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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor opens power infra in Mon State, meets locals in Thaton



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the opening speech at the opening ceremony of 118.9 MW natural gas-fired power plant in Thaton yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the Chairperson of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, inaugurated the 40.48 miles long 66-KV Mawlamyine-Thanbyuzayat power line, the 66/33 KV, 20 MVA Thanbyuzayat sub-station, and the 118.9 MW natural gas-fired power plant in Thaton yesterday.

Present at the ceremony were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Min Thu, Dr. Aung Thu, U Ohn Win and U Win Khaing, Mon State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan, State Hluttaw Speaker Daw Tin Ei, state ministers, Hluttaw representatives, departmental heads and local people.

At the ceremony the State Counsellor said electricity was the whole country's requirement. As of now, we have not fulfilled 50 percent of the requirement yet. However, the neighboring countries were fulfilling more than 80, 90 or even 100 percent. So, more efforts needed to be put in, as electricity was a very important matter for all the people.

Nowadays to open a new power line or sub-station was considered as progress in the livelihood of the people. Progress in livelihood means not only economic progress but also included road transportation and electricity. Electricity supports health and education. This shows that the country was moving forward one step at a time. Electricity connection had not reached 50 percent of the country yet but it was expected to reach 50 percent before the end of this year.

After opening this sub-station and power line a total of 220,000 households in Mon State would have electricity. It was hoped the people would be happy to know that efforts were continuing with the 230 KV Mawlamyine-Khayugu power line and a sub-station expansion work, the 230 KV Mawlamyine-Ye-Dawei power line and sub-station project work,

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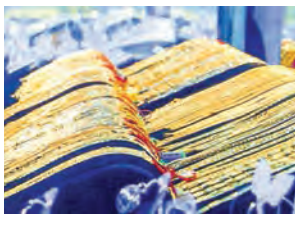
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Photo shows natural gas-fired power plant in Thaton, Mon State. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi sprinkles scented water over the pillar of natural gas-fired power plant in Thaton, Mon State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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the 230 KV Dawei-Myeik power line and sub-station project work, the 66 KV Myeik-Taninthayi power line and sub-station project works to provide electricity sufficiently to Mon State.

Electricity supply projects were spreading out in the entire country rather than concentrating in one place. Therefore even though the current success was in one place, it could be taken as a success for the whole country. Various ethnic nationals live in Mawlamyine, Thaton and Thanbyuzayat. Not only Mon but Kayin, Pa-O and Bama ethnic nationals live there. Opening a power line and a sub-station in an area could be taken as progress for all the people in the Union. Physical progress was there, and spiritual progress could also be expected. Spiritual meant the union spirit. Secondly, it meant the spirit to have metta (unconditional love) and cetana (volition, intention).

The current power line was the Mawlamyine-Thanbyuzayat line. Thanbyuzayat was an infamous area during Second World War. The place was a symbol Second World War's horror. There is a war cemetery here for the allied soldiers who fell during Second World War. In some of the final resting place of these soldiers, who were sons, husbands and brothers of the people they left behind, memorial flowers were found to be placed. This showed the metta and cetana of the people. Due to the greed, anger and ignorance of people, wars broke out and due to the metta and cetana of the people, the fires of war were extinguished.

Myanmar had not completely extinguished the fires of war ever since gaining independence. Internal war had been born together with independence. However, nowadays, where ever the people might be, they were striving for peace with full conviction. This must be done both physically and spiritually. A peace process could not head only towards peace. It must also head towards development. Only with development would peace be firm.

The Union government was happy that last year New Mon State Party signed the NCA. An increase of one group was an indication of an increase in possibility of achieving peace. Therefore, when working towards physical and spiritual development, obtaining electricity played an important role in its own way. In the physical sense it meant coming out of darkness and into the light. It was hoped that it would be the same spiritually. It was the duty and responsibility of every son and daughter of the union to be able to come out of the dark and step into the light. Only when the spirit was properly placed can we come out of the dark and step into the light. Each one of us should have the will and the spirit to leave the darkness and stay in the light. It was important to be determined and work together hand in hand in order to walk down the path of development. If there were no discrimination, competition, anger, hatred and animosity towards one another but metta and cetana; if efforts were made to strengthen the spirit to develop and establish a union; and if the march was continued, an enormous light wave would have been created connected by minds.

It could be considered a happy occasion as the mindset of opening a sub-station in Mon State was not for a single ethnic national race but for all ethnic nationals. If the present generation fulfilled its tasks now, the situation of the next generation would be much better. In order to work for such the future, all needed to cooperate and work together. Myanmar would progress and develop quickly if the three pillars namely the executive, legislative and judicial consisting of the government, Hluttaw and the justice system worked hand in hand with the people.

> The country's physical development is very important for our spiritual development. These two must not be looked at separately.

The country's physical development was very important for our spiritual development. These two must not be looked at separately. As greetings were being exchanged on the occasion of a physical development event, all must have cetana towards the other in order to achieve spiritual development. Everyone was urged to cooperate and work toward this, said the State Counsellor.

Next Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing explained about transmission line and sub-station project works followed by Thanbyuzayat Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Nyan Hein speaking words of thanks on behalf of the local people.

After that, Mon State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan, Mon State Hluttaw Speaker Daw Tin Ei, state minister U Wunna Kyaw, Pyithu Hluttaw representatives U Nai Thaung Nyunt and U Nyan Hein, Amyotha Hluttaw representatives Daw Nwe Nwe Aung and Daw Myat Thida Tun cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the 66 KV Mawlamyine-Thanbyuzayat power line and 66/33 KV, 20 MVA Thanbyuzayat sub-station. Later, the State Counsellor, Union Ministers, State Chief Minister, State Hluttaw Speaker, Hluttaw representatives and local ethnic nationals took a commemorative group photo.

The State Counsellor and Union Minister U Win Khaing then pressed a switch to send electricity to the Thanbyuzayat sub-station.

After the ceremony the State Counsellor met cordially with the sub-station personnel and inspected the sub-station.

From there the State Counsellor and party went to Thaton by helicopters and attended the opening ceremony of the 118.9 MW natural gas-fired power plant.

Meeting with local people in Thaton

In her opening address the State Counsellor said if people had electricity, a simple flick of a switch would transform darkness into light. All need to work together towards getting light by simply flicking a switch. Expertise, money and cooperation were required. Cooperation could be considered the most important. Ever since Myanmar gained independence, a foreign policy was carefully formulated to encourage living cordially and peacefully with all countries. The aim was to continue this. It was the desire Myanmar to play its part towards world peace, stability and development. It was hoped the people would do likewise. Stability, peace and development were very important for a country. The support provided by organizations and friendly countries for Myanmar's development was greatly appreciated. The feeling of thankfulness or appreciation was something everyone should have. Only through thankfulness and appreciation would we know the value of ourselves and the world. Only by understanding the value of others, could our own value be elevated.

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> We will abolish the red tape that burdens the people and eradicate corruption and bribery that plagues all levels of society as we work to strengthen the moral fiber of our people. We will draw out from our past experiences as a civilian government overcoming various obstacles and hardships, as we work to the best of our ability for the immediate present and head towards the future of a democratic nation that respects human rights and is free from all stains of corruption.
>
> (Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)

> No matter what kind of projects we implement, the main factor for success is collective endeavor.
> I am firmly convinced that we can overcome any challenge– no matter how big or difficult– if we can set aside prejudices of organizations and select groups, and work without pointing fingers and if every one of us makes concerted efforts with goodwill, wisdom, and courage.
>
> (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 and Union Minister U Win Khaing press a button to open the Thanbyuzayat sub-station in Mon State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Having successfully implemented a project reinforces another successful implementation of another project. Steps taken towards setting up power stations and providing electricity were aimed to raise the capacity and ability of the people. In doing this the Union government needed to participate. Not only the three pillars of government namely the executive, the judiciary and the legislative but also the people's cooperation and participation were required for a quicker and more effective development process.

It was a happy occasion for the entire country when electricity became available to Thaton in Mon State. For areas where electricity was yet to be available, this would raise the expectation and spirit toward achieving it soon. A progress in one place meant a progress for the entire country. Every place would develop only when the entire country achieved progress. People should take note of the fact that the main thing was for they themselves to strive towards their development. It was best to depend on self rather than others. It was believed that if one's own capability were used effectively, other capabilities could be achieved as well, said the State Counsellor.

Following the State Counsellor's opening address, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing explained about how the 118.9 MW natural gas-fired power plant project came into being, construction works and status of test running the power station.

After that, the Thaton Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw Mar Mar Khaing spoke words of thanks on behalf of the local people. Then, Mon State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan, Deputy Minister Dr. Tun Naing, state minister U Wunna Kyaw, Thaton Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw Mar Mar Khaing and Amyotha Hluttaw representative Dr. Zaw Lin Htut opened the 118.9 MW natural gas-fired power plant by cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

Afterwards the State Counsellor, Union Ministers, State Chief Minister, state ministers, Hluttaw representatives, local ethnic nationals and children took a commemorative group photo.

Later State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Union Minister U Win Khaing and State Chief Minister Dr. Aye Zan unveiled a stone pillar commemorating the opening of the power station and sprinkled scented water onto the pillar.

After the ceremony, the State Counsellor and party inspected the power station on a motorcade.

Following the opening ceremony of the power station the State Counsellor went to meet with the local people in the Thuwunna Hall in Thaton.

In addressing the meeting the State Counsellor said there were two reasons for coming to Mon State. The first was to attend the day's opening ceremonies on electricity projects and the second was to meet with the people. Emphasizing on obtaining electricity was a matter of emphasizing on the people. Whenever in a trip, we strive toward doing things together. Emphasizing on such matters meant emphasizing toward taking a forward step for the country's development.

The country's development was good. Trade deficit was falling. Previously imports were high and exports were low. Now export value was seen to be approaching the value of import showing the progress the country was making. Even though these progresses were occurring daily, the effect would not be immediately felt by the people. They would gradually feel this.

Getting electricity was something that ordinary people could feel at the same time. Everyone could see the lights coming on when they flick a switch in any house. That was why projects related to the majority were being implemented with great emphasis. Road transport was also the same. Roads and bridges were not for a single group but for all the people. Good roads and bridges go a long way for the people in the region. Priority must be given towards the benefit of the majority. It does not mean minority matters were not considered. However, priority must be for the majority so that if the majority progressed or developed, they would take along the progress and development of the minority too.

