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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor welcomes new Indian, Hungarian, Australian, Swiss Ambassadors

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar separately received the newly appointed Ambassadors to Myanmar: Mr. Saurabh Kumar of India, Mr. Szilveszter Bus of Hungary, Ms. Andrea Faulkner of Australia and Mr. Tim Enderlin of Switzerland, on 3 April 2019 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to the promotion of bilateral relations, enhancement of cooperation in areas such as education, agriculture, trade and investment, water management as well as in the international fora.—MNA

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives the newly appointed Indian Ambassador, Mr.Saurabh Kumar, in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Mandalay to allow use of fallow, virgin land for businesses

INVESTORS can now apply for investing in businesses such as agriculture, livestock, tourism, and forest plantations on over 1.5 million acres of forest land and more than 600,000 acres of fallow and virgin land in Mandalay Region, said Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, the Chief Minister of the region at the Mandalay International Trade Fair and Business Forum.

"There are some procedures for such undertakings. So, we can make arrangements to make the process smoother. The land can be turned into agricultural and livestock breeding land. This can create job opportunities for local people. Businessmen who find it difficult to do farming because of scarcity of cultivable land can now invest in cultivation and livestock breeding on these types of land. We want to let the businessmen know that there are ways to do business on forest land," the chief minister said.

Mandalay Region has 627,140 acres of fallow and virgin land: 2,713 acres in Mandalay District; 2,20,229 acres in Pyin Oo Lwin District; 11,778 acres in Kyaukse District; 28,137 acres in Meiktila District; 1,59,203 acres in Yamethin District; 49,853 acres in Myingyan District; and, 1,55,236 acres in Nyaung-U District. Additionally, the region has 1,597,520 acres under forest reserves and protected forests.

"The Mandalay regional government will grant 30-year permits for growing perennial and industrial crops on 5,000 acres of land and orchard crops on 3,000 acres of land in the agricultural sector. Investors can apply for further grants upon 75 per cent completion of their businesses.

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Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives EU Electoral Follow-up Mission

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received the EU Electoral Follow-up Mission-EFM led by Mr. Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, at the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on constitutional amendments, reviews of the 2015 General Election in Myanmar and preparatory measures to be taken for the 2020 General Election in Myanmar, efforts to prevent the voters from missing voting rights in their respective constituencies, correct electoral registration, scrutinizing the candidates running for election, legal affairs concerning the Union Election Commission and the legislative process of the Hluttaw.

The meeting was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw office and the Ambassador of the European Union Mr. Kristian Schmidt.—MNA ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat shakes hands with Mr. Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, Head of EU Electoral Follow-up Mission in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than meets with Mr. Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, Head of EU Electoral Follow-up Mission in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives EU Electoral Follow-up Mission

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received the EU Electoral Follow-up Mission-EFM led by Mr. Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, at the Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters relating to the EFM's report of Myanmar's Election that had been submitted in 2016 and rendering electoral assistance.

The meeting was attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and officials of the Amyotha Hluttaw office.—MNA ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

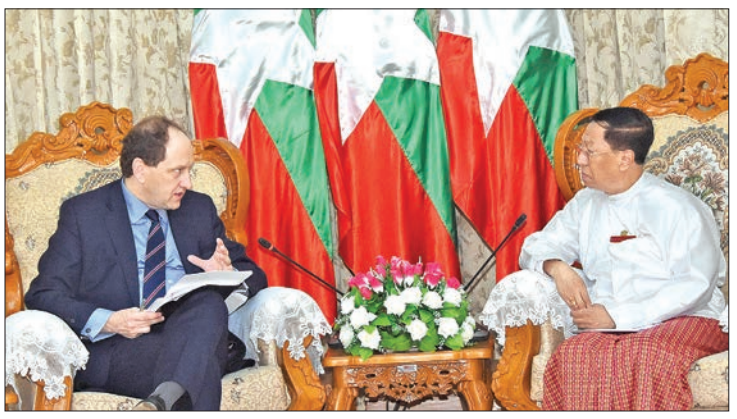
UEC chairman receives EU Electoral Follow-up Mission

UNION Election Commission (UEC) Chairman U Hla Thein received a delegation led by Head of EU Electoral Follow-up Mission, Mr. Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the chairman of the UEC discussed over using five standards in elections, letting the international and local observers for the elections, conditions of the commission according to the advices of Electoral Follow-up Mission (EU EFM).

Head of EU Electoral Follow-up Mission, Mr. Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, also discussed over preparation for general election, listing the candidates, upgrading the role of women in taking part in the election processes and advanced-voting processes.

Next, they also discussed about cooperation processes of the UEC and EU-EFM.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*



UEC Chairman U Hla Thein meets with Mr. Alexander Graf Lambsdorff from EFM delegation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Joint Workshop on Investment and Business Laws held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Office of the Union Attorney-General and US-based Duane Morris & Selvam LLP co-facilitated a Joint Workshop on Investment and Business Laws at Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo said they are amending and enacting laws on investment and business that will support economic development.

He said Myanmar has a lot of potential to attract foreign investments and they are working on increasing investment into Myanmar's states and regions by creating a good environment for investors.

He said the Myanmar Investment Law and Myanmar Company's Act have been enacted in line with internationally accepted standards.

He said The Arbitration Law was also enacted to help settle disagreements concerning investments and they have joined the New York Convention. He said holding trainings and workshops similar to this will help people effectively implement business and investment laws and support the nation's economic development.

Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, officials from the UAG Office and relevant departments, Mrs. Arafat Selvam and Managing Director Mr. Krishna Ramachandra from Duane Morris & Selvam LLP, former UAG Dr. Tun Shin and other officials attending the workshop. —MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo delivers the speech at the Joint Workshop on Investment and Business Laws. **PHOTO: MNA**

"I would firstly like to address the three branches of the sovereign power of the State, who have been entrusted with power according to the Constitution, to exercise mutual respect, understanding, and trust as they collaborate for the good of the people. Additionally, I wish to urge the media sector, which serve as the ears and eyes of the public, to understand the seriousness of their duties and to hold in high regard the public sector that they serve.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)

"We have many opportunities to learn in order to overcome and eliminate the evil legacies of the past and to fulfill the aspirations for the future of the nation. We know how much loving kindness, truth and bravery are needed; how greed, anger and ignorance can impact negatively. We have learnt the importance of having good friends. The most important lesson we learned is the value of understanding and unqualified support of our people.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2nd Anniversary of NLD Government on 1st April 2018)

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with the newly-appointed Ambassador of Hungary Mr. Szilveszter Bus in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives the newly-appointed Ambassador of Switzerland Mr. Tim Enderlin in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives the newly-appointed Ambassador of Australia Ms. Andrea Faulkner in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Indian Ambassador

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Indian Ambassador Mr. Saurabh Kumar at Bayintnaung Guesthouse in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They discussed bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and India on security and defence, continued collaboration, implementing border peace and stability, sending sports teams, culture groups and goodwill visits to promote friendly relations between the two countries' militaries, demarcating the sea routes, and the cooperation between both countries' navies, according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. —MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Indian Ambassador Mr. Saurabh Kumar in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

Yangon Region team wins U-25 women's football tourney for 2019

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than presents trophy to the winners of the 2019 U-25 women's football tourney in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

YANGON Region U-25 women's football team won the trophy for the 2019 U-25 women's football tourney after beating Kayin State team 3-1 in final match yesterday at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In the third place match earlier yesterday, Shan State team secured the third position by taking victory over Mon State team 2-1 . Among the spectators were Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mhan Win Khaing Than and wife.

Also present at the tourney were Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein and officials, Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Naing Ngan Lin, Kayin State Bama National Affairs Minister U Teza Htut Hlaing Htwe and other officials from Sports and Physical Department and Myanmar Football Federation.

The awarding ceremony was held after the third place and final matches. Yin Yin Moe Naing from Yangon Region team won the best goal keeper award while the best defender award was garnered by Nhin Htet Htet Wai from Kayin State team.

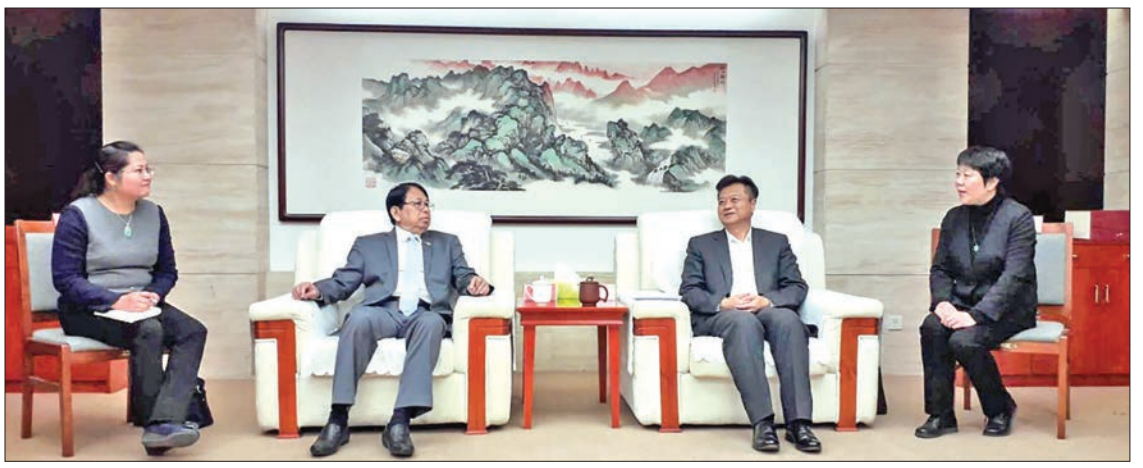
Nan Cho Hmwe from Shan State team won the best midfielder and the best striker award was secured by Nan Htet Htet Win from Kayin State team.

