — tasting of everything from bourbon to bubble gum and which

usually contains nicotine — that turns into vapour and is inhaled.

The vapour is missing the

estimated 7,000 chemicals in tobacco smoke but does contain a number of substances that could potentially be harmful.

They have been pushed by producers, and also by some governments including in Britain, as a safer alternative to traditional smoking — and as a way to kick the habit. However critics say that apart from being harmful in themselves, the flavours of e-cigarette liquids appeal particularly to children and risk getting them addicted to nicotine.

Some 3.6 million middle and high school students in the United States used vaping products in 2018, an increase of 1.5 million on the year before.—AFP ■

Indonesia's toxic haze affecting Borneo's orangutans - rescuers

JAKARTA — Massive forest fires in Indonesia that have caused a toxic haze to spread as far as Singapore and peninsular Malaysia are also seriously affecting endangered orangutans and their habitat, a rescue foundation said Tuesday.

Jakarta has deployed thousands of troops as temporary fireman and deployed dozens of water-bombing aircraft to battle blazes that are turning pristine forest into charred landscape in Sumatra and Borneo islands.

The fires — usually started by illegal burning to clear land for farming — have unleashed

a choking haze across parts of southeast Asia.

The Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation said Tuesday that the haze was affecting hundreds of great apes in its care at rescue centres and wildlife re-introduction shelters.

“The thick smoke does not only endanger the health of our staff... but also it affects the 355 orangutans we currently care for”, the foundation said in a statement, referring to just once centre in Kalimantan. “As many as 37 young orangutans are suspected to have contracted a mild respiratory infection,” it added.—AFP ■



AFFECTED. File photo of a park employee holding an orangutan as it is shown to the public after several months in quarantine at Bali Safari Marine Park in Gianyar regency on 19 August, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS In BRIEF

Tiny penguin's clean bill of health after epic NZ-Australia swim

SYDNEY — A tiny penguin that made the mammoth journey from New Zealand to Australia has been nursed back to health and released into the wild — in the hope it will find its own way home.

The emaciated Fiordland penguin was found struggling on rocks near Lorne, south of Melbourne, about 2,500km (1,500 miles) from its native habitat of New Zealand. Melbourne Zoo head of veterinary services Michael Lynch said the bird was so underweight it had to be gradually reintroduced to food and the water over several weeks. “Over time it began to put on weight again,” he said. “We then started to reintroduce it to water when it was strong enough to swim to help build up some muscle.”

Fiordland penguins are known to swim large distances to forage for food, sometimes even spending so long in the ocean that they grow barnacles on their tails.

They are classified as a threatened species, with an estimated 5,000 left in the wild.

After two months of care it earned a bill of good health this month. It has now been micro-chipped and released at a beach on Phillip Island, off the Victoria state coast.—AFP ■

Italy's Enel to reduce CO2 emissions 70% by 2030

MILAN — Italian energy giant Enel said Wednesday it plans to reduce its direct greenhouse gas emissions by 70 percent by 2030.

In an announcement just a few days ahead of the UN Climate Summit, Enel said in a statement that it wanted to help achieve the UN's goal of limiting the maximum global temperature increase to 1.5 per cent Celsius from pre-industrial levels, and achieving zero emissions by 2050. “By cutting our direct emissions by 70 percent... we will be well on track, 20 years before the 2050 deadline, to achieving our full decarbonisation target,” said CEO Francesco Starace.—AFP ■

OECD cuts 2019, 2020 global growth outlook on US-China trade spat

TOKYO — The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on Thursday lowered its forecasts for global economic growth this year and next, citing escalating trade tension between the United States and China.

The world's gross domestic product is expected to grow a real 2.9 per cent in 2019 and 3.0 per cent in 2020, slowing from 3.6 per cent in 2018, the OECD said in its latest interim economic outlook.

Its projections were downgraded from May forecasts of 3.2 per cent in 2019 and 3.4 per cent in 2020.

"The global outlook has become increasingly fragile and uncertain," the OECD report said. "These



French Economy and Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire (l) and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Secretary General Angel Gurría speak at a press conference in Paris on 29 August, 2019. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

would be the weakest annual growth rates since the financial crisis, with downside risks continuing to mount," it added.

