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President gives guidance to Nay Pyi Taw Council, district and township officials



President U Win Myint greets an official at the meeting with representatives from Nay Pyi Taw Council, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, Hluttaw, Nay Pyi Taw Council district and township level departments in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRESIDENT U Win Myint met with Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Council members, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee members, Hluttaw representatives, Nay Pyi Taw Council districts and townships level departmental officials at the Nay Pyi Taw Council Office Zabuthiri Hall yesterday morning and delivered a guidance speech.

The meeting was also attended by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, U Min Thu, Dr. Aung Thu and U Han Zaw and officials.

In his guidance speech the President said the meeting was organized with the aim of increasing the reform in the country and the ultimate goal of all was the determination to establish a Democratic Feder-

al Republic.

Stability, peace and development can only be achieved when the country became a democratic country. Our country consists of various ethnic nationals and only with the participation of all can a federal union be established and only with the participation and cooperation of all relevant officials and the citizens

of the country can success be achieved.

It is the law of life that changes were happening all the time. Only when we go along with this flow of change could our country develop and our citizens' socio-economic life be raised and at the same time there would be peace and prosperity in the country.

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State Counsellor congratulates Indian PM Narendra Modi

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday after the Bharatiya Janata Party-BJP and allies swept the elections for the 17th Lok Sabha.

In the congratulatory message, the State Counsellor said "I am confident that in the years ahead under Your Excellency's able leadership, the people of India will continue to see the socio-economic development and peace and stability which they enjoyed during your first term as the Prime Minister of India."

"In the bilateral context, I look forward to working closely with you to further strengthening and deepening the long-lasting and time tested friendship happily existing between our two countries and peoples," said the State Counsellor.

Leaders from across the world also sent congratulatory messages to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his second consecutive victory in the general elections.—MNA

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Second Pyithu Hluttaw 12th regular session holds tenth-day meeting

THE tenth-day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 12th regular session was held at Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning. At the meeting asterisk marked questions were raised and answered, a bill approved, a motion tabled and another motion debated and put on record.

Asterisk marked question and answer session

In the asterisk marked question and answer session U Saw Kyaw Win Maung of Kyaukse constituency, Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathedaung constituency and Dr. U Maung Thin of Meiktila constituency raised questions on usage of money from leasing of education facilities and stopping of this practice, upgrade of a school and reimbursement for reduction in salary of transferred teachers. Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun responded to these questions.

Responding to a question raised by Dr. Daw Pyone of Indaw constituency on delay in transfer of CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) funds from Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association to be used in 13 works in Indaw Township, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr. Ye Myint Swe explained that there were requirements in the estimation of K 697 million requested for the works according to an assessment by Region



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

construction work assessment committee and the responsible engineer was being informed to clarify the matter. The committee will speedily assess the fund request and will systematically transfer the CSR funds for the works while keeping a transparent record of remaining funds as well as transparently conduct the selection, approval and management of the funds under the arrangement of Region/State governments.

U Ar Moe Si of Khaunglanphu constituency raised a question on the status of permission granted to Fortuna Metals Limited on its proposal to work in 152,477.191 acres Block 1 and 152,189.239 acres Block 2 in Khaunglanphu region. Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr. Ye Myint Swe replied

that Fortuna Metals Limited is a company jointly formed by a Myanmar and an Australian citizen and is a company that was both technically and financial strong. The two huge blocks proposed in Khaunglanphu region were not for mineral extraction and production but for mineral prospecting and exploration only. At the prospecting and exploration stages there were no issue of land ownership and consideration for extraction and production will be made only after discovery of economically viable mineral deposit. Even when that stage was reached consideration will be given toward natural environment as well as benefit to the country. Still all due consideration and opinions will be taken from local and relevant authorities before actual permission was granted for the mineral prospecting and

exploration permit said the Deputy Minister.

Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr. Ye Myint Swe also responded to a question raised by U Kyaw Aung Lwin of Sedoktara constituency on storage and handling of jades confiscated from smugglers.

Education research, project and training bill

Following the asterisk marked question and answer session, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat obtained the decision of the Hluttaw on Education Research, Project and Training Bill tabled by Ministry of Education as no Hluttaw representative tabled any amendment motions. There was no objection and the bill was approved.

Motion on wood finishing plant

Next, U Nyunt Win of Kanpetlet constituency tabled a motion urging the government to make arrangements for providing required technical and investment support to establish wood finishing plants in regions where teak and hard woods were produced. The motion was supported by U Myat Lay Oo of Htilin constituency.

After obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw to accept and discuss the motion, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat

announced the Hluttaw's acceptance to discuss the motion and announced further for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the motion to register their names.

Motion on education discussed and put on record

Afterwards, a motion tabled by U Myo Zaw Aung of Kawlin constituency urging the government to upgrade teachings in higher education universities and colleges with educational support materials, practical works, field/site visits, research and term paper preparations etc. was discussed by Dr. Hla Moe of Aungmyaythazan constituency, U Myint Lwin of Twantay constituency and Tatmadaw representative Lt-Col Aung Kyaw Moe. Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun also supported the motion and recommended it to be put on record as the works proposed in the motion were being carried out by the ministry.

U Myo Zaw Aung was also of the opinion of putting the motion on record. As there was no objection from the Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the motion being put on record and kept in view.

The next meeting, the eleventh-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 12th regular session is scheduled for 27 May. Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)

Amyotha Hluttaw

Second Amyotha Hluttaw 12th regular session holds tenth-day meeting

The tenth-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 12th regular session was held yesterday at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall where questions raised were answered and a motion tabled.

Question and answer session

In the question and answer session, U Pe Chit of Yangon Region constituency 9 raised the first question on Union Supreme Court plan to establish a judicial college or judicial academy to conduct systematic judiciary courses. Justice of the Supreme Court U Myo Tint replied that budget request for the matter was made and depending upon allocation, required organization setup for a Judicial College will be submitted to the Union Government Office in accordance



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

with procedure.

Deputy Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Tin Myint responded to questions raised by Dr. Zaw Lin Htut of Mon State constituency 9, U Aung Myo of Sagaing Region constituency 2 and U Hla Myint @ U Hla Myint Than of Mon

State constituency 11 on compensation or return of confiscated land, issuing of land grant for housings and irregular land grant given to a private company in their respective constituencies.

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing

on the other hand answered to questions raised by U Maung Maung Latt of Sagaing Region constituency 9, U Shan Awi of Chin State constituency 2 and Dr. U Kywe Kywe of Mandalay Region constituency 6 on electricity for villages in their respective constituencies. The Deputy Minister also responded to questions raised U Nyi Nyi Htwe @ U Ko Ko Lay of Sagaing Region constituency 11 on the high cost of electricity and U Kyaw Ni Naing of Shan State constituency 11 on a coal fired power station in Kayin State Wetkyi region.

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing also replied to the final question of the session on a plan to setup dedicated utility poles for electricity and communication cables raised by U Aye Min Han of Mon State constituency 1.

Motion on low interest education loan

Next, Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency 11 tabled a motion urging the government to draw up and implement a low interest education loan to enable students to obtain vocational training or higher education and also explained about the reason and aims of tabling the motion. The motion was supported by U Sai Htun Aung of Shan State constituency 2. As there was no objection, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced Hluttaw's acceptance to discuss the motion and announced further for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss it to register their names. The eleventh-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 12th regular session will be held on 27 May it is learnt.—Aung Ye Thwin (MNA) ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)

The following is an unofficial translation for a public announcement of gratitude from the Office of the State Counsellor released on 24 May.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the State Counsellor
(24 May 2019)
Letter of Gratitude to the Public

1. The Union Government is ever striving tirelessly for the proliferation of the rule of law and socio-economic development of Myanmar's citizens, national reconciliation and internal peace, and amending the Constitution, which is the cornerstone of a democratic federal republic.

2. Given this situation and time period, it is especially important that each citizen observes and implements positive democratic practices.

Furthermore, it is also important for all citizens of the Union to endeavour in line with

the 4 laws of success; strong will, determination, indomitable spirit and wisdom; for individual accomplishments, promoting family livelihoods, and developing one's community and country in accordance with one's own assigned duty.

3. On 12 May 2019, the Myanmar National Airline plane No. XY-AGQ (Embraer-190), Yangon-Mandalay flight UB-103, had to make an emergency landing at the Mandalay International Airport, while carrying 82 passengers onboard, after its front landing gear failed to deploy.

Captain U Myat Moe Aung,

the pilot, declared emergency (mayday), gave detailed instructions to his co-pilots and the flight crew and made sure that the passengers on board followed emergency rescue procedures. He then flew the plane around the airport to burn off the remaining 3,000 lbs of fuel and reduce the landing weight.

In addition, the pilot made all necessary preparations and communications for an emergency landing and succeeded in landing the plane smoothly without any casualties and minimal damage to the aircraft.

4. To congratulate their efforts, this Letter of Gratitude

for the month of May is issued to Captain U Myat Moe Aung and Co-pilots U Kaung Sett Lin and U Myo Thiha Aung for making sound decisions based on their experience, expertise and composure while piloting the aircraft; and to Senior Flight Attendant Daw Cherry Myint, Flight Attendants Daw K Jar San Aung, Daw Khine Zaw Lin and Daw Ommar Aung for carrying out the proper emergency rescue procedures to ensure the safety of the passengers onboard.