If we can feel mudita (sympathetic joy) in other people's well-being, towards all, we would not need to worry or there would not be difficulties towards establishing unity in the country or in establishing a union. The spirit of benefit for self being the benefit for all would be strengthened. In a union formed with many ethnic nationals, if all felt good about any other ethnic national's progress and development, the union spirit will have strengthened. If all felt mudita towards electricity being supplied to Mon State as well as nearby Kayin State and Taninthayi Region, our country's development would speed up in leaps and bounds.

The honor and pride of a country depends on the fair and just treatment within the country's people as well as fair and just treatment with others outside the country in the world. Some thought the honor and pride of the country depended on its wealth. It must be accepted practically that influence, not honor depended upon wealth. No one could deny the power of physical force. For our honor, it was important for us to feel mudita while we must strive towards having influence by making our country develop. Only with development can we maintain the country's stability and peace.

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It would be very difficult to maintain stability in undeveloped countries and societies. The government had accepted the fact that development, peace and stability must be achieved together. People, personnel and entities who assisted and supported in development were valued. Our resources, our gems were our people. People were urged to raise their values and be honorable.

All must be self-reliant. Development must be achieved through relying on self. We want to rely on our people and our citizens. We also value and welcome the help and support from friends abroad. However, in the end we have to rely on ourselves. Therefore, parents and teachers must encourage youngsters to progress, seek out knowledge and have the will to seek out knowledge. Parents themselves were urged to exhibit and instill the habits of life-long learning. Learning does not mean education in school. It meant the knowledge and ability to overcome problems and challenges faced in life with dignity and honor. It meant having the ability to find a way. When meeting with people, a lot were being learnt from the way the people act and talk, said the State Counsellor.

After the speech by the State Counsellor, matters raised in advance in letters by locals covering Kyaikhto town by-pass road; arrangement for increasing summary paddy cultivation in Bilin Township; expanding the opening of Telemedicine and Teleradiology departments in other townships after successful openings in Kyaikmaraw, Chaungzon and Bilin townships; upgrading of Thaton District hospital, upgrading of Pane Ne Taw rural health clinic, electricity supply to villages in the eastern part of Thaton Township, continuing asphalt surfacing of roads and upgrading of a road; matters raised by 3 locals outside the meeting hall covering permission to officially reside in a place where temporary residence was permitted; implementation of a project without the local's consent and obtaining electricity; matters raised by 5 locals in the hall covering water supply; lighting committee; repair and maintaining of ancient pagodas; illegal construction of shops and buildings in Theinzayat Town; and compensation on land confiscation were answered by Mon State Chief Minister, state ministers and departmental officials after which the State Counsellor provided additional explanations.

> Steps taken towards setting up power stations and providing electricity were aimed to raise the capacity and ability of the people.

In her concluding speech, the State Counsellor said problems were to be solved through discussion. A way out must be sought by both sides. It would not work if the matter was to be resolved only through the way one side wanted. The people were thanked for attending the meeting, told that problems faced by people in Mon State were being understood to a certain extent and trusted that the matters would be quickly and transparently resolved.

After the meeting the State Counsellor took a commemorative group photo with local ethnic nationals and youths and cordially greeted the meeting attendees.

Later in the afternoon, the State Counsellor and party left Thaton by helicopters and reached Mawlamyine where the State Counsellor met with Mon state government members and provided guidelines and instructions. After the meeting with Mon state government members, the State Counsellor and party left Mawlamyine by a special plane and arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw in the evening. The State Counsellor and party were welcomed upon arrival at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman U Myo Aung and wife and departmental officials. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Workshop reviews ASEAN action plan for ending violence against children



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye poses for the photo with attendees at the workshop for the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Children in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

A NATIONAL-LEVEL workshop was held yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw to review the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Children (ASEAN RPA on EVAC).

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye said the workshop was being held as Myanmar's implementation of the action plan needed to be reviewed. Eight tasks being carried out as part of the action plan will be reviewed at the workshop, said the Union Minister, who is also the chairman of the National Committee on Children's Rights.

The ASEAN action plan came as the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) has taken the responsibility to implement the declaration of ASEAN leaders in 2013 to eliminate violence against women and children, he said.

"Myanmar's Children's Rights Law (1993) needs to be amended. A bill on children's rights is being discussed at the parliament, and the bill is expected to be made into law," said the Union Minister.

A chapter on prevention of violence against children has been included in the new law, which also carries strict punishment for violators, he added.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye also stressed the need to increase awareness of children's rights in the country. He said the related ministries are working together to draft a Child Protection Policy, while implementing a social management system to resolve violations against children.

At the opening ceremony, Resident Representative of the UNICEF Ms. Junekunugi extended greetings, and Director-General of the Social Affairs Department Dr. San San Aye gave an overview of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action for Elimination of Violence Against Children.—MNA *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

Public Announcement for remonstration

Shan-ni (Tailai) & Northern Shan Ethnics Solidarity Party that had been allowed to set up as a political party headquartered at No. (S-1/70-b), Kantkaw Street, between 67th x 68th streets and 40th x 41th streets, Mahamyaing Ward 1 in Maha Aungmyae Township in Mandalay Region, has submitted its application for amending the name and emblem of the party to the Union Election Commission, and the UEC made the public announcement for remonstration in dailies on 18 December 2018.

2. There was an objection to the name and emblem of that party, and the Union Election Commission, after scrutinizing it, has found that the name and emblem of that party are not suitable for using and met and informed the representatives of the party to amend the name and emblem of the party in accordance with the rules and regulations.

In accord with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules, it is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party's name the Shan-ni Solidarity Party (SSP), flag and emblem may submit a complaint along with the supporting evidence within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement. — Union Election Commission



Emblem of Shan-ni Solidarity Party (SSP)

Correction

On the 5th page of the 4 April 2019 edition of GNLM, the last paragraph of the news headlined as 'Union Ministries discuss preventing, responding to conflict related violence in first national committee meeting', should read " As part of efforts for showing Myanmar's constructive progress to the international communities, the developments including formation of the national-level committee, holding the coordination meeting of the committee and drawing project plan to implement the joint communique would be brought to the open-door meeting on conflict-related violence against women at the Security Council on 26th April, 2019, and would be included in the UNSG's report on conflict-related violence against women for 2018." —Ed

Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends graduation ceremony of OTS

PASSING out Parade of the Thura Company of the 122nd Intake of Officers Training Course of Defence Services (Army) Officers Training School (OTS) (Bahtoo) was held at the parade ground of the OTS in Fort Bahtoo yesterday morning. On behalf of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Soe Win delivered an address at the ceremony.

First, Vice-Senior General took the salute of the cadet companies, and then inspected the cadet companies. The cadet companies saluted the Vice-Senior General in slow march-past and quick march-past.

Afterwards, the Vice-Senior General presented Best Cadet Award to Cadet Zin Win.

In his address, the Vice-Senior General said peace and stability was required in establishing a union based on democracy and federal system and only when there was stability can development occurs.

Tatmadaw had designated 2019 as year of peace and was striving to achieve and deliver in 2020 the eternal peace desired by ethnic nationals and the people.

Cadets were to maintain the good tradition of the Tatmadaw, strive toward becoming a good leader according to the 16 features of a leader, lead the troops according to rules and regulations, practice and train toward becoming good at following orders, practice and train toward strengthening both physical and spiritual strengths to serve the three main duties and responsibilities of the Tatmadaw, defend and protect the independence and sovereignty of the country, become reliable military leaders for the Tatmadaw, fulfill the assigned duties and overcome any difficulties faced, said the Vice-Senior General.



Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Soe Win inspects graduation parade of the cadets at the OTS in Bahtoo Station yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

After delivering his speech, Vice-Senior General took the salute of the cadet companies and left the parade.

Once the parade was concluded, Vice-Senior General together with senior military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and the commander of Eastern Command, met outstanding award winning cadets and their parents at the parlour of the guest house and spoke words of honour.

Later in the evening a dinner in honor of Thura Company of the 122nd Intake of Officers Training Course of Defence Services (Army) OTS (Bahtoo) was held at Defence Services (Army) OTS (Bahtoo) Military Appointment Hall and on behalf of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win attended the dinner, according to news released by Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Office.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Peace Corps Volunteer swearing in ceremony held in Summit Park View Hotel Yangon

SWEARING in ceremony of American Peace Corps Volunteers who'll serve in Bago, Mon and Magway Region for two years was held at Summit Park View Hotel, Yangon yesterday morning.

The event was attended by Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Magway Region Chief Minister Dr. Aung Moe Nyo, US Ambassador Scot Marciel, directors general from Ministry of Education, Peace Corps Volunteers, invited guests and officials.

The ceremony began with the singing of the national anthems of US and Myanmar followed with speeches delivered Peace Corps Myanmar officials, US Ambassador and Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi.

After the speeches Peace Corps Volunteers then swear in and on behalf of the Peace Corps Volunteers Tyler Shustarich and Anna Fisher spoke about Volunteer Reflections. The ceremony came to a close with an entertainment program performed by the Peace Corps Volunteers.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi delivers the speech at the swearing in ceremony of American Peace Corps Volunteers in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin presents the certificate to trainee at the Graduation Ceremony of the Certificate Course in Enhanced Diplomatic Skills - EDS (5/2019) in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin attends Graduation Ceremony of the Certificate Course in Enhanced Diplomatic Skills (5/2019)

THE Graduation Ceremony of the Certificate Course in Enhanced Diplomatic Skills – EDS (5/2019), conducted by the Strategic Studies and Training Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was held at the Lawkanat Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, at 03:00 pm yesterday, with a closing address delivered by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Present on the occasion were retired Directors-General, responsible officials of the departments under the Ministry, experts from other Ministries, instructors as well as trainees.

