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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VI, No. 35, 4th Waning of Kason 1381 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Wednesday, 22 May 2019

President meets UEC for free and fair 2020 General Elections, gives instructions on work processes



President U Win Myint poses for a photo together with Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein and UEC members yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRESIDENT U Win Myint met with Union Election Commission (UEC) Chairman U Hla Thein and UEC members at the Presidential Palace yesterday morning for a free and fair 2020 General Elections (2020 GE). First UEC Chairman U Hla Thein explained about preparation of voters lists; courses conducted for all levels of election sub-commissions; and work processes for pre-election, election and post-election periods.

In response to the explanations the President gave guidance and instructions regarding forming all levels of elections

sub-commissions systematically, proper assignment of polling station head and members, full security of polling stations, demarcation of constituencies, ensuring that constituents have full voting rights and to make sure they do not lose their voting rights, proper and exact preparation of voters lists and conducting proper advance voting. The President also instructed to prevent election crimes and election irregularities, conduct vote counting and election results announcement in accordance with the election law and rules.

SEE PAGE-3

State Counsellor observes district level discussion/training course on new curriculum



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi inspects District level Grade 6 training course on new curriculum in Nay Pyi Taw Council yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi went to Nay Pyi Taw Council Pyinmana Town No. 2 Basic Education High School yesterday morning to observe the Nay Pyi Taw Dekkhinathiri District Basic Education Middle School Grade 6 level discussion/training course on new curriculum attended by teachers.

On arrival at the No. 2 Basic Education High School, the State Counsellor was welcomed by Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and officials.

The State Counsellor first observed the old and new curriculum teaching aid

materials and school books displayed inside a school room.

The State Counsellor then observed subject wise courses conducted for Grade 6 new curriculum teachers. Next, the State Counsellor observed science and physical education teachers doing physical exercises. The State Counsellor said teachers were reported to have done well in the courses and hope that they would do well in teaching as well. Teachers were to think of how to keep the students happy in the classes while they learnt their lessons.

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Meeting held on mechanism for resolving complaints on forced labour

IN a step towards the elimination of forced labour, the Labour Affairs Cooperation Work Committee's High Level Working Group held a coordination meeting yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw to set

down processes for addressing complaints before the National Complaints Mechanism.

Speaking at the coordination meeting, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration, and

Population U Thein Swe said Myanmar accepted the Forced Labour Convention 29 and has been implementing it.

"However, the Director-General of the International

Labour Organization presented a report on Myanmar at the 335th Session of the ILO's Governing Body, mentioning that forced labour still exists in conflict-ridden areas in Myanmar," he said.

Therefore, it is important for all departments concerned to cooperate in establishing the National Complaints Mechanism, said the Union Minister.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw to discuss signing International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

By Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

THE eighth-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 12th regular session was held at Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning where a decision was made to discuss signing of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Also at the meeting asterisk marked questions were raised and answered, a report read, a bill approved and a motion discussed and approved.

Asterisk marked questions

In the asterisk marked question session Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied to a question raised by U Tun Wei of Phaungpyin constituency on granting and revoking of land rights for vacant, fallow and virgin lands. The Deputy Minister said this was done according to Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands Management Law and in coordination with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw also answered to questions raised by U Kyaw Gyi @ U Ohn Khin of Minhla constituency on pumping water from pumping project and U Lwin Ko



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat enters the Chamber at the 8th day of the second Pyithu Hluttaw's 12th regular meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Latt of Thanlyin constituency on construction of a convocation hall in Cooperative University (Thanlyin).

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win on the other hand responded to a question raised by Daw Khin San Hlaing of Pale constituency about projects in the Project Bank, coordinating with implementing organizations, implementation of strategic projects and setting of priorities. The

Deputy Minister explained that the projects were screened as a first step by assessing whether it was in accordance with Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan 2018-2030. This was the first stage Screening Tool used and the project priority and Source of Financing was used as a second stage Screening Tool. The projects were designated as Excellent, Good, Average and Deficient and further categorized as Strategic and Non-Strategic.

Work projects that were to be conducted depending upon fund and budget were coordinated with DACU (Development Assistance Coordination Unit) while public private partnerships work projects were coordinated with PPP Centre. Starting from fiscal year 2019-2020 union ministries were to put their strategic work projects in the Project Bank and strategic work projects to be conducted with State and Region budget were also to be

put in the Project Bank. Project plans, coordination, setting priorities, coordinating with relevant organizations were conducted by Ministry of Planning and Finance, said the Deputy Minister.

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win also responded to questions raised by Daw Cho Cho Win of Mawlaik constituency on public servant pension, U Moe Shwe of Putao constituency on a plan to construct a new district and township planning offices and U Nay Lin Aung of Mindat constituency on the basis for allocation of fund to townships in Chin State.

Assessment report after enacting 2011 Microfinance Law

After the asterisk marked question session Pyithu Hluttaw Banking and Financial Development Committee's Assessment Report after enacting 2011 Microfinance Law was read by committee secretary U Tin Tun Naing.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the report to register their names.

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Amyotha Hluttaw

MPF raising Gender Sensitivity Awareness and preparing for UPR third cycle

By Aung Ye Thwin,
Lu Maw (MNA)

DURING the asterisk marked question and answer session of the eighth-day meeting of Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 12th regular session held yesterday morning. Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu said Myanmar Police Force (MPF) was raising Gender Sensitivity Awareness and was preparing for Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism for third cycle.

Asterisk marked question and answer session

At the meeting Naw Hla Hla Soe of Yangon Region constituency 10 raised a question on plan to raise Gender Sensitivity Awareness in Myanmar Police Force personnel. Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu replied that Gender



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. **PHOTO: MNA**

Sensitivity Awareness was raised in Myanmar Police Force personnel through training courses conducted in cooperation with UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime).

Dr. Khun Win Thaung of

Kachin State constituency 11 also raised a question on readiness to submit a report for UPR third cycle. Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu who was also the Secretary of the national level Committee on Im-

plementing Recommendations of UPR said great emphasis was placed toward including in the National Report progresses of human rights situation in Myanmar and to let the world know about it.

Questions raised by U Ko Ko Naing of Sagaing Region constituency 8 and U Htein Win of Ayeyawady Region constituency 4 were also answered by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu.

Questions raised by U Soe Thein of Kayah State constituency 9 on maintaining Ayeyawady River and U Khin Myo Win of Taninthayi Region constituency 12 on converting an old airfield into a recreation place for the public was answered by Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo.

Questions raised by U Zon Hle Htan of Chin State constituency 4, U Pyu Lwin of Magway

Region constituency 12, U Sai San Aung of Shan State constituency 12 and U Tin Aung Tun of Magway Region constituency 5 on teaching ethnic Chin language in Chin State and Sagaing Region schools, transfer of school teachers, upgrading of a school and plan to construct a new school building were answered by Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun.

Hluttaw discuss fourth bill amending the Union Judiciary Law

Afterwards, U Soe Thein @ U Maung Soe of Taninthayi Constituency 10 and U Tin Aung Tun of Magway Region constituency 5 discussed the fourth bill amending the Union Judiciary Law.

