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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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



12th-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's twelfth regular session is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

AT THE 12th day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 12th regular session held at Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning, questions raised by 13 Hluttaw representatives were answered by union level officials and a motion discussed and approved.

Question and answer session

In the question and answer session Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr. Ye Myint Swe responded to questions raised by U Maung Maung of Htigyaing constituency, U Win Naing of Mogaung constituency and U Sai Sai Mai, Mongkai constituency on compensation for damage to farm lands from power cable connected for Tagaungtaung Nickel Project and re-demarcation of forest areas.

Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe on the other hand replied to questions raised by U Tun Myint of Bahan constituency and U Saw Tin Win of Kya-in-Seikkyi constituency on a plan to build new office or move to new location the dilapidated Bahan Township immigration office and plans drawn to eradicate forced labour and preventing reoccurrence of it.

Questions on replacing power cables, installing power lines, transformers and power distribution to villages raised by Dr. U Saw Naing of South Okkalapa constituency, U Nay Htat Win of Sinbaungwe constituency and U Pho Maung of Pekhon constituency were answered by Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing.

Finally questions on education covering plan to build new school building, establishing an associate government technical institute (AGTI) in Dawei, upgrade of schools and improving drainage in a school raised by U Pa Htan of Matupi constituency, U Aung Soe of Thayetchaung constituency, U Aung Kyaw Oo of Mongton constituency, U Tin Nu @ U Tin Nu Aung from Manaung constituency and U Win Min of Hlinethaya constituency were answered by Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun.

SEE PAGE-2

President to pay visit to India

AT the invitation of His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will pay a visit to the Republic of India in the near future to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the Prime Minister of India for the second term.—MNA ■

Myanmar, UNDP, UNHCR extend MoU on Rakhine repatriation

THE Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the United Nations Development Programme, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees signed an 'Exchange of Letters' to assist the repatriation process of displaced people from Rakhine State.

The EOL was signed to extend a previous Memorandum of Understanding between the three parties, inked on 6 June, 2018, by one more year.

The new tripartite MoU will expire on 5 June, 2020.

At the signing ceremony, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe assured close collaboration with the UNDP and the UNHCR in repatriating the displaced people, resettling them, and creating job opportunities for them.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

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

FROM PAGE-1

Motion on teaching history and geography discussed and approved

Following the question and answer session a motion urging the government to increase the teaching of history and geography in middle school to produce more historians and geography experts on Myanmar tabled by U Aung Thike of Seikpyu constituency was discussed by U Sein Myint of Myingyan constituency, U Myint Lwin of Twantay constituency, U Shwe Hla @ U Shwe Hla Win of Thingangyun constituency, U Min Thein of Taungdwingyi constituency, U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Papun constituency, Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative Capt. Daw Myint Myint Nwe and U Nan Mon Htin of Machanbaw constituency.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun also discussed in support of approving the motion.


Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe.


Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr. Ye Myint Swe.


Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun.


Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing.

As U Aung Thike wanted the motion to be approved by the Hluttaw and there was no objection toward it, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's approval of the motion. The 13th day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hlutatw's 12th regular session will be held on 30 May. — Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

(Translated by Zaw Min)


MP U Tun Myint.


MP U Maung Maung.


MP Dr. U Saw Naing.

Amyotha Hluttaw

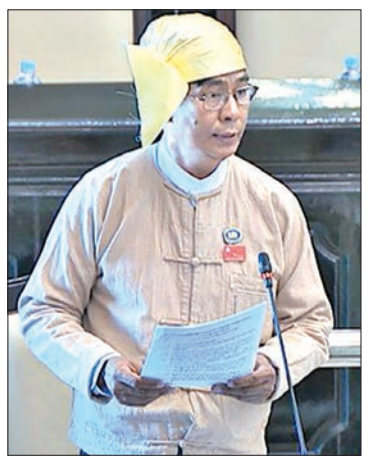
Amyotha Hluttaw approves fourth Bill Amending Union Judiciary Law


Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut.


Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw.


Supreme Court Judge U Myo Tint.


MP U Lal Min Htan.


MP Dr. U Kywe Kywe.

By Aung Ye Thwin, Lu Maw (MNA)

The fourth Bill amending the Union Judiciary Law was approved by Amyotha Hluttaw at the 12th-day meeting of Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 12th regular session held in Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning.

Question and Answer Session

First during the question and answer session, questions on plans to construct rural roads and upgrade a road raised by U Lal Min Htan of Chin State constituency 10, U Shan Awl of Chin State constituency 2, U Bwe Khane of Chin State constituency 3, U Whey Tin of Chin State constituency 11 and Dr. Zaw Lin Htut of Mon State constituency 9 were answered by Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut.

Questions on plans to build bridges, upgrading of a bridge and reason for delays in implementing construction works after the passing of 5 to 6 months in a fiscal year raised by Daw Hla Htay @ Daw Ohn Kyi of Mandalay Region constituency 4, U His Hu Dwe of Kachin State constituency 2, U Aung Thein of Bago Region constituency 12 and U Mya Min Swe of Magway Region constituency 9 were answered by Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw.

Hluttaw approves fourth Bill to Amend the Union Judiciary Law

Next, Bill Committee member U Aung Thein of Bago Region constituency 12 reread and explained the committee's report on a bill to amend the Union Judiciary Law for the fourth time and the Speaker obtained the decision of the Hluttaw to approve the bill paragraph by paragraph.

Supreme Court Judge U Myo Tint then tabled a motion for the bill to be approved and the motion was supported by Dr. U Kywe Kywe of Mandalay Region constituency 6.

Afterwards, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker obtained the Hluttaw's decision to approve the bill.

The next meeting, 13th day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 12th regular session, is scheduled for 30 May.

(Translated by Zaw Min)

C-in-C of Defence Services inspects MEC's Tyre Factory (Ywama)

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected the Ywama Tyre Factory of the Myanma Economic Corporation in Insein Township yesterday.

First, a Factory Manager reported on factory operations and supply to the local market and status of exports.

After hearing the report, the Senior General stressed the importance of the quality of rubber and related raw materials in producing quality products and the need to do market research to ensure local market supply and to boost export of the factory's products. He also saw to the needs of the factory employees including their social welfare and accommodation requirements.

Following the meeting, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited the production line of the factory, inspecting steps for producing TRI STAR Tyres.

Before concluding the visit, the Senior General presented cash awards to employees of the factory, according to the news released by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA ■

(Translated by GNLM)



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects the process of tyre production at the Ywama Tyre Factory of the Myanma Economic Corporation in Insein Township, Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

Union Minister attends the opening ceremony of SC Auto Factory, launching of the SC Neustar "First Myanmar Made Bus"



Union Minister U Thaung Tun, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and attendees pose for a photograph at the opening ceremony of the SC Auto (Myanmar) Factory in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

U THAUNG TUN, Union Minister of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC), attended the opening ceremony of the SC Auto (Myanmar) Factory in the Yangon Industrial Zone of Mingalardon Township this morning.

The official opening of SC auto was attended by over 370 representatives of local and oversea motorcar manufacturers and suppliers.

The SC Auto (Myanmar) Factory is a 100 percent foreign-owned company based in Singapore, which produces the 'SC Neustar' brand of buses/coaches in accordance with the MIC's permit.

Union Minister U Thaung Tun, Chief Minister of Yangon Region Government U Phyo Min Thein and the Singapore Ambassador to Myanmar Ms. Vanessa Chan delivered the opening remarks. Ms. Rachel Lee, Managing Director of SC Auto (Myanmar) Company Limited provided a background briefing on the SC Auto investment in Myanmar. In his address, The Union Minister emphasized that the MIC encourages a responsible business environment – and welcomes investment from firms like SC Auto.

Businesses like SC Auto are expected to transfer technology and promote employment opportunities.

The SC Auto's SC Neustar brand is the first bus made in Myanmar to European standards. Minister welcomes the fact that over 200 jobs would be created through this initiative, as well as promoting technology transfer.

This sets a good example for future foreign investment in Myanmar. The Minister reiterated that the present time is the best time for investors to do business in Myanmar. —MNA ■

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo receives Mr. Paul Prettitore

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received Senior Land Administration Specialist and Task Team Leader of World Bank Mr. Paul Prettitore and delegation at the meeting hall of Union Attorney-General Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed matters related to current land laws and practice of them, works on enacting inclusive National Land Law, and conditions of farmland and other confiscated lands to be scrutinized again and processes of confiscated farmlands.

They also discussed matters related to resolving squatting and land disputes in accordance with laws and cooperation on improving land sector related laws. —MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo holds talks with Senior Land Administration Specialist and Task Team Leader of The World Bank Mr. Paul Prettitore yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe shakes hands with Republic of Korea (ROK) Foreign Minister Mrs. Kang Kyung-Wha on 27 May. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe meets ROK Foreign Minister

A delegation led by Union Minister for State Counsellor's Office U Kyaw Tint Swe left Myanmar for Korea on 26 May to attend 14th Jeju Forum.

On 27 May, the Union Minister met with Republic of Korea (ROK) Foreign Minister Mrs. Kang Kyung-Wha at ROK Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At the meeting matters relating to Korea-ASEAN cooperation, increasing relation with ASEAN countries including Myanmar in implementing ROK's New Southern Policy, Korean investment in Myanmar and 30th Korea-ASEAN summit meeting to be held in November 2019 were openly and cordially discussed. The meeting was also attended by Myanmar Ambassador to ROK U Thant Sin.

Later in the evening, the Union Minister and party attended a dinner hosted by Industrial Bank of Korea Senior Executive Vice President Mr. Oh Hyuk-Soo. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

First Coordination Meeting for Preparation of Initial Report for the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE first coordination meeting for the preparation of Initial Report for the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am on 28 May 2019. The meeting was attended by the officials from the concerned ministries and government organizations.