The eight weeks long course covered the subjects related to diplomacy, international relations, Labour Law, contemporary international affairs, economics and policies and some of these subjects were conducted in condition of simulated exercises. And it was attended by (50) trainees.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs is carrying out its duties in enhancing capacity of private and public sectors by conducting to provide up-to-date, emerging issues and the enhanced and basic diplomatic trainings. With this objective, the Certificate Course in Enhanced Diplomatic Skills (EDS) is conducted and targeted for graduates of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (BDS).—MNA ■

MIC approves five investment proposals with 1,100 job opportunities

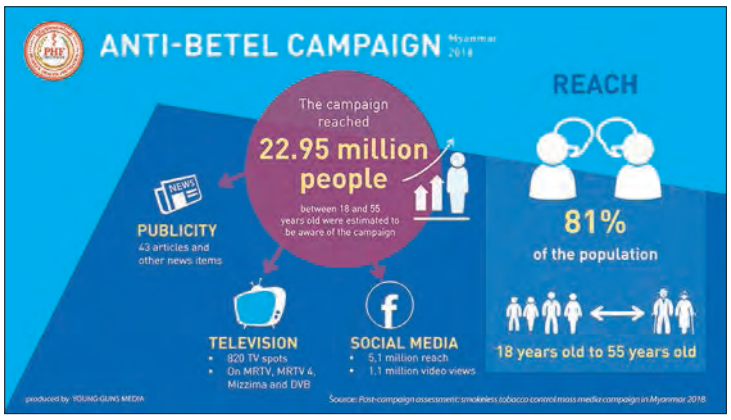


Union Minister U Thaung Tun addresses the Myanmar Investment Commission meeting in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO :MNA**

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) meeting (5 / 2019) was convened at the meeting room of MIC in the morning on 5th April 2019 in Yangon. U Thaung Tun, Chairman of MIC, Dr. Than Myint, Vice Chairman of MIC and nine members attended the meeting.

The meeting approved five projects in education services, manufacturing and other services from Singapore and Myanmar. The amount of USD 19.38 million and Kyats 69,384.754 million have been approved for above projects which will be create (1,121) job opportunities for citizens.—MNA ■

Media campaign spurs 60% of betel chewers to quit



A MASS media campaign to discourage betel quid chewing, launched in October, 2018 by the Ministry of Health and Sports and conducted with the help of the People's Health Foundation, was highly successful.

A post-campaign survey has revealed that 81 per cent of the respondents remembered the campaign message, and that more than half tried to kick the unhealthy habit.

The smokeless tobacco campaign with the tagline 'Avoid Betel Chewing So You Don't Regret Your Life Choices', launched by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe on 10 October, was designed to raise awareness about smokeless tobacco use in Myanmar and the related health risks.

The campaign objectives were to generate positive changes in the behavior of current smokeless tobacco users, motivating quit attempts and preventing non-tobacco users from starting, and to reduce the social acceptability of smokeless tobacco use. Hard hitting TV spots, radio spots, wall posters and a social media campaign were utilized to drive the message home.

The campaign ran for six weeks, after which a post-campaign survey was conducted to measure the campaign recall and the effectiveness of the messaging. For the study, 2,624 households were visited. Ultimately, 678 respondents (current betel quid chewers) were selected to be interviewed at length.

The research was conducted by Quality Research Firm Myanmar and overseen by the People's Health Foundation.

"The interviews took place in six townships across Myanmar," said Dr U Than Sein, President of the People's Health Foundation. "Our respondents were between 18 and 55 years old, and 88% of them used smokeless tobacco in betel quid on a daily basis. It was very encouraging that 81% of respondents overall, and 89% in urban areas, recalled the campaign message when prompted. In total we were able to reach 22,95 million people in our target group." "About 96% knew that betel chewing can cause serious illness. They knew that smokeless tobacco use will harm their vital organs and that it is important to try to quit. Revealing is also that people are very aware of the role of tobacco advertising: 63% of respondents believe that tobacco advertising encourages young people to start using tobacco and 69% agree that the tobacco industry misleads the public when saying tobacco is not addictive," Dr U Than Sein. According to the statistics, 62 per cent of men and 24 per cent of woman in Myanmar consume tobacco when chewing betel quid.

Consumption of tobacco and Virginia leaves-based products is a preventable problem which leads to some 7 million deaths every year throughout the world.

The number of tobacco related cancer patients is predicted to reach 22 million within 20 years, increasing from 14 million in 2012, according to the World Health Organization.—GNLM ■

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FINANCE
ANNOUNCEMENT NO. (2 /2019)
The 1st Waxing of Tagu, 1380 M.E.
(5 April 2019)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PREFERRED APPLICANTS FOR LIFE INSURANCE BUSINESS IN MYANMAR TO BE OPERATED BY A FOREIGN INSURER THROUGH A 100% WHOLLY-OWNED SUBSIDIARY (FOREIGN LIFE INSURANCE LICENCE)

1. Following our issuance of the Request for Proposal to apply for a Foreign Life Insurance Licence, the Ministry of Planning and Finance ("MoPF") has completed the RFP evaluation process for the submitted Proposals and has the honour to announce that the following Applicants (in alphabetical order) have successfully met with all assessment criteria, and have been granted approval as Preferred Applicants for the award of Foreign Life Insurance Licences:-
   (a) AIA Company Limited;
   (b) Chubb Tempest Reinsurance Limited;
   (c) Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company, Limited
   (d) Manufacturers Life Insurance Company; and
   (e) Prudential Hong Kong Limited.
2. The Preferred Applicants will have to comply with all pre-licensing conditions stipulated by the MoPF and take all necessary measures to ensure functional operation of the life insurance business from the date of commencement of business operations of its 100% wholly-owned subsidiary. Upon fulfillment of the pre-licensing conditions, the MoPF will grant the Preferred Applicants Foreign Life Insurance Licences.

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of service organizations confirmed

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on the expiry of one-year probationary period.

	Name	Appointment
(1)	U Khin Maung Oo	Director-General Office of the Union Election Commission Union Election Commission
(2)	U Hau Kham Sone	Director-General ASEAN Affairs Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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MoI Union Minister led delegation observes film tech, studio in Beijing

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Information Minister Dr. Pe Myint visited the center for digital movie industry, film and broadcast located in Beijing, China, yesterday.

The Union Minister and delegation first watched a demonstration in the China Film Giant Screen Format (CFGS) at China Film Group and listened to a presentation of China Film Equipment Co. Ltd's first use of CFGS in 2012, continually improving it, and reducing costs, after which they asked questions.

CFGS was created to combat foreign technological penetration and compete with other technologies. The technology is now used in nearly 400 out of the 40,000 movie screens in China and has crossed over to America, Indonesia and other countries. CFGS is commonly known as DMAX and has been described as a competitor to IMAX digital cinema projection system.

Later in the afternoon, the Union Minister and delegation travelled to State Production Base of the China Film Group located at Yangsong Town, Huairou District in Beijing. There they observed the indoor and outdoor studios, settings, and sound production in process.



The Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint pose for a documentary photo together with Chinese officials at the State Production Base of the China Film Group in Beijing. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint visits State Production Base of The China Film Group in Beijing. **PHOTO: MNA**

The production base was built on an investment of over 2 billion Chinese Yuan and includes 16 studios with indoor and outdoor settings. With the measurement of 5,000 square meter of area, the base took two and a half years to build. The Production Base was opened in August 2018 and is outfitted with modern film equipment. The location also includes a park, restaurant, hotel and other services, making it the largest film and TV production base in Asia. Dr. Pe Myint and his delegation departed from Beijing by flight and landed in Yangon yesterday evening.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Fourth Joint Working Group Meeting on Repatriation of Displaced Myanmar Residents from Bangladesh will be held in Myanmar

PERMANENT Secretary U Myint Thu of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs received Mr. Manjural Karim Khan Chowdhury, Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Myanmar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw at 10 a.m. on 5 April 2019.

During the meeting, the Permanent Secretary informed the Ambassador that in light of the reciprocal practice of hosting the bilateral meetings, Myanmar will to host the Fourth JWG Meeting on 27 April 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw since the Second and Third JWG Meetings were held in Dhaka in May and October 2018 respectively.—MNA

Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated patrol

A coordinated patrol between Myanmar and Bangladesh was conducted at the border nautical mile 15 to 18 on 4 April.

A troop of Myanmar border police led by Inspector Kyi Soe from Kyee Kyun police station in Maungtaw Township conducted a coordinated patrol with two water crafts included No.002 along the Naf River. A troop of Bangladesh led by Naib Subedar Md. Enayet of BGB 2 also conducted a coordinated patrol with another two water crafts. Next, the two troops met and discussed on the craft named No.002, according to the Myanmar Police Force. — GNLM ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



STAR AWARDS 2018 gives prizes for best film, TV series, fashion statements



Winners of the Star Awards for 2018 celebrate after receiving the awards at the Thuwunnabhumi Event Park in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE STAR AWARDS 2018 was held at Thuwunnabhumi Event Park in Thingangyun Township, Yangon, yesterday evening. The event is facilitated by Myanmar Journalists Association (MJA) with Stellar Seven Entertainment as the organizer.

Firstly, attendees paid respect to the State Flag and the STAR AWARDS 2018 theme song was then played. Next, Director U Win Pe (Win Pe) received an Honourable Award from the event handed over by U Hla Myint (Hla Myint Swe), advisor of the Award Selection Committee.

Following this, MJA President U Myat Khine read a missive from Union Information Minister Dr. Pe Myint to the event. U Win Nyein, Chair of the award selection committee, then explained the selection criteria and process for the awards.

Fifteen film awards were given out at the STAR AWARDS 2018 and each of them were accompanied by a gold medal and K5 million. The five TV Series awards were each paired with a silver medal and cash prize of K3 million while the three Fashion awards were handed out together with a gold STAR AWARDS 2018 brooch. The Fashion Actor Award was given to Khar Ra, the Fashion Guest Award was given to Ma Zin Tin Naing, wife of Actor Paing Zay Ye Tun, and the Fashion Actress Award was given to Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi.

The Best Story Award was given to Sayadaw Ashin Sandadika of Shwe Parami Forest Monastery by award selection committee member U Aung Soe Thu and other officials. A video showing the officials giving the award to the Sayadaw was shown at the event.

The Award Selection Committee selected 28 films from 83 movies that were screened in 2018 through a voting system to award the 15 film awards. —MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

A nation is more beautiful when united

THE Union of Myanmar is home to different ethnic races which have their own unique language, religion, customs, culture, and traditions. Isn't the garden of our Union more beautiful with multiple ethnicities of varying hues residing together?

Our Union will be more tranquil and charming if all the ethnic races can live together with friendly relations and unity. To achieve this, everyone must have the same belief that we all belong to one family, which is our Union.

Speaking to the people of Mawlamyine on 4 April, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said a country that is united at heart is magnificent even if the lineages, cultures, languages, and religions of its people are different. The State Counsellor spoke these words after noting how the people of Mon State are living in harmony.

