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State Counsellor opens Yangon Innovation Centre

THE opening ceremony of the Yangon Innovation Centre was held in front of that building in the compound of Health Port at the corner of Pansodan road and Strand road in Seikkan Township, Yangon Region, at 10 am yesterday. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered a speech at the ceremony.

She inaugurated the Centre by cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

In her opening remark, she said, "Innovation is emerging as a top priority during the period of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Developed countries have already applied Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IOT) across the areas from agriculture to education in their way to Industry 4.0. Automated machines have successfully taken over the combined use of man and machines in the production sector. On the whole, many global countries are found to be prepared for Industry 4.0 or Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Our country has geographical advantages to produce green energy and healthy organic fruits abundantly. It also has many opportunities to become an agri-power nation through efficient and effective investments by applying technologies and innovations on the vacant cultivable lands. Therefore, it is very important that we need to have absolute self-confidence.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi cuts ribbon to open the ceremony of Yangon Innovation Centre in Yangon on 17 July 2019. PHOTO: THET AUNG

NRPC, KNPP hold peace talks in Nay Pyi Taw

NATIONAL Reconciliation and Peace Centre Vice Chairman U Tun Tun Oo, who is also the Union Attorney-General, met with a delegation led by Khu Oo Reh, the leader of the peace implementation committee of the Karenni National Progressive Party, yesterday to discuss the peace process and the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

At the meeting, held at the NRPC in Nay Pyi Taw, U Tun Tun Oo said the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre and the Peace Commission were negotiating with the signatories to the NCA for proceeding with the peace process with understanding and confidence, before the fourth session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong.

While negotiating for the NCA, the two sides have also discussed regional development, he added.

To help the residents in areas where ethnic armed organizations operate to enjoy the benefits of peace and to develop their socio-economic conditions, the NRPC was focusing on resettlement of internally displaced persons, infrastructure, transportation, agriculture, education, and health, using its funds and assistance from the UN and NGOs, he said.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw examines human rights report, government budget proposals

ON the 2nd day of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 13th regular session yesterday, MNHRC Chair U Win Mra read the commission's annual report for 2018 and various officials read the budget proposals of government institutions for the Hluttaw to deliberate on.

The Speaker first read minister appointments for Mandalay Region and Mon State cabinets sent from the President and the Hluttaw put them on record.

Human rights report for 2018

Next, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chair U Win Mra read the commission's annual report for 2018. He said we need to find methods to reduce the inmate population of prisons exceeding 50 per cent of their designated capacity.

The report suggests finding alternatives to locking up drug abusers, such as conducting awareness raising campaigns, administering communal punishment, offering health protection and focusing more on arresting the people who distribute the drugs.

U Win Mra said production camps for women in mining operations should be closed down as the heavy labour may cause injuries to their wombs over long periods. He said water purifiers should be installed in prisons with the Union budget through annual meetings. He also said necessary health staff should be assigned to administer to the inmates.

He said vocational training courses are properly conducted in Insein Central Prison and Mandalay Central Prison and



Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chair U Win Mra. **PHOTO: MNA**

suggested contacting relevant ministries and private vocational training centers to provide similar courses in other prisons.

U Win Mra said they have witnessed concentrated efforts to help young inmates continue pursuing education in Insein, Mandalay and Obo prisons. He said the inmates who passed matriculation exams with distinctions were pardoned or had their prison sentence reduced and suggested carrying out similar reductions for the jailed teachers who taught them.

He said the MNHRC is in urgent need of cooperation from the Union Government, Union Ministries and State/Regional Governments in carrying out their various duties. However, he said there has been increased assistance compared to previous years and indicates a promising future for the nation's human rights affairs. The Speaker then called for MPs interested in dis-



Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win. **PHOTO: MNA**

cussing the report to enrol their names.

Officials explain budget for 2019-2020 Financial Year

Next, Union-level institutions explained the budgets outlined in the National Planning Bill and Union Budget Bill for 2019-2020 Financial Year.

Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win explained that the budget for the President's Office was drawn within the framework given by the Budget Department.

He said K9198.726 million has been accounted for ordinary expenditure and K8619.935 million for capital expenditure. Under capital expenditure is the cost for constructing the office for the Ministry of President's Office at K8606.249 million, while purchasing office furniture costed K13.686 million, said the Deputy Minister. He asked the Hluttaw to approve the estimated budget for the President's Office.



Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut. **PHOTO: MNA**

Joint Public Accounts Committee Secretary U Khin Maung Than explained the budget for the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. He said staff salary comes out at K901.929 million, Hluttaw session planning and office administration costs come out at K1,290.331 million, various interest payments were at K18.239 million and emergency funds were permitted at K40 million.

He said they proposed for K26.125 million as capital expenditure. He said they have also proposed for K210.450 million (equivalent to approx. US\$138,000), under the categories for capital expenditure, loans and support funds, to pay for ICT infrastructure of the Union-level and state/regional Hluttaws.

He said the Finance Commission has approved their proposals and they await the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Next, Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win explained the



Joint Public Accounts Committee Secretary U Khin Maung Than. **PHOTO: MNA**

budget proposals of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He asked the assembly to approve the proposal of K72,151.299 million for ordinary and capital expenditure so that the ministry may perform its duties.

Next, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut explained the budget proposals for the Ministry of Border Affairs. He said they have calculated the budget to carry out their duties with the least amount of expenses possible and asked the assembly to give their approval.

This was followed by other high-ranking officials explaining the budget proposals of various government institutions for 2019-2020 FY.

The Speaker then announced that the remaining budget proposal readings for will be continued at the next Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting on 22 July. —MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Chairman of CSPSRS, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung receives UNSC's Special Envoy Mrs Christine Schraner Burgener

CHAIRMAN of the Committee for Supporting Peace and Stability in Rakhine State (CSPSRS) and Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung received Mrs Christine Schraner Burgener, the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar, at 9 am, yesterday in the Amyotha Hluttaw J Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

They cordially discussed matters concerning work in

progress of the CSPSRS at the meeting. Also present at the meeting were secretary of the CSPSRS, Deputy Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Tin Myint, committee members Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, Deputy Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Aung Naing Thu and officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw's office.—MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung meets with Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar Mrs Christine Schraner Burgener in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor opens Yangon Innovation Centre

FROM PAGE-1

I hold an unwavering belief and have said it very often that whether it is Industry 4.0 or any era and period, the most important resource is our people. No matter old or young, everybody is a valuable person. As man is of the utmost importance, we need to keep on working hard. After Industry 4.0, the next generations of Industry 5.0, 6.0 and so on will surely come about. The strength of our youths is crucial for this developing trend.

The State Counsellor continued, "The percentage of mobile SIM card users have reached 126 % in Myanmar. Relay stations were built to expand coverage of mobile phones in the remote areas with poor access to landlines. It has shown that we leapfrogged technologies and innovations in a short span of time. Although our country lagged behind in development, we would be able to shorten times and reduce investments in applying intelligence and technology harmoniously as an advantage of a less-developed country after reviewing the experiences of developing countries.

Young people of our country are believed to have enough strength to keep abreast with the global people. In recent years, students from the University of Information Technology won second prize and the Chinese team won the first prize in the ASEAN Makerthon held in Malaysia. Moreover, the team of Myanmar students achieved sixth rank in the First Global Challenge 2017 Robotic Competition. What I want to highlight is our young people would be able to join hands actively in making the dream of our country come true if they received proper support and suitable guidance.

To be consistent with the developing world, the first thing we need to do is the country-wise development of our education



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi observes the innovation displayed at the Yangon Innovation Centre in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

system. Our government put emphasis on it since we took office. The second requirement is to modernize the vocational education system of our country. We are implementing this programme. The third matter is to support technology and innovation. In doing so, Yangon Innovation Centre is the first initiative in this process.

Like similar innovation centres in neighbouring countries, the Yangon Innovation Centre will support potential and capable young people across the country who lack access to and experience in an innovative atmosphere. It is expected at the centre to obtain bilateral support and relations of experts, designers, computer programmers, accountants, economists, investors, technicians, researchers and investors. It is hoped the centre would become the breeding ground of techno-based businesses of Myanmar young people and more innovations. They could invent some products for the digital market. They could

try to set up a new business venture. More citizen entrepreneurs will surely come out.