5. The actions of Captain U Myat Moe Aung and his flight crew is a vivid example that we

can all successfully overcome any challenges if we use our skilled expertise and the preparations we have practised in a calm, unified and confident manner and through our combined efforts.

As I put these deeds on records, I request each and every citizen to cooperate for the progress and development of the Union, as we move forward with collective strength, so that we might hand over a bright and prosperous future to the next generation.

Aung San Suu Kyi
State Counsellor

Statement of emergency
landing of Embraer-190 by
Capt. Myat Moe Aung



an approach to runway at Mandalay International Airport at 08:17 am, but the nose landing gear was malfunctioning and couldn't be activated.

The Captain then activated the emergency landing gear down procedure, but it was still not working. He did two pass-by flights in front of ATC to check whether the nose landing gear was down or not.

Then the Captain followed emergency procedures and did the fuel burn out to reduce the landing weight.

At 0909 AM, flight UB103 RGN-MDL, Embraer 190 XY-AGQ made an emergency nose landing along the Runway 17 and successfully and safely landed and stopped at a distance of 4500 ft.

3. After the emergency landing, the passengers were evacuated with proper emergency evacuations by the cabin crew as well. In the accident there were no casualties nor injuries, on board. There was some damage to the aircraft.

1. Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) Embraer 190 AR jet XY-AGQ flying flight UB 103 flying from Yangon to Mandalay on 12 May with Capt. U Myat Moe Aung and Co-pilots U Kaung Sat Lin and U Myo Thiha Aung, Senior Flight Attendant Daw Cherry Myint, Flight Attendants Daw K Ja Hsan Aung, Daw Khaing Zar Lin and Daw Ohnmar Aung and 82 passengers including seven foreigners, 89 local passengers and two security persons took off from Yangon International Airport at 7:15 am on 12 May, 2019 and it was unable to deploy its nose landing gear on arrival at Mandalay.

2. The Captain made



Diplomatic Corps and representatives of the UN Specialized Agencies attend the briefing by Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe and U Kyaw Tin and Permanent Secretary U Myint Thu. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin and Permanent Secretary U Myint Thu briefed on Peace Process and Repatriation Process

UNION Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Myint Thu briefed the Diplomatic Corps and representatives of the United Nations Specialized Agencies on Rakhine State and Peace Process at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) at 1400 hrs on 24 May 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the briefing, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe briefed the government's efforts in bringing peace and national recon-

ciliation including the ongoing discussion with Ethnic Armed Organizations and in preparation for the repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine State. Union Minister reaffirmed Myanmar's readiness to receive the returnees.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin explained on cooperation with UN, ASEAN and AHA Centre to commence the repatriation process, the review on Education Reform of Recommendations in Rakhine State and the Government's efforts for the closure of IDP Camps. Permanent Secretary U Myint Thu outlined the

updates on implementation of the Arrangement and Physical Arrangement for repatriation of displaced persons signed between Myanmar and Bangladesh. He also informed the outcomes of the fourth meeting of Joint Working Group. Subsequently, the Union Ministers and the Permanent Secretary answered the questions raised by diplomats and UN agencies. The briefing was attended by Heads and representatives of Diplomatic Missions and the United Nations Specialized Agencies in Yangon and invited media personnel.—MNA

President gives guidance to Nay Pyi Taw Council, district,...



President U Win Myint meets with Nay Pyi Taw Council and Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee members, Hluttaw representatives, Nay Pyi Taw Council district and township level departmental officials in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-1

Some dread and fear reform. Reform is nothing to be worried about. It is a good friend for our country. Reform is not a threat. It is an opportunity for future generations to come to achieve happiness.

Any country at any time with any system will not develop without reform. At this age of globalization we must be able to go along with the flow in order to have sustained development of the national economy.

A democratic system is a support for a federal union and a federal union helps to strengthen a democratic system. That was why we were determined to establish a democratic federal republic.

The administrative system that we want is the administrative system set-down by our national martyred leader, architect of independence, and father of the Tatmadaw Bogyoke Aung San. It must be fair and just politically, economically and socially. The democratic foundation will be strong and firm only when justice and fairness prevails in each and every civil society. Without fairness and justice the democratic foundation would not be stable and it would be difficult to establish a stable, peaceful and prosperous nation.

To be fair and just politically, economically and socially means all having equal rights and opportunities. All our citizens and organizations must be at the same level with equal opportunities and rights. All are equal in the face of the law and no one must be above the law.

Establishing a democratic federal republic meant trans-

forming from an old system to a new system. In doing this, we must seek out new paths and roads from the old path and road. If we continued to think and act in the same old way, we would not go far on our road to reform.

If the responsible authorities in each departmental organization themselves were not changing, they would not be able to change others. We must do our duty towards our future generation. The future generations will decide whether we have performed the historical duties and the duties assigned to us by the country. We must perform our duties in the best way, systematically and according to the law.

We must take lessons from the past in performing our duties. Only when we sow the seeds of democratic reform during our term could the country be peaceful and prosperous and the citizens have equal rights. We understand the livelihood difficulties faced by the public service personnel. But they must not oppress the people, abuse power and be corrupt because of the difficulties they face.

Public service personnel are to abide by the civil service laws, rules, procedures and instructions. We have been relaxing centralization to establish a federal union and for democracy to flourish. A democratic system has mutual checks and balances. The advantage of democracy is check and balance not based on love or hate. The works of the administrative sector must be overseen and controlled by the legislative sector. But it must not interfere in the administrative sector. In the same way, the administrative sector must not interfere in the judiciary sector. The judiciary

sector also must not interfere in the legislative sector.

When Hluttaw representatives raised questions or tabled motions, it must be within the limitation of laws and rules enacted for the Hluttaw. In addition to this, the question and motion's future impact on the country must not be overlooked too.

Questions and motions that ought to be raised and tabled should be the one raised and tabled. This is mutual understanding and mutual respect. Only with this mutual trust can the Hluttaw and administrative sector check and balance each other.

Hluttaw representatives need to be given due regard and consulted when administrative organizations implement regional development projects. Hluttaw representatives also need to coordinate with administrative organizations for development of their region and constituencies.

The judiciary needs to be free and independent. Judgments must be true and according to the laws. Every judiciary judgment must follow the respective laws.

We were working toward rule of law. Only when there is rule of law could the democratic administrative machinery function well. A democratic administrative system could emerge only when there was rule of law. The judiciary system we want is an unbiased judiciary.

Furthermore the administrative machinery that we wanted is one that supported rule of law. It must be administrative machinery that gives freedom, security and happiness to the people. Only then could we establish rule of law. We must all look beyond our ego and work for reform. We would not be successful if

we were ego-centric. If we were civic-centric or citizen-centric our works will be successful, we would be dignified and our country would develop. For the sake of our people, prosperity and peace of the country, all in attendance were asked to work hand in hand with strong enthusiasm from this moment to increase the momentum of reform, said the President.

Next Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung explained about regional development works conducted and to be conducted in Nay Pyi Taw Council area.

The President commented on Nay Pyi Taw Council to conduct development works without wasting state funds and ensure full work quality.

Nay Pyi Taw Council need to ensure the quality of housing constructed for the public servants and surprise inspections should be conducted. Public servants on the other hand were to perform their duties to the full. The government was placing great emphasis toward drug eradication and responsible officials should not turn a blind eye to drug offences and participate in exposing and capturing the perpetrators.

Anti-corruption works were also being conducted effectively. Anti-corruption groups were formed in ministerial departments. Anti-corruption commission sub-offices were opened in Mandalay and Yangon and will be opened in other states and regions. Public servants need to participate and help in the anti-corruption work processes.

Proper assessments need to be made on conducting projects so that public funds were not wasted. Hluttaw represent-

atives also need to ensure the correctness of the project cost and the region's requirement of the project. Public funds must be used for the benefit of the public in accordance with financial regulations and rules.

A fair and just policy was laid for resolving farm land and other land issues. Hluttaw representatives, farm land and other land assessment groups are to clear the cases systematically and speedily according to the policy laid down.

We must abide by and obey the law, be just and fair, magnanimous and compassionate if we want democracy. Works were to be conducted transparently, responsibly, dutifully, predictably and cooperatively in a good democratic administrative system. Only then could a democratic federal republic be established successfully. Work processes and policies set by the Union Government were to be implemented by the Nay Pyi Taw Council. Only through correct and quick decisions and conduct of Nay Pyi Taw Council would the works be successful. All in attendance today are to put their best mental and physical efforts in the government's reform journey. All must cooperate toward making local people in the Nay Pyi Taw Council area live peacefully and happily in the capital city, said the President.

After the meeting the President cordially greeted all in attendance and then met separately with Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Nay Pyi Taw Council members and Nay Pyi Taw development committee members to have discussions and give guidance on Nay Pyi Taw development work processes. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Thai Ambassador

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received the Ambassador of Thailand, Mrs. Suphatra Srimaitreephithak at Amyotha Hluttaw guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, Fey discussed promoting the friendship and relations of Myanmar and Thailand including friendship

between parliaments of the two countries, cooperation in human resources plus technologies for sustainable development of the two countries. Also present at the meeting were Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and officials from Amyotha Hluttaw.—MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than holds talks with Thailand Ambassador Mrs. Suphatra Srimaitreephithak at the Amyotha Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Meeting for Kachin IDPs agree on need for initial need assessment



A coordination meeting of Working Group on Resettling IDPs in Kachin State and the Kachin Humanitarian Concern Committee (KHCC) held in Myitkyina. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Working Group on Resettling IDPs in Kachin State and the Kachin Humanitarian Concern Committee (KHCC) held their first coordination meeting at the Kachin State Government's meeting room in Myitkyina yesterday.