> No matter which corner of Myanmar we live in, we must all inculcate the Union Spirit that calls for unity, harmony, and friendship among the ethnic races, and drives the development of the Union.

Everyone wants to see ethnic nationals coexisting peacefully. But, like the State Counsellor told the people of Mon State, while this aspiration will make our Union a better place to live in, it cannot be achieved with just a burning desire that isn't backed by action, perseverance, willpower, education, or cooperation from everyone.

Stakeholders across Myanmar are striving to implement a democratic federal system that conforms with the idea of a Union. Just as everyone needs to participate in establishing a Union, we all need to sustain the results we have achieved. The nation will develop only when the people improve and use their spirit, education, and diligence to drive national development.

A Union is a nation built on the collective strength of the people, and it needs this strength to get things done. Even the richest countries on earth are not free from the challenge of poverty. This is why we need to strive for uniform development. The smaller the gap between the rich and the poor, the greater the peace and stability in a nation. We can see the Union Government acting on this principle, allotting equal tasks for regional development across Myanmar.

The Union Government is doing its best to achieve uniform regional development, which is easier said than done. It cannot be achieved with a single perspective on economic benefit. It must include benefits to the political and social spheres as well. It is important for the people to understand that the Union Government is working for equitable development across the nation by taking care of issues, one at a time, tackling the many challenges they are facing.

No matter which corner of Myanmar we live in, we must all inculcate the Union Spirit that calls for unity, harmony, and friendship among the ethnic races, and drives the development of the Union.

■■■

Reform agenda of Ministry of Transport and Communications: Working towards an efficient and affordable transportation modes

"The main goal for the MoTC has been to find the intersection between business orientation and regulation compliance to be the best transportation service we can."

U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Transport and Communications



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung.

By Khin Yadana
PHOTO: MAY OO MOE

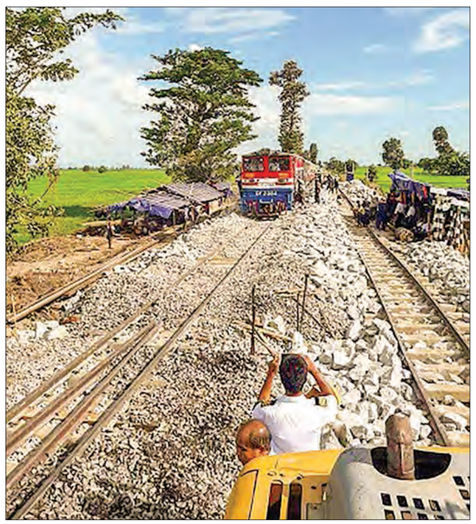
THE infrastructures of a nation such as transport, technology and electricity are highly significant. The Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC) has been responsible for the national transportation projects and other transportation related obligations since the new administration took office. MoTC is charging ahead in its new policy to upgrade current transportation facilities to catch up with other regional countries in order to bring the National Central Transportation project to life. The main objective has always been efficient and affordable transportation system for MoTC. This is mentioned in the Ministry of Transport and Communications' third year report.

Q: How have you executed the policies of MoTC within the past year to give the best possible transportation service to public?

A: The main goal for the MoTC has been to find the intersection between business orientation and regulation compliance to be the best transportation service we can. This is done by looking at how people chose their transportation modes, providing the service that is best suited for users and putting a price that have minimal government intervention and fair to the users that is set by the market. We still need to upgrade our facilities to compete that of the private ones. The ministry is currently working towards using the funds from taxes in developing the state-owned corporations to be more efficient, environmentally friendly and fulfilling the needs of the public.



Assembling and manufacturing electric diesel engines with a capacity of 2,000 horsepower.



Rail workers are upgrading the rail tracks around the country.

Q: What kind of developments have been in place for the railway sector?

A: We are working towards catching up to international standards regarding the railway sector in terms of how it operates and the services available. There are 39 express trains, 53 for local trains, 47 for passenger trains and 221 for circular trains operating within the city and its' nearby towns. New equipment has been ordered along with newer carts to upgrade the railway facilities.

This year, the ministry is prioritizing the Yangon city circular train, Yangon-Mandalay Rail line, Pegu-Mawlamyine Rail line, Mandalay- Myitkyina Rail line and Yangon-Pyi rail line.

Q: What about for the Yangon Circle Train?

A: We have trenches dug along the tracks, raised railway platforms and upgraded the tracks. The bottom at the PC Girder bridges has been raised, there are fences with iron posts and meshes, roads have been paved and PC Concrete has been enforced in areas connected to bridges instead of iron frames. These have been made possible due to a Japanese loan of 207 million U.S. dollars and 54 billion Kyats from the National Budget. With these funds, we are buying signal systems and DEMU cars in accordance with the National Budget allocations.

For bigger renovations, we are calling for tenders from private companies. Current developments are as follow: 59 miles of welded railway with 14 platforms renovated with 10 in progress, 9 overhead bridges with 2 in construction and plans for additional 30, 2 crosswalks in renovation with 15 in construction and 8 planned.

Q: Pegu – Mawlamyine and Yangon-Mandalay rail routes are being upgraded as well. Can you explain to us about the improvements?

A: For the Pegu -Mawlamyine railway renovation, we have already re-welding 129 miles of rail tracks with steel and are near completion. And for refilling the stones in the rail tracks, we have completed 49 miles out of 80.

For Yangon-Mandalay railway, there are 385 miles long and the renovation is divided into two phases with a budget of 2115 million U.S. dollar loan from the Japan and a national budget of 468 million U.S. dollars. The first stage is the 166 miles from Yangon to Taunggu and the second stage is 219 miles from Taunggu-Mandalay.

Project Management

From the Myanmar's side, there have to a total 141179 piles of pebbles to be collected, 166548 concrete blocks and 14550 feet of brick fences. The Japanese has called for a total of 8 tenders and has already signed joint ventures for Tender CP 102, 103,104,107 and 108 and area already starting their constructions. CP-101 is currently in the contract negotiations phase with a call for PQ for CP-105 and CP-106 is scheduled to resume after the railway infrastructure building.

The second part of the project on May 2018 and is expected to finish September 2019 with detailed designs signed this year's January between JICA and Myanmar railways. For the project consultancy, OCG-JV is currently in effect.

Q: Can you explain to us about the Upper Myanmar Myitkyina Railways and the widely popular Yangon-Pyay railway upgrades?

A: There are larger renovation projects for Mandalay-Myitkyina rail line and heavy machines were utilized on the 85th mile Mandalay-Myitkyina rail line to weld steel rails together. We are also getting help from Korea to make the track less step and lessen the curve in Gotauk-Mazar 23rd mile and Mawhan-Kardu 10th mile posts. The final report was sent on January 2019 and we're trying to get 100 million dollars funding for this. We have inspected 447 bridges on the 166 mile Yangon-Pyay rail track. We're working on securing financing from ADB to achieve a 120km/hr 20 ton Axle Load.

Q: Including the Yangon Circular Train, what other developments have been done in the railroad sector within the past year.

A: An Urban Transport Development long-term Plan in Greater Yangon (2016-2035) was drawn with the help of Japan. The detailed report which includes the Yangon Urban Mass Rapid Transit (YUMRT), North-South Road connecting Dala and Mingaladon spanning over 27 km and East-West Road between Hlaing Thar Yar- Toekyaung Lay of 25 km is currently being drafted with the help of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and is expected to be completed September 2019.

This is expected to alleviate much of Yangon's traffic problems and make transportation smoother. There are also plans to build more passenger coaches and locomotives. The *Myitnge* Carriage and Wagon Workshop *and* Napyitaw factory have built up to 10 new locomotives with 2000 horse power and substituted 5 new diesel engines with old ones. They refurbished a total of 432 locomotives upgraded (100 large-scale and 79 mid-scale). With the help of China, Myanmar was able to buy 28 more passenger coaches in line with the Dec 3, 2018 Resolution of Hluttaw and the project is estimated to be completed within 2 years of its start date.

Lowering Frequency of Accidents

Within the financial year 2018-2019, there were a total of 277 accidents. There were 363 during 2016-2017 and 350 during 2017-2018 and the ministry is working on more educative talks so as to reduce the number of accidents.

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The trains operating services from Myitkyina to Mandalay, are the first rail vehicles assembled in the country using CRRC technology.

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MNA to operate Monywa-Homalin route regularly during Thingyan period

MYANMAR National Airlines (MNA) will operate Monywa-Homalin-Monywa route regularly during the period of Thingyan New Year Water Festival from 13 through 17 April, said Ko Lynn Lynn Maung, Managing Director of Monywa-based My Monywa Travel Services.

Ko Lynn Lynn Maung said; "Regularly, the MNA flies Monywa-Homalin-Monywa route on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. All tickets for Eve Day, the first day of Thingyan Water Festival, were sold. Customers could not buy tickets for the route starting last two weeks. However, tickets are available for Atat Day, the last day of water festival. The MNA said it will operate flights between Monywa and Homalin regularly during the Thingyan holidays."

He added all return tickets were expected to be sold during the period of water festival, especially tickets for Monywa-Homalin route. The flight time between the two towns is about 55 minutes.



A Myanmar National Airlines' aircraft seen at the airport. **PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)**

Currently, ticket for the route between Monywa and Homalin are sold for K68,000 per head. The number of people who join aviation services is increasing then before although there are motor roads as well as maritime routes for the Monywa-Homalin route because of short travel time, water traffic and difficulties in road transportation. Ko Lynn Lynn Maung said his view that Monywa needed Monywa-Yangon direct flight services from more private airlines.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Japan to purchase Myanmar's drumstick products: association

THE Myanmar Drumstick and Moringa Fruit Producers and Exporters Association (Temporary) said it is holding discussions with a Japanese company for the sale of Myanmar drumstick products. The negotiations will continue after the water festival, it said.

The Japanese company has taken samples of drumstick fruits for evaluation, and based on the results, they will discuss the price and volume of drumstick products they would like to purchase, the association said.

"They have expressed their interest and intention to purchase our drumstick products. We have not discussed anything in detail yet. They just took samples of our products. If they like our products, they will distribute them in their country. They will purchase drumstick seeds, essence, and dried leaf powder. We will hold further discussions with them after the water festival," said U Myint Ko, the chairman of the association.

"So far, samples of drumstick fruits have been sent to Taiwan, the US, China, and South Korea. Drumstick products became popular in both local and international markets beginning 2018. Therefore, we have sent samples abroad," he said.