"Escalating trade

policy tensions are taking an increasing toll on confidence and investment, adding to policy uncertainty, weighing on risk sentiment in financial markets,

and endangering future growth prospects," the Paris-based organization said.

The ongoing tit-for-tat tariff war between the world's two largest economies could reduce global GDP growth by between 0.3 and 0.4 percentage points in 2020, and between 0.2 and 0.3 points in 2021, according to the report.

By country, the OECD forecast the US economy to grow 2.4 per cent in 2019 and 2.0 per cent in 2020, slowing from 2.9 per cent in 2018.

China's economy is projected to expand 6.1 percent in 2019 and 5.7 percent in 2020, down from 6.6 percent in 2018.

—Kyodo News ■

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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (136 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-09-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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Fed cut propels stocks and oil soars again on Mideast tension



Federal Reserve boss Jerome Powell said the bank 'will act as appropriate' to support the economy. PHOTO: AFP

LONDON — World stock markets mostly rose Thursday after the Federal Reserve cut interest rates but left the outlook unclear, while oil rebounded on fresh supply concerns in the Middle East.

In late morning deals, London stocks advanced before a Bank of England decision at 1100 GMT, which will likely see its key interest rate left at 0.75 per cent.

Awaiting the BoE update, investors shrugged off official data showing

that UK retail sales dipped 0.2 per cent in August from July. In the eurozone, the Frankfurt and Paris stock markets gained on the Fed news and after increases across much of Asia.

"European equity markets are higher... even though the Federal Reserve was not overly dovish," said IG analyst David Madden.

"The US central bank cut interest rates by 0.25 percent, meeting expectations, but the message from the update suggested that

further rate cuts are not definitely in the pipeline."

While the Fed met expectations with a 25-basis-point reduction, the lack of strong forward guidance disappointed many.

However, lower interest rates tend to support stock markets because they cut the cost of credit for businesses and loan repayments for consumers.

"Easier policy in absolute terms is good for stocks as it means lower rates, lower cost of capital, high bond prices and so pushes investors up the risk curve," noted Neil Wilson at Markets.com.

Oil spikes again

In commodities, Brent oil rebounded two percent as traders seized on re-surfacing tensions in the crude-rich Middle East.

The market had surged at the start of the week after drone attacks at Saudi oil facilities on Saturday.—AFP ■

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Amoy Food Limited., a company incorporated in Hong Kong and having its registered office at 11-15 Dai Fu Street, Tai Po industrial Estate, New Territories, Hong Kong is the current owner of the Trademark described below, by virtue of the Deed of Assignment dated 29 March 2019 (Reg. No. 4/18047/2019) executed between Ajinomoto Co., Inc., (Assignor), and Amoy Food Limited., (Assignee), whereby Assignor, the original owner had registered the Trademark in Myanmar, assigned it to Assignee:



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Netanyahu, Gantz in standoff over Israeli unity government

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his main challenger Benny Gantz were in a standoff over calls for a unity government on Thursday as election results put the premier's long tenure in office at risk.

In a major development following Tuesday's polls, Netanyahu said he preferred to form a right-wing coalition, but the results showed it was not possible.

He urged Gantz to join him in forming a unity government instead, and the two men shook hands when they crossed paths at a memorial event later.

But on Thursday afternoon, Gantz made clear that he would have to be prime minister of a unity government, noting that results so far put his centrist Blue and White two seats ahead of Netanyahu's



A smiling Netanyahu, left, and Gantz, right, warmly shook hands at a memorial event for Shimon Peres on Thursday. **PHOTO: AFP**

right-wing Likud.

Despite Gantz's slim lead, neither has an obvious path to form a majority coalition, and the Blue and White leader has made several calls for a unity

government since polls closed on Tuesday.

Netanyahu's stark admission came as the results threatened his status as the country's longest-serving prime minister

while he faces possible corruption charges in the weeks ahead. "During the elections, I called for the establishment of a right-wing government," Netanyahu said in a video message.

"But unfortunately the election results show that this is not possible." He went on to call on Gantz to form a "broad unity government today." Speaking to journalists, Gantz said: "The public voted clearly in favour of unity.

"Blue and White has at the time I am speaking won 33 seats, while Netanyahu has not obtained a sufficient majority to form a coalition as he hoped."