Participants included:

U Soe Aung, the Deputy

Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement who is also head of the working group, Kachin State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Colonel Nay Lin Tun, State Minister for Social Affairs U Nay Win, the Staff Colonel Northern Military Command Colonel Tun Nay Lin, working group secretary

U Win Naing Tun, who is Director-General of the Rehabilitation Department, members of the working group, and the KHCC delegation led by its Vice Chairperson 1 Father Paul Awng Dang.

Purpose of the working group

Deputy Minister U Soe

Aung first spoke at meeting. He said the Working Group on Resettling IDPs in Kachin State was established on 8 May 2019 with Order No. 62/2019 of the President's Office.

He said the working group was formed after a meeting between the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) and KHCC in April 2019 resulted in a decision to ensure IDPs in Kachin State can return to their hometowns with dignity and in safety, and to provide the necessary humanitarian aid to them.

The Deputy Minister said the working group has been assigned nine tasks, which needs to be implemented in line with the NRPC's guidance and with the agreements made between NRPC and KHCC. He said the IDPs in Kachin State will have their socioeconomic livelihoods redeveloped if everyone works together.

The meeting commences

Next, Father Paung Awng

Dang gave a speech, after which the attendees openly discussed the tasks for implementation.

The outcome of the meeting highlighted the need for conducting an Initial Need Assessment for repatriating IDPs, gathered suggestions for drafting and action plan, designating focal persons for the working group and KHCC, and setting a timetable for future meetings.

Donating to Ngwe Pyaw Sanpya village

Afterwards, the Deputy Minister and entourage travelled to Ngwe Pyaw Sanpya village in (PaLaNa) village-tract, Myitkyina, and openly discussed socioeconomic development and employment opportunities with the local people. They then handed over K3.1 million from the National Natural Disaster Management Committee's funds to the villagers to cover school transportation costs of the village's students.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

MoI plans paper reading on Myanmar-English translation

A COORDINATION meeting for holding a paper reading session on translating Myanmar text into English was held at the Printing and Publishing Department on Theinbyu Road in Yangon yesterday.

The paper reading session will be organized by the Ministry of Information.

Dr. Kyaw Win (Myanmar Historical Commission) chaired the meeting, which was attended by experts from the Myanmar Affairs Research Team, and invited persons.

The paper reading ses-

sion is aimed at encouraging translation projects in Myanmar, discussing the art of translation, promoting production of high-quality translated literary works, and producing a new generation of translators.

At the meeting, the participants formed a committee for holding the paper reading session, and discussed matters related to selection of topics, deciding the date for the paper reading session, and inviting resource persons.—MNA

(Translated by GNLM)



A coordination meeting for holding a paper reading session on translating Myanmar text into English held in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Thaung Tun attends the Myanmar Investment Seminar for Korean SMEs and Korean Fintech Week 2019



Union Minister U Thaung Tun shakes hands with CEO of Industrial Bank of Korea-IBK Mr. Kim, Do-Jin in Seoul.
PHOTO: MNA

MYANMAR Delegation led by U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission, attended the Myanmar Investment Seminar for Korean SMEs and Korean Fintech Week 2019 held in Seoul, Korea, on 22-24 May 2019. The forum was organized by the Industrial Bank of Korea and Financial Services Commission with the aim to serve as a platform for promoting Myanmar as an investment destination and to provide information on the investment opportunities in Myanmar, particularly for small and medium enterprises. The forum was attended by over 280 representatives of Korean SMEs.

At the inaugural session, Union Minister and Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission U Thaung Tun and Chairman and CEO of Industrial Bank of Korea-IBK Mr. Kim, Do-Jin delivered the opening remarks. The Union Minister, in his address, emphasized the importance of SMEs in promoting development. He also stressed the need for closer cooperation in bilateral trade and investment between the countries to further enhance economic ties. He invited Korea companies to invest in Myanmar. While in Seoul, the Union Minister had meetings with the Chairman and CEO of Industrial Bank of Korea-IBK Mr. Kim, Do-Jin, the President of Posco C&C Mr. Daeryong Ha

and Managing Director of ASEAN-Korea Friendship Association Mr. Baek Sungki separately and discussed matters relating to investment promotion.

The Myanmar delegation also visited IBK Changgong Financial Center and Guro Digital Industrial Complex.

The Union Minister was accompanied by the Chairman of UMFCCI U Zaw Min Win, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Industry U Ko Ko Lwin, and delegates from Directorate of Investment and Company Administration and Department of Small and Medium Enterprise Development. The Union Minister and the Myanmar delegation arrived Yangon on 24 May 2019.—MNA ■

One more political party applies for registration

REGISTRATION of political parties are being scrutinized by the Union Elec-

tion Commission (UEC), Mon Unity Party came to UEC to register itself as a political

party on 23 May, it is learnt.—MNA ■

Public announcement for remonstrations

MON UNITY PARTY headquartered at Ward 324, 22nd Street, Myaingthayar Ward, Mawlamyine in Mon State, submitted an application for registration as a political party in accord with the Section 5 of the Political Parties

Registration Law on 23-5-2019. In their application they mention that they will use the following name, flag and emblem as described hereunder.

In accord with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Reg-

istration Rules, it is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the Union Election Commission (UEC) about the party's name, flag and emblem may submit a complaint along with the supporting evidences within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement.—Union Election Commission ■



Flag of Mon Unity Party



Emblem of Mon Unity Party

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Notification 78/2019

5th Waning of Kason, 1381 ME
23 May, 2019

Permission for changing name of political party

1. Shan-ni & Northern Shan Ethnic Solidarity Party (SNSP) applied to the Union Election Commission to change their political party's name with the Registration No. 84 from Shan-ni & Northern Shan Ethnic Solidarity Party (SNSP) to Shan-ni Solidarity Party (SSP) in accordance with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law.
2. The UEC has scrutinized the application in accordance with the law and given approval. It is hereby announced that the Shan-ni & Northern Shan Ethnic Solidarity Party (SNSP) has changed their name to the Shan-ni Solidarity Party (SSP) effective from the issuance of this notification on 23 May, 2019.

(Hla Thein)

Chairman

Union Election Commission

One more political party applies for registration

REGISTRATION of political parties are being scrutinized by the Union Election Commission (UEC), Chin National

League for Democracy Party came to UEC to register itself as a political party on 23 May, it is learnt.—MNA ■

Public announcement for remonstrations

CHIN NATIONAL LEAGUE for Democracy Party, headquartered at Ward 1097, Pyidaungsu Road, Ward 45, (North) Dagon Myothit Township, Yangon Region, submitted an application for registration as a political party in accord with the Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 23-5-2019. In their application they mention that they will use the following name, flag and emblem as described hereunder.

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



Flag of Chin National League for Democracy Party



Emblem of Chin National League for Democracy Party

Union Minister for Information receives Thai Ambassador



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint holds talks with Thai Ambassador Mrs. Suphatra Srimaitreephithak yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Union Minister for Information, Dr. Pe Myint, held a meeting with Thai Ambassador Mrs. Suphatra Srimaitreephithak at his office yesterday morning. Deputy Minister U

Aung Hla Tun and other officials were also present at the meeting.

They discussed promoting bilateral relations, cooperating in the media sector, the tasks

of Thailand's organizations on literature, culture and research and possible collaborations between those groups and Myanmar. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Rakhine State Govt eyes exceeding tax collection target of 2018-2019FY

RAKHINE STATE Government held a coordination meeting on exceeding the tax collection target of the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year yesterday at the government in Sittway, Rakhine State.

At the meeting, state-level departments concerned reported on status of collection of taxes in the state and future plans to the Rakhine State Cabinet.

Head of Rakhine State Internal Revenue Department U Kyaw Min handed over the taxes collected so far in the state to state minister U Kyaw Aye Thein.

The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu delivers the speech at the coordination meeting on exceeding the tax collection target of the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year in Sittway. **PHOTO: MNA**

by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

MPRL E&P to sponsor Myanmar youths in Motourlogue Expedition 2019

“WE at MRPL E&P are very proud to be the main sponsor the two Myanmar youths on their rough transnational motorcycle trek in Motourlogue Expedition 2019,” said U Tint Swe, Executive Director for Government and Public Affairs.

He made this remark at a press conference regarding the expedition held at Zayat Coworking Space in South Okkalapa Township, Yangon, yesterday.

Ko Aung Kyaw Win and Ko Sai Zun Pha are the two Myanmar youths who will be riding their motorcycles on an adventurous run from Myanmar to the United Kingdom and MRPL E&P Pte Ltd, a Myanmar-led energy company, will be their Main Sponsor & Energy Partner.

The two youths will be riding a BMW Rnine T model motorbike each on the 30,000+

mile expedition as they pass through thirty countries along the Myanmar-UK Motourlogue expedition.

The events and experiences of the two motorcyclists on their expedition will be uploaded consistently on the social network pages of ‘MOTOURLOGUE’ and ‘MPRL E&P’.