"We are producing drumstick seeds and dried leaf powder. The drumstick seed powder is currently being sold for K60,000 per kilogram, whereas ten milligrams of drumstick seeds are valued at K5,000 in the local market. The association also plans to produce dried drumstick tea leaf and perfumes in the future," he added.

"We are trying to meet the quality standards so that we can export our products. Currently, we are selling our products for K60,000 per kilo. Most of the products are mostly being consumed by Europe and Africa. So, we can have a rightful place in the international market. There are no difficulties in planting drumsticks, but some local farmers do not want to cultivate them. So, we are encouraging local farmers to grow them on a large scale," said U Myint Ko.

In the local market, drumstick powder is being used as a medication for hypertension, stroke, high blood cholesterol, and diabetes.

"Local growers buy drumstick seeds from India and Viet Nam. Drumstick can be grown in every region and in every season. After six months of cultivation, the drumsticks can be picked up and sold in the market," said U Myint Ko.—Aye Yamone ■ *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Thingyan festival: Water guns from Thailand, China selling well in Myeik

WITH the Myanmar traditional water festival approaching, water guns and shooters from Thailand and China are selling well daily in Myeik Township of Taninthayi Region, said a seller near the Myeik clock tower.

Sales of water guns and shooters have picked up since the third week of March. The prices of water guns have declined this year compared to last year. Most of the water guns enter Myanmar via Thailand and China. Although many kinds of water guns have entered the market, no new designs can be found in the market yet.

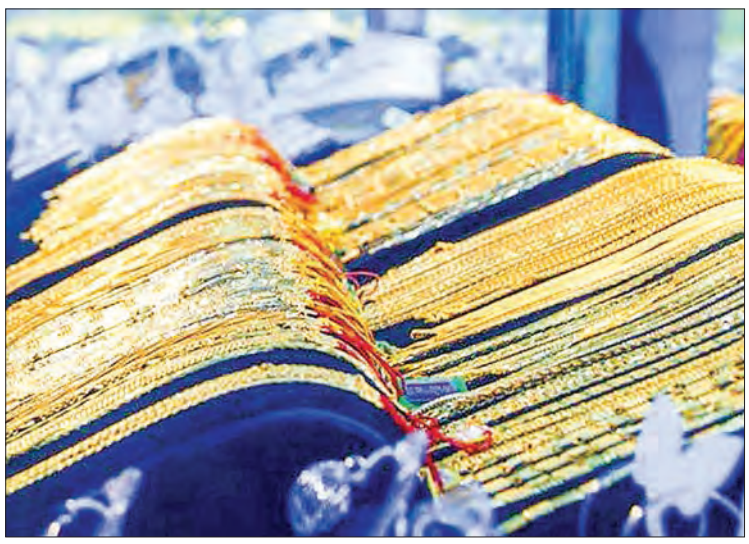
"Most buyers prefer products from Thailand. But the majority of buyers choose the Chinese-made ones because the Thailand products are more expensive. Children like to play with water guns with backpacks. There is an abundant supply of water guns at shops this year compared with last year. But no new creative designs are seen. The festive season toys are selling well as the festival is drawing nearer," said Daw Tin Sein, the owner of Sein Gabar store near the Myeik clock tower.

The price of water guns is ranging between K3,500 and K10,000 per gun, while masks are being sold for K100-1,000. Water shooters with backpack are being sold for K3,500-4,000, whereas Thingyan flower garlands are being sold for K500. Gumkino flower (Padauk) is being sold for K1,000-1,800.—Myint Oo (Myeik) ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Domestic gold prices likely to remain stable, say traders

By Nyein Nyein



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

GOLD prices have stabilized in the domestic market, with one tical of gold (one tical equal to 16.329 gm) currently being sold for about K1.04 million, said U Ohn Myaing, General Secretary, Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

"For the time being, the market is seeing regular gold trading. Domestic gold prices are likely to remain stable in the market as global gold rates and dollar exchange rates have remained unchanged," he added.

"Currently, the gold market is witnessing regular buying and selling.

Therefore, prices are expected to remain steady because of stability in world gold prices and the dollar exchange rate. The current prices are fair for both buyers and sellers," said U Ohn Myaing.

"Local gold prices track global gold rates. Gold prices in the global market exceeded US$1,300 per ounce in the final week of last month.

The prices have decreased to $1,288 per ounce," said gold traders.

U Ohn Myaing said there is little difference between domestic and global gold prices.

"Currently, domestic gold prices have reached K1.04 million per tical, while global gold prices are approximately K1.038 million per tical.Domestic gold prices have decreased due to decline in gold prices in the global market," he said.

"In addition, gold prices are likely to see a downward trend if local demand declines," said U Myo Myint, the chair of the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

According to traders, domestic gold prices stood at K1.05 million per tical between 17 and 29 January, K1.06 million between 30 January and 7 February, and K1.07 million from 8-18 February. They reached a record high of K1.08 million per tical between 19 and 21 February. The market then saw a gradual decline in prices, with gold touching K1.04 million.

Gold prices stood at K1.043 million per tical on 1 January in the domestic market. They reached K1.061 million on 31 January.

The prices rose to K1.087 million on 20 February from K1.058 million on 2 February.

Local gold prices reached K1.069 million on 21 March and then decreased to K1.048 million by the end of March. ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Rice price slides as demand shrinks

By Nyein Nyein

THE price of broken rice is currently on the decline as demand from domestic as well as external markets has fallen off, according to the Wadan rice depot.

"Brewing businesses purchase broken rice. It is also demanded by exporters. But, purchases have come to a halt for now, and the price of broken rice has plunged in recent days, decreasing by K400-500 per bag. With the drop in price, rice milling businesses are not doing well," said U Zaw Khaing, joint secretary, Wadan rice depot.

Myanmar broken rice (B1/2) is currently priced at K16,300-16,500 per bag, while extra well-mixed (EWM) broken rice is being sold for K17,000 per bag. The prices are down K1,000 compared with last month.

"The price of EWM broken rice has decreased from K18,000 to 17,000 per bag, while the rate of B 1/2 has slipped from K17,300 to K16,300. The price gap is around K1,000 per bag," said U Zaw Khaing.

Myanmar's broken rice exports to China have been halted on account of China's crackdown on entry of illegal goods, said U Aung Than Oo, the chair of the Myanmar Rice Federation.

"The price of broken rice is on the lower side. It cannot be exported to the Chinese market. The governments of China and Myanmar are still working on a Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Protocol for broken rice. Once the SPS agreement is reached, the broken rice market will stabilize," said U Aung Than Oo.

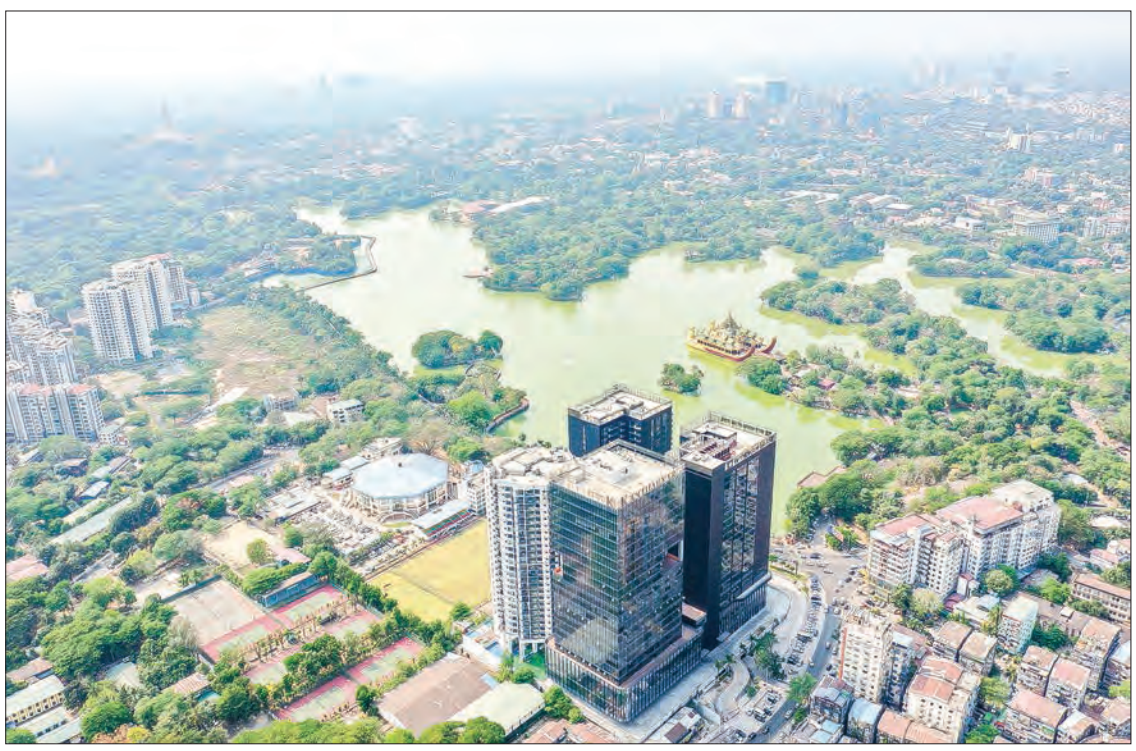
"A delegation led by Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win, which included members of the Republic f of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), attended the 2nd China-Myanmar Economic Corridor Forum held in the Yunnan Province of China in February. The members of the delegation met with their counterparts in Yunnan and discussed increasing the quota limit by up to 400,000 tons. China had granted Myanmar a rice export quota of 100,000 tons in 2016," according to an MRF press release issued on 25 February.

Myanmar's broken rice is shipped to 25 countries. Between 1 April, 2018 and 1 March, 2019, over 393,790 metric tons of broken rice, worth US$114.69 million, were sent to external markets, according to an announcement of the MRF. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

AMCD launches sale of Kanthayar condominiums in Yangon

By Aye Yamone



A photo shows an aerial view of Yangon City with Kanthayar condominiums and high-rise buildings in Yangon.

THE Asia Myanmar Consortium Development has launched the sale of condominiums from the Kanthayar project, which was successfully implemented with an investment of US$25 million, according to the AMCD.

The sale is currently on at the office lobby of the Kanthayar Residence, located on the corner of U Aung Myat Street and Kanyeiktha Street in Mingalataungnyunt Township, downtown Yangon. The sale was launched on 5 April and will continue till 7 April. The Yoma Bank is offering a 25-year loan to condominium buyers.