The ex-military chief, who mounted his challenge to Netanyahu without any prior political experience, went on to say: "We will listen to everyone, but we will not accept mandates imposed on us."—AFP ■

EU backs Romanian former anti-corruption czar as bloc's new prosecutor

BRUSSELS — A majority of EU member states on Thursday backed making a former top anti-corruption official from Romania their bloc's first-ever anti-fraud prosecutor — despite opposition from her own country, European sources said.

"An informal vote confirmed there is a sufficient majority" among EU ambassadors to put Laura Codruta Koevesi in charge of the new European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) set

to start work at the end of 2020, according to a diplomatic official from Finland, which holds the EU's rotating presidency.

The 46-year-old Romanian magistrate received 17 votes from the 22 countries signed on to the new office, whose job is to investigate suspected fraud involving the EU's budget, European sources said.

Bucharest has warned it will not back Koevesi, who was instrumental in launching fraud probes



Laura Codruta Kovesi, former head of Romania's anti-corruption agency, has been named by a selection panel of experts as its first choice to lead the European Public Prosecutor's Office. **PHOTO: AFP**

in Romania against 14 former or current ministers, 43 lawmakers and more than 260 local officials between 2013 to July 2018, when the government fired her.

Romanian authorities have compiled their own corruption accusations against Koevesi in a case criticised by Brussels.—AFP ■

France has 'not changed mind' on rejecting Snowden asylum

PARIS — France has not changed its mind on rejecting any asylum request from US surveillance whistleblower Edward Snowden, its foreign minister said Thursday, after the former CIA employee said he would like sanctuary in the country.

Snowden has been living in Russia since June 2013 after leaking a trove of classified documents showing the scope of post-9/11 US government surveillance. He said in an interview at the weekend he hoped

President Emmanuel Macron would grant him the right to live in France.

The whistleblower, who has given a host of interviews from Moscow to mark the publication of his new book, saw an initial request for asylum in France turned down six years ago under then-president Francois Hollande.

"For now, he has made the request just through the media but I don't see any reason to change the point of view," Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le



FILE PHOTO: A demonstration in support of Edward Snowden in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris in July 2013. **PHOTO: AFP**

Drian told CNEWS television. "He asked for asylum in France — and also elsewhere — in 2013. At that time, France believed it was not appropri-

ate and I don't see anything that has changed today, either from a political point of view or a legal one," he added.—AFP ■

NEWS In BRIEF

Thieves nab 2-mn-euro haul from vaunted French chateau

BOBIGNY (France) — The owners of a 17th-century French palace said to be the model for Versailles were tied up as their opulent home was ransacked Thursday by robbers who fled with a haul worth two million euros (\$2.2 million), police said.

The Vaux-le-Vicomte chateau, set amid sumptuous gardens about 50 kilometres (30 miles) southeast of Paris, has been owned by the same family since 1875. A police source said six hooded but unarmed robbers found neckties belonging to Patrice de Vogue, 90, to tie up him and his wife Cristina, 78, in their lodging on the grounds of the palace. The thieves targeted a safe and stole emeralds and other items, but did not attempt to make off with the chateau's works of art. The couple was not injured during the robbery, which occurred shortly before dawn, according to prosecutors in the nearby city of Melun.—AFP ■

Migrant workers still exploited in World Cup host Qatar: Amnesty

PARIS — Qatar is not fulfilling all its promises to improve the conditions of migrant workers in the country in the run-up to the 2022 World Cup, Amnesty International said Thursday.

In a report entitled "All Work, No Pay", the rights group said: "Despite the significant promises of reform which Qatar has made ahead of the 2022 World Cup, it remains a playground for unscrupulous employers." The report came as French President Emmanuel Macron and Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani were due to meet in Paris on Thursday. Sheikh Tamim also attended Wednesday's high-profile clash between Paris Saint-Germain — owned by Qatar's state-owned investment fund — and Real Madrid. Doha has made efforts since being named World Cup hosts to improve the conditions of the migrant workers who make up a majority of the Gulf emirate's population.—AFP ■

Pakistani PM inaugurates 24/7 terminal at Afghan border

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday inaugurated a new terminal building at a customs and immigration post on the border with Afghanistan that will remain open around the clock.

In a speech at the ceremony, Khan expressed hope that Torkham border crossing will see increased bilateral and transit trade, benefiting both Pakistan and landlocked Afghanistan.