—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY

Press Statement

24 May 2019

TRAINING on the International Standards/Practises for Evidence Collection and International Criminal Justice was conducted from 20-22 May 2019 at National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) in Nay Pyi Taw. The investigators, judicial officials of Evidence Collection and Verification Team (ECVT) of Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) and its Secretariat participated in the training. The officials from the office of the Attorney-General also attended as observers.

The training focused on international criminal justice for core international crimes, the conduct relevant to international law, and international law on genocide. Each topic was followed by an interactive question and answer session.

The participants discussed the genesis of Myanmar's Investigation Committees Act 1950 which was promulgated to provide additional powers to special investigative Commissions and Committees. The ICOE's Terms of Reference prescribes that the Investigation Committees Act 1950 will apply to its investigations. The Investigation Committees Act 1950 provides a robust hybrid of powers: under Myanmar's Civil Procedure Code, the ICOE is empowered to compel production of documents and seek the attendance of witnesses, among others; and under the Code of Criminal Procedures, investigations of the committee shall be deemed to be a ‘criminal case proceeding’. Thereby entrenching it as part of the criminal justice system of Myanmar.

The training also discussed international practices on conducting interviews, how to collect and analyse potential evidence and how to find relevant legal information and case laws.

The training was conducted by an eminent international lawyer.

Office of the Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE)

Nay Pyi Taw
24 May 2019

Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated naval patrol

A troop of border police led by Police Major Myint Aung of No.4 Border Police sub-division of Maungdaw Township conducted a coordinated naval patrol with two water crafts along the Naf River yesterday.

The troop in the two water crafts met with Bangladesh's

troop led by Subedar Md. Humyon Kabir of BGB 2 in two water crafts at the middle of the Naf River and patrolled together along the river, according to the Police Force. — GNLM

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Myanmar Border Police and Border Guards Bangladesh conducting coordinated naval patrols. **PHOTO: MPF**

The law exists to protect society

WHEN we talk about the rule of law, it is important to remember that citizens need both the knowledge of the existing laws and a deeper understanding of their workings.

The rise of social media has given ordinary citizens a greater role in the spread of the rule of law, along with increased contribution. There are examples of people swiftly responding to lawbreakers and supporting the rule of law.

While it is true that on the one hand, profanity, speech disregarding the rule of law, and defamation are widespread on social media, on the other hand, we can see that social media greatly supports the rule of law.

However, there are some people who think bending the law is okay. This is why it has become as important as ever to ensure that the public gains a deeper understanding of existing laws.

The original objective of enacting laws, which still remains true, is to protect the people from injustice and acts involving force. The basic laws then branch out into more specific topics, such as municipal affairs and traffic safety that details restrictions and rights to safeguard the public.

The general public is mostly innocent and wary of breaking the law. People choose to avoid actions that can lead them to court or result in legal entanglements. Since the majority of Myanmar people are from low-income families, they view court cases as a drain on their budget, and believe they will be treated less better than wealthier people.

While this acts as a strong, albeit far from moral, deterrent from breaking the law, it also means people actively avoid participating in witness testimonies in cases involving others.

This strongly outlines the importance of educating the people on the workings of the law and the judicial system, and taking effective action against perpetrators who break the law, or work around its loopholes.

The people must know how the law can protect them and help them in securing their full rights and entitlements as citizens of the nation. They must be empowered to seek justice and speak up against corruption and tyranny.

At the same time, the public must also understand that the restrictions that may seem insignificant are for their own safety and are for the benefit of society as a whole. Examples of such restrictions are rules against littering and spitting betel nut juice in public places. Examples of laws on personal safety include wearing helmets while riding motorcycles and ensuring contractors install emergency fire ladders in buildings.

We urge the Union Government and all relevant government and private organizations to strengthen education programs about the law and the rule of law so that our society becomes stronger, and the people more confident and that injustice is dealt with.

■ ■ ■

Fruit of Labor of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Dept: Operationalization of Animal Quarantine Station

By Ko Toe Gyi (LBV Dept.)

ARRIVING at Kutkai Town, one will notice the palpable new station that is now the jewel of the town.

The Animal Quarantine Station

The opening ceremony of the international standard Animal Quarantine Station was held on April 22, 2019, marking a new milestone for the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI). The event was attended by the Union Minister of MoALI Dr Aung Thu as well as Shan State Agricultural and Livestock Minister, Permanent Secretary along with other Director Generals, Departmental Heads, representatives of Bliss Myanmar International and the local populace, totaling up to 1250 people in attendance.

The MoALI Union Minister gave a speech about the abundant benefits from exporting livestock legally for not only the ministry but also the country's economy as a whole. The station is expected to export up to 700,000 cows and buffalos without impacting the national supply as well as having minimal effect on the natural resources of Myanmar.

The Union Minister also encouraged technology and expertise sharing with the local



Opening ceremony for the Animal Quarantine Station in Kutkai.

livestock owners on yield.

The Animal Quarantine Station took three and half years to come to operation as one year was spent on getting the necessary export documents as well as inventory of stock and expected export volume. Another was spent on drafting and perfecting the Standard Operating Procedures with the last on making sure the station abides by the World Organization for Animal Health regulations (OIE).

Within the past three years (2016, 2017, 2018), proper documentation and inventory was kept for the country with supplementary questionnaires, tables and other nationwide research carried out to come to a conclu-

sion of the specific number for export. This is the perfect number for export out of the 11.5 million cows and buffalos that Myanmar has brought up without affecting domestic supply.

Legal Export

The Union Government published Notification No. (49/2017) concerning with export of cows and buffalos. Extra care was put in drafting the notifications so that it does not harm the resources in Myanmar. There was also a one-year pilot program for cattle export while the Standard Operating Procedures were drawn. Furthermore, to abide by international standards, there are Animal Quarantine Stations to survey,

detect and contain communicable animal diseases as well as training given by international organizations and experts. OIE standards and regulations are also being applied to the station with formation MOUs signed as well as inspections done. Animal Quarantine Stations are crucial to exporting livestock to prevent outbreaks across international borders. There is a total of 5 ports of entry (2 airports and 3 seaports) as well as 6 border checkpoints for surveillance and detection of Trans-boundary Animal Diseases. The Kutkai station is also internationally certified and can check for such animal diseases that is important in exporting livestock.

The station is equipped and will perform the lab work, meeting rooms, animal enclosures, and other measures necessary before exporting to another country.

Benefits for the Country

The Ministry hopes that such kinds of developments will not only improve the livelihood of the locals as well as the nation's economy but also bring in technology, expertise for the country while making sure that there are enough detection, surveillance and containment measures taken to prevent Trans-boundary Animal Diseases.

Translated by Myat Thu



Buildings of the Animal Quarantine Station in Kutkai.

New sustainable rice project to guard Myanmar's rice sector against climate change

By UN Environment

ANEW initiative will introduce sustainable rice-growing practices to farmers across Myanmar, with the goal of reducing vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters, project partners announced recently.

The Climate Smart Rice Project will introduce sustainable standards and best practices to 4,000 smallholder farmers around Mandalay, southern Shan, Mon and Bago over the coming three years, working closely with the Government of Myanmar and the agri-business

sector.

The project is funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and the Swiss Agency for Development (SDC) and implemented by a consortium of partners including UN Environment, the Sustainable Rice Platform, Helvetas Myanmar and PRIME Agri Group.

The Government of Myanmar has previously announced its intention to boost sustainable rice production in order to both satisfy domestic demand and turn the country into a sustainable rice exporter. This project is fully aligned to the government's policies and has

been endorsed by the Parliamentary Committee for Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development.

Rice production in Myanmar faces several challenges, including the rice sector's vulnerability to climate change impacts like higher temperatures, drought, flooding and other stresses. The sector is also challenged by its demand for water, land, fertilizer and pesticides and its own environmental impact, including a significant contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.

Peter Schmidt, Country Director of Helvetas, said, "This project will support participat-

ing farmers and other actors in the value chain in adopting global rice sustainability standards and resource-efficient practices.

These standards and practices have been shown to boost productivity, make crops more water- and fertilizer-efficient and improve resilience to climate change impacts, safeguarding livelihoods in the process."

Dechen Tsering, UN Environment's Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, said, "Myanmar is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change. By expanding sustainable rice production, we

can ensure rice crops are resilient to the impacts we are seeing and protect the economic welfare of thousands of farmers and their families."

Wyn Ellis, Coordinator of the Sustainable Rice Platform, said, "Sustainable rice standards and practices are spreading rapidly around the world. Not only are they nature-friendly, they also increase production and protect against various environmental threats. The potential upside for Myanmar's rice sector in adopting these practices is substantial."

Mike Anderson, Operations Manager of PRIME Agri, said, "We have significantly in-

creased the incomes of rural farming households by developing Myanmar farmers into reliable compliant suppliers for both domestic and export markets.

The CSR Project is another example of the successful collaboration between public and private sector commercial partners for the improvement of the livelihoods of Myanmar's smallholder farmers. Upskilling and training farmers for higher productivity to international standards like Global G.A.P. and SRP (Sustainable Rice Platform) have proven successful in connecting smallholders to higher value markets."