The player of the tourney was won by San San Maw from Yangon Region team.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker awarded the trophy and K 1.5 million plus individual medals to the winner Yangon Region team.

Next Deputy Minister Dr. Mya Lay Sein awarded K 1 million plus individual medals to the second placed Kayin State team and Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Naing Ngan Lin awarded K 700,000 million plus medals to the third placed Shan State team.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint visits CPGC, CGTN in Beijing



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint hold talks with Head of China Media Group Mr. Shen Haixiong. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION MINISTER for Information Dr. Pe Myint and entourage, accompanied by Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn, visited the China Global Television Network (CGTN) in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, yesterday.

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint arrived at the China Publishing Group Corporation (CPGC), where they observed the book publishing process. Then the Union Minister met with Chairman of CPGC Mr. Tan Yu and officials there.

In the afternoon, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint met with Chinese Documentary Media Industry Group — CDMIG led by Ms. Zhang Wai and party in the hall of the garden, where they discussed matters related to media sectors, including making a documentary film on economic directory in Myanmar and which aimed at enhancing tourism sector development between the two countries.

Next, they visited the publishing houses of the People's Daily and the Global Times newspapers in Beijing, where they observed the work process of the New Media. Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint held talks with officials concerning the newspaper publication process.

In the late afternoon, Union Minister and party reached China Global Television Network—CGTN, where they observed the construction of modern buildings, work being conducted to accommodate media, work progress being held for the news coordination meetings in the New Media industry and monitoring the broadcast media of the China Central Television —CCTV. Union Minister took part in the discussion and raised the queries.

In the evening, Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint held talks with Vice Minister for the Publicity Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. Following the meeting with head of China Media Group Mr. Shen Haixiong, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and party enjoyed their dinner together.—MNA ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye meets Norwegian Ambassador, MFPD separately

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye poses for a photo together with the delegation from the Myanmar Federation of People with Disabilities. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Dr. Win Myat Aye, separately received Norwegian Ambassador Ms. Tone Tinnes and a delegation from the Myanmar Federation of People with Disabilities led by executive committee member U Nyunt Aung at his office yesterday. During the meeting with the ambassador, they discussed raising awareness on the danger of landmines, possible cooperation with Norway in supporting victims of mine blasts and rehabilitating them, and sending representatives from Myanmar on an observation trip to Thailand's Mine Action Center in Bangkok.

The Union Minister met with the MFPD delegation next. Since MFPD representatives will be flying to Geneva, Switzerland, to attend the meeting for reviewing the rights of PLWDs in Myanmar at the UN office, they discussed the Union Government's efforts for individual rights and development, the latest improvements for PLWDs' affairs, tasks performed by the national committee leading the working committees, sub-national committees and eight subcommittees working on PLWD rights, creating employment opportunities for PLWDs, identifying disabilities and recording them, efforts to publish a guidebook to PLWD terminologies, and the Union Government's efforts to develop the people's socioeconomic livelihoods and equity.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Ministries discuss preventing, responding to conflict related violence in first national committee meeting

THE National Committee on Prevention and Response to Conflict- Related Sexual Violence held its first meeting at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his capacity as the Committee Chairman, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Dr. Win Myat Aye, delivered a speech at the meeting.

The Union Minister said that Myanmar signed the Joint Communique on Prevention and Response to Conflict Related Sexual Violence on 7 December 2018 in New York City. The joint communique was signed by Myanmar's Permanent Representative to the UN and Ms. Pramila Patten, the United Nations Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations.

To implement this Joint Communique, the National Committee was formed, and laid down the five tasks. Among the Six Sessions included in the Joint Communique, the National Committee will proceed with momentum to implement the prioritized sessions. The National Work Plan will be drafted with the technical assistance and suggestions of the United Nations and the Office of the UNSG Special Envoy on Conflict Related Sexual Violence. The progress of the work undertakings will be acknowledged to the UN and international community.

The Union Minister pointed out to carry out the public awareness activities on preventing the sexual violence against women through media in cooperation with the Ministry of Information.

Next, committee members Deputy Ministers U Soe Aung, Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe and Dr. Mya Lay Sein and other officials discussed the national committee's tasks, forming a working committee to implement them, designing an action plan based on the information from this first meeting, receiving approval from the ministries involved, and agreed on eight decisions and eight future tasks.

There will be a Security Conference on Conflict- Related Sexual Violence on 26 April that will implementation of the joint communique, forming of the national committee, holding its coordination meeting, and deciding on course of actions. —MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye and attendees pose for the documentary photo in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Workshop held to draft national strategy for persons with disabilities

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement held a workshop in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday to draw up a national-level strategy for persons with disabilities.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the workshop, U Soe Aung, the Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement said the priorities and financial aspects of the strategy will be decided, based on the outcomes of the workshop and research projects.

The draft strategy is targeted to be completed by December, said the Deputy Minister.

Deputy Minister U Soe Aung stressed the need to clearly map sector-wise tasks in the national-level strategy by taking the ASEAN Enabling Master Plan and the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan into consideration.

He also called for linking the draft strategy with the Sustainable Goals-2030, the national-level strategy for social welfare, and rules and by-laws of the related ministries.

Participants pose for the documentary photo at the workshop to draft national strategy for persons with disabilities at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Deputy Minister also urged the sub-committees to cooperate with the related ministries so that the strategy can guarantee people with disabilities easy access to six priority sectors, including health, education, jobs, and social welfare and assistance when they face disasters and other emergency situations.

Afterwards, Mr. Samman J. Thapa extended greetings on behalf of the Resident UNICEF Representative.

Following the opening ceremony, the workshop delved into the six priorities for persons with disabilities. The two-day workshop ends today.— MNA

(Translated by GNLM)

Managing Director of National Prosperity Company, two accomplices charged with violating Anti-corruption law

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has charged a Managing Director of National Prosperity Company and two accomplices for lodging false complaints against civil servants.

U Tun Aung Soe, Managing Director of the National Prosperity Company, a gold mining company in Moehti Moemi mining area in Yamethin Township in Mandalay Region, sent a complaint letter to the commission against civil servants, accusing them of taking bribes from illegal gold miners and cooperating in illegal gold mining.

Following the complaint, the Anti-Corruption Commission carried out an investigation into the case and found out that ten people, who have been charged under the Public Property Protection Act and are now in Yamethin Prison, were deceived by U Myo Aung and U Sanny, under the instruction of U Tun Aung Soe, to lie that they had to pay bribes to the civil servants and security police to illegally carry out mining activities in the Moehti Moemi mining area (A).

Besides, the two accomplices also arranged a press conference at the Shwe Hintha Hotel in Yamethin to give false information to the media.

Following the investigation, the Anti-Corruption Commission has filed a cast against U Tun Aung Soe under Section 59 of the Anti-Corruption Law and U Myo Aung and U Sanny under Section 59/63 of the same law. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, Dr. Than Myint inspect Dawei SEZ

U KYAW TINT SWE, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, and Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister for Commerce, inspected the Dawei Special Economic Zone in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, on Monday and met with business entrepreneurs.

First, the Union Ministers held a meeting with the Dawei Special Economic Zone Management Committee and heard a report on nine initial construction sites of the Two Lane Road project and developments in the special economic zone. At the meeting, Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myint Maung reported on businesses in the region.

Following the meeting, the Union Ministers visited the Myanmar-Thai relations offices, zero kilometer mile post of the two lane road, the construction zone and the small port.

In the afternoon, the Union Ministers met with traders and business entrepreneurs at the Dawei Hotel in Dawei.

At the meeting, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe said the purpose of their visit to the Dawei Special Economic Zone was to help the business entrepreneurs, urging them to systematically cooperate with foreign investors as the Union Government had invited foreign investors to do businesses in Myanmar.

Afterwards, Union Minister Dr. Than Myint pledged to grant loans to small and medium industries and urged them to produce and export value added products. Union Minister Dr. Than Myint called for creating job opportunities for local people while developing the economy. The meeting came to an end with discussion between the Union Ministers and the attendees.—MNA *(Translated by GNLM)*

An official reports on Dawei SEZ to Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe and Dr. Than Myint at the Dawei Special Economic Zone in Dawei, Taninthayi Region on 1 April 2019. **PHOTO: MNA**

Prices of mung beans, pigeon peas rebound after India announces quota

THE prices of mung beans and pigeon peas (red gram) have bounced back in the Yangon pulses market after India announced its quota for pulses importation on 29 March.

On 29 March, the market price of beans stood at K688,000 per ton for mung bean RC, K838,000 per ton for mung bean SQ (special quality), and K761,000 per ton for pigeon peas (red gram). On 1 April, the prices increased to K740,000 for mung bean RC, K885,000 for mung bean SQ, and K843,000 for red gram, according to the Yangon beans and pulses depot.