At the meeting, U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for the International Cooperation made an opening remark and stated that Myanmar is committed to the protection and promotion of human rights; and, therefore, Myanmar became signatory to a number of international human rights treaties. As a state party to the human rights covenants, the periodic reports have to be presented by the government to the treaty bodies in accordance with the provisions in the treaties. For the first time, Myanmar is planning to submit its Initial Report to the treaty body of ICESCR which Myanmar ratified in 2017. It is needed to provide the necessary facts by the concerned ministries and the organizations in preparation and compilation of the Initial Report.

After that, the participants joined in the discussion on the preparation of the Initial Report.—MNA



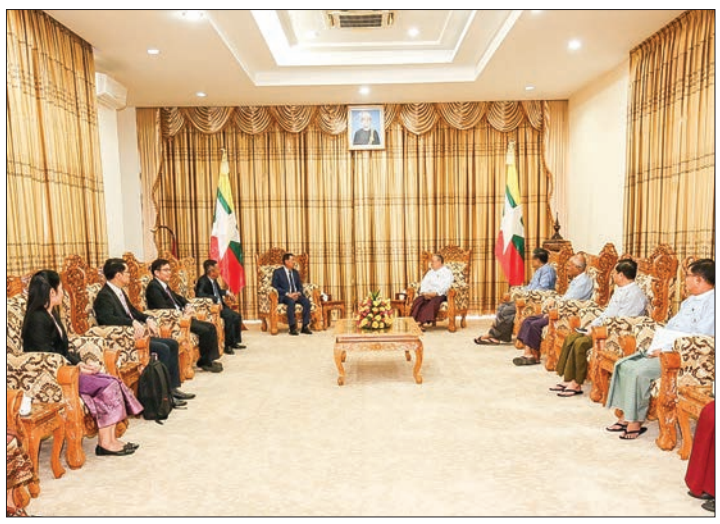
Union Minister U Kyaw Tin attends the first coordination meeting for the preparation of Initial Report for the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. **PHOTO: MNA**

CBM, Bank of Lao PDR hold bilateral meeting

THE fourth bilateral meeting between the Central Bank of Myanmar and the Bank of the Lao P.D.R was held at 9:00 a.m on 28 May 2019 at the Central Bank of Myanmar (Padauk Meeting Hall), Nay Pyi Taw.

The Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, H. E. U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, and the Governor of the Bank of the Lao P.D.R, H.E. Mr. Sonexay SITPHAXAY, delivered the opening remarks.

During the meeting, the Central Bank of Myanmar and the Bank of the Lao P.D.R discussed and exchanged views on matters relating to banking and other financial sector development such as monetary policy implementation and FX issues, banking supervision, cross-border workers' remittance, and bilateral swap arrangement. The bilateral meeting successfully completed at 12:50p.m.—MNA



CBM Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung meets with Governor of the Bank of the Lao P.D.R, Mr. Sonexay SITPHAXAY in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Commemorative stamp to be issued for month of Nayone

THE Myanmar Posts of the Ministry of Transport and Communications has issued a special commemorative stamp to mark the month of Nayone portraying its symbols of Religious Examination Festival and Jasminum sambac (Jasmine flower).

The sales of the special stamp will be launched at post offices in states and regions on 3rd June, 2019 (1st Waxing of Nayone 1381 ME).

As a special program, Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, Yangon Post Office and Mandalay Post Office will stamp post mark and date on the commemorative stamps and First Day Covers bought on 3rd June 2019. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Myanmar, UNDP, UNHCR extend MoU on Rakhine repatriation

FROM PAGE-1

The Union Minister said that the necessary assessments concerning 22,432 displaced people were being conducted since the third coordination meeting in Dhaka on 30 October, 2018.

Based on an assessment conducted by officials of the UNDP and the UNHCR under the tripartite agreement, permission was given on 9 April this year to carry out the first 21 community-based projects of the 35 projects slated for 10 villages in Buthidaung Township and 14 villages in Maungtaw Township, said the Union Minister.

Of the 36 community-based projects in the second phase, 13 projects will be implemented in 20 villages in Buthidaung Township and 15 villages in Maungtaw Township, according to the Ministry.

Furthermore, to implement the tripartite MoU, village-tracts where the assessment is to be carried out have been approved.

At the ceremony, Mr. Johan Cels and Ms. Dawn Del Rio explained the plan for accepting the displaced people and the assistance to be given to them.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, and Population U Aye Lwin, Mr. Johan Cels, and Ms. Dawn Del Rio signed the Exchange of Letters in the presence of Union Minister U Thein Swe, and Deputy Ministers U Knin Maung Tin and U Soe Aung . Thereafter, the Union Minister and officials posed for a group photo.—MNA ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)



Union Minister U Thein Swe attends the ceremony to sign "Exchange of Letters" to extend a previous Memorandum of Understanding-MoU among Myanmar, UNDP and UNHCR in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

First meeting of UPR Myanmar Report Preparation Work Committee

THE Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Myanmar Report Preparation Work Committee held its first meeting at Union Attorney General Office yesterday morning.

At the meeting, work committee chairman Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo said Myanmar's UPR reports were submitted twice on 2011 and 2015. For the second cycle, Myanmar received 281 recommendations from 93 countries. A third cycle will be submitted in 2020 and a National Level Committee led by Vice President U Myint Swe was formed and implementing 12 work sectors. Our work committee was to prepare a report based on the sector wise information provided. The format of the report, matters to be included in, time table for the report were to be designated and submitted to the national level committee. All are requested to discuss and suggest on the inclusion of development and work progress on human rights, said the Union Attorney General.

Next, work committee members discussed and suggested on past experience in preparing report and preparing a complete report within the set time frame.

The meeting was attended by work committee vice chairmen Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu, Deputy Minister for Office of the Union Government U Tin Myint, Union Deputy Attorney General U Win Myint, members of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, Deputy Judge Advocate General and departmental organizations. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo delivers the speech at the first meeting of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Myanmar Report Preparation Work Committee. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for SWRR receives Executive Director of Community and Family Service International



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye holds talks with Executive Director of CFSI Dr. Steven Muncy at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Dr, Wim Myat Aye received Executive Director of CFSI Dr.Steven Muncy this morning at his ministry.

During the meeting, they discussed the current status of the Social Welfare Education project which was being carried out in collaboration with CFSI, child protection, sexual harassment protection, passing of Child Protection laws in the near future, which the ministry was drawing up, Post Legislative Scrutiny of these laws, improvement of skills and qualities of government employees and the collaboration with Philippine Universities through CFSI to offer post graduate, short term and online courses.. —MNA ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Media reports situation in Sittway

A media delegation including local and foreign journalists arrived in Sittway from Yangon yesterday by air. They then went to Thae Chaung IDP camp in Sittway Township, and reported the ground situation. The media delegation comprised of journalists from Asahi Shinbum, MIR, New York Times, De-Correspondent, MRTV, MITV and MNA. This is thirty-first visit of local and foreign media delegation to Rakhine State. — MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



A foreign journalist interviews locals at Thae Chaung IDP camp in Sittway. **PHOTO: MNA**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release No.20/2019
9th Waning of Kason 1381 ME
(27 May 2019)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 25 May 2019 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

Sr.	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal actions taken
1.	Information received of Eaitoke who lives in Pantha Village, Mawlaik Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 19 May 2019, police searched the house of Eitoke (a) Aung Kyaw Than, aged 58, son of U Htwe Maung, together with his son-in law Tun Min Oo, aged 25, son of U Tun Shwe who live in Pantha Village, Mawlaik Township, and seized them together with heroin. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa(Mawlaik), MaYa(Pa)14/2019 under Section 19(a)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2.	Information received of Kyaw Than who lives in 83rd Street, between 23rd and 24th streets, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 22 May 2019, police seized Kyaw Than, aged 37, son of U Hla Tun, who lives in 83rd Street, between 23rd and 24th streets, Chanmyathazi Township together with stimulant tablets in his parcel, while he came and met his uncle Kyaw Swe, aged 51, son of U Mohamed Ali, who are serving a sentence in Mandalay Central Prison. A case has been opened him with NaMaSa(2) (Aungmyethazan), MaYa(Pa)1/2019 under section 19(a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3.	Information received of Myint Soe who lives in Thuzita 3rd Street, Ward No 2, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 20 May 2019, police seized Myint Soe, aged 40, son of U Tin Hla, who lives in Thuzita 3rd Street, together with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters on the Thuzita Road, Ward No 2, North Okkalapa Tsp. A case has been opened him with MaMaSa(North Okkalapa), MaYa(Pa)41/2019 under section 16(c) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4.	Information received of Aung Myat Tun who lives in Kyunkalay Village, Hlegu Township, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 23 May 2019, police seized Htet Myat Thu, aged 27, son of U Soe Aung, who live in Pyitawthar Ward and Soe Min Oak, aged 26, son of U Zaw Zaw, who lives in Mingalar Street, Sangyoung Tsp, together with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters on Bago-Yangon Road, Hlegu Tsp. Acting on a tip-off, police seized Aung Myat Tun, aged 35, son of U Win Aung, who lives in Kyunkalay Village, selling illegal drugs. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa(Hlegu), MaYa(Pa)7/2019 under section 16(c) and 21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5.	Information received of Tun Tun Aung who lives in Hmawset Ward, Dala Township, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 25 May 2019, police searched a motorbike driven by Tun Tun Aung, aged 41, son of U Win Myint who live in Tharaphy St, Hmawset Ward, Dala Township, and seized him together with heroin. A case has been opened him with MaMaSa(Dala), MaYa(Pa) 50/2019 under section 16(c) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6.	Information received of illegal drug using and selling in Phayapyu Ward, Taunggyi Township, Southern Shan State.	Police force conducted investigations and arrested four men and a woman suspects in possession of heroin and illegal drugs. Five cases were opened and information relating to the arrests has been made public during the previous weeks. On 19 May 2019, acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Sit Min Naing(a)Thar Thar, aged 20, son of U Soe Thein who lives in Phayapyu Ward, together with Tet Toe(a) Nay Myo Aung, aged 20, son of U Naing Lin who live in Palelin Village, and seized them together with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened them with NaMaSa(Taunggyi), MaYa(Pa)50/2019 under section 16(c) and 21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far a total of 633 cases have been opened files as of 25 May 2019. A total of 996 people, including 834 men and 162 women had been arrested with seizures of 6142.15 g of heroin, 73.67 g of ICE, 38704.74 g of opium, 329.6 g of low-quality opium, 19399.27 g of speciosa powder, 7833.19 g of speciosa, 1.5 liters of liquid speciosa, 238533 stimulant tablets, 6424.22 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 513.26 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 23.45 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 16 firearms, different kinds of 257 cartridges and 1 grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the ministry will report on further exposed cases.

