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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor explains Myanmar's reforms at National University of Public Service, Hungary

STATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived at the National University of Public Service in Hungary at 10 a.m. local standard time yesterday, where she was welcomed by Rector Dr. Andras Koltay and officials.

The State Counsellor then addressed an audience consisting of the rector, professors, staff and students of the university. She talked at length on Myanmar's democratic transition process, efforts towards internal peace and national reconciliation, endeavours for implementing peace, stability and development in Rakhine State, initiating education reforms, bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and Hungary on education, and promoting interaction between the peoples of both countries.

Following this, the State Counsellor answered questions raised by the students and then handed over souvenirs to the rector.

Next, the State Counsellor travelled to the Hungarian Parliament Building where she met with Mrs. Márta Mátrai, First Officer of the National Assembly.

During the meeting, they exchanged similar experiences Myanmar and Hungary went through in their respective democratic transitions, discussed promoting cooperation between the parliaments of both countries and developing their skills.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor was treated to a luncheon hosted by Mr. Zsolt Németh, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the National Assembly.

From there, the State Counsellor attended the opening ceremony of the Hungary-Myanmar Business Forum held at the Marriott Hotel in Budapest and delivered a speech.

Next, the State Counsellor met with the Myanmar Ambassador, embassy staff and Myanmar scholars pursuing education in Hungary at the Kempinski Hotel.

Union Ministers U Thaung Tun and U Kyaw Tin, Ambassador U Myo Aye and officials also attended the meeting and the economic forum. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi gives the lecture on Myanmar's democratic transition period experience at National University of Public Service in Hungary yesterday, talking at length on Myanmar's democratic transition process and efforts for overcoming challenges. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Pyithu Hluttaw

12th regular session of 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw concludes

THE 12th regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw concluded yesterday following its 16-day meeting.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint replied the questions raised by MP U Mya Sein of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) constituency if the laws prescribed by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw are published sufficiently to the people or not.

The Union Minister said U Htay Oo of Yangon Region constituency-2 asked an asterisk-marked question if there was a plan to portray the recently ratified laws in the annual publication law manual and he replied the question at the 12th-day meeting of the fourth regular session of the Amyotha Hluttaw on 22 February, 2017. Similarly, U Saw Sein Tun of Kayah State constitution-4 asked the ministry if it had a plan to publish the ratified laws, rules and regulations free for the public and the ministry also answered the question at the Hluttaw on 29th January, 2018.

He continued to say that when he replied the question raised by U Htay Oo, he answered that Union-level institutions and ministries which drew the laws and rules and regulations published and distributed them with the own plan.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. **PHOTO: MNA**

Besides, Ministry of Information also publishes the ratified laws, and rules and regulations in the Government Gazette, he said.

In his answer, he also replied that the ministry is providing publishing services at reasonable prices for publishing the legal documents, said Dr. Pe Myint. The published laws, and rules and regulations manuals are available at the Sarpay Beikman bookshops in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw, he said.

The MP raised the question making reference to the newspapers published in 2016, therefore, the ratified legal documents in 2019 did not include in his reference, said the Union Minister.

Some pointed out that private book shops have offered a larger collection of the legal books and documents than Sarpay Beikman's book shops. Sarpay Beiman's book shops have a miscellaneous collection of different subjects including legal books and documents. But, some private book shops have mainly offered legal books and documents and they also publish books on legal. This was a reason why private book shops has offered a larger selection of legal books and documents than Sarpay Beikman book shops, he said.

He continued to say that in his answer to MP U Saw Sein Tun, he replied that the ministry was on a tight budget and could not afford to publish the books free of charge for the public at that moment as the ministry was carrying out its tasks depending on its budget allocation. Therefore, only if the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw allocated a separate budget to the ministry, the ministry would fulfil the need.

However, the ratified legal books and documents are available at the ministry's website www.moi.gov.mm, said the Union Minister.

The Union Minister said in his previous answer, he also mentioned that the ratified legal books and documents are also available at 417 libraries of the Information and Public Relations Department and also encouraged the private libraries to collect the legal books and documents and pledged to render assistance to them.

In response to the question raised by U Mya Sein of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) constituency, the Union Minister said the legal books and documents annually prescribed by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw are available at the Sarpay Beikman book shops in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw. Meanwhile, the books and documents are also published in the government gazette which are also available at the Saypay Beikman book shops. He continued to say there are 470 kinds of legal books published by Sarpay Beikman, Pyithu Hluttaw Office, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Attorney-General Office and private publishing houses.

SEE PAGE-11

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw concludes 12th regular session

AMYOTHA Hluttaw concluded its 12th regular session yesterday following the 16-day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

In the 16th-day meeting, asterisk-marked questions were answered and three reports were clarified by MPs and Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than reviewed the undertakings during the 12th regular session.

U Shan Aw of Chin State constitutency 2 asked if a road linking Dinlopa Village and Dongva Village in Haka, Chin State, would be upgrade, and Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut replied the up-gradation of the road would be considered depending on budget allocations starting from the 2020-2021 budget of the Chin State.

Daw Ei Ei Pyone of the Ayeyawady Region constituency-8 asked possibilities for promoting the daily-waged staff of the Ministry of Education to the ministry's employees and the ministry's arrangement for faculty buildings at universities.

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

In response to the questions, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun said that promoting the daily-waged staff to permanent staff would be considered only after amending the organizational set-up of the Basic Education Department.

Regarding the hostels for the faculties, the ministry has provided the faculties with buildings at the universities in accordance with the set rules.

Meanwhile, the ministry has arranged to construct more buildings for faculties every fiscal year.

Similarly, Daw Khin Swe Lwin of the Chin State constituency-9 asked there was a plan to allocate the excess land to local people after making survey to the land allocated to hotels and guest houses in Kanpatlat, Chin State. Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism answered the question.

U Kyaw Kyaw Win of Rakhine State constituency 8 asked which arrangements were made to give protection and safety to and rehabilitation for local ethnic people and Hindus in Mauntaw and how measures were taken to prevent terrorist attacks by ARSA.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung replied the questions.

Similarly, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun answered questions related with new school buildings in Kyawtaw, Rakhine State, upgrading a school in Bhamo, Kachin State, a new school building in Thaton, Mon State.

Afterwards, Daw Kyein Ngaik Man, member of the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee, read out the committee's report on the Myanma Communications Corporation Bill.

At yesterday meeting, two decisions came at the meeting to seek approval for the controversial points of the Myanma communications Corporation Bill and the Myanmar Lan Acquisition Bill 2017 between the two Hluttaws at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Amyotha Hluttaw approved the report on motions and questions submitted by the Hluttaw's Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee from the first meeting to 11th meeting of the second Amyotha Hluttaw.

Amyotha Hluttaw held 16 meetings in its 12th regular session from 29 April to 6 June, and during the period, MPs raised 117 asterisk-mark questions and 153 questions and Union-level dignitaries answered the questions.

In the 12th regular session, Amyotha Hlutaw approved a motion tabled by U Maung Maung Ohn of Ayeyawady Region's constituency 5 urging the Union Government to draw up laws, rules and directives to take precautionary measures in an attempt to protect the natural environment, resources and interests of coastal states and regions from possible heavy oil pollution of giant crude oil tankers delivering crude oil to the pipeline at Made Island, Rakhine State.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi speaks at the Hungary-Myanmar Business Forum held at the Marriott Hotel in Budapest yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

NEWS ON PAGE 1

Embassy of Sweden celebrates National Day in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Embassy of Sweden held a celebration to commemorate the National Day of Sweden in Nay Pyi Taw at 7 pm yesterday.

The celebration at the Park Royal Hotel was attended by Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein, Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and Dr. Myint Htwe and Deputy Ministers U Aung Hla Tun and U Tin Myint, Hluttaw representatives, departmental heads and invited guests. The event began with the national anthems of Myanmar and Sweden.

Afterwards, Ambassador of Sweden Mr. Staffan Herrstrom and Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe extended greetings. After the speeches, the guests enjoyed the dinner.—MNA

(Translated by GNLM)

UEC Chairman U Hla Thein and Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and Dr. Myint Htwe and deputy ministers attend the event to mark the National Day of Sweden in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Students of Youth Integrity Camp 2019 discuss corruption, integrity with international youth via video conferencing

ANTI-CORRUPTION Commission (ACC) in collaboration with Ministry of Education organized Youth Integrity Camp 2019 with technological assistance from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Two selected groups from the camp discussed anti-corruption with Slovenian and Papua New Guinean youths via video conferencing.

For discussion, fifteen selected youth were divided into two groups. They went into discussion with Papua New Guinean youths in the morning and with Slovenian youth in the afternoon.

Youth Integrity Camp students and international Slovenian and Papua New Guinean youth discussing anti-corruption via video conferencing. **PHOTO: MNA**

During the discussion, they talked over youth involvement in anti-corruption, effort to bring about quality integrity, challenges, experience, success, encouragement , and strategies.

It was reported that this session of discussion was held with the aim of letting young people know the international youth involvement in anti- corruption and upswing of integrity worldwide.

Then, Danish Ambassador John Nielsen shared his country's experience of tackling corruption with camp teachers and students. He also spoke of collaboration between Myanmar and Denmark, and the cost of corruption with regard to social and economic failure for the country and her people.

ACC Chairman U Aung Kyi attended the event .