It was learnt that the ninth-day meeting of the Second Amotha Hluttaw's 12th regular session was scheduled to be held on 22 May. ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)



President U Win Myint hear report presented by UEC Chairman U Hla Thein about the process of a free and fair 2020 General Elections (2020 GE) at Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

President meets UEC for free and fair 2020 General Elections, gives instructions on work processes

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The meeting was attended by Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Min Thu, UEC Chairman U Hla Thein, UEC members U Aung Myint, U Soe Rae, U Tun Khin, U Hla Tint, U Myint Naing, U Than Htay, U Nyunt Sein, U Thet Tun, U Myint Aung, U Saw Daniel Kyi, U Aung Soe Win, U Than Aung, U Min Swe and U Swe Tint Lwin. — MNA (Translated by Zaw Min)

Meeting held on mechanism for resolving complaints on forced labour



Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe addresses the High Level Working Group-HLWG Committee's coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-1

At a High Level Working Group meeting, held on 4 March, the concerned government departments discussed the Action Plan, the National Complaints Mechanism, and processes for resolving complaints before the National Complaints Mechanism proposed by the ILO, and sent their remarks to the

working group. In accordance with the suggestions and remarks of the departments, the Labour Affairs Cooperation Work Committee drafted the National Complaints Mechanism, said the Union Minister.

Union Minister U Thein Swe urged the participants of the meeting to openly discuss the draft mechanism and to give suggestions to the committee.

Afterwards, Permanent Secretary U Myo Aung presented a report on remarks and action plans forwarded by the ministries, and processes for resolving complaints before the National Complaints Mechanism was established.

Members of the committee discussed the issues and approved the processes.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

UN High Commissioner for Refugees visits Maungtaw, Buthidaung Tsps

UN High Commissioner for Refugees, (UNHCR) Chief Mr. Filippo Grandi, and entourage toured around Ywar Ma Village and Ywar Ma Gone Nar Village in Buthidaung Township, yesterday morning.

He then asked the locals about their necessity and saw progress of drinking water reservoir renovation in Ywar Ma Gone Nar Village. Afterwards, he and the entourage went over to Yan Aung Myain Monastery to meet with IDPs. During the meeting, he said that he represents humanitarian work there

and that they are ready to help any place in need of help. Then he visited Phar Wut Chaung village in Maungtaw Township and interviewed some locals.

Afterwards, the High Commissioner and entourage met with Muslims in Pan Taw Pyin (middle) Village and inquired their needs. They also visited places where a school and salt water dyke are to be built. He, then, visited Pan Taw Pyin Village to see new housing donated by Yangon Region Government.—MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)



UN High Commissioner for Refugees Chief Mr. Filippo Grandi meets with local residents in Pan Taw Pyin Village in Maungtaw Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

Certificates conferred on winners of 71st Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination



Vice President U Myint Swe presents the Diga Nikaya Kovida title and certificate for winning Dwipitaka to Ashin Jotika Linkara in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Vice President U Myint Swe presents the Diga Nikaya Kovida title and certificate for winning Dwipitaka to Ashin Einda Linkara in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

NINETY-FIVE members of the Sangha who passed the 71st Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination organised by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture were honoured yesterday in Yangon.

The ceremony held at the Mahapasana Cave in Thiri Mingalar Kaba-Aye hillock in Mayangon Township was attended by members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Tin Maung Tun, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min, members of the Yangon Region Government and their wives, departmental officials, and laypersons.

First, the congregation led by Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pananin-sara Bhivamsa.

Afterwards, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa, Chair of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, delivered the Ovadakahta (Words of advice).

On behalf of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and Members of the Sangha and laypersons, the Sayadaw expressed his delight to observe the progress of Pariyatti Sasana in Myanmar as the winners of the Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida were playing a top role in promoting the Pariyatti standard.

All Members of the Sangha, even though they pass the Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida examination, have two duties: Learning and teaching the Bud-

dha Dhamma and practicing the Vipassana, he said, adding that those who passed the exam are to work for the Buddha Sasana by teaching the next generation of monks earnestly.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko supplicated a report on religious affairs.

In his speech, he said the Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination is the torch of the Buddha Sasana in Myanmar and Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida sayadaws are in the vanguard of the Buddha Sasana in Myanmar.

He continued to say that he believed that Buddha Sasana will never disappear in Myanmar as far as the Pariyatti examinations at different levels exist in the country.

The first Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Exam-

ination was held in 1948 and it turns 71st this year. During the 70 year period, 14 Members of the Sangha won the Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title, eight passed the Tipitakadhara examination title and many Members of the Sangha passed the Dwipitaka, two and half of Pitaka and one Pitaka examinations.

In conclusion, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko said holding the ceremony to honour the winners of the Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination reflects the good image of the progress and propagation of the Buddha Sasana in Myanmar in the future. This was followed by a presentation session and Vice President U Myint Swe presented the Diga Nikaya Kovida title for winning Dwipitaka to Ashin Jotika Linkara, aged 41 and Vassa 19, and Ashin Einda Linkara, aged 32 and Vassa 12,

of Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery in Mingun Moemeik Hill in Sagaing.

Afterwards, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Tin Maung Tun, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min and departmental officials presented the titles to remaining winners for respective examinations.

The ceremony came to an end with a concluding sermon delivered by Thanlyin Minkyaung Saydaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sandima Bhivamsa.

After the ceremony, the congregation led by Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay donated offertories to the Members of the Sangha.

The Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination lasts 33 days. —GNLM
(Translated by Tun Tun Naing)

Myanmar, Mozambique sign Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of sharing source code

A Memorandum of Understanding over permitting Mozambican Ministry of Industry and Trade to copy the source code of Myanmar website, National Trade Portal and Trade Repository Website was signed yesterday afternoon at the meeting hall of Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the event, Director-General of Department of Trade U Min Min and National Director of

Mozambican Ministry of Industry and Trade signed the MOU.

Directors-general, deputy Directors-General and directors of departments under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International trade promotion department, Directorate of Communication, Ministry of Commerce and official of USAID attended the ceremony.

It was reported that they hope to cement the friendship

between two countries by helping Mozambique establish portal system.

Department of Trade launched National Trade Portal and Trade Repository Website on 26 May 2016 with the help of USAID.

Trade law and regulations, tax rate and information about trade can be seen on the website in both Myanmar and English. Regulations of Non-tariff meas-



Director-General of Department of Trade U Min Min and National Director of Mozambican Ministry of Industry and Trade signing the MOU in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

ures -NTMs of different goods can also be found.

The website was built copying source code from Laos and updated one was built for long

term use with the help of USAID. The new website replaced the former one on 19 November 2018.—MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, officials and teachers attending courses pose for a commemorative group photo in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor observes district level discussion/training course on new...

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They would become educated only if they were happy to come to school. Our country needed development and the education system played an important role. If the education system were correct and good we would be able to catch up with other countries in a short time. Students in our country needed to be good in a

unique way in comparison with other countries. They should be outstanding in education as well as in morality, in team work. Our citizens need to be good at working together in groups. We needed to produce youths who would make our society happy and develop. Teachers played the main role here, she said.

Afterwards the State Coun-

sellor, Union Minister, officials and teachers attending courses took commemorative group photos. The Ministry of Education will start teaching Basic Education Middle School Grade-6 new curriculums in the coming academic year 2019-2020 and training courses for basic education middle school teachers were being conducted nationwide. Training

courses were conducted at Pyinmana No. 2 Basic Education High School and Lewe No. 1 Basic Education High School for 814 teachers from Nay Pyi Taw Council Pyinmana, Zabuthiri and Dekkhinathiri townships and 753 teachers from Lewe Township respectively. The courses were held for two weeks and 26 teachers from private schools also

attended the courses as observers. The Ministry of Education started teaching new curriculums nationwide to primary KG level in education year 2016-2017, Grade-1 in academic year 2017-2018, Grade-2 in academic year 2018-2019 and Grade 3 and Basic Education Middle School Grade-6 in academic year 2019-2020. — MNA(Translated by Zaw Min)



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

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Pyithu Hluttaw to discuss signing International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

FROM PAGE-2**Hluttaw approves 2017 Land Confiscation Bill**

Next, Bill Committee member U Nay Myo Tun tabled an amendment motion on the 2017 Land Confiscation Bill approved and returned with amendments by Amyotha Hluttaw.