4. In addition to the investigations and arrests conducted on drug related complaints mentioned above, the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force have also carried out separate investigations on drug complaints, search and arrests at border gates, and searches of vehicles acting upon given information.
During the previous week, multiple arrests were made in the border regions and joint-surveillance gates.

Upon acting on a tip-off, police arrested a man with 90 stimulant tablets and 113.2 g of heroin at Thayargon Village, Mohnyin Tsp, Kachin State. Police search a man with a motorbike on the road of Nanlan Village, Phakant Tsp and arrested him with 4600 stimulant tablets and a motorbike. Police arrested a man with 28 stimulant tablets and 240 g of opium block in Mazutyan Village. Two men were arrested with 10 g of heroin, 0.01 liter of opium tincture and a motorbike near the bridge of Konmahet Village, Bhamo Tsp. A man and a woman were arrested with 2058 stimulant tablets and 53.9 g of heroin at the Manweingyi Village in Mansi Tsp. A woman was arrested with 1100 g of heroin and a motorcycle at the Hsikhamgyi Village.

Police searched two men on a motorbike and arrested them with a seizure of 1000 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Dimawhso –Toungoo road in Dimawhso Townshop, Kayah State. Three men were arrested with 10000 stimulant tablets in Ward 9, Hpa-an Township, Kayin State. Upon acting on a tip-off, police arrested a man and a woman together with 128000 stimulant tablets and one Light Truck. A man was arrested with 1224.75 g of speciosa in Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State. Two men were arrested with 2800 stimulant tablets in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State. A man was arrested with 35 stimulant tablets in Mingan Ward, Sittway Town, Rakhine Statae. A man was arrested with 2 g of marijuana in Chaungkauk Ward, Taungup Township, Rakhine State. Upon acting on tip-off, a man was seized with one stimulant tablet and 2 g of marijuana in this ward. A woman was arrested with 158 stimulant tablets in Kanpaing Ward. A man was arrested with 1000 stimulant tablets and one motor vehicle in Pali Lin-Aye Tharyar road, near Pali Lin Village, Taunggyi Township, Shan State. A man and a woman were arrested with 2810 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Kaunggyisu Ward. Two men were arrested with 18000 g of opium and one motorbike in Payagyigone Village, Ywangan Township. A man was seized with 1000 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Mongkai Laikha road, Mongkai Township. A man was arrested with 930.81 g of opium in Ward 1, Mong Township, Shan State. A woman was arrested with 2760 stimulant tablets in Ward 7, Tangyan Town, Shan State. Police seized a motor vehicle that had stopped on the road and seized 24000 stimulant tablets, 350 g of heroin and one motor vehicle on Muse-Kutkai road near the Oriental Toll Gate. A man was seized with 803 stimulant tablets and 11 g of heroin in Mawtong Village, Namhkam Township. A man and a woman were arrested with 1524 stimulant tablets, 248 g of opium and 5 g of heroin in Naryoke Village, Momeik Township. Police seized ownerless 280725 g of stimulant tablets in Laukkai Township. Three men were arrested with 40000 stimulant tablets and two motorbikes in in Tachilek Town. Police seized 5940 g of heroin and one motor vehicle on Phaungpyin-Pilebu road, Phaungpyin Township. A man was arrested with 580 g of low-quality opium and one motorbike in at Three-mile inspection gate in Khamti Town. A man was seized with 17 stimulant tablets and 3060 g of speciosa powder in Innlay Myaing 3 Ward, Myeik Town, Taninthayi Region. Two men and a woman were arrested with 10712 stimulant tablets and one motor vehicle in Zalone Village, Taninthayi Township. Five men were arrested with 22 stimulant tablets in Htangone Village, Pyu Town, Bago Region. Upon acting on a tip-off, two women were arrested with 69 stimulant tablets. A man was arrested with 142 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Brighttolartaung Village, Zeyawady Township, Bago Region. A man was arrested with 4770 stimulant tablets at 16-mile inspection gate, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region. Police seized ownerless 400000 stimulant tablets and two motorbikes in Mogok Township. A man was arrested with 1000 g of ICE in Pauksauk Village, Hlegu Township, Yangon Region. Two men were arrested with 1000 stimulant tablets and one bicycle in U San Pe Ward, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region. A man was seized with 1100 stimulant tablets, 40 g of ICE, and 67 g of marijuana in North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region.

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Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

FROM PAGE-6

A man was seized with 237 stimulant tablets, 17 g of ICE, 30.33 go of marijuana and one motorbike in Ward 7, Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Yangon Region.

There have been three seizures of ammunitions. Six men were arrested with 4962 stimulant tablets, 2 percussion lock firearms, 70 g of gunpowder and 10 lead balls in Naungpaw Village, Lashio Township, Shan State. A man was arrested with 0.2 g of heroin, 2 pistols, one percussion lock firearm, 8 9-mm cartridges and three bullet caskets in Kaunghone Village, Lashio Township, Shan State. A woman was seized with 244.95 g of speciosa powder and one percussion lock firearm in Pulaw Township, Taninthayi Region.

There has been one arrest involving foreigners. A Thai man who entered illegally was seized with 839 stimulant tablets, one pistol, 29 9-mm cartridges, tow bullet caskets and one motorbike on Bogyoke Road, Tachilek Township, Shan State.

There has been an arrest connected to the shooting. Upon acting on tip-off, police searched a house situated in Ward (3/b), Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region, where two people tried to defend using two swords. Police arrested a wounded man and a dead man together with 56 stimulant tablets, 10 swords, 2 iron gloves, one spear, one air gun, 48 iron balls, 39 plastic balls and two iron rods. Moreover, a man coming to take narcotic drugs in the house was arrested.

There have been 232 cases being opened between 19-5-2019 and 25-5-2019. A total of 339 people, including 302 men and 37 women, were seized with 939504 stimulant tablets, 8365.79985 g of heroin, 1057.5 g of ICE, 19358.81 g of opium, 0.01 liters of heroin solutions, 580 g of low-quality opium, 240 g of opium blocks, 3304.95 g of speciosa powder, 1224.75 g of speciosa, 183.14 go of marijuana, 7 kinds of firearms, 37 9-mm cartridges, five bullet caskets, 70 g of gun powder, 10 lead balls, 10 swords, two iron gloves, one spear, one air gun, 48 iron balls, 39 plastic balls and two iron rods.

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

Contacts

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

Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe attends 72nd World Health Assembly

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe and his delegation attended the 72nd World Health Assembly (WHA72) held at the office of the United Nations (Headquarters) in Geneva, Switzerland, from 20 to 25 May and returned to Yangon on 26 May.

The WHA72 was attended by health ministers and delegations from 192 member states, officials from the organizations under the UN and INGOs and invited representatives.

Myanmar delegation attended the discussions (morning session), committee meetings and expert talks (afternoon session) on efficiency of the WHO in South-East Asia Region.

Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe attended the meeting on Vaccination coverage reaching every child conducted by the Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance as a Gavi Board member. Next, Union Minister held talks with WHO Assistant Director General Dr. Samira Asma and party and discussed the matters relating to rendering assistances to Myanmar's health surveys that will be conducted in this year. Myanmar's participation in making the analysis of the health index for No. 13 of World Health's scheme, identifying the health problems and doing the translation works of the ICD-11 into Myanmar. During the meeting with WHO Director General Dr. Shambhu Acharya, they discussed the matters related to the renewal of the drawing up the Country Cooperative Strategy.

Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe held talks with the Global Malaria Coordinator of the United States Dr. Ken Staley and discussed the matters on enhancing healthcare awareness using digital system, management system for distribution of the medicine, health news and elimination of malaria.

During the meeting with President of the World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologist Dr. Jannicke Mellin-Olsen and party, Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe discussed the matters on conducting short training course for Anesthesiology and upgrading the curriculum.

Then Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe met with the Regional Director of the WHO South-East Asia Region Dr. Poonam Khetrapal Singh and discussed the matters concerning upgrading the Myanmar Health Information system, sharing the healthcare digital data among the member countries, holding regional-level meeting in Myanmar, efforts to reduce the trachoma and elephantiasis, mortality rate of the children under five years old and appointment of WHO deputy regional representative in Myanmar.

The Union Minister held talks with Head of Global Public Health from Johnson & Johnson Mr. Jacques Peeters and discussed the matters regarding the treatment of the TB, human resource development, HIV treatment and other cooperation.

The Union Minister attended the meeting on preventive measures for diseases in cooperation with the people on 22th May. Next, Union Minister held talks with Stop TB Partnership Executive Director Dr. Lucica Ditiu, Philip Healthcare System General Manager Mr. Suvendra Das and City Cancer Challenge CEO Dr. Susan Henshall.