MoHA, MoD, MoHS to hold press conference on 27 May

Press Conference on one-year performances of Ministry of Home Affairs-MoHA, Ministry of Defense-MoD, Ministry of Health and Sports-MoHS will be held at Office No.7 of Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1pm on 27 May.—MNA



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 24th May, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and a few cloud to partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 25th May, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Chin, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw and Shan State, scattered in Magway, Bago and Yangon Regions, Kayah State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavy falls in Mandalay Region and isolated heavy falls in Mon State. 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: Continuation of thundery activities in the Deltaic areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25th May, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25th May, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25th May, 2019: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Likelihood of rain or thundershowers will be scattered to fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Regions and fairly widespread in Yangon Region.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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

Hlawga hatchery breeding 18 fish species for fish farmers

THE Hlawga Hatchery is breeding 18 species of fish, including carp, striped catfish, barb, climbing perch, catla, and mrigal for distributing them to fish farmers.

There are three fish hatcheries and one shrimp hatchery in Yangon Region. The Hlawga hatchery, which is operating under the Yangon Region Fisheries Department, is the largest in Myanmar. Myanmar started operating hatcheries in 1958 with wild-caught fish. However, lack of artificial breeding techniques forced fish breeders to import fish. In 1962, Myanmar livestock breeders, in collaboration with Indian experts, launched a hatchery business in Hlawga and reaped fruitful results. The hatchery is now producing various fish species of different sizes to meet fish farmers' requirements.

"The hatchery is trying to meet fish breeders' demand. They sell fish and larvae, depending on the breeders' demand. The prices vary depending on the species. The de-



A poster shows fish species for breeding, hatching and rearing at the Hlawga Hatchery Centre . PHOTO: THAN HTIKE

partment is making efforts to improve the fish farming sector, in spite of the lack of technology," said Daw Thin Thin Oo, the Deputy Director of the livestock breeding section under the Yangon Region Fisheries Department.

At the Hlawga Hatchery, eggs of striped catfish and rohu are released in the morning after being injected the previous night. The eggs turn into larvae five days later, and can be placed in the market after another 21 days. This month, the

hatchery has distributed about 2 million rohu larvae to fish breeders.

In addition to striped catfish, rohu and other fish products that are highly demanded by the external market, the market for Mekong giant catfish (locally called Ngamyin) is growing. Therefore, the Fisheries Department is working to produce that fish species with the help of foreign experts at hatcheries in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions.

In Yangon Region, the

Hlawga hatchery was opened in 1958, followed by the Laydaukkan hatchery in 1980, and the Kyauktan shrimp hatchery and the Twantay fish hatchery on 1,300 acres of land in the late 1980s.

The Yangon Region Fisheries Department is offering intensive fish farming courses at the Hlawga hatchery, which cover artificial breeding, maintaining the origin of fish, nursing fingerlings or larvae, quality control of water, and fish diseases and their treatment.

About 30 hatcheries are currently operating under the Myanmar Fisheries Department. To improve the livestock sector, the department is providing educational courses and raising awareness about illegal fish farming and preservation of endangered fish species, as well as releasing fish into rivers, creeks, dams, and reservoirs, and collecting fishery data, in cooperation with international organizations.—Than Htike, GNLM ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Pilot project on workplace injury compensation to be launched

THE Social Security Board, under the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, is working with the International Labour Organization to launch a pilot project on insurance payouts for workplace injuries.

A ceremony to launch the

project will be held at the Awei Metta Hotel Ballroom at Panhlaing Estate, Industrial Zone-6, Hlinethaya Township, Yangon, at 8:30 a.m. on 26 May.

Local and international mediapersons have been invited to attend the ceremony, according

to the Ministry.

In accordance with Section 47 of the Social Security Law 2012, the SSB shall manage the employment injury insurance system to ensure employers do not provide a lump sum to workers as compensation; help

workers enjoy medical treatment, temporary disability benefit, permanent disability benefit; and provide survivors' benefits to families of workers who die on the job. —Maung Lu Maw ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Nine killed, 21 injured in 155 fire outbreaks in Yangon this year

THE number of fire outbreaks across Yangon Region has reached 155 this year, said U Myint Soe, assistant director, Fire Services Department (Yangon Region).

From 1 January to 23 May, outbreaks of fire in Yangon killed nine people, while 21 others sustained injuries. Dur-

ing the period, fires destroyed properties with an estimated value of K2,291 million.

"This summer, there was no huge fire with a large-scale loss of over K10 million in Yangon. The majority of fires were caused by negligence on the part of people who used stoves and electronic devices carelessly," said U Myint Soe. In nearly five months, 59 fires were caused by negligence, while there were 63 electrical fires, according to figures released by the Fire Services Department.

Some electrical fires occurred because of poor-quality wiring and electronic appliances, but some broke out owing to

negligence of people who used electronic appliances carelessly.

In addition, some electrical fires occurred due to mistakes such as overloading of electrical outlets, U Myint Soe added.—Myint Maung Soe

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Driver killed in highway accident in Thaton

A 29-year-old driver was killed instantly after his Nissan Vanette crashed into a 12-wheeled truck from the rear early on Friday morning on the Yangon-Mawlamyine highway in Thaton

Township, Mon State, said police.

The accident happened around 6 a.m. on 24 May between mile posts 146/5 and 146/6 on the highway. The Nissan driver Zaw Min Htwe was travelling to

Thaton from Belin when his van collided with a truck, driven by Myo Win Min, 30, from behind. Zaw Min Htwe died on the spot.

The police have registered a case against the driver for

reckless driving under Section 304 (a) of the Penal Code, and are continuing their investigations in the case.—Hlaing Tun Aung (Thaton) ■ (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Central gold market to be set up in Times City

By Neyin Neyin

A CENTRAL GOLD market will be established on the sixth floor of Times City, located at the junction of the Hanthawaddy Road and Kyun Taw Street in Kamayut Township, said U Ohn Myaing, General Secretary, Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

The association had formed a central gold market establishment implementation committee at the end of 2018 to set up the market. The association has been endeavouring to set up a central gold market since 2013. Although the government had granted land to set up the market around 7th Mile in Mayangon Township, the Myanmar Gold Development Public Co. Ltd has purchased a room on the sixth floor of Times City for the purpose.

“We are sure we will open the central gold market on the sixth floor of Times City. The site is over 10,000 square feet wide, and

was purchased by Myanmar Gold Development Public Co. Ltd,” said U Ohn Myaing.

“Although we have drawn a schedule for opening the central gold market at the end of 2019, we are still getting the Hong Kong and Shanghai Laws translated into Myanmar language. They are slightly similar to Myanmar laws,” said an official from the Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association. “Internally, the central market is scheduled to begin by the end of 2019. The Hong Kong and Shanghai market laws run to more than 300 pages, of which, over 280 pages are suitable for our country,” he added.

“Just as the Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association formed the central gold market establishment implementation committee, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation had also formed a gems and jewellery and gold market implementation com-



Gold jewellery in the showcase of a shop in downtown Yangon. PHOTO : PHOE KHWAR

mittee with officials from related ministries in 2019 to help an international standard gems and jewellery and gold market to emerge. The successful implementation of the central gold market as quickly as possible is largely dependent

on government action,” said U Kyaw Win, the chairman of the Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association and the owner of U Hton Goldsmith and Jewellery.

The Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association has already

submitted its views on setting up the central gold market on the sixth floor of Times City to the related departments and the Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein. ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Trade with China exceeds \$5.5 bln in first half of current FY

THE value of bilateral trade between Myanmar and China topped US\$5.559 billion in the first half of the 2018-2019 fiscal year, according to the latest monthly trade report released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 October and 31 March, Myanmar exported goods worth \$2.5 billion, and imported goods valued at over \$3 billion. In March, Myanmar spent \$440 million on imports from China, and earned \$494 million from the export of goods to its largest neighbour.

Myanmar's exports to China, one of its top trade partners, mainly include minerals, agricul-

ture, marine, and forest products, while its imports include medicines and related equipment, consumer goods, electronic appliances, food and beverages, cosmetics, and other commodities.

Sino-Myanmar trade is conducted not just via the sea routes, but also through border trade camps. There are five major border trade gates between the two countries—Muse, Lwejel, Chinshwehaw, Kanpikete, and Kengtung.

During the 2018 mini-budget period (April-September), bilateral trade between China and Myanmar was pegged at more than \$6 billion.

Sino-Myanmar trade was valued at \$5 billion in the 2011-2012FY. It decreased to \$4.957 billion in the following FY. Trade between the two nations increased to \$7 billion in the 2013-2014FY, and \$9.7 billion in the 2014-2015FY. Sino-Myanmar trade exceeded \$10 billion in the 2015-2016 and the 2016-2017 financial years.

As on April, the Myanmar Investment Commission has approved fresh investments to the tune of \$245.9 million from China. During the last mini-budget, China's investments in Myanmar exceeded \$300 million.—Khine Khant ■ (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Maritime trade falls by \$525.8 mln in Oct-May

MYANMAR'S maritime trade totalled US\$15.35 billion from 1 October to 17 May in the current fiscal year, a decrease of \$525.8 million compared with the corresponding period of the previous FY, according to data provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

During the October-May period, maritime exports were valued at \$5.75 billion, while imports were registered at \$9.59 billion, a sharp decline of \$670 million from the year-ago period.