The camp will be held until 7th June.—MNA *(Translated by Alphonsus)*

Vice President U Myint Swe instructs flawless commemoration of national heroes on 72nd Martyrs' Day

VICE PRESIDENT U Myint Swe, Patron of the Central Committee for Convening the 72nd Anniversary of Martyrs' Day, delivered a speech at the central committee's first coordination meeting held at the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Vice President U Myint Swe, Patron of the Central Committee for Convening the 72nd Anniversary of Martyr's Day, delivers a speech at the central committee's first coordination meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Opening remarks

In his speech, the Vice President said the Martyrs' Day ceremony is held annually to keep alive the memories of the fallen martyrs, including national leader Bogyoke Aung San, who lost their lives on 19 July 1947. He said the ceremony aims to awaken patriotism in youths and let them understand the lives, blood and sweat sacrificed for independence. He remarked that we have now reached the 72nd anniversary for this momentous commemoration.

The Vice President also explained about the formation and constitution of the central committee and its related committees.

Ensuring each committee succeeds its tasks

He said 'soon' offerings to honour the martyrs would be held in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon. He urged all relevant committees to work closely with the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Nay Pyi Taw Council and Yangon Region cabinet to ensure the donations were carried out without any delays at the national level.

The Vice President also instructed the committees to ensure that all planning for the commemoration ceremony at the Martyrs' Mausoleum goes along without any setbacks.

He also urged participants to carry out rehearsals for flag hoisting and saluting ceremonies at the Secretariat Building in Yangon and to make arrangements for opening the Secretariat Building's meeting room, where General Aung San and other leaders were assassinated 72 years ago on 19 July.

The Vice President also urged the security committee to coordinate with others to carry out its 12 tasks successfully.

He also urged the Ministry of Information to make arrangements for covering articles and interviews on Martyrs' Day, to conduct essay contests, to broadcast and publish Bogyoke Aung San's speeches, Martyrs' Day commemorative songs and to show documentary films in the state-run broadcasts and print media.

Committee reports

Following the Vice President's speech, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko reported on the formation of the committees, preparations made, and the progress of assigned tasks.

Next, Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, who are Chairman and Secretary of the Working Committee for Convening the 72nd Anniversary of Martyrs' Day respectively, reported on the progress of each subcommittee and future tasks.

Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu then explained the security preparations made and other tasks.

This was followed by the remaining attendees reporting on the progress of their relevant committee.

The meeting came to an end with the Vice President giving comments and suggestions to ensure coordination on the various reports after which he delivered the closing speech.

Meeting attendees

Central Committee Chairman Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, Vice-Chairman U Phyo Min Thein, Chief Minister of Yangon Region, Union Election Commission member U Myint Naing, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Thu, Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe, U Tin Myint and U Kyi Min, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun, Yangon Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Colonel Aung Soe Moe, Yangon City's Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, the Vice Adjutant General, members of the central committee, working committee, security committee and subcommittees, permanent secretaries, directors-general and department officials. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Bagan-NyaungU Archaeological zone to get smoke-free areas

TO designate smoke-free areas in the Bagan-NyaungU Archeaological zone, a coordination meeting was held at 10 a.m. on 6 June at the District General Administration Department.

"We will implement smoke-free zones in 29 areas in Bagan that meet the self-norms and the project will begin in July. Therefore, the concerned officials from the selected areas need to cooperate in this project. We are trying to designate the entire cultural heritage zone of Bagan as a smoke-free zone," said U Soe Tint, an administrator from NyaungU District.

The 29 planned smoke-free zones are 17 pagodas and three state schools in Bagan and NyaungU townships, the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, the Information Center, the NyaungU Airport, the Social Welfare Department, the Bagan Lacquerware Museum and Institute, the NyaungU District Hospital, the Bagan Archaeological Museum, the Nyaunglatphtkan hill, and the Sulamani sunset hill. —Pheng Ling (Bagan)

(Translated by La Wonn)

General Administation Department officials from Bagan and NyuangU discuss planning smoke-free zones in the cultural heritage zone during a meeting at the District General Adminstration Department yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Joint Committee on Amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 19/2019

The Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution holds a meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

MEETING 19/2019 of the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by the Chairman of the Joint Committee, the Deputy Speaker of both the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw, U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Chairman of the Joint Committee Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Joint Committee Secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe, Joint Secretary U Htay Win Aung (a) U Pyone Cho, committee members including Hluttaw representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives, and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. —MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Myanmar steels itself to rise from LDC status

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance, U Maung Maung Win addresses a workhop on lifting Myanmar out of the Least Developed Countries ranking. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Ministry of Planning and Finance and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Investment (UNCTAD) jointly held a workshop on lifting Myanmar out of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) category at Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance, U Maung Maung Win, delivered the opening speech and UNCTAD's Head of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Mr. Pierre Encontre delivered an address as well.

The workshop aims to generate ideas and suggestions to raise Myanmar out of LDC status, making the transition period for LDC Graduation smooth, acquiring good opportunities, observing the experiences of other countries, and maintaining international support.

The workshop was attended by representatives from union ministries and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry. ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Nay Pyi Taw Press Release 5 June 2019

The Union Election Commission diligently reviews applications to register political parties in accordance with the law if said party consists of at least 15 willing members and submits their application in line with Section 3 (a) of the Political Parties Registration Law.

The UEC would like to notify all individuals intending to form or register a political party, or multiple political parties intending to merge into a single party, need to send their relevant applications to the UEC no later than 30 December 2019.

This would allow the UEC to carry out all necessary procedures in time and also allow every political party to conduct their electoral tasks and campaign preparations in time for the coming 2020 General Elections.

Union Election Commission

U Thant Sin presents Credentials to President of the Republic of Korea

U Thant Sin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Korea, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Moon Jae-In, President of the Republic of Korea on 31 May 2019 in Seoul.—MNA

One more political party applies for registration

REGISTRATION of political parties are being scrutinized by the Union Election Commission (UEC), Chin National Party (CNP) came to UEC to register itself as a political party on 4 June 2019, it is learnt.—MNA

Public Announcement for remonstration

Chin National Party (CNP) headquartered at Kyauk Oh Taung Village, Kyauk Oh Taung Village-Tract in Aunglan Township, Thayat District, Magway Region, submitted an application for registration as a political party in accord with the Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 4-6-2019. In their application they mention that they will use the name, the flag and the emblem as described hereunder.

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

Union Election Commission

Flag of Chin National Party (CNP)

Emblem of Chin National Party (CNP)

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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.

Second consignment of steel rails for Yangon-Mandalay Railway upgrade arrives in Yangon

NEW steel tracks for the Yangon-Mandalay Railway upgrade arrived on 4 June at the Sule Port in Yangon.

"The steel rails will be used on the Yangon-Taungoo route, which is covered by Phase 1 of the Yangon-Mandalay Railway upgrade project. The Yangon-Taungoo route is 116 miles long. Thereafter, the 200-mile Mandalay-Taungoo route will be upgraded. That project will take about two years," said U Tun Aung Thin, General Manager (lower Myanmar), Myanma Railways.

The first consignment of new rails from Japan arrived at 2 p.m. on 1 May at the Sule Port, and they were delivered through the Ywarthargyi dry port. The rails are meant for the Yangon-Taungoo route. The steel rails currently being used by Yangon-Mandalay Railway weigh 75 pounds, while the new rails from Japan measure 82 feet in length and weigh 110 pounds.

Myanma Railways staff unloading steel rails from the cargo ship at the Sule Port in Yangon on 4 June. **PHOTO: ZARNI MAUNG**

"The railway tracks will be substituted with the new ones from Japan, and they will help cut travel time.

There are too many train stations, level crossings, and illegal shortcut roads, and they are increasing travel time. If these can be reduced, trains can arrive faster, taking a short time," said U Tun Aung Thin. For upgrading the Yangon-Mandalay Railway, Myanmar has taken a US$2.4-billion loan from Japan and the project will take about four years. After the upgrade, trains will complete the Yangon-Bago journey in just one hour, and travel from Bago to Mandalay in seven hours.

In addition, the new coaches will have air conditioning and air bags.—Zarni Maung ■ *(Translated by La Wonn)*

Yangon Region wants uninterruptible power supply at hospitals, CNG stations, traffic lights, street lamps

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Region government has asked the Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE) to arrange backup power lines for hospitals, CNG stations, traffic lights, and road lamps so they can operate even during a power cut, said Daw Nilar Kyaw, the Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Energy, and Transportation.

She made the remarks at a press conference detailing the regional government's third-year performance, which was held at the Mingala Hall of the Yangon Region government office. "The Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC) and the regional government forwarded their request during a meeting with the Union Minister and Deputy Minister for MOEE in Yangon last month. They have asked for dedicated power lines for hospitals, road lamps to ensure security, CNG stations, and traffic lights, and they have asked that these be chronologically prioritized so they do not face power cuts. The Union Minister has given his directions on the matter," said Daw Nilar Kyaw.

The reason why CNG stations have been included in the list is that YBS buses running on Yangon roads are CNG buses, she said.

It takes longer to fill CNG using power generators, and that can lead to a decrease in the number of buses and cause transportation difficulties for commuters, she added.

In addition, all Yangon roads will have electric lamps, with priority given to four townships of Yangon Myothit and Hlinethaya Township, she added.