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe attends the 72nd World Health Assembly (WHA72) in Geneva, Switzerland. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe attended the meeting conducted by members of Myanmar, Indonesia, the Philippines, Laos, Kenya, Afghanistan, WHO and JICA and discussed matter concerning systematic storage of mothers and children record and healthcare system. At the meeting with TB Alliance Senior Vice President Mr. Sandeep Juenja and they discussed on cooperative measures to fight against TB and digital healthcare system. Then Union Minister held talks with high-ranking officials from the World Fund Organization and discussed the matters on medicine supply, better management systems, malaria, HIV and other diseases. Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe attended the event of the Dr. Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health and Myanmar and India received the prizes on 4 May. Following this, Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe answered the interview of the WHO Bulletin.—MNA ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Coal mine explosion kills four in Kalay

FOUR workers were killed in an explosion at a coal mine on Monday in the Htoo Han Thit company compound in Khon Thar village-tract, Kalay Township, Sagaing Region.

According to the police, three separate groups of five night-shift workers were in the mine when the explosion occurred.

Friction between two iron rails caused a spark, which came into contact with methane gas and set off an explosion near a group of five workers.

One worker, who had left the work site just before the explosion as he was feeling unwell, escaped unhurt. The remaining four workers from the group were killed, while four workers from another group were injured. They are undergoing medical treatment at Kalewa Township's people's hospital.

The Township Management Committee Chairman U Nyi Nyi rushed to the scene and spoke to the injured workers, in addition to making the necessary arrangements. — Shin Nay Min (Gangaw) ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)



With rains at our doorstep, we must be vigilant against dengue fever

MYANMAR has been experiencing outbreaks of dengue fever more frequently, especially during the rainy season, with fewer gaps in between cases. Dengue cases are no longer limited to the monsoons, but have been reported round the year in the past five years.

The main reasons behind this are climate change and higher breeding rates of the Aedes mosquitoes, according to experts. Another reason for the rising incidence of dengue is the tendency of Myanmar people to store water, contributing to the breeding of mosquitoes.

Dengue fever is a severe, flu-like illness that affects infants, young children, and adults, but seldom causes death. Cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) are likely to increase in Kayin State this year compared with last year, according to a state-level DHF prevention seminar, held recently at the Kayin State Public Health Department.

> Infection rates usually spike in the rainy season, especially in July and August. Dengue is a public health challenge, especially in the rainy season.

According to official statistics, 935 people contracted dengue hemorrhagic fever in 2018 in Kayin State, which resulted in one death. DHF broke out mostly in Hpa-an Township, and spread to other towns and villages. The outbreak of dengue hemorrhagic fever was reported mainly in June, July, and August.

In fact, infections are found year-round in Myanmar, necessitating year-round monitoring.

Infection rates usually spike in the rainy season, especially in July and August. Dengue is a public health challenge, especially in the rainy season. Given the number of cases across the country, we must focus on preventive measures. The number of infections is higher, but the death rate is lower than a decade ago.

Community participation is crucial in controlling the breeding of mosquito larvae.

Food containers and bottles that are not disposed of properly can fill with rain water and help mosquitoes breed. Mosquitoes thrive in areas with stagnant water, including puddles, water tanks, containers, and old tires. Lack of reliable sanitation and regular garbage collection also contribute to the spread of mosquitoes.

Severe dengue can lead to potentially deadly complications caused by plasma leakage, fluid accumulation, respiratory distress, severe bleeding, or organ impairment.

People should be well informed about all preventive measures, especially for children. At schools, the administration must keep swimming pools clean and keep them appropriately chlorinated. School kids must wear full sleeves during peak dengue season.

Local authorities and health officials are advised to be ready for helping treat the disease and train volunteers on fumigating potential breeding sites, and spread the message to communities about dengue prevention. The most effective way to prevent the disease is public participation in preventive measures against the disease. We must remain vigilant in our efforts.

Tax Rate and Interest Rate should be the main focus for review

By Professor
Dr. Aung Tun Thet

FREQUENTLY, the author of the article is to embrace the questions from different people on –the-ground reality of Myanmar economy, mostly with their tone of concern. On the other hand, all the statistics show the fine outlook of the economy.

Looking into the figures of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, the indicators over the GDP of Myanmar is of a high growth. However, the business people lamented and poured out their difficulties.

Statements issued from ministries and the departments depicted all the brighter side of Myanmar economy.

Whom should I believe in this world?

Perhaps, the writer might have chosen a wrong profession as economist.

Assessment and evaluation over the whole economy of a nation is not yet adequate merely based on the narrow angle of businesses, which, in fact, need to be approached through the purview of political economy.

Good and bad entwined

Economic reform evolved when government assumed the term after 2010 General Elections, with many concessions and relaxations in the rules and regulations. Amazingly, the communication sector witnessed the cost of a cell phone SIM card tumbled down from K 2.5 million to just K 1,500 only.

Taking the exorbitant price, the author purchased the SIM card from a friend at a transaction of K 2.5 million, immediately after his arrival back home from foreign assignment. Thanks to the friend, whom the author considers as a benefactor for helping.

In some corners, plenty of SIM cards were giving out free of charge among mutually benefited persons. Import authorizations of most expensive cars with cheapest possible price were being approved, resulting with buying spree over the vehicles.

Taxis rolled out on the roads in high number. It did not matter; whether the left hand drive or the right hand drive, plenty of re-conditioned cars were being permitted to import. Yangon roads are jammed packed with vehicles all the time.

Most of the people owned cell phones, and that the Mobile Social Networking has expanded to the political domain, exaggerating with hate speeches and negative views in the social networking.

Either young or old, people mostly engaged on social networking all the time, and the wrong notion started to develop that one is not updated and sophisticated staying away from the social networking sphere each day.

Golden opportunities opened up for those who wanted to be celebrities, and all these developments are knotting the ties with the good and the bad.

High expectation of the people

Following the 2015 General Elections, the expectations of the people went up high to the sky, and the people were happy to have chosen the first elected democratic government.

At the same time, the sweet dreams for better economy of the country were the talk of the people.

Hoping that the economic sanctions of the western countries would be gradually relaxed and lifted and the foreign investment would roll in huge amounts. This scenario was also embedded in the writer's mind.

Beginning 1 April 2016, with the new government in administration, the situation of the country was in good and pleasant environment. Unfortunately, at a time when the economic endeavors are taking tempo and speed, the Rakhine situation erupted unexpectedly, first in October and November in 2016, and again in August 2017.

Subsequent to the events, the international pressures enveloped the country, and the negative impact is still in the country. Political pressure is compounded with the economic force, resulting with lesser investment and hitting hard to the tourism industry.

Coping with the situation, the government responded with many designs and mechanism, including the enactment of new investment law and the commissioning of a new Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

Countering the pressure from the western countries, the government adopted the "Look East" policy, and welcomed the investments from China, Japan, Republic of Korea and ASEAN countries. At the same time, communications and contacts with the Republic of India enhanced.

With the grace of nature, Myanmar has the favorable condition of geographical location, having two big neighbors with one billion populations each and complementing with 600 million people of ASEAN markets. Taking advantage of these backdrops, Myanmar could embark upon economic development.



Under the Myanmar Income Tax Law, resident nationals and resident foreigners are taxed all income derived from sources within and outside Myanmar.

Income depends on tax

Advisable on two factors, the author of this article suggested over the economy such as that of the tax rate and the interest rate. Considering the matter on tax, the basic concept must be reviewed first and foremost.

The impression of the two sides such as that of the person who pays the tax and the person who collects the tax are rather different and runs counter to each other.

Why the tax is being collected?

Generally, the tax is the source of income for a government, and that the government needs money to render services to the people. Therefore, the governments in most of the countries on this planet received money from tax.

Therefore, the term "tax and spend" is used in a political policy of increasing taxes in order to fund an increase in government spending.

Discussions are being heard in many countries in the western world on the pros and cons of this concept of political economy, with approaches from the leftists and the rightists.

The concept on "Tax and Spend" is generally accepted by the left leaning political parties, and that the right leaning political parties normally dissatisfied by reasoning that the governments grabbed the money from the hard earned money of the people as tax and spend for the people.

The distribution of wealth is a comparison of the wealth of various members or groups in a society. The distribution of wealth differs from the income distribution in that it looks at the economic distribution of ownership of the assets in a society, rather than the current income of members of that society.

More taxes are levied on the rich and fewer taxes are collected from the low-income population.

Rate of tax and volume of tax

On one hand, the tax could be seen as incentive and inducement for the tax payer because the lesser tax rate could support the tax payer for expansion of business. When more tax is being levied out of the income, then the business people have no incentive, prompting to cry not to collect tax.

No basic concept and idea of tax is visible in Myanmar economic landscape over the rate of tax and the volume of tax, and that these two factors need to be differentiated and defined.

What is the desired gold of the government?

If the desired goal is to increase the volume of tax, then it may not be possible by raising the tax rate and getting the large amount of tax.

Not long ago, when the tax rate on the real estate industry has been raised to 35 percent, more people shun away and become tax evaders.

Assessment has been seen that the income tax rate is generally set at 65 percent in Western European countries, resulting in the decline in business.

The government needs to differentiate the collection of tax and the volume of tax being received. If the government wanted to have higher amount of tax, then ways and means must be designed in inspiring the tax payers by creating the simplest way of tax payment system. Stepping into the age of technology, tax payment paradigm should be looped into the digital payment system.

High interest rate makes scratchy to business people

Tax itself is vital whereas the tax rate is critical as well. The interest rate is fixed at 8 percent for the saving deposits, and fixed 13 percent for lending out loans. The feeling and sentiment are different among the depositors, the loan takers, the banks, and the central bank.

Those who wanted to take out loans would like to pay least parentage of interest, and that they are not satisfied with the high interest rate. The money being deposited and saved at the banks by the people are expecting more percentage of interest.

In the developed countries, the bank interest rates are very small and slim. Business people are telling that the interest rates in the neighboring countries of Myanmar are not much higher than our country.

It is quite certain that the people in the SMEs would not be able to operate the business to gain profit out of it with 13 percent bank interest. Therefore, the loan for the SMEs establishments is being assisted with the foreign bank aids with two-step loan system through the private banks.

The Tax and the Interest Rate

The tax and the interest are the instruments of the basic economic proponents of a nation, and that the bank rate stands out as the "monetary policy" under the ambit of the Central Bank.