Moreover, the State Counsellor said, "It is needed to support innovators as much as possible. I also hope the Yangon Innovation Centre could help develop new innovations for the country steadfastly. The government will support with policies and arrangements as we cordially invite universities, research and renovation centres, partner-organizations, well-wishers and businesspersons at home and abroad to help in the creations of our young people.

If the necessary contributions were received, our young people could get new ideas to produce new products, new forms of services and new job opportunities in coming years. Moreover, the country's economy could be supported technically through these contributions. However, success can be achieved by means of systematic and professional approaches.

We are now talking about the Fourth Industrial Revolution. It is not enough to view its physical aspects only, but we should also consider its mental aspects. Through the series of revolutions up to the fourth stage of industrial revolution, the extent of development for human beings should be reviewed. Only if we could enjoy both physical and mental developments, would we be able to create a good environment for the global society.

All the people, young and old

alike are urged to understand the improvements they feel themselves. Do they feel only their physical improvements, or have they cultivated enough spiritual powers to reduce hatred and ignorance in their mind? Nowadays, many people are found to overlook their mental conditions as they are drowning in hatred and animosity. Genuine improvement of human beings can be judged on the extent of decline in pessimistic attitudes, without developing optimistic moods. Therefore, it is needed to consider about cultivation of good positive attitudes while developing innovations. Only then, Myanmar will turn into a peaceful society in the world.

I would like to conclude my speech with best wishes that the Yangon Innovation Centre may generate young entrepreneurs; both our local and foreign partners may contribute in this centre as much as possible; through the success of our country and people, may all the global people may enjoy peace and prosperity"

Then, U Ravi, Chief Executive Officer of the Yangon Innovation Centre, and Ms Atriana Collini, Head of Programmes from Seedstars Academy based in Switzerland, explained about the programmes of the centre.

Next, French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Christian Lechery handed over the documents of the digital museum to Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko. The museum was built with the

funds of French embassy in Myanmar in the compound of the centre.

Then, the State Counsellor, members of Seedstars Academy and officials of Yangon Innovation Centre posed for a documentary photo together with union ministers, chairman of the Peace Commission, Yangon Chief Minister, speaker of Yangon Region parliament and regional ministers.

Next, the State Counsellor looked around inside the centre.

Yangon Innovation Centre was built by Switzerland-based Seedstars Academy under the supervision of Yangon region government. The centre will mainly support students and young people, and small and medium-scaled business firms with modern technologies and practices of innovations. It will also conduct training courses on business, management and entrepreneur skills, while providing assistance for implementation. The technical assistance will emphasize on agriculture and livestock, education, health, and financial sectors to ensure substantial benefits in relation with the geographical advantages of Myanmar.

Moreover, over 20 technological companies in the area of technology, travel and business will hold workshops and conduct training courses for students from high school level to university level.

The centre will become a hub for coworking space, supporting for business, organizing a three-month motivation programme for investment, weekly talks, shows, contests and discussions.

The opening ceremony was also attended by Union Minister U Min Thu, Thura U Aung Ko, Dr Aung Thu, U Thant Sin Maung, U Khin Maung Cho, Dr Than Myint, U Ohn Maung, Chairman of Peace Commission Dr Tin Myo Win, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Speaker of Yangon Region parliament U Tin Maung Tun, ministers of Yangon region government, Hluttaw representatives, departmental heads, ambassadors and officials of foreign missions, CEO and officials of Yangon Innovation Centre, members of Seedstars Academy, teachers and students of technology universities and the invited guests. —MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Young people of our country are believed to have enough strength to keep abreast with the global people.

State Counsellor attends dinner with authors in Yangon

STATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi participated in a dinner gathering with authors at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

She greeted the authors warmly before the dinner, conversing on literature and then having a documentary photo taken together.

Next, she remarked that not everyone was present when she met with people from Nay Pyi Taw's journalism field. She said the nation's journalism field was vast and the development and integrity of the country depended on the educational level of its citizens.

The State Counsellor said she believed education refers to the capability for critical thinking and reasoning. For this, she said, both life experience and literary experience were necessary. She expressed her gratitude and respect for people from the literary field for contributing to expanding the minds of the people.

She also conveyed her belief that these same individuals would be able to raise awareness on the benefits of being open-minded and how it would



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi greets authors at the dinner reception in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

aid society at large. She said she believed they would help the people of Myanmar to achieve mental security and improve on it.

Next, Union Minister for

Information, Dr Pe Myint, explained the reason for holding the dinner gathering. This was followed by Author Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) saying words of thanks on behalf of all the

authors present.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor enjoyed the dinner reception with the guests, along with Union Ministers U Min Thu, Thura U Aung Ko and Dr Myo

Thein Gyi, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and other officials. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

NRPC, KNPP hold peace talks in Nay Pyi Taw

FROM PAGE-1

At the same time, the Union Government has opened the door for peace for the EAOs, including KNPP, which have not yet signed the NCA, and has been holding negotiations as part of efforts for building a Democratic Federal Republic aspired by all, and for effectively working together for regional development under the umbrella of the NCA, said U Tun Tun Oo.

The KNPP can be said to have played a major role in the NCA process as this EAO has taken part in negotiations for peace during the tenure of the previous government, said U Tun Tun Oo.

He also appreciated the leadership role of Khu Oo Reh, Vice Chairman of the KNPP, who led the Delegation for Peace Negotiation-DPN of the United Nationalities Federal Council-UNFC in the negotiation with the Union Government, which brought about good results.

Though the New Mon State Party-NMSP and the Lahu

Democratic Union-LDU, both of whom were members of the UNFC, signed the NCA, KNPP has not yet taken part in the NCA-led process to peace, and was in negotiation with the government, said the Vice Chairman of the NRPC.

The KNPP has held peace negotiations with the Union Government for 24 times and the two sides achieved good results and built trust and understanding in every negotiation.

"Therefore, I would like to urge KNPP to take one more step forward with more close cooperation with the Union Government and to fully participate in the current peace making process," said U Tun Tun Oo.

He continued to say that the peace talks would focus on signing NCA, regional development and seeking ways for proceeding with the peace making process, expressing his hope that regional stability and development could be carried out with more close cooperation with the government if the KNPP fully participated in the peace making process.



Representatives from National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) and Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) meet in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

He also called for open discussions in the meeting.

Afterwards, Khu Oo Reh, Chairman of the DPN of the KNPP, said the two sides met at the negotiation table to resolve the problems that had happened for over 70 years.

He said the problem between the two sides could be considered consequences of the political problems, calling for resolving the problems while upholding the spirit of brotherhood.

"Hence, we should see the problem as a problem and focus the existing problem to find ways for resolving them," said Khu

Oo Reh.

He continued to say that both sides would understand each other and the issues they discussed as the two sides have held a number of peace talks.

"If there is a willingness to find a way which can bring both sides work together with magnanimous attitude, it is not difficult to resolve the problem," said Khu Oo Reh.

He also stressed the need not to stop just at the conclusion of 'Principally Agreed' after the negotiation that happened in previous meetings, saying that the word 'principally agreed' made

him feel that the points which were principally agreed were not fully agreeable.

"Hence, the negotiation between the two sides should reach beyond the 'Principally Agreed' and should bring about commitment to finding a solution," he said.

Afterwards, U Zaw Htay, Director-General of the Office of the State Counsellor, and Khu Oo Reh explained the peace making efforts for the NRPC and KNPP respectively before the both sides' discussion at the meeting.

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Union Border Affairs Minister surveys development progress across Kayah tsps



Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung and officials inspect the construction of the road section in Kayah State. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Border Affairs, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, met with officials of Prusho Township Development Office on 16 July. He was accompanied by U Khin Maung Tun, MP for Prusho Constituency 2 of the State Hluttaw.

The Union Minister listened to the officials' reports on township development processes and gave suggestions as necessary. He then inspected the construction site for two-storeyed two-room residential building in the compound.

Next, the Union Minister and entourage visited a section of the Prusho-Lawhtaw-tanaw-Doprel Road 2/3 mile long being paved with tar; the section of the Hoya-Rhikibu Road at 1/6 mile long being expanded, and

tar paving mile long 2/2 on the same road.

The Union Minister listened to the on-site engineers' progress report, instructed them to complete the work within the designated time while meeting quality standards, and inspected the progress by car. The road projects are done with funds approved for the 2018-2019 FY.

Next, the Union Minister inspected the construction site of 20 low-cost housing buildings in Rhikibu Village and handed over financial aid for installing lighting in primary schools of ten village within the region.