"Earlier, road lamps and power lines were handled by YESC, while the Yangon City Development Committee was responsible for light bulbs. But, owing to lack of interdepartmental coordination, when light bulbs went off, there were delays in fixing them. The YCDC has handed over the responsibility of light bulbs to YESC for the 2018-2019 fiscal year," said Daw Nilar Kyaw.

Yangon Region consumes more than half of the nation's power supply, consuming 1,500-1,600 megawatts per day.

The Yangon Region government is making arrangements to electrify villages in the region. Of the 2,000 villages in the region, more than 1,000 still do not have access to electricity, said Daw Nilar Kyaw. ■ *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated naval patrol

MYANMAR and Bangladesh conducted a coordinated naval patrol along the Naf River on 5 June, according to the information released by Myanmar Police Force.

The patrol of Myanmar was led by inspector Myat Zaw Oo from No.1 Border Police sub-division (KyeeKyun), Area 3, Maungtaw Township, while the Bangladeshi side was led by Subedar Md, Najrul Islam from No. 2 Border Guard Force, Whykong BOP Outpost of Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB).

The Myanmar troops in the two water crafts, including vessel no. 002, met with the Bangladeshi troops on their two water crafts at the middle of the Naf River near the opening to Pyu Ma Creek, and patrolled together from nautical mile 15 to 18 near the opening of Tae Chaung Creek. After the patrol, the two forces held a discussion on watercraft no. 002. —GNLM ■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

Myanmar and Bangladesh conduct naval patrol along the Naf River. **PHOTO: MPF**

Pineapples fetching good prices due to low yields in PyinOoLwin

PINEAPPLES produced in Pyin Oo Lwin Town are commanding a high price in the Mandalay market due to low yields this year, according to the Mandalay fruit depot.

"These days, pineapples from Panootaung and Oakpho villages in PyinOoLwin town are entering the market. Those pineapples are sweeter.

Next month, pineapples from Hsipaw will start coming in. Pineapple yields fall during adverse weather conditions, resulting in price rise," said U Ye Lwin, a fruit depot owner from Mandalay.

"Currently, pineapples are priced at K300-500, depending on the size. More pineapples from Hsipaw, Bhamo, and Katha towns will enter the market soon," he said.

"The pineapples are being distributed for both wholesale and retail. They are also being sent to Magway, Chauk, Nay Pyi Taw, and Taungoo, among other places," he added.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay sub-printing house) ■ *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

Pineapples on display for sale at the Mandalay market.
PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)

Ice apples selling well this season

SALES of ice apples in the market have been good this season, and so, local farmers have become more interested in growing them, said local jaggery entrepreneurs.

"Now, we are seeing local farmers becoming interested in palm cultivation because palm fruits are highly demanded in the villages. We are purchasing palm apples for K20 per fruit. Each palm has three palm fruits.

So, farmers get K60. We are purchasing around 10,000 palm fruits every day. At present, we have bought ice apples from four villages of Ayadaw Township. Next year, we target 30 villages as our purchase market," said Zaw Min Htut, a local jaggery entrepreneur.

Ice apples are purchased from villages of Ayadaw Township, and then iced and sent to Myingyan Town.

"We send the ice in the morning to the villages, which sell the ice apples. Then, they send back the iced palm fruits between 12 noon and 4 p.m. Once we get the ice apples, we send them to the Myingyan factory. We haven't asked yet what they are doing with the ice apples on the next day. We have already sent around 10,000 palm fruits in four batches. This year, the business of palm fruits is booming," he added.

"Local palm farmers are quite happy this year. But, the number of palm farmers has declined. There are many palm trees in Ayadaw and Budalin," said U San Myint, a jaggery trader.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

A woman peeling the ice apples for sale. **PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN**

Yangon Petrol looking to expand outlets, but facing land issues: Minister

By Nyein Nyein

YANGON Petrol, which offers fuel at low price, is looking to expand its presence with more outlets, but has run into land difficulties, said U Han Tun, the Yangon Region Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forest, and Energy.

He made the remarks at a press conference held on the Yangon Region government's third-year performance at the Mingala Hall at the office of the regional government.

"The regional government has been backing Yangon Petrol, but it is not being operated as a joint venture. The regional government is monitoring the fuel deal," said the minister.

"Yangon Petrol does not have any link with the government. The government has not made any investment in the entity. We have only entered into an agreement on curbing fuel prices. There is a gap of K60 per litre between the prices offered by Yangon Petrol and the rates set by other fuel stations. So, price gap is around K240-250 per gallon. Therefore, some cars choose Yangon Petrol shops for filling oil. The regional government wants Yangon Petrol to cover the whole region," said U Han Tun.

However, land problems are delaying plans to expand outlets, he added.

The Yangon Region government is trying to lower fuel oil prices, in line with the government's policies, and reduce the price of land identified for opening fuel stations, said U Phyo Min Thein, the Yangon Region Chief Minister.

"Earlier, Yangon Region took only 10 per cent of the value of fuel stations in the city for use of land. I feel we need to lower the price more so that the public can buy fuel oil at cheaper rates," said U Phyo Min Thein.

At present, plots of land for Yangon Petrol stations are priced at K2,000 to K4,800 per square feet. These plots are only meant for petrol stations, and not for construction of hotels and shopping malls, said the Yangon Region Chief Minister.

Yangon Petrol has opened four stations in Thakayta, Dagon Seikkan, Thingyangyun, and Shwepyitha townships in Yangon Region, and it has sought permission to open 26 more outlets on land owned by the regional government. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

FDI stands at $2.69 bln in eight months

DURING the Oct-May period, overall foreign direct investments of $2.69 billion flowed into the country, including expansion of capital by existing enterprises and investments of over $196.5 million in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, according to a press release from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Between 1 October, 2018 and 29 May, 2019, 169 foreign enterprises received permits and endorsements, bringing in capital of $1.74 billion. Singapore-listed enterprises saw the largest investments during the Oct-May period, followed by China and Hong Kong.

Transport and Communication absorbed over $1 billion in FDI, topping the investment sector line-up, followed by the manufacturing sector.

MIC seeks to reach $5.8 billion of FDIs in the current fiscal year 2018-2019, according to the DICA.

As noted in the Myanmar Investment Law, the Region and State Investment Committees are allowed to grant permission to local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or $5 million, with an aim to facilitate the verification process of investment projects.—GNLM ■ *(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)*

7 JUNE 2019
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Clean air is vital for wellness, prosperity

NOWADAYS, it is becoming common to see people suffering from irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, having difficulty breathing, and getting diagnosed with respiratory diseases.

Eventually, people with such complaints develop asthma, chronic pulmonary inflammation, and coronary artery disease. In more serious cases, the risk of heart attack, stroke, or lung cancer increases and so does the chance of an early death.

> We must change the habits that contribute to air pollution and put our heads together to reverse the damage to our environment while we still can, as we work towards a future that envisages sustainable development.

The main cause of these ailments is the polluted air that blows through our homes and which we breathe every day. According to the findings of the UN Environment Programme, the burning of timber, coal, and other fuels, especially for cooking, across the globe every day and air pollution in homes, factories, and offices is assisting the development of respiratory diseases. They estimate about 4.3 million people die of these diseases every year.

Furthermore, they've discovered that an additional 3.7 million people die every year from toxic fumes emitted by the industrial, power, transportation, and agricultural sectors, forest fires, and large swathes of dust and sand mixing into the air we breathe.

The numbers are staggering. About 8 million people die as a result of the various forms of air pollution, and the majority of the victims are from Southeast Asian nations, such as Myanmar, and the Western Pacific Region. Women and children suffer the brunt of air pollution. In a dense urban destination like Yangon, we can clearly see the effects of air pollution.

At an event to commemorate the 2019 World Environment Day, President U Win Myint stressed the importance of clean water for drinking, wholesome food for eating, and safe air for breathing, in order for everyone to be fit and healthy. He pointed out that individual wellbeing is a necessary condition for national development, which will benefit us all.

Myanmar, along with the rest of the world, is facing numerous challenges from the destruction of the natural environment, and air pollution is such a major threat that the motto for this year's World Environment Day is 'Beat Air Pollution'.

We are all children of this earth and the responsibility to save the environment, and ultimately ourselves, rests on our own shoulders. We must change the habits that contribute to air pollution and put our heads together to reverse the damage to our environment while we still can, as we work towards a future that envisages sustainable development.

SC Auto (Myanmar) starts assembling

SC Neustar buses in Myanmar

By Maung Thitsa (Yankin)

SC Auto (Myanmar) Co., Ltd introduced its three SC NEUSTAR brand buses at the opening ceremony of the auto company's assembling plant at Yangon Industrial Zone in Mingaladon Township, Yangon on 28 May 2009. The factory has already started its work of car assembling and maintenance with cent per cent Singaporean investment.

Speaking at the ceremony, Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission U Thaung Tun welcomed the involvement of high-tech foreign industries in Myanmar. "The Commission has issued the permit for the car assembling company under the Semi Knocked-Down (SKD) system and is encouraging the company to produce cars under Complete Knocked–Down (CKD) system soon," he said.

> Auto-assembling technicians of Singapore and Myanmar employees who have at least ten years of work experience in the Island nation are running the factory.

"The development of high-tech foreign partnerships will serve as a boaster for local SMEs and supporting industries," he noted. The MIC Chair expressed pleasure and honour in witnessing the production of European standard SC NEUSTAR cars in Myanmar. He also lauded the SC Auto (Myanmar) Co., Ltd as the company will become the first automaker distributing "Made in Myanmar" SC NEUSTAR buses locally and internationally.