In the United States, the President has been blaming and rattling the Central Bank on high interest rate. He believed that the nation's economy could only stimulate and spur when the bank rate is pulled down. The bank rate is only about one percent or a bit more in that country.

It is indeed the fiscal policy of the country, and that responsibility lies with the Ministry of Planning and Finance. These two instrumental factors in the economy are to be handled with care, balanced and proportionate manner.

The writer is of the view that the time is ripe to review over the tax rate and the interest rate to spur the economy of the country. No better change is visible if the current trend goes on in the same manner.

Myanmar's economy needs to be shaken and stirred at the moment in order to have the economic stimulus for development, and the tax rate and interest rate should be the main focus for review.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)

Announcement

PTTEP International Limited operating in joint venture with Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise will conduct Exploration Drilling Campaign at offshore M11, using Submersible Drilling Rig, NOBEL SYLDE BOUDREAUX (call sign A8BM6).

It will be conducted at PWC-1 Latitude 13 degrees 57 min 00.23 sec North and Longitude 95 degrees 22min 37.83 sec East, from 31st may to 30th June.

Not to cause delay to the project, Notice to Mariners has been issued to ships, motor boats, fishing ships and boats to avoid passing, dropping anchor, fishing and dropping fishing equipment in 4 kilometers radius of the area. (Alphonsus)

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 28th May, 2019)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 29th May, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States,fairly widespread in Bago and Ayeyawady Regions, Kayah State, scattered in Rakhine State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squall with moderate to rough sea are likly in Deltaic, Gulff off Mottama, off and along Mon —Tanintayi Coasts .Surface wind speed in sqall may reach (30) mph . Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Waves height will be about (5-8) feet in Deltaic ,Gulff off Mottama , off and along Mon—Tanintayi Coasts and (4-6)feet in off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of advancement of Southwest monsoon in Deltaic areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29thMay, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29th May, 2019: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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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.

SC Auto to manufacture 600 buses a year in Myanmar

By Nyein Nyein

SINGAPORE automaker SC Auto will produce 600 buses in Myanmar annually, said Ms. Rachel Lee, Managing Director, SC Auto.

"The SC Auto Myanmar factory will produce its new generation of buses, named SC Neustar, for Myanmar and other foreign markets. SC Neustar is designed with SC Auto's proprietary Euro 3-Euro 6 chassis technology, both for buses with left-hand drive and right-hand drive. They are ready to build the whole bus coach," she said.

"SC Auto Myanmar factory will produce buses both for the domestic and foreign markets. It has the capacity to produce 600 buses," said Ms. Rachel Lee.

"I believe SC Auto's manufacturing footprint will help Myanmar's industry, transportation, and economy grow. We will expand the factory's footprint to meet the growing demand for buses in ASEAN. SC Auto will expand its factory footprint and introduce automation processes to scale-up its overall production capacity. It aims to provide integral bus transportation service in Myanmar," said Ms. Irin Chen, Marketing Manager, SC Auto.

Situated in the Yangon Industrial Zone in Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region, the SC Auto Myanmar factory spands 4.65 acres, with a production capacity of 600 buses per year.

The factory has a sales and service center. The buses will be fully manufactured and assembled in the country, including the chassis and the body. The factory will also provide auto parts.

SC Auto Myanmar has employed 100 local residents at present. Some of them trained in the SC Auto factory in Singapore.

Established in 1996, SC Auto is a Singapore-based company, which designs and manufactures high-quality buses and coaches using state-of-the-art automotive technology and automation processes.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

International Recruitment Integrity System workshop held in Yangon

THE LABOUR Department and the International Organization for Migration jointly held a workshop on International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS) yesterday morning of 28 May at the Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon.

The directors of the Labour Department, IOM officials, and representatives from overseas employment recruitment agencies attended the workshop and held a discussion about IRIS.

"Overseas employment recruitment agencies need to obey international and domestic laws, rules, and regulations, while seeking jobs for migrant workers. Most of the migrant workers are from the lower classes, and they have to pay the overall cost. The workshop is aimed at eliminating the exploitation, abuse, and bullying of workers," said U Aung Kyaw Than, a communication officer from IOM.

The workshop was held from 27 to 28 May. The managing directors of 35 job agencies attended the event, and they said that they will try to receive international certification under IRIS. —Myint Maung Soe

(Translated by La Wonn)



A workshop on International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS) held at the Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG SOE**

Over 60 star tortoises died of heat exposure, food shortage this month

OVER 60 star tortoises died due to high temperatures and shortage of food in May, prompting the Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division to make efforts to protect the tortoises from heat exposure at the Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary in Minbu District, Magway Region.

"A total of 62 star tortoises died because of the scorching heat and shortage of food. Therefore, star tortoises are currently being nursed under palm thatch roofs to protect them from dehydration and hunger. The tortoises are being fed watermelons, water cress, and injected glucose, and are being bathed," said U Thein Lwin, a staff officer serving at the sanctuary.



Star tortoises seen at the Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary in Minbu District, Magway Region. **PHOTO: ZAYYATU (MAGWAY)**

The star tortoises who died were four years old, and were being trained to be released in the sanctuary. They belonged to a group of 650 tortoises which had been sent to the forest in February. Since then, 63 star tortoises were bred in the sanctuary.

"The Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary started with 12 star tortoises in 1999 and now, the number of tortoises has increased to 530. A total of 1,750 star tortoises from Shwesettaw, Lawkananda, and Minwontaung sanctuaries were trained to be released in the sanctuary, but about 1,000 star tortoises were set free," said a staff from the Shwesettaw sanctuary.

These rare species usually inhabit the Shwesettaw sanctuary, according to one survey. Since 1999, Myanmar star tortoises have been listed as critically endangered. Efforts have been on to conserve the tortoises for 20 years.

There are 14 species of mammals, 43 species of amphibians, 39 species of butterflies, and 113 bird species at the sanctuary. The golden deer, star tortoise, and other rare species can only be seen at the sanctuary. — Zayyatu (Magway)

(Translated by La Wonn)

Investment from SMEs to be given priority in striped catfish farming project



Workers harvest river catfish at a fish farm in Pantanaw. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

By Aye Yamone

INVESTMENT from small and medium enterprises will be given priority in a striped catfish farming project, which is being implemented on over 900 acres of land in Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Region, said Dr. Toe Nanda Tin, the Director of Global Earth Public Co. Ltd.

More than 100 shares will be issued in June for the project, and each share will be worth K100 million, said Dr. Toe Nanda Tin at the 9/2019 Aquatic Sector Entrepreneurs' Regular Meeting, held at the Myanmar Fisheries Federation on 28 May.

"We are calculating how much dividend we can give to SME investors annually because they will buy the shares to earn a profit. Therefore, we wish to give an optimal dividend of between 15 and 20 per cent. Then only will people be interested in purchasing the shares. We will start the project with 100 farming ponds. We will form 100 SME groups, and then, we will invite them to buy shares," said the Director of Global Earth Public Co. Ltd.

"Although Global Earth Public Co. has been planning to invite share members for implementing the farming project since 2018, there were challenges concerning distributing dividends to share members within a one-year period. Therefore, the company decided to invite share members only once the project is operational," she said.

"We have already discussed inviting stakeholders for the project with lawyers," she added.

The Permanent Secretary and officials from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation inspected the land for the project, on behalf of the Myanmar Investment Commission, to check whether it would have a negative impact on the environment. The MIC granted permission for the project in January after it got a clean chit from the Ministry.

"We will give priority to SMEs. If we don't have enough share members from SME groups, we will invite individual share members. Now, the factories are under construction. SMEs will earn only 10 per cent interest if they put their money in the bank. We want to start farming with the participation of SMEs. We will launch the project in June," she added.

Fish farming will be conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations, said the Global Earth Company. The company will also provide technical assistance for farming and feeding systems, in addition to ensuring water quality. The company will apply for a bank loan if it fails to attract enough investors for the project, said Dr. Toe Nanda Tin.

A total of 120,000 striped cat fingerlings are being kept in 80 hatcheries for the striped catfish farming project.

"The shareholders don't need to worry about the market. We plan to penetrate the China and US markets," said Dr. Toe Nanda Tin, adding: "And, we will purchase fish from this project for a minimum price of K2,200 per viss. Through this farming project, we will build feed factories and cold storage factories. A total of US$200 million will be invested initially in the project."

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Agro exports exceed $2 bln in Oct-May

MYANMAR'S exports of agricultural products crossed US$2.2 billion between 1 October and 17 May in the current fiscal year, compared with $1.97 billion in the corresponding period of the 2017-2018 FY, according to the trade figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

In the exports sector, the agriculture industry performed the best along with the natural gas sector. The chief items of export in the agricultural sector are rice and broken rice, pulses, corn, and rubber. Fruits and vegetables, sesame, dried tea leaves, sugar, and other agro products are also shipped to other countries.

Agricultural exports have not seen a remarkable increase in terms of trade value owing to China's tight confiscation of some agro products, including rice, since the second week of October.

The Commerce Ministry is working to help farmers deal with challenges related to high input costs, procurement of pedigree seeds, high cultivation costs, and erratic weather conditions. — Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Htantabin Industrial Zone project to be implemented in Sept-end

THE YANGON Region government is planning to develop industrial zones in 10 townships, and the Htantabin Industrial Zone project will be implemented on 2,200 acres of land in Htantabin Township in the northern district of Yangon, where Hline, Kokkowa, and Bawle rivers meet.

The industrial zone project was initiated in August, 2018. During a preliminary discussion between the Yangon Region authorities and a foreign company, 1,000 acres was designated for the project. After a feasibility study, the zone will be developed on 2,200 acres of land, which is located a mile away from Htantabin Township and near the point where the Hline, Kokkowa, and Bawle rivers meet.