Over the seven-month period, the value of trade through the border gates exceeded \$6.5 billion, an increase of \$789.5 million. Trade increased in spite of tight confiscation and trade suspension by Myanmar's main trade partner, China, as cross-border trade with Thailand doubled from the year-ago period.

The country's total external trade topped \$21.88 billion, an increase of \$263.6 million from the previous FY.

Myanmar exports agricul-

tural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other products, while it imports capital goods, consumer goods, and raw industrial materials.

The country currently has nine ports conducting sea trade. The Yangon Port is the main gateway for Myanmar's maritime trade, and includes the Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port.—Mon Mon ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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- Market Place (Damasidi Road)
- Market Place (Junction City)
- City Mart (Yankin)
- City Mart (China Town)
- City Mart (Myay Ni Gone)
- City Mart (FMI)
- City Mart (Junction Square)
- City Mart (Junction Maw Tin)
- City Mart (Sule Square)
- City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)
- City Mart (Waizayandar)
- City Mart (Hledan)
- City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
- City Mart (Junction 8)
- City Mart (St. John)
- Ocean North Point (9 mile)
- Ocean Shwegonedine

Ocean SUPER CENTER City Mart Supermarket marketplace by City Mart

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Modi-led BJP wins Indian elections: Election Commission

NEW DELHI — The mobile application of the Election Commission of India (ECI) on early Friday announced the victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the just-concluded 17th general elections.

According to the ECI data, the BJP crossed the half-way mark of 272, required to form the government.

The party's tally is most likely to rise further, as BJP candidates are leading in 31 more parliamentary constituencies, and the counting of votes is still underway, showed the ECI data.

Buoyed by the victory, Prime Minister Modi said he dedicates it to his countrymen. "The people of this country contested this election. I dedicate this victory to my countrymen," he said while addressing thousands of BJP supporters at the party headquarters in New Delhi.

"We had sought mandate for a New India. I bow down before the 1.3 billion countrymen on this occasion. I thank the

Election Commission of India and the security personnel for carrying out the entire election process peacefully."

Modi was accompanied by his party president Amit Shah, who is credited with forging strategic alliances with smaller parties across different states thereby ensuring BJP candidates' victories.

Senior BJP leaders, including Home Minister (Internal Security) Rajnath Singh, External Affairs minister Sushma Swaraj and Health Minister J.P. Nadda were also present at the victory rally.

Speaking on the occasion, party president Amit Shah said that the BJP had secured more than 50 percent of votes polled in as many as 17 states, while the main opposition party the Indian National Congress (INC) could not even win a single constituency in a large number of states.

Earlier, main opposition party the Indian National Congress (INC) president Rahul Gandhi conceded defeat and

congratulated Modi over his victory. He tweeted, "I accept the verdict of the people of India. Congratulations to the winners, Mr Modi & the NDA. Thank you to the people of Wayanad for electing me as your MP. Thank you also to the people of Amethi. Thank you Congress workers & leaders for your hard work in this campaign."

Addressing media persons at his party headquarters in New Delhi, Gandhi said, "The BJP and the INC have different ideologies and visions. Modi and the BJP have their ideology, and the INC has its own. We will continue with our ideology and vision. There are many people in the country who believe in the INC's ideologies and policies." He also appealed to his partymen who lost the elections not to lose heart and continue to work for the party together as a team.

Gandhi also congratulated his arch rival and Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani who defeated him in the Amethi parliamentary constituen-



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (C) celebrates victory at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) headquarters in New Delhi, India, on 23 May, 2019. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced his Bharatiya Janata Party's victory in the just-concluded 17th general elections on Thursday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

cy in northern state of Uttar Pradesh. "I congratulate Smriti Irani, and I hope she will take care of Amethi constituency," he added.

"Today the election re-

sults have been announced. A new prime minister will take over. Our countrymen have given their verdict, and we respect that," Gandhi said. —Xinhua ■

Mongolian president urges parliament to dissolve itself



Undated photo shows GombojavZandanshatar. The Mongolian parliament elected GombojavZandanshatar on 1 February, 2019 as its new speaker through a vote of 95.2 per cent in the country's 76-seat parliament. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

ULAN BATOR — Mongolian President Khaltmaa Battulga on Thursday called on the country's parliament to dissolve itself.

Battulga made the call while addressing a plenary session of the parliament.

"Ethics of members of the parliament and parliamentary activity have worsened. Citizens have already lost their confidence in the parliament," Battulga said in his speech. "I believe that low public trust in the parliament is a major reason to dissolve the legislative body before the expiration of its term," he said.

The president made the remarks after a former parliament member died in suspicious cir-

cumstances at the State House in the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator last week.

This is the second time the Mongolian president has made the proposal on dissolving the country's 76-seat unicameral parliament. Late last year, Battulga submitted an official letter on dissolving the parliament, after financial irregularities by some members of parliament were made public.

However, then parliament speaker Miyegombo Enkhbold rejected the president's proposal, saying that there was no need to dissolve the parliament which "has been functioning normally and resolving pressing issues of the economy and society on time." —Xinhua ■

Abe mulls visit to Iran in June amid US-Iran standoff

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is considering visiting Iran in June for talks with its leadership to help ease escalating tensions between Washington and Tehran, government sources said Friday.

Abe is expected to make a final decision after consulting with US President Donald Trump, who is scheduled to arrive in Japan as a state guest on Saturday. —Kyodo News ■

N Korea vows to take action if US continues hostile behavior

BEIJING — An unnamed North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman on Friday threatened the United States, saying Pyongyang will take action if Washington continues its "hostile acts,"

state-run media reported.

The spokesman was also quoted by the Korean Central News Agency as saying that the cause of the collapse of the second US-North Korea summit in

Hanoi in late February reflects an uncordial attitude of Washington.

If the United States does not change its view on North Korea, negotiations between

the two countries will not resume, making it more difficult to resolve denuclearization issues, the spokesman added, according to the news agency. —Kyodo News ■

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Prime Minister Theresa May makes a statement outside 10 Downing Street on 24 May, 2019 in London, England. The prime minister has announced that she will resign on Friday, 7 June, 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

UK Prime Minister May to quit over Brexit

LONDON — Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May announced Friday she will leave office after repeatedly failing to win support for her Brexit deal.

May said she will step down as leader of the Conservative Party on June 7, making way for a new prime minister to take charge of Brexit negotiations.

May's departure will trigger a race to elect her successor as leader of the party and prime minister, beginning on June 10. May said she will continue to serve as prime minister until a successor is chosen.

May was elected party leader in 2016 following Britain's shock vote to leave the European Union and the departure of then Prime Minister David Cameron. She had supported Britain remaining in the European Union but upon becoming leader promised to negotiate a clean exit from the bloc.

After more than two years of talks, however, ultimately she was unable to reconcile deep divisions within her own party between hardline eurosceptics and those favoring a softer exit from the bloc.

In a statement in Downing Street, May said she had "done everything I can" to persuade members of parliament to back her negotiated withdrawal

agreement with the European Union. "I believe it was right to persevere even when the odds against success seemed high. But it is now clear to me that it is in the best interests of the country for a new prime minister to lead that effort," May said.

May had been facing fierce opposition from members of her own party, along with Northern Irish unionists, over plans to bring her unpopular Brexit agreement back to parliament a fourth time.

The divorce deal, which was concluded in November 2018, was roundly rejected by lawmakers in three parliamentary votes earlier this year.

May said, "It is and will always remain a matter of deep regret to me that I have not been able to deliver Brexit."

She issued a warning to her successor that reaching agreement with the 28-member bloc would require further concessions.

"To succeed, he or she will have to find consensus in parliament where I have not," May said, appealing to lawmakers "on all sides of the debate" to compromise.

Among the favorites to succeed May are former foreign minister Boris Johnson, his successor Jeremy Hunt and interior minister Sajid Javid. —Kyodo News ■

Indonesian presidential candidate Prabowo to submit appeal to challenge election results

JAKARTA — The legal team for losing presidential candidate Prabowo Subianto and running mate Sandiaga Uno will file an appeal with the Constitutional Court on Friday (24 May) evening to challenge the results of last month's presidential election on grounds of electoral fraud.

The deadline for submitting an appeal is end Friday.

Official results for the 17 April vote, which was released by the election commission (KPU) on Tuesday, showed that incumbent President Joko Widodo had secured 55.5 per cent of the vote against Mr Prabowo's 44.5 per cent.

The former army general claimed that he and Mr Sandiaga, a businessman-turned-politician, had lost votes because millions of fictitious names were added to voter rolls.

He had also blamed the exploitation of state apparatus, money politics, precast ballots and data entry errors by the KPU for his loss.

Under Indonesian laws, the Constitutional Court must make a ruling within 14 working days of an appeal. The rulings are final and binding.

"We are ready any time (to take and process the appeal) in the course of today," Constitutional Court spokesman Fajar Laksono told reporters, stressing the independence of the judicial process.

Hearings will be open to the media and the general public.

Mr Fajar said claims of electoral fraud must be made in writing and include evidence, with details such as the location of polling stations implicated.

Mr Denny Indrayana,



Losing Indonesian presidential candidate Prabowo Subianto (above) claimed that he and his running mate Sandiaga Uno had lost votes because millions of fictitious names were added to voter rolls. **PHOTO: AFP**

a member of the losing candidates' legal team, told reporters that the appeal documents have been completed.