Myanmar pulses are kept on display for sale in Yangon.
PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

On 2 April, the FOB price of mung beans stood at US$500-520 for fair quality and $610-630 for SQ.

India, the main buyer of Myanmar beans and pulses, had halted importation for two months. On 29 March, India announced an import quota of 150,000 tons each for mung bean and green grams, and 200,000 tons for pigeon peas for its financial year starting 1 April, according to the pulses market.

Following India's announcement of the import quota, the prices of mung beans and pigeon peas soared dramatically.

Myanmar produces about 400,000 tons of mung beans and 300,000 tons of pigeon peas. India accounts for 70 per cent of Myanmar's mung bean exports and 95 per cent of pigeon peas exports.

Between 1 October, 2018 and 1 February 2019, Myanmar exported over 338,630 tons of mung beans, worth $163.8 million, and over 52,690 tons of pigeon peas, valued at $24 million.

On 17 October, 2015, mung bean RC prices had reached a record high of K2,456,000 per ton.

India's move to restrict importation of pulses in August, 2017 severely affected growers in Myanmar. The price of mung bean plummeted sharply to K382,000 per ton on May 4, 2018. Thereafter, the price rose to K988,000 per ton on 6 November, 2018 and fell to K570,000 on 1 February, 2019.

Before India put restrictions in place, the price of pigeon peas stood at K1.8 million. The price dropped to K306,000 per ton on 25 October, 2017. Thereafter, the price rebounded to K834,000 on 6 November and touched K843,000, 2018 on 1 April, 2019.

The uncertainty in the pulses market led to a significant drop in cultivation and yield of pigeon peas. Mung bean production also decreased slightly.

In late 2017, the related departments suggested that growers switch to other crops.

"Earlier, Myanmar produced 150,000-200,000 tons of pigeon peas. This year, the output is likely to total only 50,000 tons. Mung bean production is estimated to be around 400,000 tons this year," according to the pulses market.

"India's quota limit of 500,000 tons is effective for all exporter countries. Myanmar is the sole foreign market to satisfy India's market demand for mung beans, whereas India's quota limit on pigeon peas exceeds Myanmar's pigeon peas production. Therefore, Myanmar has better chances of exporting mung beans and pigeon peas to India. Traders cannot predict the price at this juncture," said a merchant.—Maung Sae Aung

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

20 killed in 51 mishaps on Yangon-Mandalay highway in March

TWENTY people were killed in accidents on the Yangon-Mandalay highway in March this year, which is a record high rate compared to the previous two months, said the Nay Pyi Taw highway police. There were 43 accident cases in January and 40 cases in February this year.

A total of 51 accidents were reported on the highway. Of them, ten were caused by speeding, eight mishaps occurred after the drivers grew drowsy, five accidents were caused by reckless driving on part of motorcyclists, ten occurred due to negligent driving, and the rest were caused due to other reasons, said police.

A total of 20 people, 11 males and 9 females, died in the accidents, while 113 were injured, said police.

In 2018, there were a total of 474 accidents on the Yangon-Mandalay highway, which left 103 dead and 884 injured

The highway police force is urging people to comply with traffic rules and cooperate with the police in implementing road safety measures.

In March, 2019, the authorities took legal action against undisciplined vehicles, including 1,334 vehicles and 125 motorbikes, said police.

The highway authorities have increased the number of police stations to 16, and have been providing 24-hour service to travelers since 2012 to improve traffic safety along the highway.

A total of 744 traffic accident cases were reported on the Yangon-Mandalay highway in 2016, and 555 in 2017.—Maung Win

(Translated by Hay Mar)

MRTA to buy early maturing long grain rice at floor price

By Nyein Nyein

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

THE Myanmar Rice Traders Association (MRTA) said it will purchase long-grain rice that matures in 90 days, for which there is currently no demand in the market, at the basic price of K19,500 per bag.

"Starting 8 April, the MRTA will purchase 90-day rice, which has 14-per cent moisture content, at the basic price, using MRTA's fund and contributions from members as of June," said U Aung Than Oo, the chair of the MRTA.

"The 90-day rice will be bought at the basic rate of K19,500 per bag. Most of the merchants are waiting for prices to drop. Therefore, we would like to send across the message that the price will not decrease anymore. We will purchase some rice when there is no demand in the market, instead of buying all the stocks to govern the market. The rice will be traded depending on the market price and its quality. As the floor price has been set at K19,500, the price will not fall below the set rate. Hopefully, the demand will also go up. Warehouse owners may choose to continue storing rice, but the price will not keep falling," said U Aung Than Oo.

At present, 90-day rice is being cultivated in the Ayeyawady and Bago regions. Rice from the Ayeyawady Region has started entering the Wadan rice depot, according to officials at the depot.

Long-grain rice (Indica rice) is exported to China and the European Union via the maritime route. Rice trade with China through the Sino-Myanmar border has halted as China has been cracking down on illegal entry of goods. Additionally, in a protectionist move, the EU has imposed a three-year tariff on Indica rice from Myanmar and Cambodia, starting 18 January. The EU is levying a tariff of 175 euros per ton in the first year, 150 euros in the second year, and 125 euros in the third year on rice imports from Myanmar and Cambodia.

"The MRTA scaled down rice prices in order to reduce the EU tax rate. As a result of this, traders will earn a lower profit, which will lead to low demand in the market. That rice variety (Indica) was highly demanded by China in the previous year. This year, it cannot be exported to the Chinese market, resulting in pretty bad sales," said U Aung Than Oo.

"The MRTA has forwarded a request to the government to provide loans to rice businesses, and purchase rice at the basic rate when the price falls," he said.

"The MRTA has asked the government to offer long-term and short-term loans to rice traders, when the price plunges. However, it will take some time for the government to take action. At present, newly harvested rice is flooding the domestic market. The price will remain lower than the actual market price, and that should be. Some foreign trade partners manipulate the price and offer a rate lower than the actual export price against other exporter countries, causing chaos in the rice market. The MRTA has made a move to tackle with the current situation. The federation is also exploring more foreign markets," he added. "The floor rate of 90-day rice does not cause loss to growers as they only receive a lower profit compared with the previous year. The MRTA has set the floor price for 90-day rice to allow growers to continue cultivating that variety next year," said U Zaw Khaing, the joint-secretary of the Wadan rice depot.

"We provided technical assistance for 90-day paddy cultivation. The MRTA will also purchase rice with 90-day yield to maintain the market for the following year. If the market deteriorates, growers will surely reconsider which variety to plant in the coming years," said U Zaw Khaing.

Last year, 90-day rice fetched about K26,000 per bag. With demand low in both the domestic and foreign markets, the price has plummeted to K19,000 per bag, according to the rice market.

The 90-day rice is included in the Aemahta rice group, which is shipped to foreign markets.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar trade deficit narrows to $728 mln in March

MYANMAR'S external trade over five past months is recorded roughly triple shortfall compared with the corresponding period of last fiscal year, according to data of the Ministry of Commerce.

Surge in export and lower import between 1 October, 2018 and 22 March, 2019 cut trade deficit to US$728 million, which narrows from $2 billion of same time of last fiscal year 2017-2018.

External trade between 1 October 2018 and 22 March 2019 amounted to $16.15 billion, which increases from $16.2 billion of last FY. This includes an estimated $7.7 billion in exports and $8.4 billion in imports, registering higher export value of $628 million and lower import value of $681 million compared to corresponding period of period of last FY.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods whereas it imports capital goods, raw industrial materials and consumer goods.

The country's export sector is more depending on the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. Export earnings from the CMP (cutting, making and packaging) garment businesses are rising while lessening its reliance on natural resources such as natural gas, jade.

The government is trying to reduce trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting productivity and export of the country, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

There were trade deficits of $91.9 million in the 2012-2013 FY, $2.5 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, $4.9 billion in the 2014-2015 FY and $5.4 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, $5.5 billion in the 2016-2017 FY and $1.3 billion in past six-month mini-budget period, according to the statistics released by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO). — Mon Mon

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Mandalay to allow use of fallow, virgin land for businesses

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In the livestock sector, the government will grant 2,000 acres for cattle breeding, 1,000 acres for aquaculture, 500 acres for goat breeding, and 300 acres for chicken, pig, duck and quail breeding," said Dr. Zaw Myint Maung.

"There are people who cultivate crops on forest land intentionally or unintentionally. While some are aware that the land is forest land, others farm them unwittingly.

This being so, the establishment of community forests on forest land can be a win-win policy. It will be beneficial to local farmers as well as to the nation.

Private entrepreneurs can set up forest plantations. They can also establish eco-tourism sites on forest lands. We also want them to set up wood-based industries," he added.

Between the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 fiscal years, 14 local investors brought in a capital of K38 billion, while seven foreign investors brought in US$20 million to Mandalay region. The main investors in Mandalay region are China, Thailand, and South Korea.—Khine Sat Wai

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Maritime trade sees sharp fall in import, rise in export

MYANMAR'S maritime trade for the period between 1 October, 2018 and 22 March, 2019 in the current fiscal year amounted to US$11.5 billion, a decrease of $200 million compared with the corresponding period of the previous FY, according to data provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

In the October-March period, maritime exports were valued at $4.4 billion, while imports were registered at $7 billion. Sea trade saw a sharp fall of $610 million in import and a rise of $407 million in export.