Prior to the project implementation, Naw Pan Thinzar Myo, the Yangon Region Minister for Kayin Ethnic Affairs, Hluttaw representatives, and officials of concerned departments met with the local residents at the Htantabin Township General Administration Department office in a bid to make the project transparent. After four rounds of discussions between the authorities and locals, the project received the support of the local residents.

The Htantabin Industrial Zone will be set up in three phases. An Industrial Zone, Development Zone, and Residential and Green Zone will be constructed under each phase. Golden Myanmar has drafted plans to construct a management center, hospital, fire department, school, sewage treatment plant, logistics port, generator, cargo port, and water treatment plant.

The industrial zone will be shaped like a tortoise. A floating market will be included in the project. The market will be over 200 acres wide and will be located at the head of the industrial zone. A Taipei company will develop the floating market.

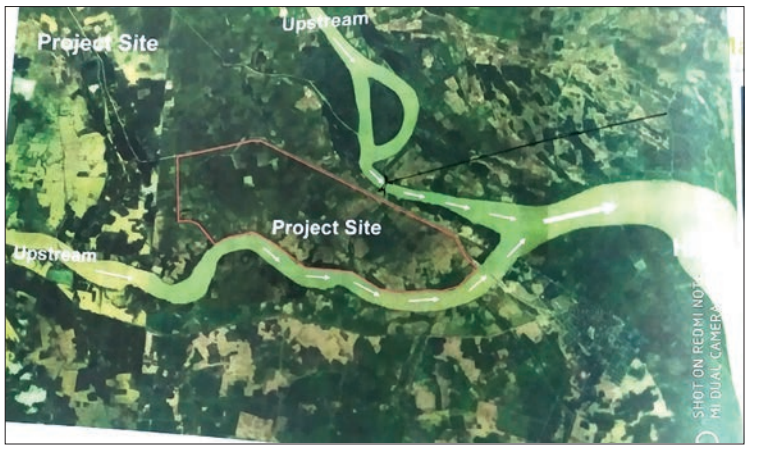
The China (Taipei) company will construct a US$30-million rainbow-shaped bridge, connecting Htantabin Township to Hmawby Township. Necessary measurements are being taken for that bridge project, which will directly link the industrial zone in Htantabin Tonwship with Sanpya village in Hmawby Township. It will become the main access for container vehicles and ensure smooth trade flow between Htantabin and Hmawby towns. The river crossing bridge will be constructed on the Hline River.

The construction of the industrial zone will commence in the end of September, and is expected to generate 100,000 jobs.

"The locals of Htantabin Township have to travel through creeks and rivers, which takes up a lot of time. Electric supply covers 70 per cent of the township. The industrial zone project will start in September. It will create jobs and make transportation smooth. It will improve the socio-economic conditions of the locals, and therefore, I am pleased with the project," said U Htay Maw, Htantabin Township's Hluttaw representative.

The Yangon Region government is inviting local and foreign investors to develop industrial zones in 10 townships. The Hlegu and Htantabin industrial zones will be implemented initially. —Than Htike

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Two dead as man stabs 16 schoolgirls, two adults near Tokyo

KAWASAKI (Japan) — Sixteen pupils waiting for their school bus and two parents of pupils who were nearby were stabbed by a man wielding knives in Kawasaki near Tokyo on Tuesday morning, leaving a girl and a man dead, police and school officials said.

The 16 schoolgirls, pupils of Caritas elementary school, a private Catholic school in the city, were attacked by the suspect in his 50s, who was holding knives in both hands. The suspect died in hospital as a result of a self-inflicted stab wound to the neck, police said.

A boy also sustained minor injuries in the attack, the police added.

The incident occurred at around 7:40 a.m. on a street near a park in a residential area, about 250 meters from Noborito Station on East Japan Railway Co.'s Nambu Line and Odakyu Electric Railway Co.'s Odakyu Odawara Line.

Officials at the school, which provides eight shuttle buses for pupils between the station and the school every morning on school days, said things went as usual until the fifth service.

"I was standing at the front of the line of children waiting for the sixth bus, and when I finished helping around six children board the bus, I heard children screaming at the end of the line," said a school official in a press conference.

The official said that was when he saw the suspect, holding "long knife-like objects in both hands," escaping on foot.

As the bus driver got off and started to chase him, the official made an emergency call to police, he said.

"The children did nothing wrong. I don't know what to do with my anger," another official told the news conference. The school will close through the end of this month.

According to eyewitnesses, the suspect slowly approached the children and was shouting "I'm gonna kill you" during the rampage. He had close-cropped hair and was wearing glasses.

The police retrieved two knives at the scene and found two more in a backpack believed to belong to the suspect. Although the police have yet to formally identify him, investigative sources said they believe he is a 51-year-old resident of Kawasaki.

Of the victims, an 11-year-old girl, identified as sixth-grader Hanako Kuribayashi of Tokyo, and Satoshi Oyama, a 39-year-old Foreign Ministry official who was the father of an unharmed pupil, died in hospital from stab wounds to their necks, according to police and hospital officials.

Oyama, a Myanmar language interpreter, also sustained cuts to his back, which he might have received while trying to protect the children, the investigative sources said.

Two girls and a woman in her 40s sustained serious injuries in the attack, the police said.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said the government "must ensure children's safety by all means." He instructed the education minister and the chairman of the National Public Safety Commission to check on safety measures taken while elementary and junior high school students are commuting.

Caritas school officials met the press after convening an emergency meeting with pupils' parents in the afternoon.

The school operator was founded by Soeurs de la Charite de Quebec, an organization of Catholic nuns in Quebec City in Canada, according to the school's website.

Pools of blood were left at the scene, cordoned off by investigators.

"I heard a man and a woman screaming," said a 50-year-old woman who lives in the neighborhood. "I rushed out of my house and saw many ambulances."

Knives are among the most commonly used weapons in random attacks in Japan, where tight gun controls are in place. — Kyodo News ■



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter shows the area in Kawasaki, near Tokyo, where more than a dozen people, including elementary school pupils, were injured after being stabbed on 28 May 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Submission of EIA Study of M9 West Exploration Drilling Campaign in Block M9, Offshore Myanmar

PTTEP International Limited (PTTEPI), plans to conduct new drilling campaign in western part of Block M9 to discover gas resources and evaluate the feasibility of gas production in the future. The drilling campaign consists of 10 exploration wells in Block M9 which is located in the Gulf of Moattama, offshore Myanmar. It is approximately 300 km away from Yangon and 230 km from Dawei. The tentative plan for commencement will be in 2019.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study for the proposed activity has been prepared by PTTEPI with third party EIA/SIA consultants International Environmental Management Co Ltd. (IEM) and Environmental Quality Management Co. Ltd (EQM); and was submitted to Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) on 18th February, 2018. The report is publically viewable at the following locations:

- PTTEPI's office in Yangon: 3dr Floor, Vantage Tower, 623 Pyay Road, Kamayut Township 11041, Yangon, Republic of the Union of Myanmar
- South Yangon District General Administrative Department Office, Yangon Region
- Dawei District General Administrative Department Office, Tanintharyi Region
- On PTTEPI's website as follows: www.pttep.com

Feedback on the report can be submitted to PTTEPI in writing by contacting the following e-mail address: TinNilarSoe@pttep.com

India invites BIMSTEC leaders for Modi's swearing-in

NEW DELHI — The government of India has invited the leaders of the BIMSTEC (the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sector Technical and Economic Cooperation) member states for the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister-elect Narendra Modi and his council of ministers on 30 May, sources in external affairs ministry said on Monday.

"This is in line with Government's focus on its 'Neighbourhood First' policy," added the sources. The BIMSTEC is comprised of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. —Xinhua ■

Austrian chancellor loses no-confidence showdown

VIENNA (Austria) — Austria's Chancellor Sebastian Kurz on Monday became the first chancellor in the country's post-war history to be removed from office by a no-confidence vote over a corruption scandal that had already brought down his coalition with the far-right.



Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz has lost a no-confidence vote in parliament. **PHOTO: AFP**

The motion against Kurz and his cabinet is the latest fallout from the so-called "Ibiza-gate" scandal, which saw far-right Freedom Party (FPOe) leader and Vice-Chancellor Heinz-Christian Strache resign from both posts after he was caught appearing to offer public contracts in return for campaign help from a fake Russian backer.

The video led to Kurz ending his coalition with the FPOe and calling early elections for later this year.

But that did not stop opposition parties tabling the no-confidence motion and insisting that the 32-year-old leader must also take responsibility for the scandal.

Despite Monday's vote, Kurz will take comfort in a big win for his conservative People's Party (OeVP) in Sunday's European elections, which is projected to gain 34.9 per cent of the vote and two extra European parliament seats. Addressing cheering party supporters on Monday evening in buoyant mood, Kurz denounced what he called the "new coalition" of the FPOe and the centre-left Social Democrats (SPOe), who had joined forces in parliament out of "hatred" for the OeVP and voted for the motion. Presenting himself as a figure of stability in Austria's current turmoil, Kurz said: "I'm still here, I'm standing for you."—AFP ■

EU leaders launch hunt to fill Brussels' top job



Under EU treaty law, the European Council of 28 national leaders nominates a commission president, then the new 751-member parliament ratifies their choice. **PHOTO: AFP**

BRUSSELS (Belgium) — European leaders descended on Brussels on Tuesday to begin the hunt for a new generation of top EU officials in the wake of elections that shook up traditional alliances.

The key job to be filled is that of president of the European Commission, the union's powerful chief executive, a five-year post currently held by Jean-Claude Juncker.

Under EU treaty law, the European Council of 28 national leaders nominates a commission president, then the new 751-member parliament ratifies their choice. But the procedure, while seemingly straightforward, masks a complex power struggle between rival states and ideological blocs and between the leaders and parliament itself.

'Game of Thrones'

Juncker's deputy and the centre-left challenger for the top job, former Dutch minister Frans Timmermans, compares the ruthless intrigue to "Game of Thrones".