Also speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Pyo Min Thein expressed pleasure and honour for witnessing the production of European standard cars for the local market as well as markets in Asia and Europe. Ambassador of Singapore to Myanmar H.E Ms. Vanessa Chan also attended the ceremony. Managing Director of the company Ms. Rachel Lee explained points of the factory and future programs. About 370 investors, entrepreneurs and auto distributers were also present.

SC Auto (Myanmar) Co., Ltd began its journey into Myanmar when the MIC issued the permit in 2015. Its assembling plant in Myanmar, the SC Auto (Myanmar) factory, is receiving raw materials and technology from EU countries. It is running with 100 employees – 80 production staffs and 20 office and marketing staffs. It produced three buses in May 2009.

Auto-assembling technicians of Singapore and Myanmar employees who have at least ten years of work experience in the Island nation are running the factory. As Myanmar employees are working at various levels of positions, the factory is generating high-tech jobs for the local people.

SC Auto (Myanmar) factory meets the standard of its Singaporean counterpart, SC Auto (Singapore). The SC Auto (Myanmar) factory is assembling cars with latest computer-guided technology including 2D laser molders and cutters, automatic wire cutters and testers, bus testers, car spraying and painting workshops, and spare parts production lines.

The buses are durable as the factory is using high tensile strength stainless steel, it imports from Finland, in assembling cars. Moreover, the factory has the advantages in safety and quality as it holds the certificates recommending that its products meet the European standard.

The entering of responsible investors like the SC Auto produces mutual benefits as their investments generate job opportunities for Myanmar workers and increase the number of Myanmar technicians and their qualifications, while they themselves can cheap labour, Myanmar hospitality and the opportunities enshrined in the ASEAN investment agreement.

According to what Managing Director Ms. Rachel Lee has explained in her speech at the ceremony, an international investment project in Myanmar serves as a bold new step towards penetrating the global market deeper as the country offers all those benefits and advantages.

> The buses are durable as the factory is using high tensile strength stainless steel, it imports from Finland, in assembling cars.

SC Auto is the first to produce buses that are suitable for the climate and roads of Myanmar. Under its future programs, the factory will assign more employees and assemble up to 100 55-Seater SC Auto Brand Bus/Coaches. Due to the improving work proficiency of Myanmar workers and their ability to operate high-tech machines and their enthusiasm, the factory will hire over 400 more Myanmar workers in a four-year period for a gradual increase in it production capacity. In this way, the factory will prove that it is making a responsible investment.

The Myanmar Investment Commission is inviting more responsible investments under the current government in office, and foreign investors, including automakers are showing greater interest in it. The arrival of Quality Investment and the renowned companies like the SC Auto in the country opens more ground for manufacturing car parts locally, with the involvement of small and medium industries of the country.

We must underpin the SC Auto (Myanmar) factory as it will apply the Complete Knocked–Down (CKD) system in the future for the progress of local supporting industries. Moreover, it will be the first enterprise to produce European standard SC NEUSTAR buses in Myanmar for European and Asian markets and local use.

It will also serves as an import-substitute industry, providing advanced buses for the local market. In this way, the investment of the SC Auto will ensure long-term benefits for the country. So, let's all welcome the "Made in Myanmar" SC NEUSTAR buses.

(Translation: TMT)

မြန်ကြားဇနဒ္ဒါပြည်သူ့ဆက်သွယ်ရေးဦးစီးဌာန၊ အင်ဂျင်နီယာဦးစီးဌာနနှင့် တာချီလိတ်သရိုင်စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုကုမ္ပဏီတို့
ပူးပေါင်းဆောင်ရွက်သည့်
ကွေးတောင်ပေါ်တော်
တာအုပ်စုပေမြို့မှ နှင့် တာအုပ်ငယ်းတောင်ပေါ်
(တာချီလိတ်မြို့)
၂၀၁၉ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇွန်လ (၂၅၊ ၂၆)ရက်၊ (အင်္ဂါ၊ ဗုဒ္ဓဟူး)နေ့၊ နံနက် ၉ နာရီမှ ညနေ ၅ နာရီအထိ
ပညာသူမဆို ဖိတ်ခေါ်ခြင်းဖြစ်ပါသည်။
အခြေခံပညာအထက်တန်းကျောင်း၊ ဓကာဟိုဝမ်းရပ်ကွက်၊ တာချီလိတ်မြို့။

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 6th June, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is weak to moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 7th June, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States, fairly widespread in Naypyitaw, Bago Region, Southern Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Chin and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts and slight elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-6) feet in Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts and (3-4) feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon –Taninthayi Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of thundery activities in Northern Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7th June, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7th June, 2019: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7th June, 2019: Isolated 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**

Union Election Commission responds to open letter by 26 political parties

IT was reported that Union Election Commission Responded to open letter by 26 political parties today.

In the response, it was mentioned that last paragraph 10 paragraph open letter made following request.

" With reference to the paragraph mention above, we would like to have a transparent face to face meeting with sufficient amount of time at your convenience. This we would like to request with this open letter".

After the examination of the open letter by the commission, it was found that request for the meeting was unnatural and the request were based on impractical false accusations.

For example, In the third paragraph of open letter, it said " the performance of the current Election commission is ineffective and found to be heading towards the opposite direction".

They, however, fail to mention which specific performance. This harms the dignity of the commission as it attacks all the performances of the commissions in general.

In 5th paragraph, " the commission giving instruction to political parties as if they the parties were departments reporting them means oppression and unlawful action."

Here too the open letter is found to be unspecific.

According to Union Election commission law, political parties Registration Law and rule passed, the commission can monitor the performances of the political parties is its right and responsibility. This evidenceless accusation belittle the duty and responsibility of the commission and confuse the public.

With reference to forming of sub commission in 2017 and dispute over the final decision during Interim Election period, the performance of the commission has been discussed in detail on December 8th 2017 at the meeting between Union Election Commission and spoke person of Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) Dr. Nander Hal Myint and at the meeting between the commission and political parties on June 14 2018.

The accusation that the commission's final decision concerning the Interim Election is unfair and unreasonable in 5th paragraph of the open letter is wrong .

There were only two objection to that.

By the time open letter came out on May 23rd 2019 , The commission had not made any decision about the objections . Only on May 30th 2019 decision regarding one of two objections was made. Concerning suggestion mention in, they are always free to suggest at Election Commission at anytime.

If this is to be the case, the commission will meet with political parties including 26 parties mentioned in the open letter and take necessary action.

Of all 26 parties 7 were elected parties of 2015 General Election. 98 parties has been registered at Union Election Commission. 78 parties are left with exclusion of 26 parties with the request. Of 78 parties 15 are elected.

Union Election Commission respect the opinions of all political parties. The Commissions has meetings with all,some or individual parties at every opportunity.

The commission vows to have fair and transparent elections according to law.

In accordance the vow, the Commission will have meeting with regional and state election commissions , political parties and other related organizations for implementation of work progression concerning Election from June 2019.

The schedule has been drawn up for the meeting between the commission and the political parties to have successful 2020 General Election.

So, Union Election Commission will meet political parties according to schedule. This was decided at Union Election Committee meeting (19/2019) on June 5th 2019.—MNA ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Transformation of waste to energy via use of burner system improves fuel oil quality significantly

THE quality of fuel oil can be improved significantly by turning waste into energy by using a burner system that utilizes wax oil, instead of fire wood, said Ko Hein Soe from the Shwe Yee Lin oil refining kiln in Kyaukka, Monywa.

"Fuel oil has an offensive smell when refined using firewood. Oil that is refined using the burner system does not have bad odour. The quality of oil also improves significantly. A single oil refining kiln costs K5 million.

This price does not include the cost of the electric power generator. So, we need to spend more than K5 million to refine crude oil. A kiln that uses the burner system costs K1.5 million. We need to have two kilns for an oil refinery," he said.

"To refine crude oil using the burner system, we conducted test runs in 2012-2013. In 2018, the system proved to be successful," said Ko Htein Win Lwin from the Kyauk Kar oil refining kiln.

"Earlier, we had to refine crude oil by using fire wood. When we refined crude oil in this way, the kiln produced petrol, diesel, kerosene, wax oil, and thick wax oil.

When we refined 150 crude oil tanks, we produced 10 wax oil tanks. We didn't have enough space to store the wax oil. And, it was not marketable. So, we've turned to the burner system, instead of using fire wood," he said.

The oil refinery in Kyaukka, Monywa. **PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)**

"The Denmark RFB Grant is providing the technological support to ensure safety and environmental conservation. The organization from Denmark has been providing support to entrepreneurs engaged in the oil refining business in Kyaukka. About 19 entrepreneurs are refining crude oil with the use of burner system, with the assistance of Denmark RFB, which supports 50 per cent of the production facility costs," said Ko Hein Soe Dom from the Shwe Yee Lin oil refining kiln.

"Of the 152 crude oil refining entrepreneurs in Kyaukka, a total of 121 entrepreneurs are holding a production license, and they are producing fuel oil with the help of over 360 oil refining kilns. We expect all enterprises to switch to the burner system by 2020," said Ko Htein Win Lwin.