Later at noon, the Union Minister arrived at Bawlake District Development Office where the head official report-

ed on the district development process and staff affairs. The Union Minister gave suggestions as necessary and then met with the staff. He told them that as staff of the Ministry of Border Affairs, it is important to hold accountability and cooperate with local residents, Hluttaw representatives, relevant department officials and local administrative bodies in working to develop the border areas. Afterwards, the Union Minister visited Bawlake's Border Area Ethnic Youth Development Training School and inspected the hostels, canteens, kitchens and libraries in the campus. He listened to the principal's reports and provided appropriate feedback.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye receives Country Director of WB Ms Ellen Goldstein

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye received Director for Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao PDR Ms Ellen Goldstein and party in the Maykhalat Hall of the Union Minister's office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to cooperative measures and review between the ministry and the World Bank, schemes to be conducted at the joint-expense of State fund and the low interest rate of the World Bank for Maternal and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT), measures of the Union Government, the state government and UEHRD for the stability, peace and development in



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye shakes hands with World Bank's Country Director Ms Ellen Goldstein in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

the Rakhine State and the latest status of approval for drawing up the national-level strategy

for closing IDP camps.—MNA (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of Service Organizations appointed

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) Dr Ba Han	Rector
Pro-rector	University of Meiktila
University of Meiktila	Department of Higher Education
Department of Higher Education	Ministry of Education
Ministry of Education	
(2) Dr Win Naing	Rector
Pro-rector	University of Sittway
University of Sittway	Department of Higher Education
Department of Higher Education	Ministry of Education
Ministry of Education	
(3) Dr Aung Kyaw	Rector
Pro-rector	University of Maubin
University of Maubin	Department of Higher Education
Department of Higher Education	Ministry of Education
Ministry of Education	

UEC to pass final verdict on contested Mandalay Hluttaw position next month

DAW Nan Htwe Hmone, Hluttaw candidate for Shan Ethnic constituency, Mandalay Region, submitted a letter of objection against U Sai Pan Hsai (a) U Sai Tun Sein (a) U Kyaw Sein, the elected candidate, to the Union Election Commission.

Election tribunal 2 held a hearing and judged that U Sai Pan Hsai was legitimately appointed to the position, and thus, dismissed Daw Nan Htwe Hmone's objection letter.

Daw Nan Htwe Hmone

submitted an appeal towards the decision and UEC has accepted it as Appellate Case No 2/2019.

In line with Section 101 of The State/Regional Hluttaw Election Rule, the UEC formed a tribunal chaired by Chairman U Hla Thein as Chair and with all UEC members and heard from both sides yesterday.

The final verdict will be passed on 1 August. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Former Kanbalu sentry police charged with corruption

THE Anti-Corruption Commission received a complaint against inspector Min Thant, former commander of Koetaungbo Police SENTRY, Kanbalu Township in Sagaing Region, for his alleged extortion in a search operation for illegal lottery.

The complaint was filed by the parent of the women who was being arrested for illegal lottery. The ACC's investigation team discovered that the inspector asked for K200,000 from the complainant on 26 July 2018 for

helping their daughter in the illegal lottery selling case.

He also asked for K100,000 on 6 August 2018 as payment to erase original handwriting from the case. ACC has found inspector Min Thant, currently stationed at Ban Yin Police Station in Hsisheng Township, guilty of abusing his position and has opened a case against him at Kanbalu Police Station in accordance with Section 56 of The Anti-Corruption Law.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister U Min Thu meets GAD staff of Yangon Region

U MIN THU, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government, met with staff of the Yangon Region General Administration Department at the Yangon Region Government office (2) yesterday.

During the meeting, U Myo Htay Aung, Deputy Director-General of the regional GAD, reported on its progress and performance.

Speaking at the meeting, the Union Minister said that although the country has experienced six different administrations, the GAD was the one taking the responsibility for governance in successive eras.

He said that in order to build a democratic federal republic, Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan-MSDP has been established for its sustainability. There are three pillars in the plan and the first aims of the first pillar are peace, national reconciliation, security and good governance.

To implement this, GAD has been transferred to Ministry for the Office of the Union Government, and it has been operating for more than 6 months.

After the move, three tasks were assigned at a workshop for decentralization, public-oriented governance and efficient workforce.

These three tasks of reforms are reforming policies, reforming regulations and managerial components, and establishing regional development and good practices. Building good governance has been set as the vision of GAD.

He stressed that the staff of GAD need to be competent as the department is not only a vital component to retain harmony in

Myanmar society but a department that prevents conflicts. For this reason, upgrading Institute of Development Administration is being prioritized.

In doing so, he and the officials of GAD went to Japan from July 7th to 13th 2019 to set up curriculum and exercises that suit the situation of the country and to work in conjunction with international universities for technical support to conduct administrative courses.

During the trip, Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Japanese Minister of Defence, Chairman of Japan – Myanmar Friendship association, Chairman of JICA and officials of JICA and officials of Kansai Office discussed transition of Myanmar governance and building public oriented administration.

For governance studies, they met with officials of Graduate School of Governance Studies which is under Japan Intercultural Academy of Municipalities (JISM), Local Autonomy College, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) and officials from Graduate School of Governance Studies under Meiji University. There they observed constitution, visions and teaching methods.

For Institute of Development Administration, a curriculum that suits Myanmar governance will be written, administration and teaching methods will be reformed, and more subjects concerning governance will be added. These processes will be carried out stage by stage.

Along with upgrading of IDA, reformation of policies and regulations will be carried out by Regulatory Review Unit, within its designated time frame. RRU



Union Minister U Min Thu greets staff from General Administration Department in Yangon Region yesterday.
PHOTO: MNA

comprises two consultant from Ministry and functionaries from ministers' offices and GAD.

For the departmental administration, systematic promotions and transfers, four region based groups were formed and draft policy on transferring government staff to headquarters, Nay Pyi Taw, region, state, district, region and township, in turn. Initially, 65 Township General Administrative Officers and Deputy Directors-General were transferred with this new administrative style.

In implementing the draft policy, whether it is convenient, fair and practical for the staff is being discussed with consultant team and GAD Former Staff Association.

The departmental Facebook has been launched to handle public complaint and suggestion. The department

also follows up email and fax of complaints.

A website will be launched soon for people to know the performance of the department. A section to leave complaint will be included in it too.

Implementation plans for the third three month period have been confirmed by the country's senior officials.

The plans are as follow:

1. According to the guidance of the President, the list of voters is being collected for eligible citizen not to lose their right to vote and correct list of votes for the 2020 General Elections. Making the list of basic population must be completed by the GAD within designated constraint.
2. As Administrative Officers of GAD were tasked with main responsibility in committees concerning re-examination land confiscation, re-examined

cases are being solved in designated time. 3. Plans are being made to upgrade OSS, to bring about simple service system and relax restrictions. 4. Since there is no particular course for junior clerks, a project is being planned to give training to them and to write a staff manual.

The department will keep up the changes made in second three month period at regular pace and the plans mentioned above will be implemented successfully. He urged GAD staff to improve their daily tasks.

In conclusion, he urged the staff to set good example to build Public Oriented Governance, not to be self-seeking, be one with the public and to work in accordance with law, rules, procedures and instructions, not to burden the public. Then, he greeted staff of GAD cordially.—MNA (Translated by Alphonsus)



Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Public Complaints Committee receives UNSG's Special Envoy Mrs Christine Schraner Burgener

CHAIRMAN and members of the Amyotha Hluttaw Public Complaints Committee received Mrs Christine Schraner Burgener, the Special Envoy

of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar, at 2 pm, yesterday in the Amyotha Hluttaw I-20 Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters concerning the legislature and the Public Complaints Committee.—MNA (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Public Complaints Committee meets UNSG's Special Envoy Mrs Christine Schraner Burgener in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker, committees hold meeting for National Planning Bill, the Union Budget Bill for 2019-2020 FY

SPEAKER of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held a coordination-meeting with chairmen and deputy chairmen of the Joint Bill Committee, Joint Public Account Committee, Joint Planning and Budget Review Committees yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw over the 2019-2020 National Planning Bill and 2019-2020 Union Budget Bill.

At the meeting, U T Khun Myat, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw said the purpose of the meeting is to scrutinize and make the approval of the Union Budget Bill at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Till now, those kinds of meeting had been held for four times during the second term of the Hluttaw, as a result, much experiences had been gained. Upon scrutiny, it was needed to review the weakness and strong points. As Joint Planning and Budget Review Committees had been formed, committees were urged to submit the reports in



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat addresses the meeting with Hluttaw committees for National Planning Bill and the Union Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

a timely manner. Moreover the Joint bill Committee and Joint Public Accounts Committees should submit their reports on schedule.