U Kyaw Khine, the chair of the AMCD, said buyers will get ownership of the apartments in keeping with the Condominium Law. "This was not a build-operate-transfer (B.O.T) project. This was a joint project with the Yangon City Development Committee. Hence, condominium owners will have rights provided by the law, including the right to mortgage their apartment with the bank," he said.

Initiated in 2015, the Kanthayar project is now complete. The residential tower has 132 units, of which 100 units have already been sold. The current sale has been organized for the remaining 32 condominium units. The units are priced at K150,000-K200,000 per square feet.

U Nay Min Thu, the managing director of iMyanmarHouse.com, said only condominium apartments from the Kanthayar residential tower near Kandawgyi Lake have been put up for sale.

"Yoma Bank's home loan services are available for buyers to purchase the condominiums on a 25-year instalment plan. In addition, apartment owners may join Slade Property Services Co. Ltd. for rental services," he said.

The Kanthayar Center includes a residential tower, an office tower, service apartments, a five-star Wyndham hotel, a shopping center, and a JCGV cinema. ■ *(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)*

Working towards an efficient and affordable transportation modes

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Kerry Logistics and Resource Group Logistics won the tender for construction of dry ports with the BOT system and made their building work at Ywarthargyi on November 18, 2018 and the Myitnge dry port has been opened on Jan 23, 2019. There were increase in cargo rail coaches with an average of two journeys for Yangon-Mandalay marking up to 69 round trips to date with a total of 3017 containers with the weight of 53786 tons transported.



Myanmar gets to work restoring and renewing rail system.

Q: How are you working towards safety in the road transportation sector?

A: We have registration for cars, licenses for rental cars and drivers and other rules and regualtions for road transportation safety. We registered a total of 7.2 million cars in December 2018 compared to 5.5 million in March 2016. The accident rate has also gone down 9.26 per cent per 10,000 cars in 2013 to 7.18 per cent per 10,000 cars.

Q: How did the reform processes in Aviation Sector?

A: We are working towards bringing the airlines up to the International Air Transport Association (IATA) standard along with the international rules and regulation regarding safety, security and environmental management. There are plans to expand the runaway and rebuild the infrastructure on popular airports like Myitkyina, PutaO, Lashio, Heho, Minesat, Sittwe, Thandwe, Mann Aung, Loikaw and Nyaung U airports. For Heho, Mawlamyine and Kawthaung airports, we called for tenders and picked on *Public-Private Partnerships* (*PPP*) program while we have a tender out for Muse airport.

For remote areas such as PaLan, Chin State an airport is in development with the national budget to upgrade the ATR-72 aircraft capability airport to landing airplanes by 2020-2021. There are plans to build a Hantahwaddy international airport with the help of Japanese loans in negotiation. There were 9.9 million travelers into Myanmar in 2018, increase from 10.12 million in 2017 and 9.26 in 2016.

Q: Are there any difficulties running the Myanmar National Airways?

A: The airline was transformed on 2013-2014 financial year with domestic flights that expanded to international flights. With the short amount of time that was make possible, it was a success. The airline currently runs to 28 domestic cities and international flights to Singapore, Thailand, Hong Kong, China and India regularly. Yangon -Pathein chartered flights are available starting December 25, 2018. There are a total of 16 aircrafts in 2016: 3 Boeing, 2 Embraer, 5 ATR, 4 Caravan, 2 Craft but now the airline has expanded to have a total of 17 aircrafts: 4 Boeing, 2 Embraer, 9 ATR and 2 Caravan. We started doing large scale renovations on the ATR starting April to get the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) certificate in hope to save the country some losses regarding operation costs. There were a total of 1,709,715 passengers during 2018 , an increase from 1459,882 in 2017 and 1041981 in 2016.

Q: Did you encounter any natural obstacles while operating the water transport?

A: There is a total of 6737 km of waterway in Myanmar with the three major rivers (Ayeyarwaddy, Chindwin and Thanlwin) combined. The rivers are unpredictable with their levels, sedimentary deposits, flood, eroation and change in directon of flow of water. We have prioritized making sure the water flow is good in 40 areas in the 2018-2019 year along with prevention measures against landslides in 683 especially in the NamYamand Moko streams, Thaung Yin and Shwe Li River, Maesaingmae Hawt and Nam Want. Landslide prevention walls of 64137 feet were added from 39000 the previous year.

Q: How about floods?

A: We are forming committees in States and Regions to deal with floods, especially for the coming three years. There is a total of 115 work plans and 11 work plans are to be done completely in 2018-2019. Projects are being implemented as well in the Mandalay -Myitkyina Railway, Yangon-Mawlamyine railway and highway, Yangon-Mandalay railway and highway and Hpa-An for flood protection.

All round development in Ayeyarwaddy Delta

With the help of 100 million US dollars from the World Bank, the government is working towards developing the delta region all around. This includes the Tuntay Canal Development Project with 61.3 million USD loaned from the Republic of Korea and 7.9 million Kyat budget from the National budget. These projects to dig trenches, maintain coasts and prevent floods in the Tuntay area will be carried out from 2018-2023.

Rakhine Waterway development

The Japanese government has contributed three Kisapanadi vessels from March 2017 to March 2019 and by using them there are more services in the waterways of Rakhine.

Q: What are some significant changes you have notice at the ports?

A: We have started rebuilding the Mandalay jetty with JICA's fund of 55 million USD starting November 2018 with plans to build a 180 m bridge, 29540 sq meters for container yard and 2 drawbridges of 236 m and 183 meters. Japan will be calling for tenders starting April with plans to start construction in 2019 and completed 2020.

Upgrading of Yangon Port

There is a total of 9 ports along the coastline spanning over 1385 miles with Yangon s Erving as a main port processing 90% of shipment with a total of 41 bridges for vessels of international standards to dock. There are plans to build more ports/bridges/docks such as Green Asia 200 m terminal, Elite Petro Chemical terminal Wilmar International docking bridge and International Bulk Terminal Thilawa . Puma Energy Asia Sun bridge is 135 m long and two others built recently with Japan's ODA loan is 400 m long each. Kyimyindaing International Port Terminal is 80 m. During the administration, there were a total of 3035123 containers with 76323581 tons handled.

There are also plans to improve on our safety procedures regarding water vessels such as moving the Pilot Station during bad weather, building a state of the art 3 story building to move the marine traffic control by March 2019. We are using the Japanese grant of 14.27 million USD to digitalize Port-EDI between 2016-18.

Q: Regarding communication, can you explain to us about the improvements in mobile connectivity.

A: The new internet era in Myanmar began in 2014. Thanks to the investments flooding in the industry, we have about 99 percent mobile penetration in the market with 53.74 million people estimated with access to a mobile phone. The internet penetration has jumped from 55.41% to 82.56% with coverage for up to 92% of the people. There is a total of 10,000 telecom towers in 2016 with the number approaching 21,000 in 2019. Fibers cables run up to 49452km from the 68130 km planned. The bandwidth has also increased to 613.30 Gbps.

Q: What about efforts towards an e-Government?

A: A master plan for e-governance has been drawn on 2016 with a committee formed on Jan 2018 to carry out the plan. Myanmar National Portal was also launched September 2018.

A system in Myanmar

The National Standard Council is trying to implement a mandate released on February 2019 on installing the International Standard Organisation (ISO) 10646 approved Unicode font for Burmese with plans to implement it national wide starting April 2019 for telecom operators and government offices.

The servers for respective departments have been built in a Tier-2 Data center in Naypyi taw with plans to build a Tier-3 e-Government Integrated Data Center (eGIDC) worth 93 millino USD with a loan from Korea starting December 2018. The Loan Pledge Acceptance Letter was sent to Korea and the eGIDC is expected go e completed in 2022.

Q: What about the Satellite system?

A: We are still working on launching one. We have rented the MyanmarSat 1 Condosat satellite from Intelsat Satellite Operator with 862 Mhertz on a Indefeasible Right of Use which is going to end in 15 years starting this September. Currently, Myanmar Aviation University iw working with Japan's Hokkaido University to launch and Earth Observation Satellite (EOS) starting 2019-2020.

Q: Can you explain to us about people oriented postal service?

A: We are working to includes all domestic and international postal services such as mail and package delivery with tracking, collecting fees for mobile apps, car fares, online shopping businesses, mobile money and bank representatives.

The Mobile Post Office has also been set up at crowded areas in 2016 such as in Yangon, Mandalay and Naypitaw. The postal services of Myanmar have increased its ranking from 126 in 2018 to 91 in the Universal Postal Union.

Q: What about the third year for the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology?

A: We have real time weather stations installed at Kyauk Phyu, Yangon and Mandalay. We are also working towards installing a station that can detect for storms for the whole country every 15 minutes in Dawei in collaboration with Japan. Within the 3 years of the administration, 2 weather stations and 5 seismic stations were added to the department.

Thanks.

Translated by Myat Thu

Jute factories, workers settle dispute over job loss



PHOTO: KO HTET

A labor dispute that occurred following the closure of two factories producing gunny bags and jute has been resolved through negotiation, according to representatives of the factories.

Representatives of the workers and their employers held a press conference on Thursday in Yangon, after the two sides signed an agreement, in the presence of the Hline Township Arbitration Committee.

The dispute was settled and the agreement was signed in accordance with the labor law, according to the press conference.

On 9 January, workers had gathered outside the factories to protest against their sacking.

The owners of the factories had held a press conference the day after the protest and explained the reason why the factories were closed. — GNLM

Meeting on rating disability scale, PLWD registration held in Nay Pyi Taw



A meeting on rating disaity scale and registration of people with disabilities was held at M Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung, the Vice Chairman (1) of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Committee, said the meeting on rating disability scale and registration of people with disabilities was held regularly.

In the meeting, locations and plans for pilot projects on rating disability scale and registration of people with disabilities will be discussed, along with the confirmation of the ways on rating disability scale and registration of people with disabilities, and duties and responsibilities on rating disability scale those are included at the law and rule and regulation, said the Deputy Minister U Soe Aung.

Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein then said the ministry is carrying out the National Health Plan by which all people to get equal health care access, especially for the needs of people with disabilities. The ministry is also trying with the release of needed instruction to prevent occurring disabilities, provide education and cares for the disabled and rate disability scale in accordance with the international standards.