The process of oil refining takes 50 to 60 hours. It takes 7 tons of firewood to produce 120 barrels of refined oil, it is learnt.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Court of Inquiry conducts investigation in Buthidaung

AFTER carrying out investigation at the three regiments, three police stations, one prison and five villages in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State, the Court of Inquiry of the Tatmdaw arrived back Nay Pyi Taw on 3 June, according to the Tatmadaw True News Team yesterday.

The Court of Inquiry formed in conformity with the Defence Services Rules and chaired by Maj-Gen Myat Kyaw had carried out the investigation starting from 18 March.

During the investigation, the Court of Inquiry followed the advises of the Legal Advisory Team and it will continue the investigation, according to the Tatmadaw True News Team.—MNA ■

Correction

Please read "Those who are dissatisfied with the decision passed by the committee can submit their appeal within 60 days. The law includes many exceptions for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)," said U Than Maung, the Vice Chairman of the Myanmar Competition Committee. …. Those who refuse to be inspected by the committee shall face three months imprisonment and …." in the second last paragraph of the story headlined "Myanmar Competition Committee to look into complaints of unfair competition" on Page 10 of the 5 June, 2019 issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar. —GNLM

12th regular session of 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw concludes

FROM PAGE-2

Besides, the legal books and documents are available at the Ministry of Information's web-portal www.moi.gov.mm. The bills are also put on the websites for public before they are made into laws. The laws, and rules and regulations are also covered in the daily-newspapers, he said.

The existing laws, and rules and regulations are also put on the website of the Union Attorney-General Office www.mlis.gov.mm.

In his answer to related question raised by U Mya Sein asking the ministry to sell the legal books and documents on a reasonable price to the people, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint said distributing the legal books and documents is not possible but the ministry can provide publishing services at a reasonable price.

U Maung Myint, MP for Mingin constituency, raised a question acting for clarification on the matters surrounding the incidents on 29 January 2019 where a live broadcast by MRTV of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session was temporarily cut off for 5 minutes, from 2:20 pm to 2:25 pm.

Appropriate penalties imposed on those responsible

Union Minister for Information, Dr. Pe Myint, replied that it was already explained in the 1 February edition of The Myanma Alinn that the cause of the disruption was a failure in the fibre connection between the advanced communication center (Yay Pyar) and MRTV headquarters.

He said he will respond to the request for clarification on the announcement of the Tatmadaw True News Information Team made on 7 February which states that the disturbance in the live broadcast was not the cause of a fibre network line failure.

MP U Mya Sein. **PHOTO MNA**

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint. **PHOTO MNA**

The Union Minister said a report on the incident was submitted on the same day by officials bearing relevant responsibilities on that day which states that the 5-minute blackout was caused by a failure in the fibre connection network between the two transmission points.

The Union Minister said he summoned the concerned officials to thoroughly reassess the situation and resubmit a more concise report on 30 January. He said the summoned officials gave a reply similar to the previous report, citing the failure in the fibre connection network as the source of the issue.

The Union Minister said the Ministry of Information then uploaded the incident in full detail on its website on 31 January and again in State-owned newspapers on 1 February.

The Union Minister said that as soon as he was notified of the announcement from the Tatmadaw True News Information Team saying the interruption of the live broadcast was not the cause of the fibre connection network, he ordered MRTV to report on the actual events that transpired. He said he also ordered the formation of an investigation team, in line with the Civil Service Personnel Law and its related Bylaw, to probe into the truth of the matter.

The Union Minister said the investigation team came to the finding that the interruption of the live broadcast was not caused by a disruption in the fibre connection network, but rather it was caused by a disturbance in the satellite network.

With this revelation, a departmental review committee was formed to take appropriate further actions towards the officials responsible for reporting falsified information, said the Union Minister. He said the committee carried out appropriate penalties towards the responsible officials, in accordance with the Civil Services Personnel Law and its related Bylaw.

MP's asks additional questions

MP U Maung Myint first thanked the Union Minister for responding to his question and acknowledged that the Union Minister has already clarified the matter with a similar reply during a press conference on 21 May.

U Maung Myint said he is not satisfied that the matter has now been written as a disturbance in the fibre connection network. He said his question was intended towards the five-minute blackout of the continuous direct transmission of the satellite network and whether the network recovered automatically on its own is something to question.

The MP said the public is capable of thinking and reasoning and are still inclined to think the interruption to the live broadcast, which was disseminating important news, was intentional.

He said under normal circumstances, the Speaker of the Hluttaw had the authority to interrupt a debate during session but he views this interruption as a breach on established procedures. The MP stated his belief that the Union Minister's responses indicate there was no specific order to carry out this incident.

U Maung Myint raised additional questions on MoI's procedures. He asked whether only the staff are responsible and whether the Union Minister or Deputy Minister are also accountable or not. He asked whether this incident can be published publicly in its entirety in the newspapers, owing to the fact that we live in a period of increased calls for responsibility and accountability.

Union Minister reaffirms comprehensive answer

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint replied that he thought he had already given a comprehensive and satisfactory answer. He said the fibre connection network was already under maintenance before the incident occurred. He said fibre networks to the broadcasting station in Tatkon were used in addition to the satellite networks.

The Union Minister said if the satellite network has to be used, there may be disruptions when a transmission is made from another point and interferes with the former transmission, as there is only one satellite network line.

The Union Minister said the interruption was caused by news being relayed from other regions that interfered with the live broadcast of the Hluttaw as they share the single satellite line. He said the official in charge notified the senders of the regional news to relay their transmission to a different line when they noticed the disruption. He said the live broadcast was returned to normal five minutes after the regional news stopped relaying.

The Union Minister said that while the report on the incident was made from the those on the ground, they were all high-ranking officials of MRTV who bear direct responsibility, and thus, their report was published. He said the appropriate scrutinization and action against them was taken when it was revealed they had falsified their report.

The Speaker's closing speech

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat delivered the concluding speech on the 12th regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw.

He said this session held 16 meetings, answered 131 starred questions and 258 non-starred questions, submitted 14 motions, approved 8 motions and put 3 motions on record with 3 motions remaining for debate, and reviewed 7 bills with 13 remaining for review. —Aye Aye Thant ■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

Amyotha Hluttaw concludes 12th regular session

FROM PAGE-2

In the 12th regular session, Amyotha Hluttaw agreed to discuss the motion submitted by Dr. Tin Tin Win of the Bago Region's constituency-5 urging the Union Government to create a good environment for rural women through providing technology, capital and raw material for developing home-based industries in attempts to reduce the number of women who left abroad to get oversea jobs.

The hluttaw also agreed to discuss the motion submitted by Daw Htu May of Rakhine State's constituencfy 11 on drawing schemes for granting micro loans to students who would attend the universities and institutes and the motion submitted by U Kyaw Htwe of Yangon Region's constituency -8 urging the Union Government to make assessment to the private schools and the completion certificates issued by the private institutions.

Amyotha Hluttaw sent the bill amending the Myanmar Investment Law 2019, the new species of trees protection bill-2019 and the fourth bill amending the Union Judiciary Law to Pyithu Hluttaw.

During the period of the 12th regular session, Amyotha Hluttaw affairs committees held 112 meetings in total.—Aung Ye Thwin, Lu Maw/MNA ■ *(Translated by Tun Tun Naing)*

Mp U Shan Aw. **PHOTO MNA**

Maj-Gen Than Htut. **PHOTO MNA**

The Exam Result From inaccessible exam centers to be broadcasted on Myanma Radio

THE matriculation Result for 2018- 2019 academic year will be released nationwide on June 8th at 6am, and the exam result from inaccessible and remote exam centers of Regions and States will be broadcasted on Myanma Radio from 6 am.

The Radio program will announce the result from following centers.

In Kachin State, Hsinbo, Tanai, Shinbwayyan, Chipwe, Khatcho, Hsadone, Mainar, Phakant, Kamine, Saikmu, Tarmakhan, Lonkhin, Dawphonyan, Lwejel, Putao, Dotthan, Lay Yin Kwin, Sumprabum, Machanbaw and Nagmon exam centers.

In Kayah State, Shadaw, Dimawhso, Daungan Khar, Nan Mai Khone, Prusho, Bawlake, Pasawng and Meisei exam centers.

In Kayin state, Leiktho, Papun, Kamamaung, Kya-in-Seikgyi, Kyaikdon, Phayathonzu, Dakhondine, Klal and Thingan Nyinaung exam centers,

In Chin state, Reedhorda, Cikha, Khainkan, Htutlai, Mindat, Kanpetlet, Kyin Dway, Matupi, Lailenpi, Rezwa, Lonengo, Paletwa and Sami exam centers.

In Rakhine state, Thawin Chaung, Latpabyar, Sedipyin, Laung Chaung, Kuu Taung, Zee Kaing, Sittaw, Kaping Chaung, Kwan Chaung, Zin Chaung, Gonchain, Minpyin, Manaung, Zayetkone Khin, Kamar, Gwa, Kyeintali, Hsatthwar, Maungtaw, Buthidaung, Sedi Taung, Letwe Dat and Puzun Chaung exam centers.

In Eastern Shan State, Monghkat, Mongyan, Mongphyat, Mongyawng, Monghsat, Mongton and Mongpyin exam centers.

In Northern Shan State, Konlong, Hopan, Laukkai, Namsang, Mongton, Mongmit, Magyipin, Mabain and Ngao exam centers.

In southern Shan State, Pinkon, Tintat, Saungpyaung, Kunhing, Mongkai, Kehsi, Minesan, Minenaung, Mongshu, Wankan, Mongpan, Tonghon and Maukmai exam centers.