Following the opening re-

marks made by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, Vice Chairman 1 of the Joint Public Accounts Committee U

Aung Min explained about the bills, then Chairman and Vice Chairman of Joint Committees took part in the discussion.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chairmen, secretary,

Joint-Secretaries of the Bill Committees and Joint Public Accounts Committee, Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of 20 joint-committees.—MNA
(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Union Minister U Thein Swe receives UNSC's Special Envoy Mrs Christine Schraner Burgener



Union Minister U Thein Swe meets with Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar Mrs Christine Schraner Burgener in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe received Mrs Christine Schraner Burgener, the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar, at 10 am, yesterday in the meeting hall of the ministry's office in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters relating to the developments in the Rakhine State witnessed by the delegation led by the Special Envoy of the UNSC during their observation tour there; the issuance of NV Cards to persons in the citizenship scrutiny process, and completion of the issuance of NV Cards nationwide; the teamwork of relevant government departments to issue NV Cards in Maungdaw Township; the Government's efforts to establish good relations between the two communities in Rakhine

State; the implementations in conjunction with the signing of a MoU between the Ministry and UNDP/UNHCR on the repatriation process aimed at accepting displaced persons remained in Bangladesh; concerns and fears of the displaced persons who are unaware of the true efforts of the Myanmar Government; access to accurate information and realization of the acceptance process for the displaced persons; conducting meetings between Myanmar and Bangladesh for repatriation process, ways and means to overcome the obstacles of repatriation process, the assistances offered by the UN Special Envoy, recognition by the Special Envoy of the government's efforts to promote peace, stability and development in the Rakhine State and programmes to provide further assistances.—MNA (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

NRPC, KNPP hold peace talks in Nay Pyi Taw...

FROM PAGE-4

Following the meeting, Khu Oo Reh gave remarks on the meeting, calling the negotiation with the NRPC a shift towards peace.

In his remarks after the meeting, U Tun Tun Oo, Vice Chairman of the NRPC, said the

NRPC has held peace talks with KNPP on 18 March, 2019, with KNU on 11 April, 2019, with KHCC on 26th April 2019 and with RCSS on 11 July 2019.

The Peace Commission was in negotiation with UWSA and four organizations of the Northern Alliance, for signing NCA and for regional development.

On behalf of the local people, he expressed thanks to the KNPP for holding the ceasefire for seven years beginning in 2012.

He also expressed thanks for building mutual trust and understanding though there were some obstacles on the road to peace.

He also urged the KNPP side to proceed with the peace making

work in the schedule discussed at the negotiation table as the KNPP could implement the NCA with more close cooperation with the Union Government and the Kayah State Government after it signed the NCA.

Also present at the meeting were member of the NRPC Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Secretary of the Peace Commission Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo (Retd), members of the

Kayah State Cabinet Col Myint Wai and U Maw Maw, Advisor to the Office of the President U Paw Lwin Sein, members of the Peace Commission U Hla Maung Shwe and U Moe Zaw Oo, members of the KNPP U Phone Naing, Maw Day Day Phaw, Khu Nyay Rah, Al Mwe, Khu Taw Rah (S) and officials. —MNA

(Translated by GNLM)

Public health push needed to tackle periodic influenza outbreaks

SEASONAL influenza poses a significant public health challenge for Myanmar every year. Yangon Region is the worst-affected in the current season, accounting for 147 cases and 43 deaths out of 56 fatalities reported nationwide as of 16 July.

Yangon Region saw a high number of H1N1 cases in 2017, and fewer cases were reported in 2018. But, this year, there has been an uptick in influenza cases.

Currently, the World Health Organization and Myanmar health authorities, along with the National Laboratory, are monitoring the situation and providing special care at homes and hospitals where the infected patients are being treated, in an attempt to control the outbreak.

As of 16 July, 117 patients were discharged from the hospital, and most of the 44 in-patients are showing signs of recovery.

Meanwhile, the health authorities in townships are also on the alert to detect seasonal influenza patients early, provide them with the necessary help, report the cases to the higher authorities, and raise awareness about H1N1.

Though an increase in influenza cases is normal in winter, prevention is better than cure.

Much care must be devoted to personal hygiene to prevent the influenza virus from spreading. One must cover the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, wash hands frequently with plenty of soap and water, sleep and rest well, take nutritious food and indulge in regular physical activity, stay where there is good air to breathe, and avoid public places and crowded areas. If symptoms of the disease show up, one must undergo treatment at the nearest health department.

Large-scale vaccination covering high-risk groups such as health workers, people with lung, kidney, liver, and heart disease, diabetics, and the elderly could reduce the impact of viruses in townships, especially Hlinethaya, Thingangyun, and South Dagon, from where a large number of cases have been reported.

On experiencing symptoms of influenza, high fever, difficulty in breathing, fainting, or anxiety, one must visit the nearest health centre for diagnosis and treatment.

When the general public adheres to the precautions issued by the ministry of health and sports, effective prevention and treatment can be carried out, and there will be no cause for alarm concerning seasonal influenza. We urge public and private clinics to report symptoms of H1N1 to the nearest health centre.

We urge public and private clinics to report symptoms of H1N1 to the nearest health centre.

Diversity is an opportunity for Unity

By Dr.Myat Moe

TODAY, many persons in charge are poorly prepared to manage diversity issues. We have grown up in different religions, languages, education, socioeconomic status, work background, tradition and culture which are great challenges when we are working with such diverse people.

For all those who play a part in a very difficult negotiating process, growing the wisdom to bring together with differing views for the common interest of the people is very important. We need to have the courage to accept dissimilar ideas and practices because of very dynamic socio-cultural changes and conflicting societies. It is a reality.

Diversity affects management and unity of an organization. Classification of diversity is off limits, which can be similar or dissimilar to each other. Most of the people know Diversity is just gender and ethnicity. Actually, diversity is more than just two; it can also include age, income, marital status, personality, parental status, religious beliefs, educational background, work service, geographical location, learning styles and any other different identities. In a global market, many companies and government organizations have robust cultures and management for workplace diversity which are becoming a business necessity to build effective working relationships and diversity values among diverse individuals by combining similarities.



In diversity management, All-inclusiveness is very important for unity especially for those who are falling out of the group such as women, children, minorities, and disabled persons.

is a fact of life when we talk about an issue, neither one should be ignored because of varieties of things, people, feelings, ideas. It is a fundamental concern. In diversity management, All-inclusiveness is very important for unity especially for those who are falling out of the group such as women, children, minorities, and disabled persons. Recognition of their representation, quota and affirmative action is the reason for an opportunity for diversity. By contrast, there may be some people having different opinions from the majority. As concerned, the majority cannot accept such dissimilar things which are also mistaken anonymously. From the majority site, they need to create a safe space to hear the unspecified voices of the minorities. This type of management makes good results and prevents the unnecessary consequences of the group.

In a diverse organization, creating multicultural network groups strongly support the power of diversity in this organization and can provide a broader and deeper experiences and ideas for making problem-solving, creativity and innovation. As a result, that value encourages the minority members to reduce their social isolation, to be more efficient in their works leading to positive impact and good opportunities for carrier development and on their organization. With such similarities and differences, we must consider that we all are inclusive and every individual contribution is more or less important to the decision-making process of the group.

With all those who play a part in the peace process, we must create a common ground for all to work together for national unity by generating bigger things together. In fact, unity is

constructive efforts that require wisdom, courage and perseverance. The wisdom is the quality of knowledge of reuniting differing views, and courage is the strong will of accepting ideas and new practices. On top of those characters, our constant perseverance surely overcomes misunderstandings and misbelief among us.

In a negotiation process, both diverse sides face obviously intense discussions, exchange of views and debates to reach common agreements on issues. On the whole, we must recognize and follow the principles of powerful negotiation. They are courtesy, honesty, openness, empathy, patience, flexibility, mutual understanding and transparency. We should not focus on the weakness of another side. We must seek to identify the constructive outlooks and conceptions which can contribute to strengthening among us.