As there was no objection Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's approval of the bill.

Hluttaw agree to discuss signing of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Afterwards, Daw Thandar of Einme constituency tabled a motion urging the country to become signatory of International Covenant on Civil and Political

Rights (ICCPR) and explained in detail about it. U Myo Zaw Aung of Kawlin constituency supported the motion.

After obtaining decision of the Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the Hluttaw's agreement to accept and discuss the motion and announced further for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the motion to register their names.

Motion on agriculture product discussed and approved

As a final agenda of the day, a motion urging the government to seek out local and foreign markets, transparently inform the people of lists of products that had firm market season wise or annually for agriculture prod-

uct and crops obtaining fair and equitable prices and to draw up and implement arrangement for government and people to cooperate toward producing quality and marketable agriculture products at competitive prices tabled by U Win Win of Minbu constituency was discussed by U Sai Maung Pwint of Tangyan constituency, U Sai Oo Kham of Hsenwi constituency, U Than Lin Lin of Meisei constituency, U Myint Oo of Magway constituency, U Htay Min Thein of Gyobingauk constituency, U Win Myint Aung of Dabayin constituency and U Khun Maung Thaung of Pinlaung constituency.

In his discussion, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said that despite the difference in

condition with other countries in the region the ministry was using all it resources to implement the matters raised in the motion as well as discussed and suggested by the Hluttaw representatives while coordinating with Ministry of Commerce and other related ministries. The Deputy Minister recommended for the motion to be put on record.

However U Win Win who had tabled the motion want the Hluttaw to approve the motion the matter was put to a vote where there were 172 for and 131 against the motion and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's approval of the motion. The ninth-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 12th regular session will be held today. ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Japanese team makes documentary under title of "Happy Lives of Cats"



Japanese documentary crew films feeding cats in Pout Parr Village, Nyaung Shwe Township yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A Japanese team made a documentary film under the title of "Happy Lives Of Cats" in Pout Parr Village, Nyaung Shwe Township.

They filmed trait and characteristics of cats, bound between cats and human in

Myanmar and love for cats and other domestic animals, from 19 May.

They will also film in Yangon from 21st to 23rd May. They are trying to air this documentary on BS Premium by NHK.—MNA
(Translated by Alphonsus)

Filming of NHK documentary on Ayeyawady dolphin conservation

A DOCUMENTARY on cooperation between fishermen and Ayeyawady dolphin in capturing fish was being filmed along Ayeyawady River in Mingun area, Sagaing Region yesterday.

The Japanese film crew in cooperation with the Fisheries Department and Wildlife Conservation Society was filming along Ayeyawady River in Myitkangyi, Indown, Ywathit, Shame Maka and Sinkyun villages onboard a vessel owned by Living Ayeyawady Dolphin Project starting from 15 May

and will continue until 23 May.

Furthermore, the film crew will film production of fabrics using local cotton under the Cotton Bagan brand in Shan State south Inle Lake, cotton wear production in villages of Meiktila Township, sales of cotton wears in Bagan NyaungU Township and conduct interviews from 24 May to 1 June. The Ecotourism television documentary was being arranged to be broadcasted in NHK television program it is learnt. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



NHK documentary film team films fishing with the help of Ayeyawady Dolphins in the Ayeyawady River in Sagaing Region Mingun area yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Ministries of Information, Hotels and Tourism, Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation expound on third-year performances

THE press conference on the third-year journey of the Union-level entities was continued yesterday. The Ministry of Information, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation answered to reporters in the Ministry of Information's meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

Dr. Pe Myint (Union Minister for Information)

The Union Minister said MRTV works for its own development and that of private channels as well. They succeeded in organizing licences for five content providers who have begun broadcasting last year.

He said the Radio and Television Broadcasting Law has been enacted and a bylaw is being drafted. Once the bylaw has been legislated, MoI will establish the Broadcasting Council outlined in both the law and bylaw, said the Union Minister. He said this will also allow development of radio broadcasting. Currently, there is a pilot project for a private radio channel near Yangon; Htantabin's Kayay FM. He said this will open the way for organizations and the private sector across the country.

The Union Minister then said the IPRD branches throughout the nation's townships and districts have opened libraries and office spaces for the public. However, less and less people are reading books nowadays, said the Union Minister, but MoI is carrying out plans to bring the library to the readers. He said they are cooperating with the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation and with Shanti Volunteer Association.

The Union Minister said they are working hard to breed democratic practices, freedom of expression, systematic debates, and democratic culture among the public and to that end they have converted the IPRD offices into community centres. He said the community centres host various clubs for enthusiasts, youths, avid readers and aspiring artistes.

The Union Minister said MoI has been organizing public talks between government leaders and the general public. He said a Hluttaw representative whose constituency covers the public talk's location, a relevant government official or someone



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint addresses the press conference on the third-year performances of Union-level entities in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

from the NGO sector related to the talk's topic are present to foster democratic practices.

The Printing and Publishing Department printed 35 million school textbooks last year and will print 39 million this year, said the Union Minister. He said this is a larger number than what external publishers are printing and added that Sarpay Beikman is conducting a multitude of literature distribution and development as well.

The Union Minister then said the News and Periodicals Enterprise is handling the Myanmar newspapers, Kyemon and Myanma Alinn, and the English daily, The Global New Light of Myanmar, in addition to their online platform, Myanmar Digital News.

The Union Minister concluded by saying the newspapers are a source of information on global events and the rising trend sees print media giving way to online media. He said they are working to keep the print media running while developing online media, with one such endeavor being the launch of Myanmar Digital News.

U Ohn Maung (Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism)

The Union Minister opened his speech by applauding the tourism industry as a smokeless factory that boosts the national economy and promotes the livelihoods of all citizens.

He said this year saw the establishment of the Central Committee on National Tourism Development on 6 February, the Tourism Committee on 3 March,

and 15 Regional Tourism Committees on 12 April.

The Union Minister said his ministry began digitally marketing Myanmar with increased efforts on 10 April 2019. He said the website www.tourism.gov.mm was relaunched with a new web design on the same day. He said they upload posts, photos and videos for tourist attractions and travel destinations on social media platforms every day.

The Union Minister said they began implementing paid marketing campaigns such as Google Marketing and Social Media Marketing in April this year. He said this will generate positive views on Myanmar through the online audience. He said they will implement video campaigns on YouTube in the future. He said they are also working on launching a tourism web portal (www.travel.myanmar.com.mm) for both tourists and people working in the hotel and tourism industry.

The Union Minister said Myanmar upgraded the Myanmar-Thailand border gates of Tachilek-Meisei, Myawaddy-Maesot, Kawthoung-Ranong, Htiki-Phunaron to international border gates on 24 August 2013. He said the Myanmar-India border gates of Tamu-Moray and Reedhorda-Zokawtar were also upgraded to international border gates on 8 August 2018.

The Union Minister said they successfully coordinated with the Shan State Government to allow permission tours to travel along the Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek highway. He said they extended the visa matter on 1 October 2018 to a

one-year extension from 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020.

The Union Minister said 3.55 million tourists visited Myanmar in 2018, a 3.15 per cent increase from 2017's 3.44 million. He said tourists entering by flights, cruise ships and passport visas reached 1.39 million in 2018, while border pass entries reached 2.15 million. He said tourism in the first four months of 2019 have also been exceptionally high.

The Union Minister said they have been actively supporting community-based tourism in the hope that it will decrease damage to the natural environment and elevate the livelihood of the regional locals while highlighting their customs and traditions to the world. He concluded by saying they are working closely with other ministries and organizations to finalize the Tourism Master Plan 2020-2025 that will encompass the entire country.