The process of rating disability scale and registration of people with disabilities play an important role for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and will be successful if not only health and social organizations but also other departments and people are working together.

Thereafter, on behalf of UNICEF representative to Myanmar, Ms. June Kunugi,Mr. Samman J. Thapa, Chief, Social Policy and Child Right Monitoring delivered a greeting remark.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Channel K, CB-KMA Mya Kyun Thar Thingyan to be launched on 12th April



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

ON Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road, in the compounds of Mya Kyun Thar, A Grand Launch of a new linear TV channel, Channel K, will be held in the evening of 12th April in the compounds of Mya Kyun Thar on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road.

To celebrate the Thingyan Festival, CB Bank together with KMA Group of Companies will be hosting the Mya Kyun Thar Thingyan festival from 13th to 16th April 2019.

The main attraction of Mya Kyun Thar Thingyan Festival is the walking Thingyan which has gained much popularity in recent years.

Renowned celebrities and artists will entertain the visitors with songs and performances.

There will also be children-friendly fun games and activities throughout the event. The Festival is a "One-Stop" Thingyan experience where the public can find everything, they need in one location during Thingyan.— GNLM

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V AN NING

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AN NING VOY. NO. (1902) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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 ELDER TRIUMPHANT SHIPPING LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (1907 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (1907 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY. NO. (005W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY. NO. (005W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.I.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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (119 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (119 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-04-2019 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185



In her letter, May said she wanted to make sure that Britain left the bloc after 46 years in an orderly manner. **PHOTO: AFP**

British PM asks EU to delay Brexit until 30 June

LONDON (United Kingdom)— Prime Minister Theresa May asked the European Union on Friday to delay Britain's departure from the bloc until 30 June, with the extension ending earlier if parliament approves her Brexit deal.

"The United Kingdom proposes that (the extension) should end on 30 June 2019. If the parties are able to ratify before this date, the government proposes that the period should be terminated earlier," May wrote in a letter to EU Council president Donald Tusk. Downing Street released May's letter moments after a senior EU official told AFP that Tusk was proposing to postpone Brexit day by up to a year, also pending parliament's approval of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement.

Prime Minister Theresa May asked the European Union on Friday to delay Britain's departure from the bloc until 30 June, with the extension ending earlier if parliament approves her Brexit deal. May also told EU Council president Donald Tusk in a formal letter that Britain would start preparing for its participation in European Parliament elections in case it is still a member of the bloc when they begin on 23 May.

"The United Kingdom proposes that (the extension) should end on 30 June 2019. If the parties are able to ratify before this date, the government proposes that the period should be terminated earlier," May's letter said.

Downing Street released May's request moments after a senior EU official told AFP that Tusk was proposing to postpone Brexit day by up to a year, also pending parliament's approval of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement. The current deadline is 12 April, which has already been pushed back once from 29 March because of the UK parliament's failure on three occasions to back the deal May signed with the other 27 EU leaders in December.

In her letter, May said she wanted to make sure that Britain left the bloc after 46 years in an orderly manner, with an agreement that could help unwind intricate political, security, diplomatic and economic ties. "The government's policy has always been and remains to leave the European Union in an orderly way, and without undue delay," May wrote. "The government agrees that leaving with a deal is the best outcome," she said.

European elections

May is racing against the clock in a desperate bid to get her deal approved in time for an EU leaders' summit in Brussels on Wednesday, when a formal decision on any extension will be made. EU nations must give unanimous backing to any new deadline. Some, like French President Emmanuel Macron, have said they want to hear a clear reason from May as to why Brexit should be delayed yet again — a move that would add to uncertainties weighing on business across the bloc. May's team is currently holding negotiations with leaders from Britain's main opposition Labour Party in a bid to secure enough votes to push through her deal on a fourth attempt. But the talks so far have failed to clinch a breakthrough.

"I don't think we are quite at the point where the government can indicate where their concessionary strategy might apply," deputy Labour leader Tom Watson told BBC radio.—AFP ■

US revokes ICC prosecutor's visa over Afghan probe

THE HAGUE (Netherlands) — The United States has revoked the visa for the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, her office said Friday, over a possible investigation of American soldiers' actions in Afghanistan.

Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda would continue to pursue her duties for the Hague-based court "without fear or favour" despite the ban, her office said in a statement.

The move against Bensouda, a Gambian national, comes weeks after US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced restrictions on ICC staff who probe US or allied personnel.

"What we can confirm is that the US authorities have revoked the prosecutor's visa for entry into the US," the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC said in a statement.

Bensouda's office said that under the Rome statute governing the ICC — which Washington has declined to join since it was set up in 2002 — she had an "independent and impartial mandate".

"The prosecutor and her office will continue to undertake that statutory duty with utmost commitment and professionalism, without fear or favour," it added.

The US decision was not expected to impact Bensouda if she is travelling to the United Nations in New York where she gives regular briefings to the UN Security Council on investigation, it said.

There was no immediate comment on Bensouda's visa ban from Washington.

Bensouda asked ICC judges in November 2017 for authorisation to open an investigation into alleged war crimes in Afghanistan by the Taliban, Afghan government forces and international forces including US troops.

The court has not yet decided whether to launch a full-blown probe.

However, the administration of US President Donald Trump has struck preemptively, with Pompeo warning on 15 March that the ICC was "attacking America's rule of law".

Pompeo said he was "announcing a policy of US visa restrictions on those individuals directly responsible for any ICC investigation of US personnel."

"If you're responsible for the proposed ICC investigation of US personnel in connection with the situation in Afghanistan you should not assume that you still have, or will get, a visa or that you will permitted to enter the United States," Pompeo added.—AFP ■



International Criminal Court chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda (C) would continue to pursue her duties "without fear or favour" despite the ban, her office said. **PHOTO: AFP**

Turkey opposition says ahead in Istanbul election recount

ANKARA (Turkey) — Turkey's opposition candidate for Istanbul mayor Ekrem Imamoglu said Friday he was still winning by nearly 19,000 votes after the ruling AKP demanded a recount following Sunday's tight election race.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his AKP suffered an upset in local elections when results showed the party lost the capital Ankara and was narrowly defeated in Istanbul, the country's largest city and economic hub. The two rival Istanbul candidates declared victory soon after the vote when initial results showed them in a dead heat. AKP appealed after electoral authorities later said Imamoglu had taken a very slim lead.

In an interview with Fox Haber broadcaster, CHP opposition candidate Imamoglu said the difference between himself and the AKP's candidate, Binali Yildirim, was now 18,742 votes.

He said nearly 120,000 previously annulled votes had been recounted in 17 Istanbul districts, with 2,184 extra votes being allowed for Yildirim, and 785 for himself. Imamoglu estimated the final difference could finish between 18,000 to 20,000 once counting ended, probably by Sunday. Nearly 200,000 more votes still need to be recounted, he said.

"It should be over by the end of the weekend," he told the station. The AKP has said the recount will show its candidate won.

Election authorities provide ongoing recount details to observers from both parties to ensure transparency. Political parties have until 10 April to challenge the results.—AFP ■

Forever young: study uncovers protein that keeps skin youthful



The new research may hold the key to eventually combating the ageing process. **PHOTO: AFP**

TOKYO (Japan) — Beauty might only be skin deep, but for those wondering how to keep that skin young, scientists may have found an answer in the form of a protein that encourages cell competition.

The prosaically named COL17A1 might not sound like a fountain of youth, but the new study suggests it does the heavy lifting when it comes to keeping skin intact and unimpaired.

The protein works by encouraging cell competition, a key process to maintain tissue fitness. That effectively "drives out" weaker cells while encouraging replication of stronger ones.

"Damaged or stressed stem cells can be selectively eliminated by intact stem cells every day in our skin," said Emi Nishimura, a professor at the Tokyo Medical and Dental University's Stem Cell Biology department, who led the research.

But ageing results in a depletion of COL17A1, as do familiar enemies of youthful skin, like UV radiation and other stress factors.

And when that happens, weaker cells replicate, leaving the skin thinner, more prone to damage and slower to heal.

The research published Thursday in the journal Nature is based on investigations using mice tails, which share many of the same characteristics as human skin. After confirming the importance of COL17A1, the team decided to investigate whether they could stimulate the protein once it was depleted — effectively looking for compounds that could kickstart the anti-ageing process in skin. They isolated two chemical compounds — Y27632 and apocynin — and tested both on skin cells, with positive results.

"Application of these drugs to full-thickness skin wounds significantly promoted wound repair," the study said.

The two compounds point to ways of "facilitating skin regeneration and reducing skin ageing," the study added.

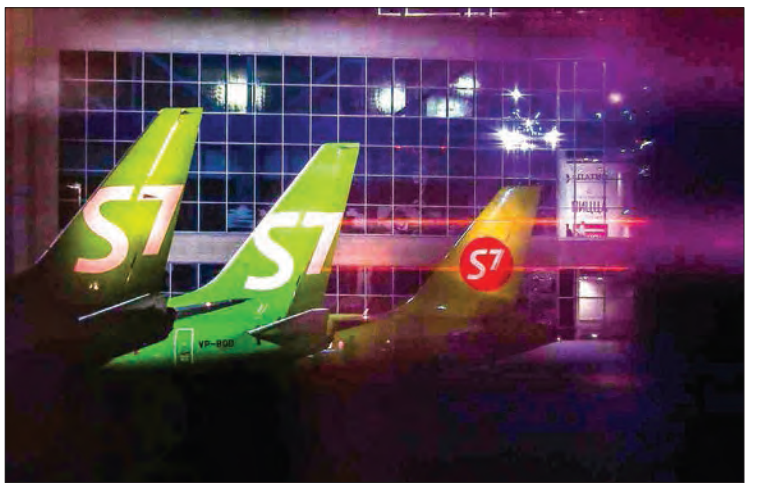
In a review of the study commissioned by Nature, two professors from the University of Colorado said cell competition had previously only been studied extensively in fruit flies.

The research "provides evidence that healthy cells in mammals can also efficiently repopulate adult tissues, replacing unfit or damaged cells," wrote professors Ganna Bilousova and James DeGregori.

And they said the research offered "proof-of-principle" that the two chemical compounds could combat ageing.

"Future studies are needed to determine the mechanisms of cell competition in other tissues, and to identify compounds capable of reversing ageing in other organs," they said.