In Taninthayi Region, Myitta, Kattalu, Sakhan Thit, Kan Maw, Thazin, Palaw, Shatpon, Palauk, Bokpyin and Pyigyimandaing Exam centers.

In Magway Region, Pauk, Sathine, Zee Pyar, Kaing Lel, Yee Pyar, Thayakkan, Kan Pyo, Nan Thar, Sedoktara, Buu, Tan Lel Kyin, Ngape, Padan, Htilin, Nyaungkan, Say Min Taw, Kyin Ywa, Yee Myat Ne, Saw, Kyaukhtu, Tapyin. Kangyee and Laungshay exam centers.

In Sagaing Region, Mawlaik, Kintat, Panthar, Phaungpyin, Minyar, Tha Yaung,Yeeout Taung, Leshi, Sum Ma Rar, Lahe, Nanyun and Pansaung exam centers.

In Yangon Region, Cocogyun exam center.

The Result from inaccessible and remote exams centers of Upper Myanmar will be broadcasted on SW 50.71m (5915khz) and SW 30.85m (9730 Khz) . For lower Myanmar it is on MW 411.52 M (729khz).

The results will also be announced on Myanmar FM Radio Ethnic language Program respective ethnical places. —MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Russia woos foreign investors as arrests loom over forum

SAINT PETERSBURG — Russia opened its showcase annual economic forum on Thursday, seeking to reassure foreign investors who have been shaken by recent arrests and slowing growth.

Dubbed the "Russian Davos" when the economy was booming, the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum is hosted by President Vladimir Putin and this year comes amid an ongoing crisis with the West.

In a sign of Moscow's commercial and political pivot to the East, the guest of honour at the forum is Chinese leader Xi Jinping, who will speak alongside his host and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Friday.

But on the minds of most at the event will be the arrest in February of prominent US businessman Michael Calvey — the founder of one of the oldest private equity firms focusing on Russia.

He was arrested along with five others on fraud charges but insists he is innocent, saying the case was fabricated and stems from a shareholder dispute.

Calvey, head of the Baring Vostok fund, has since been placed under house arrest, while his French colleague Philippe Delpal remains in pre-trial detention. Alexei Kudrin, a former finance minister who now heads the Russian Audit Chamber, told the forum that the case had been a "shock for the economy".

Running until Saturday, this year's forum in Putin's native city is expected to draw some 17,000 participants. **PHOTO: AFP**

"Since the beginning of this year, capital flight has doubled and is now more than $40 billion," said Kudrin, who has previously criticised the charges.

Finance Minister Anton Siluanov said there was too much discussion of the Baring Vostok case in particular, arguing that the question of judicial independence should be looked at "as a whole".

Recession warning

Running until Saturday, this year's forum in Putin's native city is expected to draw some 17,000 participants, according to the Kremlin, the same number as last year.

The event comes as the recovery of the Russian economy has slowed considerably since the beginning of 2019.

After two years of recession — caused by a fall in oil prices and sanctions for its role in the Ukraine crisis — Russia returned to growth in 2017. But its economy ticked up by only 0.5 per cent in the first quarter of this year.

Moscow desperately needs investment if it is to fulfil the ambitious goals announced by Putin at the start of his fourth term in the Kremlin last year.

These so-called "national projects" — ranging from healthcare to infrastructure — are scheduled to be completed by 2024 and will cost Russia $388 billion. Some $115 billion of this has been earmarked from private — Russian or foreign — investment. "If we do nothing, we could enter recession by 2021," said Economy Minister Maxim Oreshkin, citing risks associated with the "consumer credit bubble".

Kudrin, an influential voice in the Russian business community, meanwhile warned that the Kremlin's goal of exceeding three percent growth would not be achieved without significant structural reforms.

'Elephants in the room'

Calvey's case "will be the focal point of a lot of discussion" at the forum, said Chris Weafer, a senior partner at the Macro Advisory consulting firm.

Michael Calvey and Baring Vostok would be the "elephants in the room — uninvited and unwelcome but impossible to ignore," he said. US ambassador to Russia Jon Huntsman will boycott the forum in protest over Calvey's arrest. France, meanwhile, will send its ambassador but no minister. This is in contrast to last year when President Emmanuel Macron led a large French delegation at the forum.

This week, the Kremlin said it wished that Calvey could attend the forum and hoped that he and his French colleague Delpal would be released in the future.

But there was no sign from the investigators on Thursday that Calvey would be allowed the trip.

Charles Robertson, chief economist at Renaissance Capital, said the Calvey case sent a "negative message about the business climate" and "ran against Russia's investment interests". —AFP ■

China to release details on blacklist of 'unreliable' companies soon

BEIJING — China said Thursday that it would soon release detailed information about a planned blacklist of "unreliable" companies and individuals as Beijing hits back in a trade war with Washington.

Last month the US Commerce Department placed Chinese tech giant Huawei and dozens of its affiliates on an "entity list" on grounds of national security.

The move curbed access to crucial US-made components and software — though a 90-day reprieve was later issued.

Beijing announced its countermeasures last week, saying it would target firms that break their commercial contracts and stop supplying Chinese firms with its own list. "The Chinese government is carrying out the necessary procedures, and specific measures will be announced in the near future," commerce ministry spokesman Gao Feng said. For those companies that follow market rules, they have nothing to worry about, Gao said, adding the list would not target any specific field or company.

"The unreliable entity list system that the Chinese government will establish is a normative system designed in reaction to practices distorting the market for non-commercial purposes," he told reporters.

China is consulting international examples on how to carry out its entity list, Gao said. "The aim is to safeguard a fair competitive market."—AFP ■

The German killer nurse who took himself for God

BERLIN—The man believed to be post-war Germany's worst serial killer was known to colleagues as a "nice guy" who did little to arouse suspicion until well into his murder spree. A court in the northern city of Oldenburg sentenced Niels Hoegel, 42, a heavy-set, second-generation caregiver, to life for murdering 85 patients. Prosecutors said he was drunk on power over his

'A sad guy who gave himself God's powers', was one psychiatrist's assessment of Niels Hoegel POOL. **PHOTO: AFP**

ailing patients, whom he picked off at random out of "boredom".Hoegel has admitted to injecting patients with drugs that cause heart failure or circulatory collapse so he could then try to revive them and, when successful, shine as a saviour before his medical peers and superiors.The dangerous game left at least 85 people dead, the court found. However police say the actual number could be more than 200.The current trial was Hoegel's third since 2008 related to the deaths at clinics where he worked.

He was found guilty in the two earlier trials and sentenced to life in prison, but investigators pressed on with toxicology tests on dozens more exhumed bodies. Hoegel has admitted to committing 43 murders but said he had serious memory gaps in dozens of other instances. He offered his victims' families an apology during extensive testimony.

"If I knew a way that would help you, then I would take it, believe me," Hoegel said as his trial got under way in October."I am fully convinced now that I owe every relative an explanation. I am honestly sorry." —AFP ■

Trump lauds 'unbreakable' transatlantic alliance on D-Day

US WWII veteran Tom Rice parachutes into Normandy 75 years after the D-Day landings. **PHOTO: AFP**

CAEN—President Donald Trump sought Thursday to reassure US allies rattled by his nationalist rhetoric by saying the bonds between them were "unbreakable" on the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

Trump joined other world leaders in northern France where thousands of well-wishers gathered to pay tribute to the ever-dwindling number of veterans of the famed landings which shaped the outcome of World War II."To all of our friends and partners, our cherished alliance was forged in the heat of battle, tested in the trials of war and proven in the blessings of peace. Our bond is unbreakable," Trump said in Colleville-sur-Mer.The sober speech under bright blue skies also paid tribute to the men who braved Nazi bullets to take part in the biggest naval operation in history on June 6, 1944. About 60 of them, many in wheelchairs and sporting baseball caps saying "World War II Veteran", sat in rows behind Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron, who at one point helped one of the seniors to his feet to receive applause."We know what we owe to you, veterans: our freedom," Macron told the crowd in English. "And on behalf of my nation I just want to say thank you".

In a pointed message targeting Trump's "America First" slogan, Macron added: "America is never as big as when it is fighting for the freedom of others."D-Day is seen by many as a great symbol of transatlantic cooperation, with thousands of young American servicemen sacrificing their lives to end the Third Reich's grip on Europe.

By the end of what has become known as "the longest day", 156,000 Allied troops and 20,000 vehicles had landed in Nazi-occupied northern France on June 6 despite facing a hail of bullets, artillery and aircraft fire. "The men behind me will tell you they are just the lucky ones," Trump said. "As one of them recently put it, all the heroes are buried here."

Wellwishers

Thursday's commemorations follow a gathering in Portsmouth, southern England, on Wednesday attended by Trump, Macron, Queen Elizabeth II, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Canadian premier Justin Trudeau. —AFP ■

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICTY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(19/2019)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-216(18-19)	Assorted Sizes of Coverall Cotton(1)Lot	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-217(18-19)	Assorted Sizes of Safety Shoes(1)Lot	Ks
(c)	DMP/L-218(18-19)	Industrial Raw Materials(2)Groups	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qtty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricty and Energy Website Portal (www.moee.gov.mm) as from **7 June 2019**.
3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **14:00 pm** on **8 July 2019**.
4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **8-7-2019, 14:00 pm**

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR DISTRIBUTOR CHANGING

CLOSE FRIEND CO., LTD was distributor of **SHANDONG ZHONGXIN KENONG BIOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGICAL CO., LTD** the following product registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board. Now, Close Friend Co. Ltd transfer the following product to Nawarat Myay Co.,ltd.