U Khin Maung Yi (Permanent Secretary of NREC)

U Khin Maung Yi said his ministry has designated 26 protected public forest and reserved forest measuring 42,312,773 acres (25.31 per cent of Myanmar's landmass) and 43 natural conservation land measuring 9,740,079.42 acres (5.83 per cent of Myanmar's landmass).

He said they are implementing the 19 tasks of the 2017-2018 to 2026-2027 Myanmar Reforestation Project. He said they managed to raise 30,892 acres of national plantations and reduced the annual logging of teak and hardwood by 39 per cent and 27

per cent, respectively, in 2018-2019 FY. He said they began production of teak from plantations in 2018-2019.

The Permanent Secretary said the number of regional groups conducting forestry businesses raised to 827 groups with 1,597 members encompassing over 90,000 acres of forests in the incumbent government's third year. He said they have increased bamboo plantations to meet the growing need of the people by expanding the formerly 400 acres of plantation to 1,800 acres.

U Khin Maung Yi said from April 2018 to March 2019, the Forest Department seized 7,477.5675 tons of illegal timber and 459 vehicles and captured 829 suspects with collaboration from the local people, local administration, the Tatmadaw and the Myanmar Police Force.

The Permanent Secretary said elephant conservation based tourism has taken off since its inception in 2016-2017 FY with eight new elephant camps opened in the third-year period. He then mentioned the 55th Myanmar Gems Emporium held in June 2018 where 4,329 sets of raw jade and gems sold for 333.28 million Euros in the foreign currency sale and 1,823 pairs sold for K28,661.35 million in the local currency sale.

U Khin Maung Yi said the Union Government established the Working Group for Rehabilitating Migrant Workers in Phakant region on 4 October 2018 with Order No. 99/2018. This group has formed six sub-working groups and engage in conserving Phakant's natural environment, land management, rule of law, providing vocational training and employment opportunities, and rehabilitation tasks.

The Permanent Secretary concluded by saying that ever since the Political and Security Department, under the Ministry of the President's Office, allowed daytrips to five state-owned and domestic/external pearl camps in Taninthayi Region on 1 October 2018, there have been 69 foreign tourists and 186 domestic tourists that have generated US\$2,259.50 and K3,224,656 as of January 2019.

Afterwards, the officials replied to questions from the media. —Kyaw Myo Tun, Nandar Han

(Translated by Pen Dali)

Combating corruption with ironclad conviction

“LET us picture our country as a human body and corruption (the bribery kind) as a disease. Through this perspective, we can see that this malignant disease has spread to all parts of Myanmar’s body.”

“The government departments, civil society organizations, private businesses, and institutional concepts of law, rules, customs, and procedures are suffering from serious illnesses caused by corruption.”

These are excerpts from the Anti-Corruption Commission Chair-man’s speech, delivered at the International Anti-Corruption Day Forum in December last year.

Corruption and bribery have taken root like a chronic disease, but we believe the anti-corruption movement is akin to medical treatment that dresses the wounds and slowly heals the illness over time.

It is now evident that the Union Government has taken a firm stand on anti-corruption, and the public is no longer tolerant of nepotism and other forms of corruption plaguing our nation.

Although the pace at which the Anti-Corruption Commission is carrying out its duties is slower than what people would like, we must remember that the scale of corruption in the country is huge, and it has remained unchecked for too long. Not to mention, the ACC is short of skilled, experienced members and technological support. But in spite of these shortcomings, it has managed to tackle monumental cases at the national level.

It is now evident that the Union Government has taken a firm stand on anti-corruption, and the public is no longer tolerant of nepotism and other forms of corruption plaguing our nation.

The shift in attitude towards corruption has also caused some long-practiced corrupt customs to disappear. These results are the strength that will push us all forward to achieve greater results.

We must all view eradicating corruption as a national duty and do our part, no matter how small or big, in every sector we can contribute to, thus empowering the nation’s anti-corruption movement.

The role of citizens and the media is especially important, and with their combined strength, we wish to successfully remove the blight of corruption to protect our integrity, development, and culture.

City Life Survey: Amplifying Myanmar’s Urban Voices

By Hillary Yu Zin Htoon

YANGON is a city rich with history—a former capital, a center of commerce, and today, a city bristling with construction cranes, clogged with vehicles, and throbbing with the aspirations of its swelling population. Demographic changes, economic growth, and Myanmar’s new international openness have left the Yangon City Development Committee, the city’s municipal government, scrambling to deliver public services and provide effective governance for a population of almost six million.

After decades of international isolation and government secrecy that left a lasting deficit in public trust and participation, the local governments of Myanmar’s major cities have begun to recognize that effective governance is built on communication between a city’s leaders and its citizens. Quite simply, governments cannot serve the governed if they don’t know what’s going on. Elected officials, who must provide effective public services with limited resources, are awakening to the information value of public participation. The Development Affairs Organization of Taunggyi, a city in Southern Shan State, and the mayor of Mandalay City, for example, have been actively corresponding with city residents on Facebook. In Yangon’s recent election debates, one candidate proclaimed that citizens would



Traffic moves along the Sule Pagoda Road in downtown Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAIR

be able to call him personally to register complaints.

As a citizen of Yangon City, I understand the importance of this public dialogue. Government decisions on routine matters such as public transit, waste collection, deteriorating air quality, the proliferation of concrete high-rises, or the growing intensity of traffic jams affect the well-being of every resident of this city every day. But while openness to public opinion is an important step for an emerging democracy, anecdotal information from Facebook posts and phone calls from dissatisfied citizens can be treacherously unreliable, amplifying the voices of a motivated, but not necessarily

representative, few. Clearly, the first step in responsive, democratic policymaking—understanding the will of the people—is a tall one.

This is why my team at The Asia Foundation, Myanmar, has developed the City Life Survey (CLS), a modern data tool for democratic policymaking by urban decision-makers.

Launched as a pilot in 2017, CLS is a multiyear, multicity, public-perception survey designed to provide reliable information about the lives and concerns of Myanmar’s urban residents. A sample of 2,400 respondents answered 135 questions encompassing their social, economic, and physical well-being and their

political election debates, agrees with these findings.

In another interesting result, more than half of CLS respondents revealed that they do not clearly understand what their municipal government is responsible for or how it pays for its operations. This government opacity has sown mistrust, fostered suspicions of corruption, and created a destructive mismatch between government operations and public expectations. I used to be one of these residents. I would see workers filling potholes or clearing drains, yet I never understood why these roads were mended while those on another side of the city were not. The insight from CLS that this incomprehension is widespread should be a call to

nating to a charitable cause and 60 percent volunteering their time every few months. This reservoir of social capital will be a valuable source of public support for local governments as the seek to rationalize vital public functions such as the tax system.

Even with good will and a commitment to serving the public, identifying and prioritizing urban issues is complex. As CLS continues to collect data and expands to include additional cities, policymakers across Myanmar will be able to hear clearly the voice of the urban public as a community. We hope that CLS will spark a demand for more reliable data, systematic research and analysis, healthy competition among cities, and better-informed

On a positive note, the survey found high levels of social trust among urban residents, with 48 percent saying that the people in their city are trustworthy.

action to municipal governments to increase public outreach and transparency.

On a positive note, the survey found high levels of social trust among urban residents, with 48 percent saying that the people in their city are trustworthy. Social engagement is also very high, with a whopping 92 percent do-

urban policymaking.