"We pray for peace in Afghanistan when Torkham border post will become a hub of international and transit trade," he said.

Khan said that during his meetings with leaders of Central Asian countries, they sought increased bilateral trade with Pakistan.



File photo of Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan (R), taken in April 2019. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

But the continued war in Afghanistan has impeded Pakistan's transit trade with these countries via its neighboring country, he added. —Kyodo News ■

US seeks Southeast Asia's support to combat economic espionage

SINGAPORE — The United States would like Southeast Asian countries to help it combat economic espionage, a senior US national security official said Wednesday.

"We rely on our partners in the region to enforce intellectual property," said Adam Hickey, deputy assistant attorney general at the US Justice Department, who is now visiting Singapore to discuss what the United States considers national security threats such as economic espionage and cyber threats.

Noting that the United States has seen a rising trend in recent years of "foreign intelligence services" trying to recruit American company insiders for facilitated computer network intrusion or to steal trade secrets, he said "it might be easier to recruit employees of American companies here than it might be to recruit them from the US directly."

"And then again a lot of it comes down to the enforcement regime of that particular country."

Hickey gave the example of Taiwan where a court indicted a Chinese state-owned company, a Taiwanese company and three individuals for a conspiracy to commit economic espionage



Adam Hickey, deputy assistant Attorney General of the National Security division, pictured on 26 July, 2017 during a Senate committee hearing. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

last year. "If I were an American businessman choosing whether to do business in Southeast Asia, I might give some thought whether my intellectual property will be protected there, is there a rule of law, can I be confident that authorities there will stand up for me if I am the victim of attack."

Asked if the United States is seeing a rising threat of foreign intelligence services targeting US companies operating in Southeast Asia, the official said, "I do think there is the risk that employees of American companies abroad could be co-opted, and that you got to think about what the security environment is." —Kyodo News ■

Drone strikes kill 18 Afghan civilians, wound 6 in eastern Nangarhar province

JALALABAD — A total of 18 Afghan civilians have been confirmed dead and six others injured as an unmanned plane targeted a suspected hideout of the Islamic State (IS) fighters in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province on Wednesday, provincial police spokesman Ma-

bariz Atal told Xinhua Thursday. The strikes, according to the official, were conducted by the NATO-led Resolute Support mission in Wazir Tangi area of the province's Khogiani district on Wednesday evening against IS hideout, but unfortunately 18 civilians were killed and six more

wounded. The villagers were collecting pine nuts from trees in the mountainous area when the air raids happened, Atal further said. Investigation has been initiated into the incident, the official further said.—Xinhua ■

'Too awful': Anger at acquittals in Fukushima case

TOKYO — As a Tokyo court pronounced three former executives not guilty in the only criminal trial over the Fukushima nuclear disaster, a woman's voice cut through the silence from the gallery: "Unbelievable!"

More than eight years after the worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl, only three people have faced criminal prosecution in relation to the Fukushima disaster, and their acquittal Thursday left victims angry and distraught.

"This is extremely, extremely frustrating," said Ayako Oga, who evacuated to Japan's Niigata region from Fukushima in the wake of the disaster.

"We cannot understand it," an elderly woman said, her voice breaking as she addressed the crowd, clutching a microphone.

"In these eight-and-a-half years, so many people were forced to leave their houses... and they remain displaced and unable



Only three people have faced criminal prosecution in relation to the Fukushima disaster, and their acquittal Thursday left victims angry and distraught. PHOTO: AFP

to decide where to live," she said. "How would you feel if your house, today, were taken away from you?" The tsunami triggered by an

earthquake that swamped the Fukushima nuclear plant on 11 March, 2011 left more than 18,500 people dead or missing. No one is officially recorded as having

been killed by the nuclear accident itself, but tens of thousands of people were ordered to evacuate, with many more fleeing of their own accord, afraid of radi-

ation that rendered whole towns off-limits.

Parts of the region remain uninhabitable, and may be so forever. Even where decontamination has been completed and evacuation orders lifted, many residents have been reluctant to return. "I couldn't be more angry," a man who evacuated from Fukushima told supporters at a rally after the verdict was announced. "We can't go back to our normal lives," he added.

"Those who were at the top of the company at the time must be prosecuted!"