The Constitutional Court said it has prepared a schedule to process the appeal. A preliminary hearing may be held on 14 June, and evidence examined between 17 June and 21 June. The debate may

be conducted between 24 June and 27 June, before a ruling is reached, possibly on 28 June. Official results released in the wee hours of Tuesday showed that Mr Joko and vice-presidential candidate Ma'ruf Amin had received more than 85 million votes against the more than 68 million votes cast for Mr Prabowo and Mr Sandiaga.—AFP ■

Lebanon's armed forces commander vows to liberate Lebanese occupied territories

BEIRUT — Lebanese Armed Forces Commander Joseph Aoun vowed on Friday to do whatever it takes to liberate the country's occupied territories, local media reported.

"We will liberate our occupied territories no matter what challenges we will face to reach our

objective," Aoun was quoted as saying by Elnashra, an online independent newspaper.

Aoun's remarks came on the occasion of the Liberation Day which witnessed the Israeli army's withdrawal from southern Lebanon in 2000.

"The army was capa-

ble of liberating the biggest parts of our territories and it will resist and fight until Shebaa Farms, Kfarshouba Hills and the northern part of Ghajar village are completely liberated," he said.

Israel invaded and occupied southern Lebanon in 1978 and annexed the

Golan Heights, including the Shebaa Farms, in 1981, in a move never recognized by the international community.

Aoun praised the Lebanese army for their courage in protecting the country as well as its dignity and security. —Xinhua ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE M.V ZEA FAST

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ZEA FAST VOY. NO. (01870) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-3 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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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE M.V MAERSK WOLGAST VOY. NO. (919S/921N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK WOLGAST VOY. NO. (919S/921N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-05-2019 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.

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Trump to affirm robust alliance in Japan trip, trade in question

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump will pay a four-day state visit to Japan starting Saturday, a high-profile event that will make him the first foreign leader to meet with the nation's new Emperor Naruhito, underscoring the strength of the bilateral alliance.

While celebrating Japan's new imperial era of Reiwa, or beautiful harmony, Trump may push Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in a meeting Monday to swiftly reach a bilateral trade agreement that would put America first as he steps up his 2020 re-election bid.

Trump has repeatedly gone after China, Japan and other surplus-generating countries, accusing them of taking advantage of the United States on trade, and has pledged to address the trade imbalances with them.

While maintaining hefty levies on steel and aluminum imports from Japan and other US trading partners, the Trump administration has also threatened Tokyo and other major car exporters with a potential 25 per cent automobile tariff in a bid to pressure them into making concessions.

The United States has de-

manded that Japan cut tariffs on American farm products as soon as possible, while Tokyo has urged Washington to remove duties on industrial goods, including a 2.5 per cent tariff on Japanese cars. Japan levies no taxes on imported vehicles.

American farmers and ranchers are pressing the administration to level the playing field because they have started losing market share in Japan following the recent enforcement of two free trade agreements.

They are a revised Trans-Pacific Partnership — an 11-member FTA including Japan and farming nations such as Australia and Canada — and an FTA between Japan and the European Union.

In an apparent effort to keep Japan and the United States from exposing a rift on trade during the pomp and circumstance, a senior US administration official said, "I don't think that the purpose of this trip is to focus on trade."

"It's really to be state guests of their majesties," the official said, referring to an audience Monday of Trump and first lady Melania with the emperor and

Empress Masako.

"It's a celebration of their new roles and this new era that's been kicked off — the Reiwa era — and a chance to celebrate the alliance," the official said, requesting anonymity.

The emperor ascended to the Chrysanthemum Throne on May 1 following the abdication of his father and former Emperor Akihito the previous day after a 30-year reign.

In another demonstration of the solid Japan-US alliance, Trump will address troops during a visit Tuesday to the US Yokosuka Naval Base, south of Tokyo.

Trump will underscore the significance of the alliance in deterring aggression in the Indo-Pacific region, as well as the global nature of the bilateral partnership, according to the administration official.

Abe and Trump are also planning to board the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force helicopter carrier Kaga docked at an MSDF base in Yokosuka.

In Monday's summit, the leaders are expected to affirm close coordination over a nuclear-armed North Korea, though the two allies showed differ-



US President Donald Trump holds talks with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the White House in Washington on 26 April, 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

ent responses to Pyongyang's launches of short-range ballistic missiles and other projectiles earlier this month.

While Japan condemned the 9 May ballistic missile test as violating UN Security Council resolutions, Trump downplayed its impact in an apparent effort to continue engaging with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in hopes of holding a third summit with the aim of denuclearizing Pyongyang.

Trump plans to meet with the relatives of Japanese nationals abducted by North Korea in the 1970s and 1980s. He raised the abduction issue during the first-ever US-North Korea summit last June in Singapore and also in his second meeting with

Kim in February in Hanoi.

As part of efforts to resolve the abduction issue, Abe has expressed his readiness to hold a first-ever Japan-North Korea summit without preconditions.

After arriving in Tokyo Saturday, Trump plans to meet with Japanese business leaders over dinner at which he is likely to seek increased investment — and creating jobs — in the United States.

On Sunday, Abe and Trump will play golf together outside Tokyo before they watch a grand sumo tournament at Tokyo's Ryogoku Kokugikan where the president will give the winner a custom-made trophy informally dubbed the "Trump Cup." —Kyodo News ■

China accuses Pompeo of lying about Huawei

BEIJING — China on Friday accused US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo of lying about Chinese tech giant Huawei Technologies Co., as trade and technology rivalries between the world's two biggest economies continue to intensify.

"Some politicians in the United States have been making rumors about Huawei, but they have never been able to provide clear evidence" to prove them, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said at a press conference.

"Such US politicians are now constantly fabricating various dogmatic lies and trying to mislead the American people," Lu added, emphasizing that Washington has been attempting to intentionally escalate US-China economic and technology tensions.

His remarks came a day after Pompeo said in an interview with CNBC on Thursday that Huawei "is tied not only to China but to the Chinese Communist

Party" and that the firm "at least isn't telling the American people the truth, nor the world."

Huawei founder and chief executive officer Ren Zhengfei has argued that his company is not engaged in spying activities, saying it would never comply with a request by Chinese authorities to share confidential information.

US President Donald Trump, meanwhile, suggested Thursday that some type of agreement concerning Huawei

could become part of a trade deal with Beijing, after Washington blacklisted the telecom equipment giant last week.

Citing national security concerns, the US government decided last week to effectively ban American firms from supplying parts to Huawei and put it on a list of companies with which US enterprises cannot trade without a license. Huawei has been a leader in the field of next-generation 5G mobile communications. —Kyodo News ■



Huawei has been thrust at the centre of escalating tensions between Beijing and Washington. **PHOTO: AFP**

US ambassador snubs top Russia forum over investor's arrest

Moscow — The US Ambassador to Russia Jon Huntsman will boycott Russia's annual showcase economic forum in Saint Petersburg next month over the prosecution of a top American investor, the embassy said Friday.

Neither ambassador Huntsman nor other embassy staff will attend the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum in Russia's second city, spokeswoman Andrea Kalan told AFP.

Michael Calvey, the American co-founder of Baring Vostok equity firm, was arrested in February along with five others on fraud charges and held in pre-trial detention in Moscow. In April a court ruled to move him to house arrest.

"Mr Calvey's continued house arrest and criminal prosecution undermines efforts to

create the stability needed to attract new investment and encourage more robust business interaction," Kalan said in written comments.

The Saint Petersburg Economic Forum — Russia's answer to Davos — will take place on 6-8 June.

Calvey faces charges that his equity firm defrauded Vostochny Bank of 2.5 billion rubles (\$38.7 million). He and his firm maintain those arrested are innocent, saying the case against them was fabricated and stemmed from a shareholder dispute.

This week, a court refused to change the conditions of detention for the other foreigner charged in the case, French banker Philippe Delpal, ruling he must await trial in a Moscow jail. —AFP ■

Pakistan conducts training launch of ballistic missile

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan on Thursday conducted a training launch of Shaheen-II, a surface-to-surface ballistic missile, said a statement from Pakistan army.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of Pakistan army, said “The training launch was aimed at ensuring the operational readiness of the Army Strategic Forces Com-

mand.”

According to the ISPR, the Shaheen-II missile is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads up to a range of 1,500 km. The army’s media wing described the missile as a “highly capable missile which fully meets Pakistan’s strategic needs towards the maintenance of desired deterrence stability in the region.”

Senior officers from the Army Strategic Forces Command, scientists and engineers of the strategic organizations witnessed the launch with an impact-point in the Arabian Sea.

Pakistani President ArifAlvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan also extended their congratulations to the scientists and engineers on the national achievement. — Xinhua ■



Photo released by Pakistan’s Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) on 23 May, 2019 shows Shaheen-II, a surface-to-surface ballistic missile, being launched from an undisclosed location in Pakistan. Pakistan on Thursday conducted a training launch of Shaheen-II, said a statement from Pakistan army. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

SpaceX launches first 60 satellites of its internet network

WASHINGTON—SpaceX has launched a rocket carrying the first 60 satellites of its “Starlink” constellation, which is intended to provide internet from space in an array that could one day contain over 12,000 orbiting transponders.

One of the company’s Falcon 9 rockets blasted off without

incident from Cape Canaveral in Florida around 10:30 pm Thursday (0230 GMT Friday).