The country's total external trade topped $16.15 billion, a decline of $52 million from the previous FY.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other products, while it imports capital goods, consumer goods, and raw industrial materials. The country currently has nine ports involved in sea trade. The Yangon Port is the main gateway for Myanmar's maritime trade, and includes the Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port. — Mon Mon

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Moving towards stability and peace with integrity

OVER the last decade, millions of people around the globe began using the Internet as it slowly became a major form of mass communication. According to studies, every 5 seconds, 28 new users join Facebook, and 6 hours of videos and 300 photos are uploaded to the Web. The growth of the Internet has led to some positive results— we have quicker access to information, cooperation, and groups of likeminded people, and greater transparency and communications, among other things.

The dominant age group was between 18 and 24, and they had things to say and upload round the clock. As with many things in the world, there are good and bad sides to social media. While many share positive words and helpful information online, there are those who spread rumors and hate speech as well.

> According to studies, every 5 seconds, 28 new users join Facebook, and 6 hours of videos and 300 photos are uploaded to the Web. The growth of the Internet has led to some positive results— we have quicker access to information, cooperation, and groups of likeminded people, and greater transparency and communications, among other things.

Addressing the people of Kyaunggon Township on 2 April, the State Counsellor said we are all allowed freedom of expression, but there are restrictions, since we cannot blindly say what comes to our head to, or about, another person. She said the restrictions don't impinge on the people's freedom, but are intended to safeguard social stability and peace. It was important that everyone understood this fully, she added.

The State Counsellor also spoke about ethics to keep in mind while using social media. "Social media is a powerful tool and we must carefully navigate through the differing opinions, hate, anger, and criticism, which have no beneficial results for the people," she said.

"Just as social media is claiming a place in modern culture and becoming an important part of our lives, nations are becoming wary as to whether it also has a propensity to threaten national security. It seems social media is moving too fast for national security to catch up. Social media platforms can also be inhabited by liars, conmen, criminals, extremists, cynics, and terrorists, and we must be prepared to protect innocent people from being influenced by their radical thoughts," she added.

Regardless of all this, there's no denying the influence of social media in people's daily lives. Users have their own personal space online, and while they can express their individuality and beliefs freely, they can also see other people doing the same thing. We must work together to ensure that the freedom and integrity of people is not harmed or compromised, and thereby, safeguard social stability and peace.

■■■

Efficient energy use from one person to all people: the promoting development of the nation

Off-shore has great potential for national income and if the extractable resources in the oil and gas industry are to be found, there are stable revenues coming to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in short period of time for over 20 years.

Dr. Tun Naing Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy (MOEE)

ONE can measure a country's success by observing individual use of electricity. Only the citizens of wealthy countries are able to enjoy electricity while poorer countries are not able to produce as much for its inhabitants. Myanmar, likewise, is striving towards bringing electricity to all citizens of Myanmar.

It is of grave importance for developing country such as Myanmar to provide its citizens electricity for their use.

The Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy (MOEE) Dr. Tun Naing highlights the achievement of the 3rd year of the current administration where there is a 10.7 percent increase in usage to 370 KW hours per one person. When examining the country as a whole, it is evident that the only the main big cities are able to get access to electricity while a lot of the rural areas continue to have difficulties for such access. This is due to the need for the infrastructure for powerlines in hard to reach rural countryside.

225MW Mingyan power plant

Electricity for all in 2030

Currently, only 44 percent of the whole of Myanmar have access to a power grid. MOEE aims to increase this number to 55 percent in 2020-2021, up to 75 percent for 2025-2026 and 100 percent by the year 2030-2031. "We were able to increase the output by 12 percent from the previous year. During the current administration's first year in office, we were able to increase output by 13 percent compared to the previous," claimed the Deputy Minister.

Usage up to 3700 MW during summers

It is currently the time of the year where we are at the peak of electricity usage in the country. The Ministry expects the number to increase from the 3700 MW which is the current peak as summer approaches. The maximum for electricity usage in 2015 was 2350 MW, 2670 for 2016 and 2900 for 2017. The number got boosted by 400 MW in 2018, an increase of 12 percent.

"An increase of electricity up to 400 MW within one year indicates the need for bigger and better infrastructure along with the funding for long-term growth and sustainability. The hydropower plants, which require less time for set up, have proven to be able to produce more than its designs predicted. Hence, the increase in production," explains the Deputy Minister on how the ministry copes with the ever increasing level of electricity usage.

66kV Pathein-Ngwehsaung Transmission Line & Substation

Increasing Output

The electricity production capacity of the Baluchaung No1 hydropower plant is 200 Million KW hours per year. However, after we have managed to expand the production capacity it can produce up to 213 Million KW hours per year. Likeswise, Lawpita plant has also produced 1262 MW hours even though it was designed for 1190, rivaling that of a mid-sized production plant. Baluchaing 3 and Kinda powerplant, Mone hydroplant, Paunglanug, Sedawgyi, Shwe Kyin, Tha Pein Seit have also produced similar results, increasing production. MOEE also reported that in addition to increasing output from existing factories during the administration's 3rd year in office, there were several power plants constructed as well including the two Myingyan Township natural gas power stations, Kyakse natural gas power station, a powerplant in Thatone and two Nam Htun hydro powerplants.

Increasing Transmission Capabilities

In order to distribute electricity to all of Myanmar, more power lines have to be built. The administration has extended several power lines including a 230 KV line and eleven 66 KV lines totaling up to 2449 miles. There were also up to 1336 MVA added to the power grid through one 230 KV transformer, 29 66KV transformers, 10 33KV transformers and 4338 11/0.4 KV transformers.

"In 2016 March, there were only 34 percent of the total households that had access to electricity. By the end of February this year, the number jumped 44 percent to 3.8 million, an increase of 450,00 households. If you look at the total within the past three years, you can see that there is a 10% increase in the number of households that had access to electricity," further explained the Deputy Minister.

Working towards providing electricity for small towns and villages

Most of the urban areas have access to electricity. However, there are areas that still need access which the government is working towards. Within a year, the administration was able to provide 7 towns including Ta Kaung and 2331 villages with electricity. "We weren't able to get the grid to extend to Manaung in Rakhine. However, we're trying to build a solar factory there. We have up to 54% coverage rate with 33894 out of 63277 villages covered," added the Deputy Minister.

Usage exceed Capacity

The public is fully aware of the shortcomings of the grid not being able to distribute to fulfill the demand of the citizens. "People are using more electricity in their homes, factories are exceeding their quotas and there is also a lack of funding for new distribution networks and transformers. This creates difficulties for the residents and we are working towards preventing that this year. Hence, the addition of 1352 MVA transformers," explained the Deputy Minister regarding the current distribution situation.

System Breakdown

This is a term widely popular amongst the citizens as a majority of them has experienced temporary blackouts due to systems not being upgraded on time. There were 17 reported breakdowns during 2016-17 which were more frequent in areas that experienced natural disasters such as storms, strong winds and heavy rains, sometimes leading to power lines falling.

"There have only been two system breakdowns during the previous year due to Tele-protection and Auto-Reclosing Function. We were able to fix whenever a power line snaps immediately which is a very good preventative measure," stated the Deputy Minister on the improvements.

Increase in Hydropower

Myanmar relies heavily on hydropower sources. The Ministry is currently working towards to diversify with other natural resources Myanmar is abundant in. For instance, solar is utilized in Minbu Township, Magway by a public company which is reported to be producing 20MW coming April with plans to add another 20 MW after its first stages.

66 kV Mawlamyine-Thanbyuzayet Substation

225MW Mingyan power plant

Changing Meters

Additionally, the administration has started to work on changing the household meters from analogue to digital starting last year. MOEE have reportedly changed up to 400,000 meter boxes within the past year including13616 3/30 A boxes, 180848 10/30 A boxes for smaller towns and 99085 10/60 A for cities. These new changes have reduced usage for the rural communities as it charges based on the type of household equipment you use. The authorities also report that these boxes are harder to steal or temper with. "We are working towards getting more funding to provide the public with more access to electricity. Applications were sent in to World Bank, JICA and other donor agencies for loans with minimal interest. There are also national, state and regional budgets dedicated to upgrading our power grid as well," remarked the Deputy Minister.

Increase in Demand for Electricity

When compared to 30 years ago, the demand for electricity has doubled and is expected to double yet again by 2025. This proves to be a great challenge for the MOEE. "The Ministry needs a lot of updated technology, the labor and budget. People want reliability – they do not constant blackouts, altering voltages and bad service. And we are working towards giving the best we can such giving notices for blackouts. However, there is still a gap between the amount of people we can employ and the amount we need," comments the Deputy Minister on the challenges the Ministry faces. The statement is confirmed by other employees that a shortage and other obstacles of hiring skilled labor is often overlooked by the public.

Need for Customer Service Department

The Deputy Minister stated, "People want a customer service hotline they can call when the lights go out. However, we need manpower -the person, the van- to be able to be dispatched to problem areas. This problem remains unsolved."

The electric sector is also facing loses – 422 billion Kyats in the financial year 2016-17 alone. This is the business in the production sector that reported losses, according to the documents published by the MOEE. The ministry expected to lose over 360 billion Kyats this financial year but the figure came out to be 422 billion Kyats. MOEE is trying to reduce production costs for electricity as the business is expected to lose over 600 billion kyats in the 2017-18 financial year.