We must listen to the speech of all sides carefully. Through this productive dialogue we can be able more to identify the common ground and can build trusts and expectations. We believe that mutual respect among diverse individuals and big acknowledgment of the importance of others' differences foster to find easily similarities. Recognizing individual diverse talents and experiences can make a greater variety of solutions to problems and build synergy with better attitudes and more efficient processes. Diversity in an organization or a group reflects diversity in a large society.

In conclusion, unity in diversity fundamentally can be used as a popular slogan in my country as an expression of harmony and unity among dissimilar groups. If the diversity of the people can be applied to the peace process as an opportunity, it will bring about good performance, greater achievement, wealth and happiness, and also social harmony, stability and security without riots, civil wars and fears.

"Let us confidently exercise the opportunity with the strengths of diversity to live in unity."

In a negotiation process, both diverse sides face obviously intense discussions, exchange of views and debates to reach common agreements on issues.

Announcement on road closure on Martyrs' Day

Some Yangon roads will be closed on 19 July, 2019, during the 72nd Martyrs' Day ceremony at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Bahan Township, from 4 am to a completion of the ceremony.

While roads are closed, bypass routes will be used passing through West Shwegondine Road to the Link Junction, Dhammazedi Road and Inya Road junction, Dhammazedi Road and U Wisara Junction, West Shwegondaing Road and U Wisara Junction.

Arzarni Road, the eastern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda, the western archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda, the southern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda, Arzarni Street, the northern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda (Thwaysaykan Road) will be closed on that day.

The Yangon Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee

Announcement on closure of Bogyoke Aung San Museum Road on Martyrs' Day

For the convenience of visitors to the Bogyoke Aung San Museum on the Martyrs' Day which falls on 19 July, the Bogyoke Aung San Museum Road will be closed on that day starting at 5 am until the closing time. Road users are advised to use other routes while the road temporarily closed.

Yangon Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee

'Notice for visitors to Bogyoke Aung San Museum' You are respectfully requested not to bring the following items into the museum.			
Mobile Phones and		Flower bouquet, flower wreaths and flower baskets	
Various kinds of Flags		Vinyls	
Bags, Slimbags, Wallets Etc...		Bottles and Cans	
Cameras		PVC and Steel pipes used as poles for Flags	
Matches/Matchboxes			

Visitors to the Bogyoke Aung San Museum are requested not to bring drones or fly them.



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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.

Water level in Ayeyawady River likely to reach danger mark

DUE to continuous rainfall in Putao and Machanbaw townships, the water level in the Ayeyawady River is likely to reach the danger mark at Mandalay port, said an official from the Mandalay Region Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

The danger level at Mandalay port is 1,260 cm, and the water level in the river has reached 1,127 cm on 17 July, according to the department's records.

"In Myitkyina, the water level passed the danger mark on 13 July, and now it has reduced. The water level in the river has continued to fall in Bhamo, Shwegu, and Thabeikkyin, where the level was estimated to have reached 1.5 feet (45 cm) over the danger mark in Mandalay," he added.

The water level at Mandalay port was 988 cm, 1,014 cm, and 1,065 cm between 14 and 16 July, and is approaching the danger level. If the upper regions get heavy rainfall, the water levels in



Police officers prepare for river patrol along the Ayeyawady River in Mandalay.

PHOTO: THAN ZAW MIN (IPRD)

Mandalay will reach the danger mark.

The upper regions of the Ayeyawady River — Machanbaw and Putao — have received over 3 inches of rainfall on 10 July,

and over one inch on 11, 12, and 13 July. In Myitkyina, low-lying wards witnessed flooding before the water reached the danger level. With the water level in the Ayeyawady River increasing, fire

fighters, auxiliary teams, fire engines, fiber boats, and other flood rescue measures have been put in place for any emergencies.

—Than Zaw Min (IPRD) (Translated by La Woon)

Yangon dump fire site set to receive trash again

By Nyein Nyein

THE Hteinpin dump site in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region, which was engulfed by fire in 2018, is preparing to receive trash again, said Dr Aung Myint Maw, the deputy head of the Yangon City Development Committee's Pollution Control and Cleansing Department.

"In order to dump trash at the site again, 80 acres of land was divided into four zones. Rocks and broken bricks will be laid in those areas," he said.

"The trash will be disposed in those areas in the current rainy season. Of the 150 acres of dumpsite burnt by the fire, 20 acres each have been designated as zone A, B, C and D. Zone A has been divided into two parts — A1a and A1b, and trash will be dumped in Zone A this year and next year. The trash will be



FILE PHOTO: Firefighters extinguish a fire at the Hteinpin dump site in Hlinethaya Township on 26 April 2018. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

disposed only after bricks and broken bricks are laid on the land," said Dr Aung Myint Maw.

In addition, Myanmar's government, in cooperation

with the Poland government, is planning to generate biogas by using 1,000 tons of trash per day, according to the YCDC.

The Hteinpin dump fire

started on 21 April, 2018, and the trash site burnt for days. The fire spread to more than 100 acres of the 300-acre site. (Translated by EMM)

Seasonal influenza virus kills 56 on 1 Jan - 16 July

A total of 56 people have died of the A(H1N1)pdm09 strain of seasonal influenza in the country from 1 January to 16 July, according to the Central Epidemiology Unit under the Public Health Department. Forty-three of the total deaths were reported from the Yangon Region.

Around 54 people died of H1N1 infection across the country as of 15 July. Seven deaths were reported, one each from

Hlinethaya, Dagon Myothit (South), Thingangyun, Htantabin, Botahtaung, and Dawbon townships, and two from Shwepyitha Township.

In addition, one death was reported from Ayeyawady and Magway regions and Mon State each. According to the department, 280 of 681 suspected patients across the country were diagnosed with the virus. The number of patients suffering

from the A(H1N1)pdm09 seasonal influenza has been slightly on the increase till now.

"Some patients were found to have died because of seasonal influenza. The A(H1N1)pdm09 has infected people who are aged, very young, suffering from diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, respiratory disease, and congenital diseases," said Daw Khin Khin Gyi, the Deputy Director from the Central Epi-

demiology Unit (Nay Pyi Taw).

Of the total patients diagnosed with the virus from 1 January to 16 July, 49 per cent were those aged between 15 and 65, 17 per cent between 5 and 1, 13 per cent above 65, 14 per cent between 5 and 15, and 7 per cent are below the age of 1, according to the sub-central epidemiology unit.—Myo Min Thein (Mayangon) (Translated by Hay Mar)

Magway farmers expect high sesame yield this year

LOCAL farmers are expecting to produce 50 baskets of sesame from every two acres of land under sesame cultivation. They said sesame will be cultivated on more than 180,000 acres this monsoon in Magway Township of Magway Region.

Although the farmers are worried about the inputs, labour charges, and selling price for sesame, they said, they will make more profits this year than last year if the sesame yield is good as expected.

“There have been some seasons in which we could not bring even a seed of sesame home because of bad weather conditions. This year, some local farmers had to grow sesame twice because of late rain-

fall. From my own experience, sesame yield will be good this year. We expect to produce 50 baskets of sesame from every two acres,” said U Thaung Htay, a sesame grower from Magyi Kan Village.

“One basket of black sesame is selling for K85,000, while white sesame is fetching K56,000 in the local market. Cultivating sesame on two acres of land will cost around K1 million.

If the yield per acre is as good as expected and the current prices are retained, we can make about K2 million in profit,” said sesame growers. —Zayyatu (Magway)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Sesame plantation is seen in Magway Township.
PHOTO: ZAYYATU (MAGWAY)



A woman is weaving traditional fabrics on the loom. **PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD**

Myanmar weaving businesses face shortage of weavers

EARLIER, Myanmar weaving businesses were passed down through generations as family businesses. But now, weaving businesses are surviving on a manageable scale in rural areas, including the Chaungzone Township of Mon State.

“We have been working on the weaving business for about seven years. We mostly weave Kayin ethnic clothes. Our looms are placed in other villages, as a branch business. Cotton is ordered from Mawlamyine, and 50 or 60 clothes can be produced daily,” said U Maung Nge, a weaver.

One packet of cotton can

produce two items of clothing, and there are 12 items of clothing per package. Those packages of sewn clothes are sent to Myawady and Mae Sot markets, and fetch between K6,000 and K7,000.

“There are many steps involved in weaving and we focus on creativity to produce a variety of designs. Normally, we dye, sew, and create designs ourselves, and we hire workers for the other steps. Nowadays, weavers have become rare, and youths are unwilling to take up weaving. Weavers can earn K300-K400 per item of clothing, depending on the design, and we

have 11 looms. The looms are placed in the weavers’ homes,” he added.