The tussle kicks off on Tuesday when European Council President Donald Tusk hosts the EU leaders for a summit dinner in Brussels to lay out the ground rules.

Ahead of the summit, party and national leaders met in various smaller groups to scheme, and the heads of the main party blocs in the parliament held closed door talks.

Many in Brussels argue that the European project is best served by a "political commission" headed by a president with a mandate from the parliament.

But most national leaders think the union's legitimacy derives from its member states and that the Council should be able to pick one of their own — someone with leadership experience.

'Spitzenkandidat'

The results of the EU elections did not strengthen parliament's hand — except perhaps for the boost of the larger than expected voter turnout.

While a threatened surge of eurosceptic and far-right populist parties was largely contained, the pro-Europe centre was fragmented, with liberals and Greens gaining ground.

In previous years, a coalition of the socialist S&D and the conservative EPP was able to wield a majority. Now they cannot govern without the liberal ALDE or the Greens.

And this complicates their choice of a "spitzenkandidat" — or lead candidate — for the Commission.

The EPP insists that as it is the biggest bloc, its candidate Manfred Weber must be Commission president, but it lost around 40 seats at the election, only narrowly remaining the largest group.

Anyone but Weber?

But Weber, who has spent the last 15 years in the European Parliament, is seen as short on charisma, has no executive experience — and is opposed by French President Emmanuel Macron.

Eight of the 28 EU leaders hail from EPP parties, but Hungarian premier Viktor Orban's Fidesz is suspended from the group and Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz was ousted by parliament on Monday.

Timmermans, a centre-left Dutchman with more executive experience, will have the S&D's backing and ALDE, while dubious about the process, could back Margrethe Vestager.

The Danish competition commissioner might win Macron's support while Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel backs Weber.

Macron met Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez for dinner on the eve of the summit.

Afterwards, a Spanish government source said: "The new posts should reflect the new majority in parliament, which is not only the EPP, but includes social democrats and liberals."—AFP ■

Request for Letter of Interest

British American Tobacco Myanmar Limited
Plot No. 55-56, Survey Ward No. 14
Shwe Than Lwin Industrial Zone
Hlaing Tharyar Township

Yangon, Myanmar

(the "Company")

Ref: Y19/MKT/Trade/010

The Company request the Letter of interest for the below Product & Services:

1) Zebra Printer-model ZQ320: Qty: 112 units

2) Global Travel Agency Service

We are planning to call for online tender.

If you are interested to participate in the tender, please submit the LOI to the below email address by 3rd June 2019.

British American Tobacco Myanmar Limited
Room 508, 5th floor, Building 18, MICT Park,
Hlaing Campus, Hlaing Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar

Attn: mya_hnin_ei_pwint@bat.com

Cancellation Notice for Request for Quotation (RFQ)

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Telecommunications Sector Reform Project (TSRP)
Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.: **5353-MM**
Contract Title: Radio Planning Tools (Software) and Digital Map (Software)
Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): G.1.3.7

Ministry of Transport and Communications(MoTC) would like to inform that invitation for Request for Quotation (RFQ) of Radio Planning Tools (Software) and Digital Map (Software) Reference No. (as per Procurement Plan): G.1.3.7 , advertised Myanmar A Lin and The Global New Light of Myanmar on May 4,2019 is cancelled due to the changes in the market approach to limited bidding method .

If any question regarding with the RFQ is arised, please contact to:
U Soe Naing
Deputy Director General
Posts and Telecommunications Department
Nay Pyi Taw
Telephone: +95 67 3407 226
Facsimile number: +95 67 3407 216
Electronic mail address: soenine69@gmail.com

Tender Committee
Ministry of Transport and Communications

Invitation for Request for Quotation (RFQ)

Ministry of Transport and Communications(MoTC) now invites eligible firm to submit the proposal for "Spectrum Analyzer "as part of the Telecom Sector Reform Project supported by the World Bank's Loan. The deadline for submission of RFQ is June 28th, 2019 by 13:30 PM (Myanmar Standard Time).

Attention:
Director General
Posts and Telecommunications Department.
Ministry of Transport and Communications
Office Building Number 2
Nay Pyi Taw
Myanmar
Telephone: +95 67 3407225
Facsimile number: +95 67 3407216
Electronic mail address: dg.ptd@mptmail.net.mm

The detail information and requirements can be seen in the Request for Quotation (RFQ)and it can be downloaded at PTD Website: https://www.ptd.gov.mm.

Tender Committee
Ministry of Transport and Communications

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (103N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (103N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (124N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (124N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

Allowing foreign insurance companies into local market

By Thet Zin Moe

PEOPLE save part of their income to deal with the inevitable consequences of old age, sickness and death for themselves as well as for their near and dear one. However mishaps like sickness and deaths occurs not only when a person gets old. It can happen anytime anywhere. Due to illnesses, accidents, carelessness of self or other or natural disasters, they will face discomfort and inconvenience at the least or even loss of life or limb. Even if there was no personal injury or death, there may be loss of property or home to fire and natural disasters that had disastrous consequence to anyone. For such cases, saving wouldn't be enough for most of the people. Individuals and organizations need to consider for such scenarios and take up preventive measures. Measures that will ensure maintaining of an existing lifestyle or business regardless of whatever the disaster or mishap may be. That preventive measure is insurance.



Head Office of Myanma Insurance. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Majority of the people in Myanmar do not understand the advantage of insurance protection. Most also didn't prepare for the future as well. So they have little awareness of insurance. Unsurprisingly, insurance market in Myanmar was very small. Insurance penetration rate didn't even reach one percent. Following table shows the comparison of insurance penetration rates in Myanmar, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam.



PHOTO: AMI

	Penetration Rate (Life)		Penetration Rate (Non Life)		Personal Accident & Health		Total	
	%	Per Capita	%	Per Capita	%	Per Capita	%	Per Capita
Myanmar	0.01	0.04	0.05	0.66			0.06	0.70
Laos	0.01	0.14	0.42	7.10	0.01	0.16	0.44	7.40
Thailand	3.75	224.13	1.37	81.50	0.30	17.92	5.42	323.56
Viet Nam	0.69	13.98	0.54	10.96	0.15	3.01	1.38	27.95

The reason for this low penetration was that Myanmar only has a state-owned Myanma Insurance in the insurance market until 2013. Citizen owned private insurance businesses were allowed into the market starting from 2013 and today there are 11 citizen-owned private insurance companies operating in the local insurance market. Since then an increasing numbers of insurance types were introduced to the people.

Following this, the government is now arranging for foreign insurance companies to enter into the local insurance market.

Even before local private insurance companies were allowed into the market, foreign insurance companies has set up representative offices in Myanmar as they were fully aware of the future prospect of Myanmar insurance market. Following are the dates on which foreign insurance companies set up offices in Myanmar.

Sr.	Name of representative office	Date of opening
1	Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co., Ltd.	23-8-1995
2	Sompo Japan Nippon Koa Insurance Inc.	5-10-1995
3	Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	21-7-1997
4	Taiyo Life Insurance Company	9-4-2012
5	Poe-Ma Insurance Co., Ltd.	7-11-2012
6	AIA Company Limited	6-12-2012
7	Pana Harrison (Asia) Pte. Ltd.	26-2-2013
8	CHUBB INA International Holdings Ltd.	29-3-2013
9	Prudential Holdings Limited	25-6-2013
10	Manulife Financial Asia Ltd.	23-7-2013
11	Met Life Asia Limited	7-11-2013
12	Great Eastern Life Assurance Co., Ltd.	17-12-2013
13	Willis Towers Watson Brokers (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.	14-1-2014
14	Muang Thai Life Assurance Public Co., Ltd.	21-1-2014
15	K.M. Dastur & Company Private Limited	31-7-2014
16	DB Insurance Co., Ltd.	6-8-2014
17	The New India Assurance Company Limited	5-9-2014
18	Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty SE.	30-9-2014
19	Jardine Lloyd Thomson Limited (JLT)	8-4-2014
20	Shin Kong Life Insurance Co., Ltd.	13-5-2015
21	Thai Life Insurance Public Company Limited	23-6-2015
22	MARSH ( ) Pte. Ltd.	7-8-2015
23	AEGIS Management Consultants & Insurance Agency Co., Ltd.	22-9-2015
24	Dai-Ichi Life Holdings, Inc.	7-3-2017
25	Grandiose Pte. Ltd.	27-4-2017
26	Asia Reinsurance Co., Ltd.	16-6-2017
27	Muang Thai Insurance Co., Ltd.	23-10-2017
28	MGA Asia Insurance Brokers Company Limited	23-10-2017
29	Nippon Life Asia Pacific (Regional HQ) Pte. Ltd.	14-2-2018
30	United Overseas Insurance Limited	30-8-2018
31	McLarens Singapore Pte. Ltd.	30-8-2018
32	Acclaim Insurance Broker Pte. Ltd	28-6-2018
33	LOLC Life Insurance	2-1-2019



Officials sign the agreement at the ceremony among Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank, Myanmar Insurance and Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Insurance. **PHOTO: KHINMAUNG WIN (THE MIRROR)**

Three insurance companies from Japan were allowed to offer six kinds of insurance in Thilawa Special Economic Zone with temporary licences under the Special Economic zone Law in 215. An Insurance Supervisory Committee was formed to start necessary preparation to let foreign insurance do their services in Myanmar market. Taking in to account the economic development of the State, incomes of the people, insurance market need, capacity of local insurance companies and people's knowledge on insurance industry, a road map was drawn to grant more freedom in the market where foreign insurance companies will be allowed to compete freely with one another and actions plans were adopted.

Insurance services were classified as life insurance and non-life insurance due to differences in the basic characteristics. Arrangements were made to ensure freedom in both insurance types. In order to meet international standards in selecting international companies for the market consultant companies were systematically hired.

Insurance penetration into Myanmar market was very weak. Of the non-life insurances that were able to penetrate into the market substantially were third-party and fire insurances. Life insurance had the least attraction due to weakness in design and marketing techniques.