Cover losses, expand production

The government is trying to expand hydropower plants as they have proven to be more profitable as it has a lower cost of production. "We can only manage our losses by producing more for less cost. Because we had the needs of the people at heart to produce as much as we can, we were able to cover 162 billion kyats in losses (106 million in USD)," explained the Deputy Minister.

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

MR to run special trains during Thingyan Festival; tickets to be sold at regular rates

THE Myanma Railways announced it will operate special trains to ensure smooth transportation for passengers returning to their hometowns for the Thingyan holidays.

The special trains will run on the Yangon-Mandalay route from 8 to 13 April, and from 18 to 19 April after Thingyan festival. The Mandalay-Yangon special trains will operate between 9 and 13 April, and from 17 to 19 April post the Thingyan festival.

On the Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon route, special trains will run on 12 April, and on the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw route on 17 April. The Yangon and Mandalay special trains will depart at 4 p.m and arrive at their destinations at 6 a.m. The trains will stop at Togyaunggalay, Bago, Toungoo, Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw, and Thazi stations.

Passengers waiting to take a local train on a circular train at Yangon Central Railway Station.
PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Officials from MR have arranged for tickets to be sold at the regular price, and are making preparations for other passenger requirements. Special trains with eight wagons will run 90 rounds daily on the Yangon circular and suburban routes, according to the No.7 division of the MR. — GNLM

(Translated by La Wonn)

Water festival: Bikes with power exhausts to be seized

THE Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee has issued a six-point rule to ensure the safety of vehicles during the water festival. Under the rule, action will be taken against motorcyclists whose bikes have power exhausts and make a 'roaring' sound.

Those who fail to abide by this rule will invite action under the 2015 Motor Vehicles Law, said Police Captain Zaw Win Naing from Traffic Police.

"The Traffic Police have begun seizing motorcycles with power exhausts from 19 March. The police have seized 44 motorbikes as on 1 April. The committee is taking legal action against those found riding motorcycles with power exhausts that make a roaring noise. The objective of taking legal action is to reduce accidents as well as to protect people against disturbances during the water festival," said the Police Captain.

Last year, during the water festival, the Traffic Police seized over 200 motorbikes for violating traffic rules promulgated under the 2015 Motor Vehicles Law. This year, only a few motorbikes have been seized so far, the officer said.

"Motor vehicles and motorbikes seized before and during the water festival will be returned to the owners after the water festival. Once the Traffic Police office resumes work after the water festival, the owners of seized motorbikes and vehicles can come to the office to claim their vehicles," said Police Captain Zaw Win Naing.

"We are conducting awareness courses every Saturday," he added.

The number of vehicles and motorbikes violating regulations has declined thanks to the awareness training courses, he said.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Pyar Swe elephant camp to remain open during water festival

THE Pyar Swe elephant camp will remain open for local travelers and tourists during the water festival.

Opened in 2017, the camp is located in the Maw Ku forest conservation area, on the Mawlaik-Pyaung Bout road, four miles from Mawlaik Town of Sagaing Region.

"Our department will keep the elephant camp open during the water festival, and we will collect the entrance fees as usual. During the water festival last year, the camp was temporarily closed because of the extremely hot weather," said U Aung Kyaw Zan, the Assistant Manager of the camp.

The camp is open from 8 a.m. to 12 noon from Monday to Friday, and from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends. The entrance fee is K1,000 for locals and K20,000 for foreigners.

For elephant rides, an additional service charge of K3,000 is levied on locals and K20,000 on tourists.

The Pyar Swe elephant camp currently has a total of 12 elephants — nine adults and three baby elephants.

Local and foreign travelers like to visit the camp to watch elephants bathe and work. They also like to ride the elephants, feed them, and take photographs with them.

Tourists are observing elephants at Pyar Swe elephant camp.
PHOTO: MAWLAIK THAR LAY

Currently, the camp is building temporary shelters for visitors. Over 700 local and foreign travelers have visited the Pyar Swe elephant camp in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.—Mawlaik Thar Lay

(Translated by Hay Mar)

South Korean ship detained over sanctions on North: Seoul

SEOUL (South Korea) — A South Korean ship has been detained for more than six months on suspicion of violating UN sanctions against the nuclear-armed North, Seoul's foreign ministry said Wednesday.

Pyongyang is sanctioned over its weapons programme under multiple UN Security Council resolutions, which include curbs on shipments of oil and fuel to the isolated regime.

But the North has been seeking to get around the measures, with a recent UN report saying that Pyongyang was securing deliveries of fuel through ship-to-ship transfers in international waters. Seoul's foreign ministry said a South Korean ship and three others had been detained in the country, suspected of undermining the economic measures against the North.

"This is the first time a South Korean vessel has been detained for allegedly violating UN sanctions," a ministry official told AFP.

The Korea Coast Guard identified the vessel to AFP as the 5,160-tonne "P Pioneer" and said it had twice transferred diesel "illicitly" in the East China Sea during September 2017.

Both the ship — first detained last September and now held in the southern port of Busan — and its operator have been referred to prosecutors, and Yonhap news agency said 4,320 tonnes of diesel fuel were involved. The foreign ministry official did not explain the delay in the authorities making public the South Korean ship's detention.

South Korea Coast Guard members rescue passengers during a joint maritime anti-terror drill of North Pacific Coast Guards off the southeastern port city of Busan on 7 June 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

The holding of the other three vessels — registered in Hong Kong, Panama and Togo — had previously been announced.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in has sought to engage the North to bring it to the negotiating table, dangling economic carrots before it in the form of inter-Korean projects — many of which would violate the current sanctions rules if implemented.

Questions were also raised over whether it had undermined the measures by providing supplies to set up an inter-Korean liaison office north of the border.

Last year three South Korean firms were caught importing millions of dollars worth of coal and iron from the North in 2017.

Immediate sanctions relief was a key demand of the cash-strapped North when leader Kim Jong Un met with US President Donald Trump in Hanoi in February for a second summit that ultimately broke down.

The US has since imposed sanctions on two Chinese shipping companies for doing business with North Korea, urging the maritime industry to do more to end Pyongyang's "illicit shipping practices".A UN report issued last month highlighted the North's sanctions-evading tactics at sea and recommended member countries keep a closer watch over vessels in their own waters.—AFP ■

Billionaire ThanathornJuangroongruangkit heads up the youth-oriented Future Forward Party, which came out of nowhere to amass more than six million votes in the 24 March vote. **PHOTO: AFP**

Rising Thai political star faces fresh legal woes after election

BANGKOK (Thailand) — The telegenic leader of a Thai political party who rode to prominence during last month's election on a wave of millennial support stands accused of inciting unrest, he said Wednesday, calling his latest legal woes "politically motivated" by the junta.

Billionaire ThanathornJuangroongruangkit heads up the youth-oriented Future Forward Party, which came out of nowhere to amass more than six million votes in the March 24 vote, the first since a 2014 coup.

Future Forward has joined an anti-junta coalition with six other parties claiming the right to form a government in the aftermath of the disputed vote whose full results will not be ratified until 9 May. But the tycoon said on Facebook he has now been summoned to appear at a Bangkok police station on Saturday to hear incitement charges against him that carry a maximum sentence of seven years. He wrote on the Facebook page, where he posted the summons, the move was "an old political game" that he expected to intensify after the party's strong election showing.

Speaking to reporters later Wednesday, Thanathorn hit back at the junta government, which filed the complaint. "It is not the Future Forward Party which causes divisiveness of the people but the military who wants to hold on to power," he said. "I am calling for a restoration of democracy in Thailand... these cases are politically motivated."

Police investigator CharoensitJongitthi said there were two charges in total that related to Thanathorn's actions in 2015, though he would not elaborate.

"That is what I can say for now," he told AFP.—AFP ■

Children in South Asia hardest hit by air pollution, says study

HONG KONG (China) — Air pollution will shorten the life expectancy of children born today by an average of 20 months and will have the greatest impact in south Asia, according to a study published Wednesday.

The State of Global Air report, published by the US-based Health Effects Institute and the University of British Columbia, says air pollution is the fifth leading cause of early death worldwide — responsible for more deaths than malaria, road accidents, malnutrition or alcohol.

However it warns "the loss of life expectancy is not borne equally", with children in South Asia set to have their lives cut short by 30 months because of a combination of outdoor air pollution and dirty indoor air.

In East Asia the study says air pollution will shorten children's lives by an estimated 23 months — compared with around 20 weeks for children in developed parts of Asia Pacific and North America.

The report, which uses data up to the end of 2017, estimates that if air pollution levels were brought within World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines Bangladesh life expectancy would see the highest expected gain, at nearly 1.3 years.

In South Asia air pollution is set to shorten children's lives by 30 months and in East Asia by 23 months. **PHOTO: AFP**

India, Nigeria, and Pakistan would all see average life expectancy increase by around one year. Despite state reforms to reduce pollution levels, China remains the country with the highest mortality rate due to air pollution, responsible for around 852,000 pollution-related deaths in 2017. The top five countries with the highest mortality rate due to air pollution were all in Asia: China, India, Pakistan, Indonesia and Bangladesh.

In total, the report says 147 million years of healthy life were lost in 2017 globally due to pollution. Exposure to household air pollution — mostly from people burning coal, wood or charcoal to cook or heat their homes -- is most common in South Asia, East Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Nearly half of the world's population is exposed to household air pollution -- including an estimated 846 million people in India and 452 million in China.