Nishimura told AFP that the work could eventually lead to products like creams or tablets that could stop skin deterioration and promote repair. "We are going to collaborate with pharmaceutical or cosmetic companies for the clinical use of the chemicals," she said.— AFP ■



S7 Group is the owner of the assets of the Sea Launch rocket and space compound. **PHOTO: TASS**

Roscosmos vows support to S7 Group in Sea Launch project

MOSCOW — Russian space corporation Roscosmos is set to help S7 Group in the development of the Sea Launch project after the tragic death of the company's co-owner Natalya Fileva, Roscosmos Director General Dmitry Rogozin told the Komsomolskaya Pravda radio station.

"I hope that the [Sea Launch] project would live on. Apparently, Roscosmos will have to be not just a partner, but a helping hand," he said. "I will do so once all those mourning ceremonies are over.

We will meet with [S7 Group Director General] Vladislav Filev, and I will offer him all kind of cooperation on our behalf."

Rogozin said he "took to heart" the death of Fileva, who was travelling on board a private plane that crashed in Germany on Sunday evening,

"She was a tough negotiator. She came and demanded this or that thing from Roscosmos. And the project kept moving forward," the Roscosmos chief said.

S7 Group is the owner of the assets of the Sea Launch rocket and space compound where 36 launches (including 32 successful) were carried out by the end of May 2014.

The sea compound comprises the Odyssey floating launch platform and the assembly and command vessel where rockets are assembled and control of pre-launch operations is exercised.

The vessels are based in the state of California, the United States.—Tass ■

Boeing delays capsule's first space test flight

WASHINGTON (United States) — Boeing has delayed from April to August its test flight for its Starliner capsule, intended to carry American astronauts to the International Space Station.

The US space agency NASA blamed the delay on "limited launch opportunities" in April and May from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

It noted that the August launch target is a "working date and to be confirmed."

The Starliner spacecraft, which is in the final phase of ground tests, is set to be launched into space atop a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket.

If the unmanned test goes well, the capsule's next flight will have three astronauts aboard -- NASA's Nicole Mann and Mike Fincke, along with Chris Ferguson of Boeing.

Ultimately, Starliner will be one of two American vehicles used to carry NASA astronauts to the ISS -- the other is SpaceX's Dragon capsule.

In March, SpaceX successfully completed a nearly week-long test mission in space. The Dragon capsule successfully docked at the ISS before returning to Earth. The first manned mission aboard the Dragon spacecraft is set to take place by the end of the year, with the date due to be confirmed "in the next couple weeks," according to NASA.— AFP ■



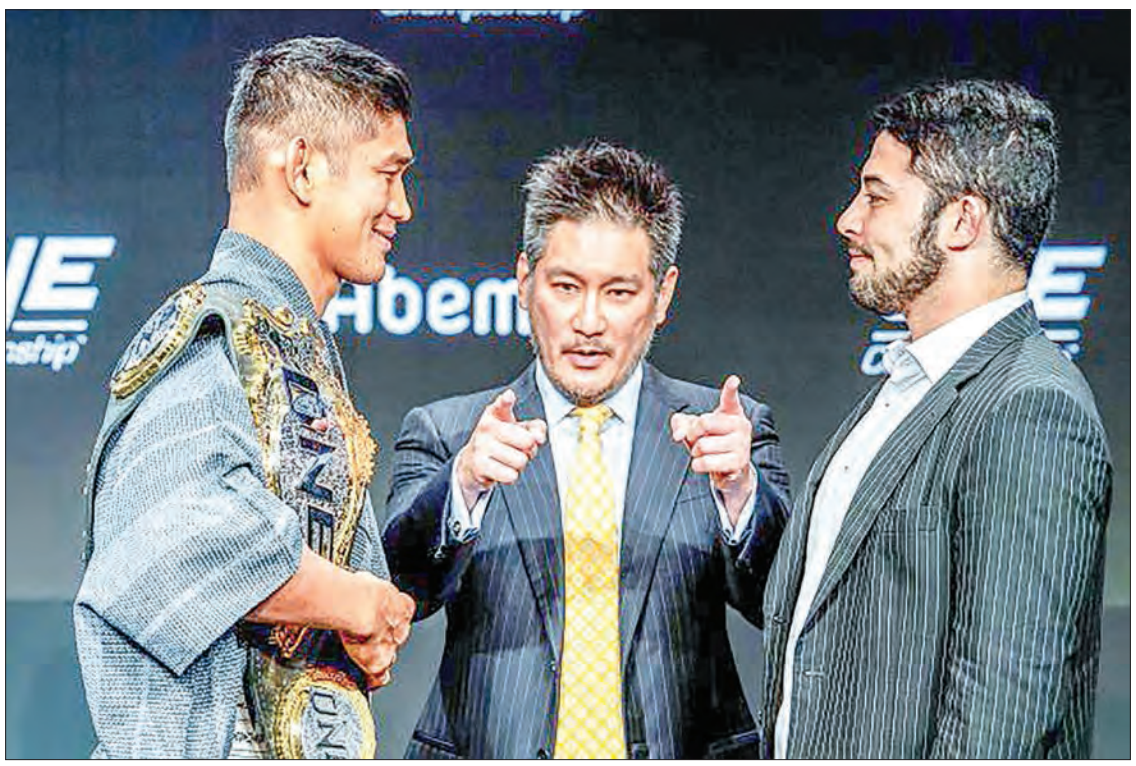
Boeing's Starliner spacecraft, which is in the final phase of ground tests, is set to be launched atop a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket. **PHOTO: AFP**

Aung La N Sang wishes Ken Hasegawa speedy recovery

ONE Middleweight and Light Heavyweight World Champion Aung La N Sang took to the social media to wish Japan's Ken Hasegawa a speedy recovery. Hasegawa was injured during their ONE championship bout in Tokyo, Japan, on Sunday and had to undergo a surgery.

Aung La N Sang defeated Ken Hasegawa in the bout titled 'A New Era', retaining his ONE Middleweight World Championship title after delivering a technical knockout in the second round. Afterwards, Ken Hasegawa had said his ribs were broken during the match, and blood had accumulated in his lungs.

Aung La N Sang took to social media to send a message to his friend-cum-competitor, saying he felt sad for him.



Aung La N Sang (Left) smiles at Ken Hasegawa during a press conference before their ONE Championship event titled 'A New Era' in Tokyo, Japan. **PHOTO : SUPPLIED**

"Wishing Ken Hasegawa a speedy recovery. I know you will come back stronger than ever and thank you for making me a better martial artist and competitor. I respect your toughness and samurai spirit. I am honored to share the cage with you. That being said, we still owe each other a sushi dinner. See you soon, my friend, but not in the cage," Aung La stated on his social media page.

Following the bout on Sunday, Hasegawa had said he suffered a big injury as one of his ribs "stabbed" him in the lung.

"Sorry to my supporters. I lost it. My ribs were broken during the game, and I've got about 2 liters of blood in my lungs, so I'm going to have an emergency surgery," he stated on his social media page.

"I'm sorry, everyone who supported me!" Hasegawa stated on Twitter. "It is the result of working out with all my might from preparation. Thank you for your support. I will be hospitalized again, I got blood in my lungs. I will be hospitalized and treated," he stated.

The bout on Sunday was the second face-off between the two fighters. In June last year, Aung La N Sang had successfully defended his title during their bout in Yangon with a fifth-round TKO delivered at 23 minutes.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Asian Lions ready to battle for Hua Shan Cup in China

THE Myanmar U-15 boys' football team, also known as young Asian Lions, are getting ready for the Hua Shan Cup International Football Tournament 2019, scheduled to take place in Weinan, China.

The Myanmar Football Federation has arranged for the 15-year-old Myanmar footballers to take part in the U-16 tournament to help them gain experience, said a source with the federation.

Team Myanmar will play their opening match against China today at 6:05 p.m. Myanmar Standard Time.

Team Myanmar arrived in Weinan City, China, for the tourney on 3 April, and started training on 4 April.



The Myanmar U-15 team train in Weinan, China, ahead of the Hua Shan Cup International Football Tournament 2019. **PHOTO : MFF**

Four teams are participating in the tournament — China, Myanmar, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan. In their second match at the tourney, Myanmar will take on Tajikistan on 8 April at 2:30 p.m. Myanmar Standard Time. They will face Kyrgyzstan on 10 April at 2:30 p.m. Myanmar Standard Time. Team Myanmar is headed by Koga Takuma, and Tin Maung Lwin is acting as assistant coach, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Woods 'on track' for pursuit of fifth Green Jacket

AUGUSTA (United States) — Tiger Woods heads back to Augusta National to resume his pursuit of a 15th major championship with a firmer grip on the realities of his game and fitness than he could claim in his long-awaited Masters return last year.

"This year, to be able to ramp up a schedule and be able to know what I can and can't do going into the event, is a lot more comforting than this has been in the previous years because it's been kind of an unknown going into that event," said Woods, who played 18 tournaments in his 2018 comeback season along with the Ryder Cup and has teed it up in five events this season.

"I'm right there where I need to be," Woods said in March. "I've gotten a little bit more consistent with my play, and I think that everything is headed on track toward April."

For Woods, April is virtually synonymous with the Masters. He won the first of his four Green Jackets there in historic style in 1997, completed the "Tiger Slam" there in 2001, successfully defended the crown in 2002 and won in dramatic style in 2005 with a chip-in to force a playoff in which he beat Chris DiMarco.—AFP ■

Marathon man Lonyangata eyes Paris record from Rift Valley hideout

ITEN(Kenya) — As dawn breaks high in Kenya's Rift Valley, car headlights pick out groups of elite athletes, mere silhouettes on roadsides as their grinding daily training routine gets under way. Coach Lawrence Saina, himself a sub-2hr 10min marathon runner in his day, oversees nine of his Kenyan proteges, sending them out on a 40-kilometre (25-mile) run.

Hitting the tarmac under a wan rising sun, the athletes take advantage of the cardiovascular benefits from training at an altitude of 2,500 metres (8,200ft), which boosts oxygen-carrying red blood cells. "Today, it won't be quick," said Saina, his charges still clocking mind-boggling speeds of 3min 42sec per kilometre, far removed from the average runner. These are, after all, elite athletes: among the nine breaking sweat in the cool morning are Saina's younger brother Emmanuel, fourth in the Dubai marathon in January in 2hr 05min 02sec. He is due to race over the 42km distance in Rotterdam on Sunday.—AFP ■