Hillary Yu Zin Htoon is a program officer for The Asia Foundation in Myanmar. She can be reached at yuzin.htoon@asiafoundation.org. The survey in both languages can be available at: <https://asiafoundation.org/publication/city-life-survey-2018/>



Yangon’s downtown Train Station. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAIR



Daily commuters ride the loop through the city, its suburban areas and its satellite towns. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAIR

MOFA, MoIC, UAGO, USCB to hold press conference on 23 May

Press Conference on one-year performances of Ministry of Foreign Affairs-MOFA, Ministry of International Cooperation-MoIC, Union Attorney General’s Office-UAGO and Union Civil Service Board-USCB will be held at Office No.7 of Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1pm on 23 May.—MNA



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 21st May, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the North and Westcentral Bay and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 22nd May, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Bago, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Southern Shan, Kayin and Mon States, scattered in Mandalay and Yangon Regions, Eastern Shan and Chin States, isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4 - 6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of advancement of Southwest Monsoon into the Southern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd May, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd May, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd May, 2019: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release No.19/2019
2nd Waning of Kason 1381 ME
(20 May 2019)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 18 May 2019 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

Sr.	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal actions taken
1.	Information received of Ma Khin Mar Cho@ Auzarthee who lives in Kyettagaung Village, Htigyaing Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 13 May 2019, police searched the house of Ma Khin Mar Cho@ Auzarthee, aged 35, daughter of U Mya Sein, and seized her together with heroin and stimulant tablets bearing WY/MY letters. A case has been opened her with MaMaSa(Htigyaing), MaYa(Pa)26/2019 under Section 19(a)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2.	Information received of Tun Wei who lives in Hankapyu Village, Karathuri Township, Taninthayi Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 16 May 2019, police searched the house of Tun Wei, aged 44, son of U Sann Maung, and seized him together with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened him with NaMaSa(Karathuri), MaYa(Pa)5/2019 under Section 19(a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3.	Information received of Ko Aye who lives in Sitbu Village, Kyunsu Township in Taninthayi Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 16 May 2019, police searched the house of Ko Aye, aged 24, son of U Aye Nyein, and seized him together with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened him with NaMaSa(Kanmaw) MaYa(Pa)14/2019 under Section 16(c) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4.	Information received of Thauang Kyi who lives in Thankalaung Village, Kyaikmaraw Township in Mon State, using, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 12 May 2019, police searched the house of Thauang Kyi, aged 49, son of U Tut, together with his son Mon Soe, aged 28, and Soe Htet, aged 20, son of U Tun Hla who lives in Tayanar Village and seized them together with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa(Kyaikmaraw) MaYa(Pa)14/2019 under Section 16(c), 20(a) and 21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5.	Information received of Aung Myo @ Tawpongyi who lives in Malayan St., Ward No 12, Hline Township in Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 13 May 2019, police searched the house of Aung Myo @ Tawpongyi, aged 42, son of U Tin Sein, and seized him together with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened him with MaMaSa(Hline) MaYa(Pa)13/2019 under Section 19(a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6.	Information received of Nan Khan Aung who lives in Wanlon Village, Hsipaw Township in Shan State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 13 May 2019, police searched the house of Nan Khan Aung, aged 23, son of U Sai Hsu, and seized him together with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened him with MaMaSa(Hsipaw) MaYa(Pa)24/2019 under Section 19(a), 20(a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far a total of 627 cases have been opened files as of 18 May 2019. A total of 986 people, including 824 men and 162 women had been arrested with seizures of 6134.15 g of heroin, 73.67 g of ICE, 38704.74 g of opium, 329.6 g of low-quality opium, 19399.27 g of speciosa powder, 7833.19 g of speciosa, 1.5 liters of liquid speciosa, 238460 stimulant tablets, 6424.22 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 513.26 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 23.45 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 16 firearms, different kinds of 257 cartridges and 1 grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the ministry will report on further exposed cases.
4. In addition to the investigations and arrests conducted on drug related complaints mentioned above, the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force have also carried out separate investigations on drug complaints, search and arrests at border gates, and searches of vehicles acting upon given information. During the previous week, multiple arrests were made in the border regions and joint-surveillance gates. Upon acting on tip-off, police searched a man who rode a motorbike and arrested him with a seizure of 100 g of heroin and one motorbike on Waingmaw-Kanpikete road, Waingmaw Town, Kachin State. Police seized a man together with 70 g of low-quality opium and one motorbike in Monedain Ward, Tanai Town. Police inspected two motorbikes and seized two men with 2310 stimulant tablets, 2500

g of opium and two motorbikes in Nantlan Village, Phakant Town, Kachin State. Upon acting on a tip-off, police seized two men who rode a motorbike together with 1670 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in near Nantlan Village. A man was arrested with 520 stimulant tablets and 1300 g of opium blocks in Shayawkha Village. A man was arrested with 1900 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in East Thazi Ward, Bhamo Town. A man was arrested with 52 stimulant tablets in Aungthabyegone Village, Loikaw Township, Kayah State. Two men were seized with 490000 g of Sodium Cyanide and one motor vehicle at the Thanlwin Bridge inspection gate, Hpa-an Township, Kayin State. A man and a woman were arrested with 969 stimulant tablets and one motorbike on Ayethukha-Pwint Lin Aye Village road, Thingannyinaung Township. Two men were arrested with 2500 g of speciosa in Chaungzon Township, Mon State. A man was arrested with 130 stimulant tablets and 1 g of ICE in Sonenanthtar Village, Ye Township. A man was seized with 98 stimulant tablets in Latthar Village, Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State. A man was arrested with 76050 stimulant tablets in Kappakaung Village. A man was arrested with 14 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Nanyargone Village, Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State. A man was arrested with 35 stimulant tablets in Ohntapin Ward, Sittway Town, Rakhine State. Four men were arrested with 34 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Thanpanchaug Ward, Kyaukpypu Town, Rakhine State. A man was arrested with 20 stimulant tablets in Kalarpikeseik Ward. Upon acting on tip-off, a man was arrested with 32 stimulant tablets in Eastern Ward. A man was arrested with 445 stimulant tablets near Kaishay Village, Toungup Township. A man was arrested with 3000 g of marijuana in Kalaw Township, Shan State. A woman was arrested with 3000 stimulant tablets in Bantkhu village, Pekhon Township. A man was arrested with 300000 stimulant tablets and one motor vehicle in Loilem Township. Two men were arrested with 80 stimulant tablets and 6.3 g of opium in Namkham Village, Kunhing Tsp. Upon acting on tip-off, a man was arrested with 600 stimulant tablets and 3732 g of opium in Theinpyan Village. A man was arrested with 775 stimulant tablets and 149 g of heroin in Painhone Village, Hsenwi Township. A woman was arrested with 210 stimulant tablets and 1000 g of opium in Tangyan Township. A man was arrested with 11700 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Muse Township. Police seized 3400 liters of Acetone and one motor vehicle in Muse. A man was arrested with 2750000 g Acetic Acid (solid), 960 liters of Acetic Acid (Liquid), 1440 liters of Safrrole and one motor Vehicle on Namhkam-Muse road. A man was arrested with 12000 stimulant tablets at the Oriental toll gate. A man and a woman were arrested with 3610 stimulant tablets and 11.96 g of heroin in Yaypukyankhin Village, Hsipaw Township. Police seized ownerless 10200 liters of Ethyl Ether at milepost between 137/4 and 137/5 on Hsipaw-Lashio road. A man was arrested with 87300 g of Ketamine and one motor vehicle at the inspection gate, Kengtung Township. Two men and one woman were arrested with 500 g of crushed stimulant tablets and 3.5 g of heroin in Monghset Tsp Shan State. Police seized ownerless 60000 g of Ketamine in Tachilek Township. A man was arrested with 1431 stimulant tablets and 100 g of opium in Tachilek Township. A man was arrested with 830 g of Ketamine and one motorbike in Tachilek Township. A man was arrested with 390 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Htigyaing Tsp, Sagaing Region. A man was arrested with 58 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Zaygone Ward. A man was arrested with 155 stimulant tablets in Dawei Township, Taninthayi Region. Three men were arrested with 560 g of speciosa in Kyunsu Township. A man was arrested with 3420 stimulant tablets in Banpyae (East) Village, Taninthayi Township. A man was arrested with 957 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in No. 9 Ward, Bago Town, Bago Region. A man was arrested with 312 stimulant tablets in Thayaraye Village. Three men were arrested with 1340 stimulant tablets, 0.01 g of heroin and two motorbikes in Myothit (1) Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Region. A man and a woman were arrested with 19 g of opium blocks and 30 Tramadol Capsule in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region. A woman was arrested with 1970 stimulant tablets in Aung Tharyar Ward, Mandalay-PyinOoLwin road. Two men were arrested with 2200 stimulant tablets at 16-mile inspection gate, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region.