“Clothes are woven by hand usually, but machines are also being used nowadays. Currently, there are few hand-weavers, and most of them can be seen at the Kahtain robe weaving contests,” he said.

“Due to the shortage of weavers and looms, youths are not interested in weaving. Moreover, the clothes are not easy to buy. A weaver can weave 10 or 12 clothes a day, and earn K5,000-K6,000 a day,” said a weaver. —Township IPRD

(Translated by La Wonn)

Ten more hotels opened in Sagaing Region this year

THIS year, ten more hotels have been opened in four of the five tourism zones of Sagaing Region, said U Aung Thu Oo, the Head of the Sagaing Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

Three hotels have been opened in Monywa and Kalay tourism zones each, and two in Sagaing and Katha tourism zones each, according to data provided by the Sagaing Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism. “Sagaing Region has witnessed construction of more hotels to provide accommodation to the increasing number of tourists and local travellers in the region year over year. In addition, there are still more hotels

which are under construction,” said U Aung Thu Oo.

There were 23 hotels in five tourism zones of Sagaing Region in 2016, six more hotels were added in 2017, and seven in 2018. There are five tourism zones in Sagaing Region: Sagaing, Monywa, Shwebo, Katha, and Kalay. Local pilgrims mostly flock to Zalon Taung and the reclining figure called the Alaungdaw Kathapa. Those places are crowded with pilgrims during the high season.

Tourist arrivals in Sagaing Region have increased from 385,031 in 2016 to 483,784 in 2017, and 492,097 in 2018. —Win Oo/Ko Min (Translated by EMM)

Hong Kong-Myanmar JV to set up community market

By Nyein Nyein

A joint venture between a Hong Kong and Myanmar company will build a community market in Dagon Seikkan Township, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The JV was given the green light by the Myanmar Investment Commission for construction, sale, lease, and management of commercial offices, wholesale and retail buildings and units, according to the DICA.

“The MIC screened this proposal to ensure there is no environmental and social im-

pact. The business will execute a community market, warehouse, logistics, and commercial buildings,” said U Thant Sin Lwin, the acting Director-General of the DICA.

The project includes a car park that can accommodate over 1,200 vehicles, besides a green area project of international standards, he said.

“Yangonites will be able to go shopping at malls, the shopping center, and relax at the recreation center,” he added.

The project will pull in an investment of US\$87 million, according to the DICA.

Between 1 October, 2018

and 10 July, 2019, 207 foreign enterprises obtained permits and endorsements to invest in Myanmar, pulling in capital of \$2.09 billion.

Overall, foreign direct investments of \$3.47 billion have flowed into the country so far, including an expansion of capital by existing enterprises and investments of over \$208.3 million in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

During the October-June period in the current fiscal year, 26 Hong Kong-listed companies brought \$289 million in investment to the country, according to the DICA.

(Translated by EMM)

China plays significant role in global natural gas market: expert

NEW YORK—The recent years have witnessed China's growing role in the global natural gas market and the country will continue to be a significant player on this front, driven by its coal-to-gas conversion efforts, an energy expert said Tuesday.

China "has grown much more quickly than we had anticipated" in the gas market, particularly on the demand side and the LNG (liquefied natural gas) segment, International Energy Agency (IEA) analyst Peter Fraser said at an event in New York City, while expounding the agency's latest report on gas. Natural gas demand will continue to grow in the medium term, fueled by emerging Asian economies and led by China, he said. According to IEA's annual market report Gas 2019, China is expected to account for more than 40 percent of global gas demand growth to 2024.

Meanwhile, the report said that the United States and China are the two largest individual contributors to supply growth to 2024, accounting together for over 50 percent of total production increase. China's efforts to improve air quality by shifting away from coal is a major driver behind the big increase in its natural gas consumption, Fraser told Xinhua, noting that the country is already "a very significant player" in the global LNG market.

"China is now the second biggest importer of LNG and according to our analysis, by 2024 it will become the biggest LNG importer," he said. China consumed more than 280 billion cubic meters of natural gas in 2018 and is considered one of the world's most robust natural gas and LNG markets, according to competent authorities.

The country's natural gas imports exceeded 90 million tonnes, with LNG imports from 25 countries in Asian Pacific, North America and the Middle East hitting record highs to more than 53 million tonnes, accounting for over 60 percent of total imports.—Xinhua ■



Photo taken on Jan. 15, 2018 shows an Australian liquefied natural gas (LNG) boat at the LNG terminal in Yangkou Harbor of Rudong County, east China's Jiangsu Province. The boat was the 200th LNG boat that the LNG terminal greeted since it went into operation in May, 2011. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Japan sees record number of foreign visitors in 1st half of 2019

TOKYO—Japan saw a record number of foreign visitors in the first six months of 2019, with the estimated 16.63 million arrivals up 4.6 percent from a year earlier, government data showed Wednesday. Spending by foreign visitors in the period through June increased 8.3 percent from a year earlier to 2.43 trillion yen (\$22 billion), also an all-time high, the Japan Tourism Agency said. The government has set a target of attracting 40 million annual foreign visitors and increasing their spending to 8 trillion yen next year when Japan hosts the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. By country and region, the highest number of visitors traveled from China at 4,532,500, up 11.7 percent, with the increase helped by the easing of visa restrictions in January.

However, the number of South Korean visitors fell 3.8 percent to 3,862,700, while those from Taiwan decreased 1.0 percent to 2,480,800, the agency said. —Kyodo ■

“NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE CITY GOLF RESORT FOR PAYMENT OF MONTHLY FEES”

1. It is found out that some members (Myanmars/Foreigners) of the City Golf Resort, Yangon City Development Committee, have failed to pay their monthly fees for various reasons.
2. According to paragraph (9) of the rules and regulations of the City Golf Resort, those members (Myanmar/Foreigners) who fail to pay their monthly fees for a period of one year and over shall cease to be member of the Resort, and so they are intimated to come and clear their outstanding dues by 31-8-2019 at the latest.

General Manager
City Golf Resort

Specific Procurement Notice Request for Bids Goods (Two-Envelope Bidding Process)

- Country: Myanmar
Name of Project: National Electrification Project (NEP)
Contract Title: Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Solar PV Systems for Households and Public Facilities
Credit No.: 5727-MM
RFB Reference No.: ICB S&I-DRD-2
1. The Government of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank Group toward the cost of the National Electrification Project (NEP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contracts for Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Solar PV Systems for Households and Public Facilities. These contracts will jointly finance by the Government of Myanmar.
 2. The Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Livestock and Irrigation now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for supply, installation and maintenance of solar PV Systems for households and public facilities in the following States and Regions :
Lot 1— NEP Solar PV Packages in Ayeyarwaddy (9)
Bidders may Bid for one or several contracts, as further defined in the Bidding document. Bidders wishing to offer discounts in case they are awarded more than one contract will be allowed to do so, provided those discounts are included in the Letter of Bid.
 3. For quick reference, some key qualification requirements include:
 - The average annual turnover (or annual sales volume) of the last three years should be a minimum of US\$ 3,000,000 and accumulative if bidding for multiple lots.
 - The bidder has successfully completed at least two (2) contracts in supplying, installing, supervising, commissioning and/or maintaining off-grid solar PV systems with batteries, in any year over the last five (5) years, and at least one of the two (2) contracts had a value equivalent to or greater than 50% of the corrected Bid Price. The details of the qualification requirements are in the bidding document.
 4. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers* dated January 2011 (revised July 2014) ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
 5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the address below and inspect the bidding document during office hours 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. at the address given below.
 6. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through e-mail only.
In case of any difficulty in obtaining the bidding documents, interested parties may contact in writing:
Dr. Soe Soe Ohn, Director
Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.
Office No. 36, Naypyitaw, Country: Myanmar
Tel./Fax +95 673 418635, 418636
Email: neppmo.drd@gmail.com; ksaung@gmail.com; dr.soesoeohn@gmail.com; drdnep.procurement@gmail.com
 7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **Monday September 2, 2019** (10.00 a.m.) Myanmar time. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. The outer Bid envelopes marked "ORIGINAL BID", and the inner envelopes marked "TECHNICAL PART" will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below on or before **Monday September 2, 2019** (10.00 a.m.) Myanmar time. All envelopes marked "SECOND ENVELOPE: FINANCIAL PART" shall remain unopened and will be held in safe custody of the Purchaser until the second public opening.
 8. All Bids must be accompanied by a *Bid Security* as stated in ITB 19.1 – Bid Data Sheet of the Bidding Document.
 9. The address referred to above is :
Attention: Dr. Soe Soe Ohn, Director, Project Manager of National Electrification Project
National Electrification Project
Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.
Office No. 36, Naypyitaw, Country: Myanmar
Tel /Fax: +95 673 418635, 418636
ksaung@gmail.com, dr.soesoeohn@gmail.com, neppmo.drd@gmail.com, drdnep.procurement@gmail.com
 10. Clarification of the bidding document will be conducted through e-mail or letter to the Purchaser as stated in ITB 7 of the bidding document.