Life insurance is partly saving for the insurer as if required there is an opportunity for the insurer to loan money from the insurance company. On the unhappy event of the death of the insurer, remaining family will have financial support for theirfuture livelihood.

On the part of the insurance companies the premium payments received from the insurers become a capital for investment. Insurance companies normally become investors in wide ranging businesses as well as in government bonds and securities thus injecting money back into the economy.

Of the 11 local private insurance companies, only three engages in life insurance service and life insurance sector hasn't progress much. As of 2018, life insurance penetration reaches only 0.01 per cent while non-life insurance penetration was slightly higher at 0.05 per cent. That was why the government was planning to allow foreign insurance companies to provide life insurance services under joint venture with local insurance companies or as 100% foreign investment.

Out of 11 local private insurance companies, eight were engaging in general or non-life insurance service. Myanma Insurance offers 36 types of insurance while local private insurance companies offer nine types of insurance. Non-life insurance service in Myanmar is still very weak. Due to the sale of the same type of insurance policies that were of weak design at the same premium rates with weak marketing and weak claim payments, interest in insurance was still very low. In addition to the fire and vehicle insurance that had become popular, new type of insurances like health, crop and education insurances need to be introduced.

As state-own Myanma Insurance and 11 local private insurance companies were giving insurance service, the numbers of insurance providers were not low considering the country's economy and insurance knowledge. If more was permitted, it would be difficult to regulate the market. Powerful investors can manipulate the market and customers' distrust of the service can rise. That was why the government was allowing foreign companies to offer general insurance service in joint venture with local insurance companies. This will allow local insurance companies to learn insurance techniques, increase capital, offer wider ranges of insurance services. This will benefit the insurance market, the local and foreign investors while encouraging systematic competitions.

In the region Viet Nam and the Philippines allowed 100 percent foreign owned insurance companies in 1998 and 1999 when they liberalize the insurance market. Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia allow foreign companies to operate insurance services in joint ventures with local companies in 1992, 1996 and 1997 and then gradually liberalize the market by raising the foreign percentage of the joint venture. In its effort to liberalize the market Myanmar sought necessary advice from the World Bank Group, studied the experiences of the countries in the region and suggestions from local private companies and representative/branch office of foreign companies.

Now, Myanmar has selected some of the world's leading life insurance companies such as AIA Company Limited, CHUBB Tempest Reinsurance Ltd., Prudential Hong Kong Limited andManulife (founded as the Manufacturers Life Insurance Company) to provide life insurance service in Myanmar. Plans are underway on selecting foreign insurance companies to provide general insurance service in Myanmar under joint venture with local insurance companies.

In conclusion, the move to allow foreign insurance companies into Myanmar market aims to create better insurance protection for the State and the people, create more employment opportunities, raise capital for nation-building works and create a better environment for the people to have a brighter future as well as attracting more foreign investment.

(Translated by Than Tun Aung)

Nikkeisha opens branch in Yangon, Myanmar

NIKKEISHA, Inc commenced operation of its branch, namely Nikkeisha, Inc. Myanmar Branch, in Yangon, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar which is attracting attention from many Japanese companies as the last frontier in Asia.

After the shift to civilian rule in 2011, Myanmar continues high economic growth and many Japanese companies have expanded into the country, increasing activities locally. The country is advantageously located between China and India, and shares a common border with other ASEAN countries. In addition, with a population of more than 50 million, it has high potential as a consuming region.

Moreover, in recent years, Myanmar is beginning to move into the next growth phase, including the opening of the retail and insurance markets. In particular, with respect to the digital environment, the rapid development of the information technology (IT) infrastructure is attracting global attention, because the country has established its 4G network and the dissemination rate of smartphones is said to have exceeded 90%.

With the establishment of its Myanmar Branch, the Company will support Japanese companies that expand into the country from the initial phase. It will provide communication services rooted in the country through its sales promotion activities, digital ads and mass-market advertising, and will also contribute to the development and expansion of the communication sector of the country through the development of new content.

Also in Japan, the Company will provide local information to Japanese companies through seminars on the business trends in Myanmar and the management of a study tour to the country. As part of this service, the Company has planned and sent this information for a business tour to study the latest information communication technology (ICT) environment in Myanmar, which is less recognized in Japan.

Nikkeisha provides expertise on communication to Japanese companies through its Myanmar Branch and will achieve the expansion of customer value under the slogan "Connect, Expand and Create."

Nikkeisha, Inc. Myanmar Branch is located in 401-405, Prime Hill Business Square, At No.60 on Shwe Dagon Pagoda Road in Dagon Township, Yangon, Myanmar.—GNLM

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South Korea's Pohang Steelers beat Ayeyawady United in friendly match



A player from Ayeyawady United F.C. (red) vies for the ball with a player from Pohang Steelers during a friendly match at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MFF**

By Kyaw Khin

MYANMAR National League club Ayeyawady United lost to South Korea's K-League club Pohang Steelers by one goal in a friendly match at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

Before the start of the match, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Lee Sang-hwa, and the Vice President of the Asian Football Confederation and the President of the Myanmar Football Federation, U Zaw Zaw, greeted the footballers from the two teams and the audience.

In the first half, Moon Kyoung-min (No. 33) of Pohang Steelers scored the first goal at the fifth minute and the second goal at the sixth minute. In the last minutes of the first half, Aung Kaung Mann scored a goal for the Ayeyawady United F.C., and the first half ended with a score of 1-2.

After the first half ended, a lucky draw was held for the audience.

In the second half, Lwin Moe Aung scored the second goal for Ayeyawady United F.C. at the 54th minute. However, Min Kyunghyun of Pohang Steelers managed to score another goal at the 76th minute. The match ended with a score of 2-3 in favour of the Pohang Steelers.

After the second half ended, Pohang Steelers jerseys were also distributed to the audience.

Next, the Pohang Steelers will play a friendly match with the Myanmar U-22 team at 5 p.m. on 30 May at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

The Pohang Steelers' tour is mainly being sponsored by Myanmar Posco, in collaboration with the Myanmar Football Federation, to promote Myanmar-Korea friendship.

Entry for the match is free and lucky draws will be conducted for the audience, according to the Myanmar Football Federation's Facebook Page.

I hope Hazard comes this year: Perez says Madrid want Chelsea star

MADRID (Spain) — Real Madrid president Florentino Perez confirmed on Monday the club are keen to sign Eden Hazard this summer and claimed Sergio Ramos has an offer to move to China.

Hazard could play his last match for Chelsea in the Europa League final against Arsenal on Wednesday, with the Belgian's contract expiring next year.

"I have a lot of interest in him coming to Madrid, I'm not going to lie, and I hope this year he can play here," Perez told Spanish radio station Onda Cero on Monday night.

"We have wanted to sign Hazard for several years and I hope he will come this year. Until now we have not achieved it, but this time his contract ends next year."

After a disappointing season, Madrid are expected to overhaul their squad this summer and Perez suggested the club's captain Ramos is considering a move.

Ramos and Perez argued after Madrid's Champions League defeat to Ajax in March, with Ramos reportedly telling Perez the team's failings were down to a failure to replace Cristiano Ronaldo.

Perez claimed on Tuesday that Ramos had been offered a move to China but said he had blocked the defender's departure.

"We met in my office and he told me he had a very good offer from a Chinese team but a rule there means they cannot pay for the transfer," Perez said. —AFP ■



Madrid target: Chelsea's Eden Hazard. **PHOTO: AFP**

Australian superstar Pocock calls time on Super Rugby career

CANBERRA (Australia) — Injury-plagued Australian great David Pocock retired from Super Rugby Tuesday, but is hanging on to his World Cup dreams as he fights to be fit for the competition in Japan.

Pocock, 31, has failed to shake off a calf injury that has dogged his season with the ACT Brumbies and there had been speculation he would sit out the rest of the season to ensure he can play in the World Cup from September to November.

"After 13 years of professional rugby, I'm looking forward to the challenges the rest of this year holds and also thinking about what comes next," Pocock said in a statement released by the Brumbies.

The Canberra side said Pocock's injury is a "rare calf strain that is unfortunately not progressing as hoped and needs further time to heal".

"No exact timeframe for a return to playing can be provided at this stage," the club added.

Pocock, who has twice won Australia's top rugby union award, the John Eales Medal, has a contract with the Panasonic Wild Knights in Japan after the World Cup.

The 77-Test veteran will not seek a new contract with Australian Rugby after it runs out this year, but will remain eligible to play for the Wallabies.

Australia has a so-called "Giteau's Law", which allows players with 60 caps who have played seven Super Rugby seasons to continue to be eligible for national selection after they move overseas.

Pocock has yet to call time on his international career, but he told the Canberra Times: "I haven't put anything in stone, but I think that's it.

"I feel like I've put a lot into my rugby, I've got a huge amount out of it and I'm very grateful for the opportunities I've had.

"But there's plenty of other stuff out there to do, and it's time to start stepping into whatever that's going to be."

Born in Zimbabwe, Pocock started playing rugby at as an eight-year-old before his family fled the African nation and moved to Brisbane when Robert Mugabe's government enforced radical land seizures.

The Super Rugby veteran made his debut for the Western Force in 2006 just weeks after turning 18, and went on collect 69 caps with the Force over seven years before moving to the Brumbies in 2013.

His early years with the Brumbies were derailed by injuries, but in 2015 he collected a swathe of awards after a strong season, and finishes his Super Rugby career with 112 appearances and 19 tries.

A master of the breakdown, Pocock was one of the stars for Australia at the World Cups in 2011 and 2015 and became the 79th Wallabies captain in 2012 at age 23.

Pocock is also renowned for his activism work for climate change, gay rights and wildlife preservation.

He said in 2010 he would only wed once gay marriage was passed into law in Australia, which happened in late 2017. Pocock married his girlfriend in December. —AFP ■