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

FROM PAGE-10

Two women were seized with 120000 stimulant tablets on Yangon-Muse road. Police seized 8510000 stimulant tablets and 44000 g of heroin on the Dong Feng 12-wheel vehicle on Lashio-Mandalay road. Two men and one woman were arrested with 4000 stimulant tablets and two motorbikes in Tabeikkyin Township. A man was arrested with 1350 stimulant tablets and 21 g of ICE in Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region. Three men were arrested with 119 stimulant tablets, 8 g of marijuana and one motor vehicle in Yuzana 2nd Street, Ward 2, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region. A man was arrested with 7000 stimulant tablets in Yuzana 2nd Street, Ward 2, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region. Two men were arrested with 900 g of marijuana in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region. A woman was arrested with 32 stimulant tablets in Hinthada Township, Ayeyawady Region. A woman was arrested with a seizure of 274 stimulant tablets.

There has been one arrest involving foreigners. An illegal Chinese woman was arrested with 25 stimulant tablets in Tachilek Town, Shan State.

There have been 228 cases being opened between 12-5-2019 and 18-5-2019. A total of 305 people, including 265 men and 40 women, were seized with 9083158 stimulant tablets, 500 g of crushed stimulant tablets, 44907.5 g of heroin, 24 g of ICE, 8245 g of opium, 1349 g of opium blocks, 70 g of low-quality opium, 560 g of speciosa powder, 2500.3 g of speciosa, 3980.83 g of marijuana, 30 Tramadol Capsules, 2750000 g of Acetic Acid (Solid), 960 liters of Acetic Acid (liquid), 1440 liters of Saffrole, 49000 g of Sodium Cyanide, 148139 g of Ketamine, 3400 liters of Acetone and 10200 liters of Ethyl Ether.

5. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

Contacts

Auto Telephone No.	— 067-590200
Fax Phone No.	— 067-590233
Email Address	— antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin hosts dinner in honour of Philippines Foreign Affairs Secretary



Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin welcomes Philippines Secretary of Foreign Affairs Teodoro Locsin Jr. and wife at the dinner reception in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE delegation led by Philippines Secretary of Foreign Affairs Teodoro Locsin Jr. and wife arrived on official goodwill visit to attend the third meeting of the Myanmar-Philippines Joint Commission on Cooperation in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin hosted a dinner for the Philippines' Secretary of Foreign Affairs and wife at the Mount Pleasant Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The dinner was attended

by Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Myat Thu, directors-general, officials and Philippines Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Eduardo R. Kapunan and officials.—MNA (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Myanma Agricultural Development Bank Manager to be sued for corruption

IT was reported that a complaint was filed against Myaungmya Township Agricultural Development Bank manager, Daw Marlar Tin for corruption. In the complaint filed against her to Anti-Corruption Commission, she is accused of taking advantage of farmers's difficulties and taking bribes. This happen during provision of agricultural loans to farmers in Myaung Mya Township, Ay-

eyawady Region.

As ACC formed an investigation team to look into the case, it was found that she deposited 2016 agricultural loan of K18,970,560, which belongs to 14 farmers from Lay Eain Tan village-tract, to Myanma Economic Bank. On 21 July new loans were given to those farmers for 2017 rain crops. 11 farmers, who had yet to return loan, each returned K15,411,000

with 5% interest of K77,055. It was received by Daw Marlar Tin, and she abused her authority by taking 5% interest of K70,550.

ACC said that the first complaint has been filed against her at Myaung Mya Police station to sue her for corruption in accordance Anti-Corruption Law section 56.—MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)

AA men kill Rakhine resident for refusing to ferry them on boat

AA GROUP reportedly stabbed and shot a Rakhine resident in Kyarnyopyin Village of Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State, for refusing to take them to Buthidaung on his motorboat on 20 May.

Around 7 p.m. on 20 May, four AA members on two motorcycles went to the home of Soe Win Naing, 38, and asked him to take them to Buthidaung on his boat. When Soe Win Naing refused, saying it was late, a quarrel ensued and the AA

men shot him and stabbed him to death. Soe Win Naing died on the spot.

The four AA members reportedly drove off along the Buthidaung-Yathedaung road towards Phoneyoleik Village.

Following the incident, members of the Tatmadaw and the Border Guard Police Force carried out a security operation in the area, and a case was registered at a local police station.—MNA

(Translated by Tun Tun Naing)

Over 1,000 fire outbreaks reported across the country in 5 months, kill 50

BETWEEN 1 January and 7 May, 1,160 fire outbreaks were reported across the country, which resulted in the death of 50 people, according to the Myanmar Fire Services Department. The outbreaks of fire affected 3,700 people, and destroyed over 16,000 buildings, 16 factories, and 17 warehouses, it said.

About 387 cases of fire were caused by negligence, 310 due to short-circuiting, 222 cases started in the kitchen, 26 on their own, 117 due to arson, 95 due to forest fire, one due to arson, one by other means, and another due to unknown reasons. Most fire outbreaks were the result of negligence.

In the five months since January, 55 cases were reported

in Kachin State, eight in Kayah State, 19 in Kayin State, 15 in Chin State, 122 in Sagaing Region, 37 in Taninthayi Region, 57 in Nay Pyi Taw, 108 in Bago region, 146 in Magway region, 135 in Mandalay Region, 32 in Mon State, 63 in Rakhine State, 137 in Yangon Region, 107 in Shan State, and 116 in Ayeyawady Region.

Due to Myanmar's geographical location, natural disasters such as fires, floods, earthquakes, storms, landslides, and drought are common in the country. The changes caused by the development of hotels, motels, factories, and buildings are increasing the threat of man-made disasters.—Aye Cho

(Translated by Hay Mar)

China- aided project to upgrade National Theatre inaugurated in Yangon

A CEREMONY to mark the start of the project for renovation and upgradation on the Yangon's National Theatre was held yesterday at the theatre.

The project is aided from the People's Republic of China (PRC).

First, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang and Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min formally opened the ceremony to launch the project.

Under the bilateral negotiations, the agreement on renovating and upgrading the National Theatre of Yangon was signed by Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture of Myanmar and Commercial Attaché of



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang and attendees pose for a photo at the ceremony to renovate and upgrade the Yangon's National Theatre. **PHOTO: HLA MOE**

the People's Republic of China in the presence of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister

Thura U Aung Ko said the ceremony is reflecting the great vision of the leaders, endeavor of the officials, cooperation between experts and mutual understanding and friendship of the peoples of the two nations.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang also delivered speeches.

The National Theatre of Yangon was gifted by the President of People's Republic of China

Mr. Li Xiannian during his friendly visit to Myanmar in March 1985, and was constructed in 1988. It was completed in December 1990 and inaugurated in January 1991.