A study last October from the World Health Organization found that exposure to toxic air both indoors and out kills some 600,000 children under the age of 15 each year.

It found that children are often more vulnerable to the impact of air pollution since they breath more rapidly than adults, and thus absorb more pollutants at a time when their brains and bodies are still developing.—AFP ■

Efficient energy use from one person to all people:

FROM PAGE-8+9

With the 6 month budget estimates approaching with 309 billion kyats in losses, the ministry to trying to save almost 76 billion kyats in losses before the end. "We are working towards cutting our losses as much as possible," the Deputy Minister declared. MOEE has reported that there was an increase from 110 kyats per unit to 115 kyats per unit production cost with the selling price was increased from 35 kyats to 50 Kyats. However, MOEE is still struggling to close the gap between production costs and selling price in order to cover for the big losses. "This may require a more fair approach to the pricing system," the Deputy Minister suggested, "The loss is for 44 percent of the population while the operation costs are for 100 percent of the entire population. We have to think about the other 56 percent which is why MOEE is working diligently to bringing electricity to all. We also encourage people to think about the rest of the population who don't have access yet and try to consider saving as much energy as possible so they don't go to waste."

Solutions for the Energy Problem

The energy, much like the electricity sector, is crucial to the development of Myanmar. Only when the energy sector advancements as a whole, the electricity sector will be able to participate in the upgrade and fulfill the demand of energy of the population. The country generates income from selling energy via the extractive industries, specifically the oil and gas exploration and drilling. Before drilling for oil and gas, there must be several exploration holes. "The current administration has been able to explore to 22 wells within a year on-shore. Among them, the 22 wells have produced up to 2.31 million barrels of oil and 1901.9 million cubic meters of natural gas," stated the Deputy Minister.

In addition to on-shore drilling, there have been 46 off shore drilling wells producing up to 1/02 million oil barrels and 604818 million cubic meters of gas.

66kV Pathein-Ngwe Saung Transmission Line & Substation

According the reports by MOEE, there were a total of 3.33 million barrels of oil and 623838 million cubic meters of natural gas produced - both on-shore and off-shore.

Off-shore has great potential for national income and if the extractable resources in the oil and gas industry are to be found, there are stable revenues coming to the Republic of the Union Myanmar in short period of time for over 20 years. In addition to the income, the country will also be able to produce more output to build infrastructure, distribute electricity and increase foreign investment. Therefore, the Ministry is working towards discovering new prospects along with examining four new off-shore prospects -A6, AD1, AD7 and M3.

The Deputy Minister shares the good news: "Two of the Shwe Yi Htun drill wells out of five -located in A6 off the southwest coast of Taninthayi are showing good prospects regarding natural gas potential and looks economically feasible." MOEE is hoping oil and natural gas may be the solution to energy problems. There are also an 18 plots on-shore and additional 15 potential plots on-shore that can be further explored. Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), in accordance with its transparency initiative, have called public tenders for a joint venture so they can attract international energy players.

Kyaukse Thermal Power Plant.

"We refine the oil produced onshore in country. In the previous financial year, we produced 251,509 metric tonnes of oil and processed up till 67080 metric tonnes of petrol and 110242 metric tonnes of diesel with an increase of 38 percent in revenue for the sales," claims the Deputy Minister.

MOEE has historically produced and sold oil and gas. However, with the current processing of on-shore produce, there have been several limitations to manufacturing LPG. The administration have collaborated with the private sector in trying to meet the unfillable demands of LPG from the citizens whose choices are shifting. According to the numbers from the ministry, there has been over 8858 metric tonnes of LNG produced from on-share drill holes so that residents can use the product at an affordable price with easy access to purchasing. The Deputy Minister noted: "We have licenses for rights to operate. There are altogether 7 different kinds and we have issued up till 629 in the 3rd year of our administration alone. We are aiming for the industry to be accessible across country."

In the same way, there are plans to use the products from the extractive industry as fertilizer from the MOEE. There were a total of 127, 941 metric tonnes of fertilizer. The fertilizer factory brought in 71 billion kyats more compared to the previous year. The fertilizer industry used to show a loss of 50 billion kyats annually. This problem, however, was solved by the currently administration during its third year.

"It wasn't easy. The success I mentioned came from the hard work, change and improvements in our department. To do such feat, we need motivated employees and the proper rules and procedure that foster development along with public support.

There have been a lot of unforeseen obstacles for the Ministry exploring drill holes in the extractive industries in hopes that great results will bring forth an increase in the Gross Domestic Product of the country. A representative comment "You are working with people who own the land too -the farmers- because you are working on an on-shore site and that calls for negotiations between the countries."

The Energy industry is directly related to the country and its citizens' development. As we are approaching summer and with the industry heavily reliant on hydro power, there might be shortages in the supply. However, as technology gets better, they are more efficient air coolers being manufactured. We also like to urge the public to use electricity for their necessary proceedings and reserve as much as possible by keeping in mind of our fellow countrymen who doesn't have access.

(Translated by Myat Thu)

Haskoning International B.V Company Limited (Branch Office)
Notice of Closure of Branch Office

It is hereby notified that in pursuance of Head Office's Board of Directors' Resolution dated March 26, 2019 the above Branch Office has been closed down with effect from March 31, 2019 since the existence of Branch Office was no more required in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Notice to Creditors

The creditors of the above-named Branch Office are required to send their names, addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their attorneys, if any, to the undersigned Liquidator in person or by their attorneys to come in and prove their debts or claims on or before May 6, 2019 or in default thereof they will be excluded from the settlement of such debts or claims.

Daw Thaung Mya Wai
LL.B, DA, DCA
Liquidator
Room No. (2D), Rose Condominium,
No. 182/194, 1st Floor, Botahtaung Pagoda Road,
Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar

Announcement of Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticides

Distribution of the following Pesticides registered by **Zhejiang Medicines & Health Products Import & Export Co.,Ltd. China**. is transferring from **Arlarwaka Co., Ltd. to Diamond Light International Trading Co.,Ltd**. Any objection regarding this transfer can notify at Joint. Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, west Gyogone, Insein within two weeks.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration	Registeration
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Sugar rush fades for Indian farmers ahead of vote

PAINGA (India) — India is vying to become the world's top sugar producer, but for its millions of sugarcane growers life is far from sweet as the country prepares for its mega-election from next week.

Their woes are part of a deep crisis in rural India, with debts and drought driving thousands of farmers to suicide in recent years, putting Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the back foot as he runs for a second term.

"We have not got a single penny for four months of crop that we have sold," said Ved Pal, gazing worriedly at stacks of sugarcane piled up on his farm in Uttar Pradesh state in northern India.

"Last year's payments are still due. I have lost interest in farming but there is nothing else to do," he told AFP in the village of Painga. Sugarcane used to be an attractive option for growers, traditionally offering much higher returns than other crops. The plant is also hardy, but thirsty — further depleting groundwater reserves in many areas.

Debts and drought have driven thousands of farmers to suicide in recent years. **PHOTO: AFP**

"This crop can sustain heavy rain, hailstorm and even if it catches fire we can still recover some crop. And we have (a) captive market available as well," Pal said.

One of Modi's economic successes over the past five years is taming inflation, the pernicious increase in prices that has long bedevilled India's economy.

In the case of sugar, this has been achieved by keeping a lid on the price at which sugar mills — which process sugarcane into the white stuff — can sell their produce.

But this set price — despite an increase in February — is so low that many mills are losing money. The amount they can afford to pay growers is paltry, if they can pay at all, leaving farmers high and dry. As of last month, some $3 billion was owed to sugarcane growers, according to government data.

"The government needs to set a higher minimum price for sugar — adequate to cover the cost of cane," Abhinash Verma of the Indian Sugar Mill Association told AFP. —AFP ■

Restaurant blast in southern Philippines wounds at least 13

MANILA (Philippines) — A bomb blast outside a restaurant on Wednesday wounded at least 13 people, including children, in the insurgency-plagued southern Philippines, authorities said.

The explosion shattered a window at the front of the eatery, striking family members gathered for an event in the town of Isulan on Mindanao island, Mayor Marites Pallasigue told AFP. The southern Philippines is plagued by multiple armed groups ranging from communist insurgents to Islamic State-aligned jihadists, which leave the area mired in poverty and violence.

Police cordoned off the area outside the shattered facade of the restaurant as a probe began into who was responsible. "The bomb was placed at the back of the air conditioner," said Pallasigue, putting the number of wounded at 13.

"Most the victims are related to each other," she added. Police confirmed the explosion but said the number of wounded could be as high as 18. No deaths have been reported.

On a neighbouring island to the south of Mindanao, an IS-claimed attack in January on a cathedral during Sunday mass killed 21 and wounded about a hundred others.