Sr.	Old Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1.	ESCORT 70 WDG	Thiamethoxam 70% WDG	Provisional Reg:	P2018-4338

It is therefore announced to come and reject within two weeks to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West of Gyogone Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the changing trading name of insecticide and Fungicide.
Address-Close Friend Co., Ltd No.827/A, Thu Mingalar Road, 7th ward, South Township, Yangon. Ph.01 8500424, 09 421032105

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Orient Europharma Co., Ltd., a company registered under the laws of Taiwan, R.O.C, which is located at 7F, No. 368, Sec.1, Fu-Hsing South Road, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C., is the sole owner of the following trademark:

Micelplatin

Reg. No. 5763/2013

In respect of **Class 5**: Vaccine for human use; Analgesics; Anti-inflammatory agents; Narcotics for medical purposes; Antiepileptic drug; Biological tissue cultures for medical purposes; Anticancer preparation; Medicines for human purposes; Contrast substances for medical purposes; Medicinal herbs; Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients for western medicine; Preparations of Trace elements for human use; Biological preparations for medical purposes; Serotherapeutic medicines; Chemico-pharmaceutical preparations; Pharmaceutical preparations.

Orient Europharma Co., Ltd., claims the trademark right and other relevant Intellectual Property right for the mark as mentioned above. Orient Europharma Co., Ltd., reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its Intellectual Property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Daw Khin Myo Myo Aye, Advocate
For **Orient Europharma Co., Ltd.,**
Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com
Dated: 7th June 2019

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK WARSAW VOY. NO. (912S-923N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK WARSAW VOY. NO. (912S-923N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 07-06-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/T.M.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (016N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (016N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 07-06-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Abe to visit Iran from 12 June amid standoff with US

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will make a two-day visit to Iran from 12 June , government officials said Thursday, the first trip to the country by an incumbent Japanese premier in over four decades.

As tensions have grown in the Middle East, Abe hopes to mediate between Iran and the United States and encourage dialogue by leveraging Japan's good relations with both countries.

Abe is expected to stress the importance of an international nuclear deal reached in 2015, even as the United States has withdrawn and Tehran said last month it would suspend some of its commitments under the accord.

The government explained the travel plan to members of a lower house steering committee on Thursday.

Arrangements are being made for Abe to meet with Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Hassan Rouhani, before his return to Japan on 14 June.

Foreign Minister Taro Kono will also travel to Iran for talks with his Iranian counterpart Mohammad JavadZarif prior to Abe's arrival, according to the officials. Chief Cabinet Secretary YoshihideSuga said Abe plans to visit Iran "soon" but declined to give further details as arrangements are still being made.

"It's extremely important to encourage Iran at a summit level to ease tensions, abide by the nuclear deal, and play a constructive role in ensuring regional stability," Suga said at a press conference. The visit "will further our traditionally friendly relations as this year marks the 90th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties," the top government spokesman added. Abe has laid the groundwork in recent weeks for his visit to Iran, the first by a Japanese leader since the Islamic Revolution. Former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda went to Iran in 1978.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe arrives at his office in Tokyo on 4 June, 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Abe has already secured backing last week from US President Donald Trump for his efforts to reach out to Iran. In mid-May, Abe met with Zarif in Tokyo and promised to work with Tehran to defuse Middle East tensions.

Speaking at a joint press conference in Tokyo with Trump in late May, Abe suggested he wants to make efforts to facilitate discussions between Washington and Tehran "so that things will not go wrong and lead to a military clash" in the Middle East.

Tensions have spiked in the region following Iran's move to suspend some commitments under the nuclear accord. It came in response to Trump's decision last year to pull out of the deal and reinstate economic sanctions as Washington has stiffened its stance on Tehran.

In May, Iran said it would keep more enriched uranium than allowed under the nuclear accord, and set a 60-day deadline to negotiate new terms.

Washington has dispatched an aircraft carrier strike group to the Persian Gulf and decided to send additional US troops to the Middle East. The recent standoff has put Tokyo in an awkward position between security ally the United States, and Iran, which Japan has long relied on for oil imports. Iran has been a major oil exporter. However, the United States has ended sanctions waivers for buyers of Iranian oil, including Japan.—Kyodo News

Tokyo High Court upholds compensation order over US base noise

TOKYO — The Tokyo High Court on Thursday upheld a lower court ruling that ordered the Japanese government to pay compensation to residents suffering from aircraft noise near a US air base in western Tokyo. But the court rejected their demand for flight suspension. The court ordered the government to pay some 760 million yen (7 million US dollars) to a group of more than 1,000 plaintiffs who live near the Yokota Air Base, which is shared with Japan's Air Self-Defence Force.

Presiding Judge Shigeru Nakanishi said, "The noise has led to emotional distress by disrupting daily life and causing discomfort, and has exceeded a tolerable level."—Xinhua ■

UK relaxes Sri Lanka travel advice issued after attacks

LONDON — Britain on Thursday relaxed its travel advice on Sri Lanka after earlier warning against "all but essential travel" following the April terror attacks that claimed more than 250 lives.

"If you're visiting or resident in Sri Lanka, you should continue to remain vigilant and keep up to date with developments," the Foreign Office said on its website.

Tourists were still warned that "terrorists are very likely to try to carry out attacks.

"Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places visited by foreigners," it said.

Over 250,000 Britons visited Sri Lanka in 2018, making it the third-highest source of tourism behind India and China, with the two countries retaining strong links since Sri Lanka became independent of colonial rule in 1948.

The suicide bombings against three Christian churches and three luxury hotels were blamed on a local jihadi group, the National ThowheethJama'ath.

Police say just over 100 people, including 10 women are in custody in connection with the attacks.

Security forces also detained a further 100 suspects in four days of cordon-and-search operations, according to military officials. —AFP ■

Japanese nabbed in Australia for attempted lizard smuggling

SYDNEY — Two Japanese men have been arrested in the Australian city of Perth for allegedly attempting to smuggle 13 native lizards out of the country, Australia's customs authority said Thursday.

The two men, aged 51 and 28, were intercepted by Australian Border Force officials at Perth Airport on Wednesday while trying to board separate flights to Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, according to an ABF statement.

A total of 13 bobtail lizards were found inside a check-in suitcase belonging to the 51-year-old, the statement said, adding they were all found alive, but some appeared to be in poor health.

They were packed inside netted laundry bags, which were in turn wrapped in towels and placed inside two plastic containers with no food or water, the statement said.

Similar plastic containers were found inside the suitcase belonging to the younger man, and photos of the lizards were discovered on his mobile phone, it said.

"It will be alleged the men arrested yesterday are part of an international wildlife smuggling syndicate, and are linked to three other Japanese nationals charged with similar offenses in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth over the past six months," said Clint Sims, ABF superintendent of enforcement operations in Western Australia.

Both men were charged with attempting to export a regulated native specimen, while the 51-year-old was also charged with subjecting the lizards to cruel treatment. The men were denied bail and were due to appear in the Perth Magistrates Court on Thursday.—Kyodo News ■

Photo shows several of the seized bobtail lizards which two Japanese men attempted to smuggle out of Australia. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Thai junta leader pledges to work for nation in 2nd turn as PM

BANGKOK—Thai junta leader Prayut Chan-o-cha has vowed to work for the nation following his election as prime minister by the country's parliament, a government spokesman said Thursday.

Prayut, who easily won Wednesday night's vote involving both houses of parliament held under rules written by the junta, also thanked the lawmakers and senators for their support, according to deputy spokesman Werachon Sukhondhapatipak.

"He (Prayut) vows to do his best for the nation, religion, monarchy and people," the deputy spokesman said.

"For those who did not support him, the prime minister would like to ask them to join hands in working for the country as there are a number of problems that lie ahead," he added.

While the vote, which followed the March 24 general election, officially restored civilian rule in Thailand, the junta remains firmly in control of government.