The over-28-year old National Theatre of Yangon is located on Myoma Kyaung Road in Dagon Township, and will be renovated with aid from People's Republic of China.

The renovation will

include sound system, stage lighting, air conditioning, seating, building, auto fire suppression system and etc. The national theatre renovation will begin on 1 August, and is estimated to last for around 2 years. The rent and use of the theatre will be suspended from 1 June 2019.

— Yi Yi Myint
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK WIESBADEN VOY. NO. (918S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK WIESBADEN VOY. NO. (918S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/T.M.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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V RHL AQUA VOY. NO. (919S/921N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V RHL AQUA VOY. NO. (919S/921N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/T.M.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.

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (140 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (140 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE**
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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MITRA BHUM VOY. NO. (009 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MITRA BHUM VOY. NO. (009 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**
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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.

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Daw May Thwe Hlaing, LL.B., LL.M., DIPL., (H.G.P.)

For **UMENOHANA CO., LTD.**

Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 22th May 2019

Cotton farmers in Sagaing plan to plant more acreage

COTTON will soon be cultivated extensively in Sagaing Region with the support of the regional government, according to the head of the region's Agriculture Department.

Plans are under way to bring over 130,000 acres of land in the region under cotton cultivation, said Daw Than Than Nu, Assistant Director, Myanmar Cotton and Allied fibre Crops Division.

Cotton is currently being grown in 19 townships of Sagaing, including Monywa, Yinmabin, Shwebo, and Kanbalu districts. With growers extending cotton plantations, the authorities are offering courses for producing quality cotton for the domestic and

foreign market. Courses on production methods, cotton grinding, and assessment for producing high-quality cotton are being offered.

Local cotton varieties Shwetaung 8 and 9 are mostly grown in Sagaing Region.

As it is hard to find pedigree cotton seeds in the market, civil society organizations and the private sector need to work together to maintain the supply of cotton seeds and fulfill the demand for raw materials, according to the head of the department.

"We need seed production companies to emerge in the local market. Seed companies and growers must cooperate

as local varieties need to be modified to become climate and pest resistant," said Daw Than Than Nu.

In Myanmar, cotton is mainly cultivated in Magway, Sagaing, Mandalay, and Bago regions, with over 550,000 acres producing about 160,000 tons of cotton in these regions.

Pre-monsoon cotton is harvested in July and August, while post-monsoon cotton is harvested in October.

At present, cotton is fetching between K1,300 and K3,600 per viss in the market. It is a lucrative industrial crop and is highly demanded by local cotton factories and the foreign market.—MYANTRADE

(Translated by La Wonn)

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Industry 4.0 in Myanmar Conference to be held on 24 May

THE Industry 4.0 the fourth industrial revolution in Myanmar Conference hosted by the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Myanmar (AHK Myanmar) will be held at Hotel Novotel in Yangon on 24 May.

To organize the conference, a working group was formed in mid-2018, which included innovative companies from the German and Myanmar private

sector, and officials from the German-Myanmar Business Chamber and the Japanese Embassy in Myanmar. The working group's aim was to organize the Industry 4.0 Conference, share technical knowledge and recommend methods for standardization at the conference, and conduct exchange programs for young German-Myanmar entrepreneurs. Over 200

officials and experts from various sectors are likely to attend the conference. The German-Myanmar Business Chamber, the Roland Berger Company, and Myanmar Survey Research will jointly publish a white paper. Three categories — Education 4.0, Industry 4.0, and digitalization and e-Commerce — will be discussed at the event.—GNLM (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

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Dated **22nd May 2019**

Is this government or private sector?

By Aung Naing Oo

Questions

Section 35 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar states, "The economic system of the Union is market economy system." After adopting basic needs of the market economic system with frameworks of laws, rules and organizations step by step, the government implements the market economic system.

While discharging duty of director general of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, I faced questions raised by friend businesspersons from economic sector. They frequently asked me that the government should extend businesses in the nation or allow private sector to do so. I would like to clarify my opinion with regard to that question.

Why does the government do so?

Participation of the government in some businesses can be seen not only in developed countries but in developing ones. If we analyze why the government operates businesses, we can see that the government operates businesses-

(1) At a time when the government can carry out the tasks with higher capabilities and better trust in commodities and services which are needs of the people than that of private sector

(2) In a situation which is not suitable for the private sector to do any business without comprehensive market rules and regulations

(3) At a time when the government should participate in a sector for implementation of the strategic plan for serving the national interest.

State's economic policy

No 2 point of economic policies adopted by the government for shaping State economy mentions that "to make state-owned economic enterprises more successful, to privatize some possible state-owned businesses and to support small and medium enterprises which support job opportunities and economic growth". In reviewing it, it can be seen that State-owned economic enterprises would be placed under reform process while prepara-

tions would be made to privatize some businesses. Hence, it can be reviewed that some State-owned economic enterprises would be handed over to the private sector with reducing participation of the government in businesses in line with the State's economic policy.

Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan-MSDP

The Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan-MSDP adopted by the government in August 2018 set aims that "the government shall re-identify State-owned economic enterprises depending on their types, reform financing system, make these businesses skillful in management and operations, enhance supervisory tasks and transparency, equalize the businesses which can promote economic functions of the State or privatize them." Strategy 2.5.2 of the Goal-II of Pillar-I of the MSDP was adopted "to corporatize, commercialise, restructure, or, where appropriate, privatize SEEs which operate in competitive markets." That is why conclusion can be drawn that the government would carry out corporatization, equalization and privatization for the State-owned economic enterprises. On one hand, it is obvious that the government would gradually withdraw its participation from the businesses.

Myanmar Private Sector Development Framework and Action Plan

The government approved the Private Sector Development Framework and Action Plan in April 2016. It mentions the Pillar Four: Restructuring the State's Role in Business Enterprise and Service Delivery. The provisions under the aforesaid pillar state that "while the transitions of Eastern and Central Europe, Viet Nam, and other socialist economies are instructive, Myanmar can also benefit from the experience of developed, market-based economies and their approach to state-owned enterprise (SOE) restructuring, privatization, and public-private partnerships," "to choose monopolized farms among State-owned economic enterprises to be halted step by step, build capacity under rules and adopt procedures of transparently competitive bidding and tender systems for privatization and services for infrastructures," and "the type of State-owned economic enterprises has basic weakness. Whenever the State holds the majority of shares, the government may interfere in companies under political trend. So, decisions which do not base on economy would be adopted. Consequently, loss of investments of the people would appear." In line with the Private Sector De-



velopment Framework and Action Plan, plans are underway to reduce the role of State-owned economic enterprises and expand the private sector.

State-owned economic enterprises law

In the time of the State Law and Restoration Council, the State-owned economic enterprises law was enacted in 1989. It was a law to privatize some sectors of the economy of Myanmar under the socialist economy system practised before 1988. The aforesaid law defined that the government shall operate extraction and sale of teak, establishment of forest plantations, exploration and production of oil and natural gas, production and export of pearl, jade and gems, production and

breeding of fish and prawn at the lakes set for conducting research by the government, postal and telecommunications, aviation, rail transportation, banking and insurance, broadcast and telecasting, mining and exporting, electricity generation, and production of security and defence equipment.

The private sector was allowed to operate remaining sectors. Section 4 of the law stated that if it is beneficial to the State, it shall allow to operate the tasks set for the State as joint venture with the government or as private-run ones. Hence, it can be seen that the tasks restricted under the law are being operated by private sector freely.

However, the above-mentioned law was out of date in comparison with the current period. So, it cannot support enhancement of capacity for State-owned economic enterprises.