The bombing cast a shadow over a vote less than a week earlier to give Muslims in the south of the Catholic majority Philippines greater resources and control over their affairs. The explosion Wednesday in Isulan happened just a few meters from the site of a deadly blast which occurred last year and was believed to have been carried out by Islamist militants.—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V CHERRY VESTA VOY. NO. (011N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CHERRY VESTA VOY. NO. (011N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 04-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI AMPLE VOY. NO. (0164-477N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI AMPLE VOY. NO. (0164-477N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 04-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V AREZOO VOY. NO. (SCY1058)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AREZOO VOY. NO. (SCY1058) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 04-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND AND SEA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HARTA VOY. NO. (KHAR 0048N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HARTA VOY. NO. (KHAR 0048N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 04-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (1930N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (1930N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 04-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ZHONG YU 89

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ZHONG YU 89 V. (19023) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 04-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-4 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S GLOBAL MARS SHIPPING & LOGISTICS SERVICES CO LTD

Phone No: 2301928

SMEs are integral to the economic growth of Myanmar

By Aung Khin

OVER 90 per cent of all business in Myanmar is classified as Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, and the government has recognized that SMEs are main driver for the country's future national economic development.

The topic SME stakeholders cover farmers, growers, producers, wholesalers, retailers, those who transport these produce and products and the ones who give services concerning these, for the goods to reach consumers in their respective sectors along with "Supply Chain."

Until now, the lack of international cooperation and insufficient private sector investments are the main obstacles for Myanmar SMEs.

To get better technology, productive and innovation, Myanmar SMEs need to increase access to finance, to enhance the policy and regulatory environment, and promote entrepreneurship and human capital development.

However, some Myanmar entrepreneurs who can afford sufficient investment are not very interested to put their capital in SME sectors, as they seemingly do not see immediate profit from this business. Instead, they are more willing to invest in export, import and general trading.

As a result, Myanmar has failed to produce value added products, making the lower income for the country, while increasing import volumes has caused the country suffer budget deficits every year.

The Department of Industrial Supervision and Inspection under the Ministry of Industry has categorized into 13 sectors—foodstuff, textile, lodging, house-hold utensils, literature and artistic industry, raw material industry, mineral process and production, agricultural and farming equipment, vehicular manufacturing, electrical equipment production, general industrial workshops. Among them, foodstuff industry has got highest registration.

These local entrepreneurs complained about better financial support with almost zero interest rate, and strong markets for their potential products from SMEs. In production of consumer goods, Myanmar local products still need to give guarantees on hygiene and tastes in comparing with some neighbouring countries.

Myanmar has now opened up and is persuading international investments. As a host country, Myanmar need more investments to be able to produce safe and hygienic items more and more, with attractive packaging designs. If it fails to do so, the country will continue requiring high-priced foreign import items.

In this regard, local SME entrepreneurs need to seek advice and assistance from relevant departments and government and non-government association without delay as the neighbouring countries are getting momentum in producing global consumer products.

Myanmar has developed Small and Medium Enterprises Development Law 2015. The law with 14 chapters carries the provisions that clarify business and the role of business association to human resource development and technology. Every law needs enforcement and should be monitored for practical implementation to address issues in the real situations.

In fact, sophisticated technology tools or fully digital production process are not serious necessity for SMEs innovation. New business models, creating new lines of products, better efficiency in production processes, as well as in intensifying their promotion efforts are the driving force for promotion of SME sector.

Semi-state bodies or authorities will be needed to implement Government initiatives based on an SME development strategy. SME bodies should develop more capacities to be able to work freely without excess interference of government. A broad range of stakeholders should be invited for SME development. While the assistance of government departments is fundamental support to SMEs, a cooperative society of private business community, educational and technological institution play pivotal role.

Employees pack sauce bottles at a SME in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Workers making pots in Twantay. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Women making clothes at a cottage industry in South Dagon Township, Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

In ASEAN, cooperation on SME development began way back in 1995, when fostering SME development became one of the priority areas in respect of policy focus and resources.

Thailand has set the target to increase contribution by SMEs to national GDP up to 50 per cent by 2021 by supporting innovation-driven SMEs that aim to offer high-valued products and services through the 5-year SME Promotion Plan of the Office of SME Promotion (OSMEP).

The current SME's contribution to the kingdom's GDP as of 2017 is 42.2 per cent. It can also be traced that the percentage of SME employment to total employment in Thailand grew steadily from 76.0% in 2007 to 83.9% in 2011.

Myanmar still needs more efforts to replace outdated technologies and to investment in research and development to keep up with that of neighbouring countries.

The government should attract investors and the participation of international suppliers in local trade fairs and exhibitions to get wider scope for SME sector. Competition and inter-company cooperation are also required to promote innovation and skill levels of SMEs.

For developing regionally competitive SMEs, it is crucial to ensure realistic access to finance not to encounter inefficiency and low productivity. Organizing seminars, workshops and exhibition at home and abroad will help interact between Myanmar SMEs and their regional counterparts, suppliers and potential counterparts.

Steel plant commissioned to manufacture 3,000 metric tons of products per month

As part of investments from Europe, a ceremony to open a steel plant namely PEB Steel Myanmar which will have 3,000 tons of steel products per month of production capacity took place at Pullman Hotel in Yangon on 29 March evening, with investors and construction entrepreneurs in attendance.

The aforesaid plant, located on 30,000 square metres of land in Thilawa Special Economic Zone, was invested with US$25 million for its business. The plant facilitated with devices and machinery of modern technologies can manufacture products weighing 3,000 metric tons per month.

A bird's-eye view of PEB Steel Myanmar's steel plant.
PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG SOE

PEB steel manufacturing firm based in Europe has been operating its businesses for 25 years. It opened the first office of country representative in Yangon in 1998. During the period of more than 20 years, the firm has produced high quality products for 160 projects. Currently, the firm established a heavy plant in Thilawa Special Economic Zone depending on demand of business. Plans are underway to export its products to the Philippines and countries from West Asia, Africa and others.

As steel structures such as steel beams and trusses used at steel structure buildings, factories and industries are in high demand in Myanmar, number of iron and steel plants are on the rise year by year.

The above-mentioned steel plant is producing high quality products with the strength of 335 skilled workers under the supervision of experienced engineers and supervisors in order to meet the demand of construction tasks across the nation.— Myint Maung Soe
(Translated by Than Tun Aung)

Shwe Inn Thu Self Help Women Group got quality consumer wholesale market after joining with METRO

By Thant Zin Win

Shwe Inn Thu Self Help Women Group was formed in 2009 by native Inn woman (Inn Thu in Myanmar) who have had over 10-year development experience working in Southern Shan State, under UNDP Process-led Integrated Community Development Project to improve the lives of communities with various stakeholders of the democratic societies, particularly village women who live around the Inle Lake in Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State.

In 2012, native women from 16 project-villages (Let Khoke Pin, Nyaung Phyu(N), Pha Yar Gyi, Chaung Zauk, Pan Hpei, Mya Thein Tan, Myaung Yoe Gyi, Kyan Pont Nge, Pay Pin Kone, Par Nway(N), Par Nway(Danu), Parnway(S), Hpa Yar Phyu, Nyaung Pin Thar, Ma Gyi Kone, Bant Pyin) in Nyaung Shwe Township organized and implemented community health workers by providing basic medical kits, hygiene, sanitation, water, education and nutritional food for school children, making of natural fertilizer and natural pesticide, food making, raising pig, cow, rabbit and seed banks. Women members were then increased over 1000 women members from 46 villages in eastern and western banks of Inle Lake.

Shwe Inn Thu (SIT) group was giving Good Agricultural Practices training (GAP) not only to their members who were women and but also their women member's husband later. Envious men also participated in SIT group.

SIT group got good market and price after contracting with METRO Wholesale in 2018 to sell their farm products, METRO also gives GAP training and buy back GAP-fruits and vegetables from SIT group.

On 8 March 2019, SIT group was invited to METRO Wholesale Myanmar Limited opening ceremony at Bago Club, Yangon, to show their farm products and got their quality consumer wholesale market. Men from Inle Lake were interested in Shwe Inn Thu women's farm projects and participated.

SIT group was implementing the production of good fruits and vegetables for quality market as per their motto "Helping Women to help themselves" while METRO Wholesale Myanmar's motto was "Your success is our business". Project Facilitator Daw Mya Win from Ohn Hne Pin village in Nyaungshwe Township, Southern Shan State said "GAP farming is healthy for consumers and get best prices of fruits and vegetables selling via METRO Wholesale. And, it can maintain the InnLay Lake water to be free from chemical hazard. In the past, we did't get good prices for our Inle farm products. Now, METRO is buying our fruits and vegetables fromInnLay region with good prices from 10-viss to 20-viss initial sales. We have no worries for market, after joining with METRO Wholesale Myanmar for selling in sustainable quality market".

Now, they have good opportunity from their GAP farming and poultry farms by joining Wholesale market.