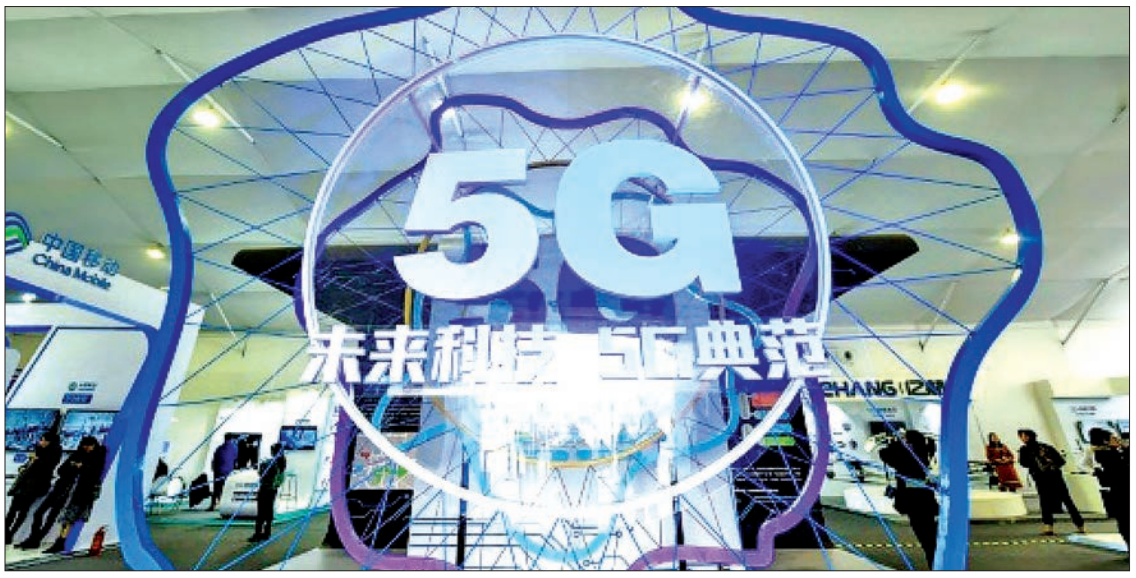
Prayut, 65, had been serving as prime minster since the May 2014 coup that toppled an elected government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra. The March election was the first since the coup. Meanwhile, Thanakorn Wangboonkongchana, deputy spokesman of the pro-junta Palang Pracharath Party that backed Prayut, said that the party is speeding up negotiations to form a coalition government with allied parties.

Palang Pracharath came second in the election, falling short of an outright majority in the lower house. At least 10 small parties have pledged to join a coalition led by Prayut.

The populist Pheu Thai Party, which won the most seats in the election, backed Future Forward Party leader Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit in Wednesday's ballot. Prayut defeated him 500-244 in the combined ballot.—Kyodo ■

Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha casts his vote at a polling station in Bangkok on March 24, 2019, as Thailand holds its first general election since his coup in 2014. **PHOTO: KYODO**

China grants 5G licences for commercial use



5G is the next-generation cellular network that offers faster data transfer speed and could enhance technologies such as autonomous driving, remote medical diagnosis and mobile payments. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SHANGHAI—China on Thursday granted 5G commercial licences to four domestic companies, taking a big step in its bid to be a global leader in next generation wireless networks amid fierce rivalry from the United States.

5G is the next-generation cellular network that offers faster data transfer speed and could enhance technologies such as autonomous driving, remote medical diagnosis and mobile payments.

The Industry and Information Technology Ministry said state-owned telecom providers China Telecom, China Mobile, China Unicom and China Broadcasting Network Corporation received business licences to operate fifth generation digital cellular mobile communication services.

"After the issuance of 5G licences, we will continue to welcome foreign companies to actively participate in China's 5G market, seek common development of China's 5G, and share the achievements of China's 5G development," said Miao Wei, the minister of industry and information technology, according to the ministry's Twitter-like Weibo account.

Chinese telecom giant Huawei is a global leader in 5G development but its ambitions have faced challenges from the United States, which has urged other countries to shun the company over concerns that its equipment could be used by Beijing's intelligence services.Commenting on the ministry's announcement, Huawei said it will "fully support" the Chinese operators to build 5G.

"(We) believe that in the near future, China's 5G will lead the world," Huawei said on Weibo.Another Chinese cellphone maker, Vivo, stated their 5G mobile phones are ready for network testing and will be on sale once trials are complete.The administration of President Donald Trump banned US companies in May from selling high-tech components to Huawei on national security grounds, though a 90-day reprieve was issued.China has since announced it will create its own blacklist of "unreliable" foreign companies. —AFP ■

Cuba's support for Maduro 'not negotiable' despite US sanctions

HAVANA—Cuba on Thursday rejected the latest US restrictions on travel to the island and stressed that its support for Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro is "not negotiable."

The official statement was published by the Cuban press two days after the US Treasury Department banned group educational travel as well as cruise ship and private yacht visits by Americans to Cuba, linking the action to Havana's backing of Maduro.

"Cuba's solidarity with the constitutional President Nicolas Maduro Moros, the Bolivarian and Chavista Revolution and the civil-military union of its people, is not negotiable," it said.

The last US cruise ship sailed out of Havana's harbor on Wednesday as the US ban went into effect, targeting a burgeoning tourism market that had seen visits by more than 250,000 Americans in the first quarter of 2019. "We will continue to take actions to restrict the Cuban regime's access to US dollars," US National Security Advisor John Bolton said.

Among the reasons given by the US State Department for the latest action was Cuba's "interference in Venezuela, and its direct role in the man-made crisis led by Nicolas Maduro."

The Cuban statement charged that Washington had come up with "new pretexts" for its attacks.

"The most notorious is the slanderous accusation that Cuba intervenes militarily in Venezuela, a lie that has been publicly and consistently rejected by the Cuban government."

Washington's aim was "to tear back political concessions made to the Cuban nation, by asphyxiating the economy and causing harm to the population."

"They won't be able to asphyxiate us, nor stop us," the statement said.

Venezuela has been Cuba's top ally for nearly two decades, and also its main supplier of oil.

Washington has called for Maduro to step down in favor of US-backed opposition leader Juan Guaido, and has demanded that Havana withdraw Cuban military personnel that it says are keeping the Venezuelan president in power.

Cuba has 20,000 civilian personnel in Venezuela, mainly doctors, but denies it has military personnel on the ground there.

Since coming to office in 2017, US President Donald Trump has dismantled the rapprochement with Havana begun by former US president Barack Obama.—AFP ■

Friendly with Viet Nam will help prepare for SEA Games: Coach Popov

THE head coach of the Myanmar men's national football team, Velizar Popov, said the team will benefit from the friendly match against Viet Nam ahead of the SEA Games. He made the remarks yesterday at a press conference in Viet Tri, Viet Nam.

The friendly match between the two teams will take place at the Viet Tri stadium today.

At the press conference, Velizar Popov said the match will benefit Myanmar as Viet Nam is a popular contender for gold in the upcoming SEA Games.

If team Myanmar wants to achieve success in the SEA Games, it will need to use full force to compete with teams like Viet Nam, he said.

Some Viet Nam players are taking part in the Thailand's King Cup, but each player in the team is tough, he added.

Coach Popov also promised that Myanmar will try to get a good result in today's game because there are 11 vs 11 players in football, even though team Viet Nam is popular in ASEAN countries.

Team Viet Nam will be led by its head coach Park Hang-seo.

Myanmar will take on Viet Nam at the 17,000-seater stadium in Viet Tri, Viet Nam at 7:30 p.m., Myanmar Local Standard Time.

The friendly match will be broadcast live on Viet Nam's VTC Channel and streamed live on the Viet Nam Football Federation's Youtube channel.

For the friendly, Myanmar will wear white jerseys and Viet Nam will wear red jerseys.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Myanmar head coach Velizar Popov (center) and Myanmar youth striker Win Naing Tun (right) speaking to the press yesterday, ahead of the friendly match against Viet Nam, in Viet Tri City. **PHOTO : MFF**

MIC players celebrate their victory at the MFF's Futsal Open Cup 2019 on 5 June at the Thuwunna Indoor Stadium in Yangon. **PHOTO : MFF**

MIU F.C. wins Futsal Open Cup 2019

DEFENDING champions MIU F.C. won the Futsal Open Cup 2019, organized by the Myanmar Football Federation, by beating VUC F.C. 3-2 on Wednesday at the Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium-I in Yangon.

The clash between the two strongest Myanmar Futsal teams ended with MIC winning by a single goal.

The match for the third place was held before the final match. GV Athletic F.C. won the match, beating Shwe Myawady F.C. 3-1.

After the games, an awarding ceremony was held.

At the ceremony, Nyein Min Soe from VUC F.C. was adjudged the best player and he was awarded a medal and prize of K300,000.

The best goalkeeper award was taken by Yan Paing Hein from MIU F.C. He walked away with a medal and prize of K300,000.

Shwe Myawaddy was adjudged the cleanest team and was awarded a trophy and prize of K500,000.

The winning team, MIU F.C., got K5 million and medals were awarded to its players, while the second placed team, VUC F.C., received K3 million and medals.

The third placed GV Athletic F.C. got K2 million and medals, while fourth placed Shwe Myawaddy F.C. got K1 million.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

MJF's Judo tourney for youth concludes in Yangon

THE U-20 Judo Tournament, held under the supervision of the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Myanmar Judo Federation, concluded at the Aung San Indoor Stadium in Yangon yesterday. The tourney began on 4 June.

Winners of the Youth Judo tournament pose for a group photo with officials after the awards ceremony of the Myanmar Judo Federation at the Aung San Indoor Stadium in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO : SAW THEIN WIN**

An awards ceremony for the tournament was also held yesterday, which was attended by MJF President U Tun Tun and officials.

In the Men's Amateur Event, the Dagon University team secured the first place by garnering three gold medals, four silver medals, and seven bronze medals, while the Ayeyawady Region team grabbed the second place with three gold medals and two bronze medals. The Aung San team was placed third with two gold medals, six silver medals, and five bronze medals.

In the Youth event, the Yangon's Sports and Physical Institute team took the first place with eight gold medals, one silver medal, and three bronze medals, while Taunggyi's Sports and Physical Institute team won the second place by earning three gold medals, four silver medals, and two bronze medals. The Aung San team came third with three gold medals, two silver medals, and seven bronze medals.

MJF President U Tun Tun and officials awarded the prizes to the winners. The ceremony concluded with the athletes and officials posing for a group photo.—Saw Thein Win ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*