'It's about our dignity'

Akihiro Yoshidome, an 81-year-old anti-nuclear campaigner from Tokyo, said he was astounded by the decision.

"I had braced myself that we might not get a clean victory, but this is too awful," he told AFP. —AFP ■



A Judo team from Japan, led by Judo Olympics gold medalist Mr Kosei Inoue, pose for a group photo with officials and athletes from the Myanmar Judo Federation yesterday at the Yangon International Airport.
PHOTO: SAW THEIN WIN

Japanese Judo team arrives in Yangon

AT the invitation of the Myanmar Judo Federation, a team of Judo athletes from Japan, led by Mr Kosei Inoue, the director of the youth team of the International Judo Federation of Japan and Sydney Olympics gold medalist (100-kg Judo event), arrived yesterday at the Yangon International Airport.

The delegation were welcomed by the chairman of the Myanmar Judo Federation, U Tun Tun, and members of the federation and Myanmar Judo athletes.

The Japanese team are in

Myanmar to promote greater collaboration in the sport. They will watch the matches of the 15th Japan Cup Judo Championship 2019 in Yangon, take part in discussions on collaboration between Myanmar and Japan on Judo, and witness the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Myanmar Judo Federation and the Japanese Judo Federation to promote Judo in the two countries, according to officials —Saw Thein Win ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Youth football tourney, festival kick off in Hpa-an

THE 2019 edition of the MFF Grassroots Football Festival was launched and the Youth's Football Tournament 2019 was opened yesterday at the Aung Thanlwin stadium in Hpa-an, with the aim of identifying and grooming young talent in Myanmar.

The events were organized by the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) and the Myanmar National League, while Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) served as the main sponsor. About 250 youths from Hpa-an Township participated in the festival and received instruction on football skills and tactics from coaches, instructors, and teachers.

Government officials and executives from the Myanmar Football Federation and Myanmar National League attended the opening ceremony and spoke words of encouragement for the youths participating in the festival.

The Youth Football Tournament will be held from 19 to 28 September, with two matches scheduled each day, said officials. Fans can watch all matches free of charge, they added.

A total of 12 teams will be competing in the tourney. The winning team will get K1 million, the second placed team will get K500,000, and the third placed team will get K300,000, said officials. Grassroots Football Festivals and youth football tourneys are being organized across Myanmar to bring attention to the power of soccer to educate, inspire, and mobilize youth in Myanmar to overcome health challenges, live productive lives, and become agents for change in Myanmar communities, according to officials. Grassroots football festivals have been held in major cities, including Yangon, Mandalay, Mawlamyine, and Taunggyi, to improve youths' skills and fitness levels. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



A girl shows her football skills during the opening ceremony of the Youth's Football Tournament 2019 yesterday at the Aung Than Lwin stadium in Hpa-an. **PHOTO: MNL**

16th Chinlone Festival opens in Bago



Officials opening the 16th Chinlone (Myanma Traditional Caneball) Festival on 18 September at the Shwe Hinthar Chinlone Stadium in Bago. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE 16th Chinlone (Myanma Traditional Caneball) Festival was opened on 18 September at the Shwe Hinthar Chinlone Stadium in Bago.

The ceremony was attend-

ed by the advocate of Bago Region U Ohn Myint, the patron of the Myanmar Chinlone Federation U Soe Tint, the chairman of the Myanmar Chinlone Federation U Thet Lwin, and the

vice chairmen of the federation.

The dignitaries also donated cash for the tourney.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

U-14 Football Tourney: Bago, Toungoo teams advance to semifinals

TEAMS from Bago and Toungoo advanced to the semifinals of the U-14 Football Tournament 2019 after the quarterfinal matches, which took place yesterday at the Grand Royal Stadium in Bago.

There were 12 teams divided into four groups which

participated in the tourney, and the four best teams have entered the semifinals. They are Bago (A) team, Bago (C) team, Toungoo (A) team, and Toungoo (C) team.

In the semifinals, the Toungoo (A) team will play against the Bago (A) team at 8 am on 21 September at

the Grand Royal Stadium in Bago.

Meanwhile, the Toungoo (C) team will compete against the Bago (C) team at 10 am on 21 September at the same venue.

The winning teams will advance to the final of the tourney.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■