The law is just a line between the government and the private sector in the economic sector. It does not consist of management, procedures for operating businesses, corporate management, adoption of strategies for businesses, disclosure and transparency of company conditions, transparent matters and capital management similar to that of State Owned Enterprise Law being practised by other countries. The majority of countries abide by company laws relevant countries and avoid enactment of the laws which will prioritize State-owned economic enterprises and separate rights. Three companies laws of Myanmar include corporatization for State-owned economic enterprises to private



Merchants appraise jade stones at Myanmar Gems Emporium in the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE THAN



The offshore natural gas drilling site of Shwe Natural Gas Project in the west of Myanmar. **PHOTO:MNA**

companies.

Yellow Pages Rule

What is the notable system being practised in some countries is Yellow Pages Rule. It means it is rules for the government not to participate in the Yellow Pages of relevant countries similar to business directories such as Yangon Directory and Mandalay Directory in Myanmar. It defines that if the government operates remaining businesses expressed in the Yellow Pages, the government needs to withdraw from the businesses. For example, the government exactly enacts the Yellow Book Rules in the Entrepreneurial Code of 2015 in Kazakhstan.

According to the law, if any private company operates same businesses of the State-owned economic enterprises engaging

in production, works and services except some restricted businesses, the State-owned economic enterprises must be privatized or operated as joint venture with the private company before withdrawal from that sector. Despite lack of capacity to exercise the Yellow Pages Rule now, Myanmar should consider to abide by such rule in the future.

Conclusion

In reviewing the aforesaid points, I believe the readers may know the answers of the question "Is this government or private sector?" The word government means participation and investment of the government in the businesses in addition to standing as beneficiary owner. It is important that the privatization law should be drawn and enacted systematically for privatizing

the State-owned economic enterprises, and it should not do the process hastily. For example, if privatization is implemented without enactment of firmed laws, original purposes would not meet the goal.

If so, it will mean selling of State-owned resources to private sector only. On one hand, State-owned economic enterprises should not monopolize the private sector but lead to partnership to the private sector and benefit the citizens. That is why it needs to emerge a State-owned economic enterprises law meeting international standards.

All in all, I would like to conclude my presentation that if one asks government or private sector, only private sector must take a leading role in the economic arena while the government should emphasize four pillars as easing for development of private sector; undertaking of easy and smooth processes, assistance for development, and disciplinary control.

Translated by Than Tun Aung

Reference:

1. Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
2. Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan-MSDP
3. Private Sector Development Framework and Action Plan
4. State-owned economic enterprises law
5. Policy Maker's Guide to Privatization, OECD @ 2019
6. OECD Guidelines on Corporate Governance of State-owned Enterprises 2015
7. Myanmar Commercial Law Framework—Reform Priorities White Paper, OPADE PARTNERS



Merchants checking the quality of pearls. **PHOTO:MNA**

Useful Information

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

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EDOZUSHI

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

(3) YAKINIKU FUKAGAWA

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

FUJINOBO

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

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

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

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Ph: 09443399701, 09443399702, 11:00-23:00

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CHATRIUM

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

CHERRY HILLS HOTEL

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

HOTLE 51

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

HOTEL KAN KAW

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

HOTLE SIDNEY

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

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

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South Korean football club to play friendly matches against Myanmar teams

By Kyaw Khin

FOOTBALL CLUB Pohang Steelers of South Korea's K-League will come to Myanmar in the last week of this month to play friendly matches against Myanmar football teams, scheduled for 28 and 30 May.

The Pohang Steelers will first play against the Ayeyawady United F.C. from the Myanmar National League on 28 May.

The Ayeyawady United is currently participating in MPT Myanmar National League 2019, and aiming to win the championship this season.

The Ayeyawady United will play in the friendly match as preparation for the MPT Myanmar National League 2019. The team placed sixth in the standing table at the close of the half-season of the MPT Myanmar National League.

On 30 May, the South Korean football club, Pohang Steelers, will play against the



The Ayeyawady United F.C. pose for a group photo. **PHOTO: MNL**

Myanmar U-22 team at 5 p.m.

The friendly tour of the three-time winners of the AFC Champions League, Pohang Steelers, has been mainly-sponsored by

Myanmar Posco in cooperation with the Myanmar Football Federation for promoting Myanmar-Korea friendship.

Entry for the matches

will be free. The matches will also feature entertainment programmes, including Korean folk dances, according to the Myanmar National League's Facebook Page. ■

General Aung San Shield: First leg of semifinals to be held on 25, 26 May

THE first leg of the semifinal matches of the General Aung San Shield 2019 will be held on 25 and 26 May in Yangon and Monywa, according to the tournament's Facebook page.

The semifinal matches will be held on the home-and-away ground system. Each team will play two matches, a home match and an away match.

Shan United F.C. will play against Rakhine United F.C. at 3:30 p.m. on 25 May at the Thuwanna Stadium in Yangon.

As the home ground of Shan United F.C. is currently being renovated, the team will use the Thuwanna Stadium in Yangon as their home ground.

Sagaing United F.C. will face Yangon United F.C. at 3:30 p.m. on their home ground, the Monywa Stadium in Monywa Town, Sagaing Region.

The semifinal matches of the General Aung San Shield 2019 will be broadcast live on Myawaddy TV and streamed live on the tournament's Facebook page.—Kyaw Khin ■

Arsenal's Mkhitarian to miss Europa League final over safety fears

LONDON—Arsenal's Armenian midfielder Henrikh Mkhitarian will miss the Europa League final against Chelsea in Baku amid fears over his safety.

Mkhitarian's well-being was a concern for Arsenal due to the tense political dispute between Armenia and final hosts Azerbaijan. The Premier League club have decided against Mkhitarian travelling with the rest of Unai Emery's squad for next Wednesday's game.

"We are very disappointed to announce that Henrikh Mkhitarian will not be travelling with the squad for our UEFA Europa League final against Chelsea," an Arsenal statement announced on Tuesday. "We have thoroughly explored all the options for Micki to be part of the squad but after discussing this with Micki and his family we have collectively agreed he will not be in our travelling party." Azerbaijan's ambassador to the UK, Tahir Taghizadeh, had insisted Mkhitarian would be free from any threat of violence, but it was reported the star didn't

believe he would be safe on the pitch. "Having considered all the current options, we had to take the tough decision for me not to travel with the squad to the UEL Final against Chelsea," Mkhitarian tweeted.

"It's the kind of game that doesn't come along very often for us players and I must admit, it hurts me a lot to miss it. I will be cheering my teammates on! Let's bring it home." Mkhitarian had featured in 11 games during the Europa League campaign and his absence will be a big blow as Arsenal look for the victory they need to qualify for next season's Champions League. "We have written to UEFA expressing our deep concerns about this situation," the Arsenal statement added. "We're also very sad that a player will miss out on a major European final in circumstances such as this, as it is something that comes along very rarely in a footballer's career."

"Micki has been a key player in our run to the final so this is a big loss for us from a team



Arsenal's Armenian midfielder Henrikh Mkhitarian will miss the Europa League final over safety fears. **PHOTO: AFP**

perspective." Armenia captain Mkhitarian skipped the Gunners' Europa League fixture against Qarabag in October because of tensions caused by a dispute over the Nagorny Karabakh region.

Azerbaijan and Armenia

have feuded over Nagorny Karabakh since Armenian separatists seized the territory in a war that claimed about 30,000 lives in the early 1990s. A ceasefire was agreed in 1994 but the two countries remain locked in a bitter

dispute with frequent exchanges of fire, and tensions are such that Mkhitarian also did not travel to Azerbaijan with former club Borussia Dortmund for a Europa League match against Galatasaray in 2015.—AFP ■