Useful Information

JAPANESE CUISINE

AJISHIN

No.192, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Myanmar Plaza, 4th Floor, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar. *Ph; 09-970890390*, Time- 10:00 to 23:00 (Open Daily)

ANAIMO

No. 300, Mahabandula Park Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. *Ph; 01-378022.*Time- 11:30-14;00/ 17;30-22;00
(Saturday only evening and Sunday off)

BIKKURA SUSHI & SASHIMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 16, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon.*Ph:09-799566917, 09-36714873.* 10:30-22;30 (Open Daily)

BUSHIDO

No. 75/ AB Boyar Nyunt Street, Dagon Township, Yangon.*Ph:09-260031197/ 09- 420231330.* 10:00-22:00 (Sunday Off)

CHO JAPANESE DINNING & BAR

Level (1), Garden Wing, Beside Lobby Lounge.(Inside Sedona Hotel), Yangon *Ph:09-258322223/ 09-261322223.* Lunch 11:30-14:30/ Tea Time 14:30-18:00/
Dinner 18:00-23:00(Open Daily)

DINNING FUKUROU

No. 37, Kabar Pagoda Road, Inside of Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon. *Ph:09-260031197 09-420231330.*11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

EDOZUSHI

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon.*Ph:056-23150-53/ 056- 23313-318(Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020.*11:00-21:00(Open Daily)

(3) YAKINIKU FUKAGAWA

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon.*Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056- 23313-318(Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020,*11:00-21:00(Open Daily)

FUJINOBO

(Cherry Hill Hotel) No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon.*Ph: 09-450067052*, 06:00-09:30/ 11:30-14:00/ 17:00-22:30 (Open Daily)

FURUSATO

No. 137, West Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon.*Ph: 01-556265/ 09-73081914.* 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-22:00(Open Daily)

GEKKO

535, Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, 4th Quarter, Yangon.*Ph: 01-386986*, 09:00-23:00(Open Daily)

HIMARI MYANMAR

Pearl Condo, Block D, Ground Floor, Units-G-10, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon,*Ph: 09-775330494.* 11:30-14:00/ 14:00-22:00(Open Daily)

HOKKAIDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 24/ 26, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Golden Hill Tower(A), Bahan Township, Yangon.*Ph: 09-250537315.* 11:00-14:00/ 17:00- 21:30 (Open Daily)

HOT POT KING and Hot pot and BBQ Buffet Restaurant

No - 26/27, Thitsar Road and Corner of Wai Za Yan Dar Road, South Okkalapa, Yangon.*Tel - 09 777777 008, 09 09 777777 009, 09 777777 883.*

Hot Pot City 8 Miles

No(33), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road (7.34 km) 095 Yangon,*Ph:09 797 799111*,11:00-22:00(Open Daily)

101 Hot Pot & Sushi

No.141, West Shwegondaing Road,Bahan T/s. near Yuzana Hotel. (1.78 km), 11201 Yangon.

Get Directions

Highlights info row image, *Ph: 09 777 799101.* 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Little Sheep Hot Pot Myanmar

14/14B Kanbawza Street Golden Valley (1) Bahan Township (1.71 km),Yangon.
Ph: 09443399701, 09443399702, 11:00-23:00

HOTEL

BELMOND GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

No. 35, Taw Win Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. *Ph: 01-229860 01-229861.*

CHATRIUM

No. 40, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. *Ph: 01-544500/ 01-544244.*

CHERRY HILLS HOTEL

No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwegon Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon.
Ph:01-559722.

HOTLE 51

No. 154/ 156, 51st. Upper Pazundaung Township, Yangon. *Ph: 01-200823/ 09-429918554.*

HOTEL KAN KAW

No.93(A), Hnin Si Gone Road, Ahlone Township, Yangon.
Ph: 01-228566/ 01-2301700/ 01-1221731.

HOTLE SIDNEY

No. 8L/Mindhama Road, Between Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road and Parami Road, Mayangone Township.
Ph: 01-655770/ 01-9669600-02.

INYA LAKE HOTEL

No.37, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon.*Ph: 01-9662866/ 01-9662857-9.*

LOTTEE HOTLES AND SERVICED APARTMENTS YANGON

No.82, Sin Phyu Shin Avenue, Pyay Road, 6 mile, Hlaing Township. *Ph: 01-9351000.*

MERCURE HOTEL

No.17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. *Ph: 01- 650933.*

NOVOTEL YANGON MAX

No.459, Pyay Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon. *Ph: 01-2305858.*

PAN PACIFIC YANGON

No. Corner of Bogyoke Aung San Road and Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Yangon,
Ph:01-9253810.

PARK ROYAL

No.33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, *Ph: 01-250388.*

PULLMAN YANGON CENTREPOINT

No.65, Corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Street.*Ph: 01-382687.*

ROSE GARDEN HOTEL

No.171, Upper Pasodan Road, Yangon.
Ph: 01-371992/09263440500.

SAVOY HOTEL

No.129, Corner of Dhammazedi Road and Inya Road, Yangon.
Ph: 01-526289/ 01-526298/ 01-526305.

SEDONA HOTEL

No. 1, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. *Ph: 01-8605377.*

SULE SHANGRI-LA

No. 223, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. *Ph: 01-242828.*

SUMMIT PARTVIEW HOTEL

No. 350, Ahlone Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. *Ph: 01-211888/ 01-211966.*

SUPER HOTEL

No. 51/ D, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, 10th Quarter, Mayangone Township, Yangon.
Ph:09-797109000/ 01-658210/ 01-658220.

Myanmar beat Nepal 3-1 in 2nd round of women's football Olympic qualifiers

MYANMAR beat Nepal by 3-1 yesterday in the second round of the qualifying tournament for women's football Olympics at the Mandalar Thiri Stadium in Mandalay.

Goals for Myanmar were scored by Win Theingi Tun and Yee Yee Oo.

Team Myanmar lined up with goalkeeper May Zin Nwe, Ei Yadanar Phyo, Khin Than Wai, Wai Wai Aung, Khaing Thazin, Win Theingi Tun, Khin Mo Mo Tun, Captain Khin Marlar Tun, Khin Moe Wai, July Kyaw, and Yee Yee Oo.

Myanmar dominated the match right from the kickoff with stable play.

With power play and accurate passing, Myanmar's Yee Yee Oo scored the first goal at 21 minutes, taking the Nepal keeper by surprise.

Nepal tried to equalize the score, but they got few chances due to Myanmar's massive defense line.

Myanmar's Yee Yee Oo (No.20) celebrates after scoring the opening goal for Myanmar during the second round of the qualifying tournament for women's football Olympics at the Mandalar Thiri Stadium in Mandalay yesterday. **PHOTO : MFF**

Nepal managed to break through Myanmar's defence once, with Niru Thapa scoring the equalizer at the 45th minute.

But Myanmar took the lead again, with Win Theigi Tun scoring the leading goal at 48 minutes with a penalty shot.

While in the lead, Myanmar made frequent attacks for securing more goals.

With neat and tidy attacks, support from the midfield position, and one touch play, Myanmar scored the third goal at the 90th minute. The goal was beautifully scored by Win Theingi Tun.

In an earlier match in the qualifiers for the same group, India beat Indonesia 2-0. Myanmar will play against Indonesia next on 6 April.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

AFC Cup 2019: Yangon United's hopes alive after beating Hanoi F.C.

YANGON United, which is representing Myanmar at the AFC Cup 2019, beat Hanoi F.C. 1-0 during a group match on Tuesday at the Hang Day stadium in Hanoi, Viet Nam.

A lone goal by Mg Mg Lwin has kept Yangon United's chances for getting into the next stage alive.

For the match, Yangon United lined up with key players, including goalkeeper Kyaw Zin Htet and Maung Maung Lwin, who is on the Myanmar national team and has proved to be a reliable player for the football club.

Although team Viet Nam was very good and strong, Yangon United gave them tough competition by putting up a flawless defence.

Additionally, reliable Yangon United keeper Kyaw Zin Htet delivered his best performance, saving all goals in a difficult match.

With steady play, Yangon United scored an opener at 42 minutes. Mg Mg Lwin netted the goal, giving a goal lead to Yangon United in the first half.

During the second half, Hanoi F.C. tried to create more goal chances with strong and fast attacks.

Yangon United F.C. celebrate their victory after beating Viet Nam's Hanoi F.C. 1-0 in a group match for the AFC Cup 2019 at the Hang Day stadium in Hanoi, Viet Nam. **PHOTO : YUFC**

They missed a huge chance, when the team lost the penalty shootout at 54 minutes.

The penalty was kicked by Nguyen Van Quyet.

In the remaining minutes of the match, there were no goals by either team, and Yangon United secured their first win in the AFC Cup 2019, and hopes are alive for the team's entering the next stage.

"Today's match was very important to advance to the next stage. And, we all could see today's match was fantastic. I would like to congratulate our players. Hanoi is a strong team and they played very well. So, I would also like to congratulate the opponent players," said Yangon United head coach U Myo Min Tun.

With the win over Hanoi F.C., Yangon United has earned 3 points.

The teams will face off once again on 17 April on Yangon United's home turf for their second group match.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Kovac hits back at critics ahead of Dortmund showdown

BERLIN (Germany) — Bayern Munich coach Niko Kovac has hit back at his critics and said that his side are the best team in Germany ahead of Saturday's Bundesliga clash with title rivals Borussia Dortmund.

Kovac is under renewed pressure after Bayern slipped two points behind Dortmund in the title race when they failed to beat Freiburg last Saturday.

Yet in an interview with Sport Bild on Wednesday, the Bayern coach said that the criticism levelled at him and his side was unjust. Kovac said that he had been unfairly portrayed as a tactical stick-in-the-mud in comparison with more glamourous coaches such as Manchester City's Pep Guardiola and Paris Saint-Germain's Thomas Tuchel. "When I was at Frankfurt, I was portrayed as a tactics nerd like Guardiola or Tuchel because I played with different systems," said Kovac. "Now people say that I am unable to change my system. But that's not correct. "When I arrived here, there was a system which had been in place since Louis van Gaal was here 10 years ago.—AFP ■