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V AREZOO VOY. NO. (SCY1063)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AREZOO VOY. NO. (SCY1063) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-07-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Secretariat to host Martyrs' Day exhibition

TO mark the Martyrs' Day, the Secretariat will host a commemorative ceremony and exhibition on 19 July on Theinbyu Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon Region, according to the Yangon City Development Committee.

The exhibition will be held from 19 to 21 July from 9 am to 5 pm. The police have taken security measures and set up X-ray scanners at the entry and exit. Visitors will be allowed to enter only from Theinbyu Road, and entrance and exit doors have

been secured.

"We will register the number of visitors during the three-day exhibition," said an official from the Botahtaung YCDC.

The Martyrs' Day ceremony will be held at the Secretariat, and the rehearsal will take place in the evening on 17 July. The Martyrs' Day commemorative exhibition will be organized at the Secretariat as well as the Bogyoke Museum. —Myint Maung

(Translated by La Wonn)



Photo shows the Secretariat building in downtown Yangon. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG**

IKBZ wins Insurance Asia Awards for 3rd year in row

IKBZ Insurance won the best awards at the Insurance Asia Award 2019 at Shangri-la Hotel in Singapore on 16th July.

This is the third year in a row that the IKBZ has won this prestigious distinction of 'Insurance Asia Awards' for Myanmar.

Vice Chairman of IKBZ U Nyo Myint, Deputy Executive Director Mr Anil Mancham and Head of Department Mr Jyothish Parameswaran Mohini accepted the Domestic General Insurer of the Year-Myanmar, Domestic Life Insurer of the Year-Myanmar and Marketing Initiative of the Year-Myanmar at the ceremony where senior officials of the insurance Com-

panies in Asia gathered.

Vice Chairman of IKBZ U Nyo Myint expressed words of thanks at the ceremony after accepting the awards.

A committee comprised by senior officials from the finance and insurance businesses such as KPMG, PwC, Ernest & Young and Milliman presented the Insurance Asia Awards after monitoring the progress of the insurance companies in Asia.

The Insurance Asia Awards aims to honour the companies that rise above the challenges and to recognise their initiatives that make the most of the lucrative opportunities in the market. —GNLM



Yangon to get more smoke-free zones

YANGON Region will get more smoke-free zones with nine more townships set to implement anti-smoking campaigns, said Dr Than Sein, the Chair of the People's Health Foundation.

He made the remarks at a coordination meeting on expanding smoke-free zones in the Yangon Region, which was held yesterday morning at the University of Nursing (Yangon). Officials from health NGOs and relevant departments and township administrators attended the meeting.

"The smoke-free zone project is being implemented in the Yangon Region. The project aims to cover 33 townships of Yangon Region in five years. The project was launched in Kyauktada Township in 2017, with the permission of the Yangon Region government. Five more downtown townships — Botahtaung, Pazuntaung, Pabetan, Latha, and Lanmadaw — will commence smoke-free campaigns," said Dr Than Sein.

In addition, four more townships will carry out smoke-free projects simultaneously, he

added. More than 200 places in Kyauktada Township have prohibited smoking. Based on the implementation of non-smoking zones in Kyauktada Township, plans will be drawn up for other townships to designate smoke-free zones.

An implementation committee will be formed for the no-smoking campaign. It will include officials from the Yangon City Development Committee, related departments, firemen, police force, Administrative Department, Hluttaw representatives, and Myanmar Red Cross Society staff. They will raise awareness through anti-smoking campaigns in universities, schools, and wards in the respective townships. Besides awareness campaigns, pamphlets will be distributed, no-smoking areas will be designated, and certificates of honour will be presented to offices, schools, markets, restaurants, and hotels.

The Control of Smoking and Consumption of Tobacco Product Law was enacted in 2006, but compliance with the law in some restaurants and tea-shops has

been found to be weak. Those who violate the law can face a fine or a sentence under Section 6 and 7.

"Secondhand smoke has the same harmful chemicals that smokers inhale. It is terrible that non-smokers suffer diseases owing to the harmful effects of secondhand smoke," said a doctor. During the project's implementation, a monitoring committee and a working analysis committee assigned by the Yangon City Development Committee will conduct surprise checks at the designated no-smoking areas, in accordance with the law, every three months. To implement the anti-smoking campaign, US-based Bloomberg Philanthropies has agreed to contribute US\$100,000. A 2009 survey on the consumption of tobacco and related products had found that 33.61 per cent of men and 6.13 per cent of women in Myanmar smoked. In 2014, the rate had increased to 41.4 per cent for men and 8.4 per cent for women. —Myint Maung Soe/GNLM

(Translated by EMM)

New conservative Greek parliament sworn in after election

ATHENS — Greece's new parliament was sworn in Wednesday after 7 July elections, led by a conservative government that has vowed to cut taxes, boost domestic security and tighten borders against migration.

The six-party parliament will officially begin its functions after electing a speaker on Thursday.

New Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis will outline his government's policies at the

weekend before a vote of confidence late on Sunday.

His conservative government, which has a comfortable majority of 158 lawmakers in the 300-seat parliament, has made boosting sluggish growth a priority, powered by tax cuts and accompanied by privatisation deals.

The 51-year-old Harvard graduate and former McKinsey consultant has also pledged to create jobs and get rid of obsta-

cles to business.

On Tuesday, Athens placed seven-year bonds at a record-low yield in its first foray into the debt markets since the election, a measure of investors' confidence in the new government's direction.

Starting in 2020, Mitsotakis has promised to cut a hated property tax called ENFIA — brought in by a previous New Democracy-led government during the

economic crisis — by 30 percent over two years.

He has also offered to reduce income tax thresholds and to gradually cut tax on business profits by eight percent.

But just hours after his July 7 victory, eurozone finance ministers warned the new government to stick to the country's strict public spending commitments.

"We must keep our commitments, this is the only way

I know to gain credibility," said Eurogroup chief Mario Centeno.

On Tuesday, the eurozone's bailout fund director and a key EU official overseeing Greece's debt repayments, Klaus Regling, suggested that tax cuts be coupled "with a broader tax base."

In a meeting with Regling later on Tuesday, Mitsotakis "confirmed that Greece would respect fiscal targets," the prime minister's office said. —AFP ■

US House votes to condemn Trump's 'racist comments'

WASHINGTON — The US House of Representatives formally condemned Donald Trump on Tuesday for xenophobic attacks on four minority Democratic lawmakers and hostile language targeting immigrants, as the president denied accusations of racism.

Top Republican leaders rallied around Trump, but four members of the president's party voted with the 235 Democrats to condemn him for "racist comments that have legitimized and increased fear and hatred of new Americans and people of color."

One independent lawmaker also supported the measure, which takes aim at Trump's weekend tweets telling a group



US Representatives Ayanna Pressley (r), Rashida Tlaib (second from r), Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (third from r) and Ilhan Omar (l).
PHOTO: AFP

of progressive Democratic congresswomen of color to "go back" to other countries.

The resolution also takes the president to task for "referring to immigrants and asylum seekers

as 'invaders.'"

Trump has a long history of pandering to white suspicions about other ethnic groups, and the resolution criticizes him for "saying that Members of Congress who are immigrants (or those of our colleagues who are wrongly assumed to be immigrants) do not belong in Congress or in the United States of America."

Democrats hold a majority in the 435-member House but are outnumbered by Republicans in the Senate, where the resolution is unlikely to be considered.

The four congresswomen — all but one of whom were born in the US — are of Hispanic, Arab, Somali and African-American descent. Trump has stuck by the

provocative comments.

"Our Country is Free, Beautiful and Very Successful. If you hate our Country, or if you are not happy here, you can leave!" the president tweeted Tuesday.