An hour later, the rocket began to release the satellites at an altitude of 280 miles (450 kilometers). The satellites then had to separate and use their thrusters to take up their positions in a relatively low orbit of 340 miles

(550 kilometers). “Successful deployment of 60 Starlink satellites confirmed!”, the company said on its official Twitter account. Their final orbit is slightly higher than the International Space Station, but well below the majority of terrestrial satellites — the highest of which are geostationary at 22,400 miles (36,000 kilometers).—AFP

Thai beverage company team enters Myanmar’s energy drink market

THAILAND’S leading beverage company Ichitan Group teamed up with local distributor Dagon Win Win and launched T247 hybrid energy drink in Myanmar, with a goal to achieve 60 MB sales in the first year.

Tan Passakornnatee, president of Ichitan Group PLC said at the launch event held at the Hotel Novotel Yangon, “Myanmar is one of the fastest growing economies in Southeast Asia with promising potential. Considering the continuous GDP growth from 6.1 per cent in 2013 to 8.4 per cent in 2017,

the country has witnessed rising household disposable income.

A large portion of the population is young generation who work hard and prefer energy drink over soft drinks, according to the consumer survey by Frost & Sullivan. This trend has promoted the popularity of energy drink, which is seen from the strong influx of energy drinks brand from approximately 10 in 2010 to 20-15 brands today.—Thiri

(Translated by GNLM)

NASA invites public to submit names to fly with Mars 2020 rover

LOS ANGELES — Although it will be years before the first humans set foot on Mars, the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is giving the public an opportunity to send their names, stenciled on chips, to the Red Planet with NASA’s Mars 2020 rover.

Those who want to send their names to the Red Planet on the Mars 2020 mission can get a souvenir boarding pass and their names stenciled on chips to be affixed to the rover, according to NASA.

The event will last until 30 September, 2019. People from around the world have sent in more than 3.3 million names to fly aboard Mars 2020 by Thursday night, with submissions from Turkey leading the way.

“As we get ready to launch this historic Mars mission, we want everyone to share in this

journey of exploration,” said Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator for NASA’s Science Mission Directorate in Washington.

“It’s an exciting time for NASA, as we embark on this voyage to answer profound questions about our neighboring planet, and even the origins of life itself,” he said.

Mars 2020 is scheduled to launch as early as July 2020, with the spacecraft expected to touch down on Mars in February 2021.

The rover, weighing more than 2,300 pounds (over 1,000 kg), will search for signs of past microbial life, characterize the planet’s climate and geology, collect samples for its future return to Earth, and pave the way for human exploration of the Red Planet. — Xinhua ■

China’s tech ‘Long March’ could be road to nowhere

SHANGHAI — China’s president has called for technological self-reliance in the escalating rivalry with America, but experts believe Beijing’s late start on tech and relatively backward capabilities could make that a mission impossible.

China has no doubt made an amazing transformation, from a former basket case wracked by mass famine and political upheaval to a highly connected society marked by growing use of renewable energy, a space programme, and bullet trains criss-crossing the country.

But a closer look reveals that while China is adept at assembling foreign technologies into commercially successful products at home, its ability to innovate remains deeply hampered, tech experts said.

Take semiconductors, the building blocks of the global digital architecture.

China’s government has poured money into an effort to develop its own semiconductors and chip designs but has not been able to close the gap with US, Japanese and South Korean rivals.

“One way to look at (China’s situation) is that someone may be able to make beautiful designs out of Legos, but they don’t know how to make the Legos themselves,” said Gabriel Chou, Asia chair for World Semiconductor Trade Statistics, a grouping of semiconductor-product companies.

“(China) is aggressively attacking the end-market, such as mobile phones or other consumer products. But semiconductors require many very fundamental science skills” that China struggles with, Chou added.

The risks are now clear following last week’s move by Washington to ban Chinese telecom and smartphone giant Huawei’s access to critical American chips and other technology.

The ban has thrown the company’s future into doubt, causing a number of Huawei partners around the world to bail on the company and emphatically illustrating US tech clout.

Long March

President Xi Jinping this week telegraphed his alarm, calling for self-reliance in “key core

technologies” while saying China faced a “Long March” against foreign challengers — a reference to a now-legendary 1934-35 strategic retreat by Communist revolutionaries.

But a state-directed approach is a bad idea, said Paul Triolo, head of geotechnology at the Eurasia Group.

Triolo said the world’s top tech companies got where they are because open competition with rivals forced them to develop better products and attract the best human capital. —AFP ■

Japan donates Tatami Judo mats to Myanmar Judo Federation

WITH the aim of raising the standard of Myanmar Judo, the All Japan Judo Federation (AJJF) from Japan, led by Counsellor Tomoko Yoshihiro from the Embassy of Japan, donated 155 Tatami Judo mats, floor mats made from a type of rice straw and used in the sport, to the Myanmar Judo Federation yesterday.

The donation ceremony was held at the Thuwunna Indoor Stadium in Yangon. The chairman of the Myanmar Judo Federation, U Tun Tun, received the Tatami mats on behalf of the

federation.

Afterwards, U Tun Tun expressed his heartfelt thanks to AJJF.

He said he really appreciated the donation because the Myanmar Judo team has been set up systematically with new and talented athletes.

He thanked AJJF officials for supporting the Judo sport in Myanmar.

The ceremony concluded with officials from the AJJF and the MJF taking group photos.—Saw Thein Win ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Officials from the All Japan Judo Federation and the Myanmar Judo Federation pose for a group photo during a ceremony for donating Tatami Judo mats yesterday. **PHOTO: SAW THEIN WIN**

Yangon United signs defender Kyaw Swar Lin

YANGON United has signed Defender Kyaw Swar Lin for one and a half years, according to a statement issued by the football club yesterday.

Speaking about signing with the club, Kyaw Swar Lin said: "I am content to be a part of the defending champions of the Myanmar National League. I am determined for a victory, and I want to further my professional career."

In addition, I would like to showcase my skills in each and every match."

"I will do my best for Yangon United and the team's fans. I am preparing to participate in the upcoming matches," he added.

Kyaw Swar Lin will likely

participate in the General Aung San Shield semifinal match between Yangon United and Sagaing United.

The 27-year-old defender started playing professionally in 2013 with Manaw Myay F.C.

He played for the team for three years, showcasing his skills throughout his term.

Thereafter, he spent half of the season in 2016 with Rakhine United, and transferred to Magwe F.C., staying with them from 2017 to half of the 2019 season.

In addition, he had been selected in the Myanmar National Team for the AFC Asian Cup 2019 Qualifiers.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Defender Kyaw Swar Lin (left) accepts Yangon United's jersey from an official with the team. **PHOTO: YUFC**

Sagaing United eyes Kaung Sat Naing for MNL half season

SAGAING United FC. is working to recruit young and talented forward player Kaung Sat Naing in preparation for the half season of the MPT Myanmar National League 2019, according to a statement released by the MNL.

The agreement between the player and the team has been okayed, said Sagaing United head coach U Zaw Lin Tun.

Kaung Sat Naing previously played for Thai League II club, Samut Sakhon F.C., and he will join Sagaing United after signing a contract with the team, Sagaing United stated.

Striker Kaung Sat Naing will likely join the second round of the General Aung San Shield semifinals, said U Zaw Lin Tun.

"He will not be able to partic-



Striker Kaung Sat Naing. **PHOTO: SAMUT SAKHON F.C.**

ipate in the first round of the General Aung San Shield semifinals, but after completing his recruitment formalities, he will join the team and is likely to participate in the second round of

the semifinals," he said.

Sagaing United players have showcased their brilliant skills with fabulous results in both the MNL and the General Aung San Shield 2019.

Sagaing United is placed fifth position in the MNL with 19 points, and has been recognized as one of the best striking teams in the national league, according to the MNL.

The team reached the semifinal stage of the General Aung San Shield by beating Yadanarbon F.C. with a single goal, scored by Aung Hlaing Win at the 67th minute.

Sagaing United will face Yangon United, which is hoping to hold on to the championship title of the General Aung San Shield.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

'I have sympathy for Kovac' — Bayern legend Hitzfeld

BERLIN— Legendary former Bayern Munich boss Ottmar Hitzfeld has told AFP that he does not understand the criticism levelled at current coach Niko Kovac, and has backed the Croatian to complete a league and cup double this weekend.

"I don't understand the criticism and controversy around Niko Kovac at all," Hitzfeld, 70, told AFP from his home in Loerach, Southern Germany.

Hitzfeld won the Champions League and five Bundesliga

titles in two spells in charge of Bayern between 1998 and 2008.

He said that Kovac had "held his nerve" to complete a difficult job this season.

Despite leading Bayern to a seventh successive league title this season, Kovac has continuously had to fight off speculation over his future amid rumours of dressing room disharmony and lack of boardroom support.

The 47-year-old is rumoured to be fighting for his job as he looks to complete a domestic

double in Saturday's German Cup Final against RB Leipzig.

"I have to congratulate Niko on the way he mastered certain situations this season," said Hitzfeld, praising the way that Kovac had overseen a generational transition at Bayern.

"It was difficult for him as a young coach. You have to give game time to players like Franck Ribery and Arjen Robben, while also building up younger players like Serge Gnabry and Kingsley Coman." — AFP