Democratic leaders denounced Trump's remarks, and rallied around the lawmakers — Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Rashida Tlaib, Ilhan Omar and Ayanna Pressley. Omar is the only one born outside the United States.

Slamming the "so-called vote" as a "Democrat con game," Trump urged Republicans not to "show 'weakness' and fall into their trap."

"Those Tweets were NOT Racist. I don't have a Racist bone in my body!" Trump said.—AFP ■



US President Donald Trump, who popularised the term 'fake news', has been accused of publishing it himself, including a doctored video of political rival Nancy Pelosi. Photo:

Training journalists in the era of fake news

PARIS — As uncannily realistic "deep fake" videos proliferate online, including one recently retweeted by Donald Trump, journalism schools are scrambling to adapt to an era of misinformation — or fake news.

Experts discussed how to train tomorrow's reporters for these new challenges at the World Journalism Education Congress in Paris last week.

The three-day event — "Teaching Journalism During a Disruptive Age" — was attended by 600 educators and researchers from 70 countries. "We have journalism educators from places as different as Bangladesh and Uganda, but essentially we all face the same challenges," congress organiser Pascal Guenee, head of IPJ Dauphine journalism school in Paris, told AFP. In China, the government makes no secret of its tight grip on the media. But fake news is seeping into traditional media via Weibo, WeChat and other Chinese-language social media platforms, said journalism professor Peiqin

Chen of the Shanghai International Studies University.

"When someone posts false information on Weibo, it can be reposted by a mainstream newspaper's Weibo account," she said. "Other mainstream media pick up on it from there."

"Mainstream media play the biggest role in confirming and spreading fake news in China," she added.

For politics or profit

It was US President Donald Trump who first popularised the phrase "fake news" in attacks on the news media. But in May, Trump tweeted a video of US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi which appeared to have been edited to focus on sections of a speech in which she stuttered and mispronounced certain words. "Pelosi stammers through news conference," he wrote. Another doctored Pelosi video, which went viral online, slowed down her speech to give the impression she was drunk.—AFP ■

Merkel heir apparent joins cabinet in risky bid for power

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel's heir apparent joined her cabinet Wednesday as defence minister, a high-profile job often called a poisoned chalice in Berlin's fraught political landscape.

The surprise appointment of Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer late Tuesday came just hours after the current head of the German military, Ursula von der Leyen, was elected as the first woman to lead the European Commission.

The decision by AKK, as she is commonly known, to take charge of a sprawling administration widely seen as unwieldy and

scandal-prone was described as a risky gambit to shore up political support. At a naming ceremony at the presidential palace in Berlin in Merkel's presence, the 56-year-old formally accepted the portfolio from von der Leyen.

"The men and women of the Bundeswehr (armed forces) deserve the highest political priority and my full commitment," she said. "I am aware of my great responsibility and want to live up to it."

Shakuntala Banerjee of ZDF public television said AKK was "stepping up and taking over the most difficult ministry".

"The chances to win big are

there — but the risk of failure is also greater." News weekly Der Spiegel said the defence ministry, rocked by a series of mismanagement allegations on von der Leyen's watch, could prove to be a "minefield" for AKK.

"But because that's the case, the ministry also offers a chance for her to sharpen her profile, in an area where she lacks it: in foreign and security policy — an area where a chancellor needs some experience," said its commentator Philipp Wittrock.

"The chancellery remains the big goal and the defence ministry can serve as a stage for her to prove herself."—AFP ■



Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer (left) has taken over from Ursula von der Leyen at the helm of Germany's defence ministry. **PHOTO: AFP**

Kawlin beat Watlet 4-0 in U-14 Football Tourney 2019

THE Kawlin team beat the Watlet team by four goals in the Group C match of the MPT U-14 Football Tournament 2019, which was held yesterday at the Yan Gyi Aung Stadium in Shwe Bo.

Youth footballers from the Kawlin team put up a strong fight in yesterday's match, demonstrating good tackling and defensive skills.

The Kawlin youth team launched a big attack from the kick-off, with Phoe Chit scoring the opening goal at 8 minutes. The goal lifted the team's spirits, and Kawlin did not stop their speedy attack, with Phoe Chit

once again landing a goal at 11 minutes.

The two goals put pressure on team Watlet, but their uncertain finishing and strikes helped Kawlin team score more goals.

Thaung Min Oo scored the third goal for Kawlin team at 34 minutes, and Nyi Nyi Aung landed the fourth goal at 41 minutes.

Both teams changed tactics in the later minutes, with Kawlin strikers speeding up play and creating opportunities, but Watlet put up a massive defence, and the match finished 4-0 in favour of Kawlin team. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Youth players from Kawlin team (green) celebrate their victory during the Group C match of the MPT U-14 Football Tournament 2019 in Shwe Bo yesterday. **PHOTO: MNL**

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SYRIA	JORDAN	IRAQ	UZBEKISTAN
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2022 World Cup: Myanmar placed in Group F for Asian Qualifiers

MYANMAR has been placed in Group F for the Asian Qualifiers for the 2022 FIFA World Cup and the AFC Asian Cup 2023 in the drawing ceremony held yesterday in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The 40 participating teams have been divided into eight groups of five teams.

In Group F, team Myanmar will face Japan, touted as Asia's best performers in the 2018 FIFA World Cup, where they were defeated by Belgium in the Round of 16.

Myanmar will also meet with Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Mongolia in the

same group.

In their earlier meetings, Myanmar lost one match to Kyrgyzstan, and another ended in a draw.

Myanmar secured a 2-2 draw against Kyrgyzstan in the third round qualifiers for the 2017 AFC Asian Cup on 10 October, 2017, and lost in the third round qualifiers for the 2019 AFC Asian Cup on 22 March, 2018.

Myanmar prevailed over Mongolia in their previous two meetings, the AFC Asian Cup Qualifying match in 2000 and the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers in 2014.

Myanmar will be likely to struggle in Group F as all teams are strong at the Asian level, especially Japan.

Twenty-four next best teams from the second round of the joint qualifiers will compete separately for the remaining 12 slots in the 24-team AFC Asian Cup China 2023.

Meanwhile, four ASEAN teams, Viet Nam, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia, have surprisingly been placed together in Group G for the Asian Qualifiers with Asian giant, the United Arab Emirates (UAE).—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

North, South Korea to face off in World Cup qualifiers

KUALA LUMPUR — North and South Korea will face off in politically-charged World Cup qualifiers after being drawn in the same group Wednesday, while arch-rivals Iran and Iraq will also meet.

Heavyweights Iran, Japan, South Korea, Australia and Saudi Arabia -- who all played in the 2018 World Cup in Russia -- were drawn in different groups for the Asian qualifiers of the 2022 edition of the tournament in Qatar.

China, who are seeking to qualify for the World Cup for only the second time, look to have a promising fixture against low-

er-ranked opponents including war-torn Syria and tiny Guam.

The country and its 73rd-ranked team have grand ambitions to host and win a World Cup under football-fan President Xi Jinping.

South Korea is one of Asia's best sides and should easily beat the North, but the matches between the neighbours on the divided Korean peninsula promise to be bitter.

Sides play each other twice during the qualifiers, which run from September to June.

After the draw at the Asian football body's headquarters

in Kuala Lumpur, South Korea coach Paulo Bento insisted that facing the North was "nothing special".

"For us it is a sport -- the goal is to qualify," he told AFP.

"The message I will share with the players when we play against North Korea is to give them the same respect we will have for any other teams we will play against."

Sporting ties played a role in a diplomatic thaw on and around the peninsula last year, when the two Koreas formed their first-ever unified Olympic team for the 2018 Winter Games.

But those endeavours stagnated with the wider deadlock in negotiations over the North's nuclear arsenal.

Iran and Iraq will renew one of football's great rivalries after being drawn in the same group.

The teams will compete in a round-robin format, with the winners of the eight groups and four runners-up progressing to a final round of qualifying.

Asian qualifying groups for the 2022 World Cup:

Group A: China, Syria, Philippines, Maldives, Guam

Group B: Australia, Jordan,

Taiwan, Kuwait, Nepal

Group C: Iran, Iraq, Bahrain, Hong Kong, Cambodia

Group D: Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, Palestine, Yemen, Singapore

Group E: Bangladesh, Oman, India, Afghanistan, Qatar

Group F: Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Myanmar, Mongolia

Group G: United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia

Group H: South Korea, Lebanon, North Korea, Turkmenistan, Sri Lanka

AFP