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Friday, 30 August 2019

State Counsellor receives Chairman of Board of SN Power of Norway



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi greets Mr. Oystein Oyehaug, Chairman of the Board of SN Power of Norway, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

PHOTO: MNA

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received the delegation led by Mr. Oystein Oyehaug, Chairman of the Board of SN Power of Norway, at 10:00 a.m. on 29 August 2019 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on the possibilities of cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and SN Power

Company in hydropower production to meet the needs of energy for the development of Myanmar.

The meeting was also attended by U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy, U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA ■

Media team visits Hla Pho Khaung Transit Centre in Maungtaw

A GROUP of local and foreign mediapersons visited the Hla Pho Khaung Transit Centre in Maungtaw yesterday.

The mediapersons flew from Yangon to Sittway yesterday morning and proceeded to Maungtaw through Angumaw by car.

In the afternoon, the group met with Maungtaw Deputy District Administrator U Ye Htoo. During the meeting, U Ye Htoo answered questions raised by the media.

Then, they went to Hla Pho Khaung and the camp's in-charge and the Director of the Department of General Administration, U Soe Shwe Aung, answered their questions.

The group included mediapersons from Courier Japon, Nishinipon Shimbun, Nippon TV, VOA, BBC, MRTV, MTV, MIR, and MNA.

This is the 34th visit by mediapersons to Maungtaw. They have visited once in 2016, eight times in 2017, 20 times in 2018, and five times so far in 2019. —MNA ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)

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Pyithu Hluttaw

15th-day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 13th regular session held

15th-day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 13th regular session was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning where a motion was raised, questions raised were answered and Hluttaw informed of a receipt of a bill.

Motion accepted for discussion

First, U Nay Htet Win of Sinbaungwe constituency tabled a motion urging the Union Government to produce experts in natural environment conservation subject, systematically expand the organization of Environmental Conservation Department down to district and township level and to raise the work momentum of the ministry's work processes to achieve success. U Nay Htet Win also explained in detail about the reason for tabling the motion. The motion was supported U Nay Soe Aung of Wuntho constituency.

After obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the Hluttaw agreeing to discuss the motion and announced further for Hluttaw representatives who want to



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

discuss the motion to register their names.

Question and answer session

In the question and answer session that follows, the first question was raised by U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency on measures taken to protect the habitats of birds, maintain the eco-system, preventing the catching of birds by poisoning ponds and lakes as well as actions taken to prevent intrusion of poisonous wastewaters into ponds and lakes. Deputy Minis-

ter for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Ye Myint Swe replied that the five main bird habitat wetland regions of Moeyungyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary, Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary, Meinmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary, Gulf of Mottama (Mon State portion) and Inle Lake were designated as Ramsar Wetlands to protect, manage and effective utilization of the bird habitats.

To raise regional cooperation to protect migratory birds, raise awareness and to maintain wetland habitats Moeyungyi

Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary, Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary, Gulf of Mottama, Meinmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary and Nantha Island were designated as Flyway Network Sites and cooperation with international organizations were made to conduct bird conservation works.

Lack of manpower, personnel experience and funding situation prevents wide ranging research and assessment works but effort will be made toward cooperating with relevant ministerial departments, universities, research and international organizations to do so. Protection and conservation plans were drawn up and implemented and success could be achieved for migratory birds through the participation of the people explained the Deputy Minister. In replying to a question raised by Daw Khin Than Nu of Mindon constituency on plan to establish grazing ground ownership for buffalo and cows, Deputy Minister for Office of the Union Government U Tin Myint said that coordination with relevant ministerial departments according to procedure will be conducted if the ownership application was made not as an individual

but collectively as a village.

Questions raised by Daw Myint Myint Soe (a) Daw May Soe of Botahtaung constituency on plan to lift restriction on public servants applying passports for personnel travel during their official leave period, U Ye Lwin of Ahlon constituency on using old rail tracks in Ahlon Township and to delineate the railway lands, U Nyunt Win of Kanpetlet constituency on arrangements made for the public to visit Khaw Nu M' Cong National Park systematically, U Sai Ngaung Hsai Hein of Maukmai constituency on plan to issue land grant for household plots in villages of Maukmai Township and U Thet Naing Oo of Yebyu constituency on plan to transfer unused lands of departments to departments that are in need of it were answered by Union Civil Service Board member U Saw Valentine, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Ye Myint Swe and Deputy Minister for Office of the Union Government U Tin Myint respectively.

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Amyotha Hluttaw

Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 13th regular session holds 15th-day meeting

A 15th-day meeting of Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 13th regular session was held at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw. At the meeting questions raised were answered, a bill approved and a motion discussed and approved.

Question and answer session

In the question and answer session Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye first responded to a question raised by Daw Nan Moe Moe Htwe of Kayin State constituency 4 on arrangements made for people for Kayin State Hlaingbwe Township who were in a camp after displaced by conflicts in Myaing Gyi Ngu. The Union Minister said provision of food and relief goods, health care and health education, security and rule of law and providing education were conducted in cooperation between relevant Union ministerial departments and the State Government. Once the National Strategy for the Closure of IDP Camps in Myanmar was ap-



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

proved, works will be conducted according to this strategy said the Union Minister.

U Soe Thein of Kayah State constituency 9 next raised a question on arrangements made by the Union for food, water and energy security. Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw answered that cooperation with farmers were made toward using high yield and quality crops that are marketable to increase food secu-

urity. Development in agriculture and production technology, crop protection, soil maintenance, work process to reduce waste and post-harvest technology were conducted. Good and pure seeds were distributed sufficiently while quality seed production and good agriculture practices were extended. Transition process from manual traditional farming to mechanized farming was being implemented.

To overcome possible wa-

ter scarcity in future, plans were drawn up to develop and use water resources depending on the requirement of the region. Priority was given toward maintaining of existing reservoir and ponds, construction of new reservoirs and ponds, river water pumping programs, digging of tube wells and harnessing ground waters will be implemented. Investment processes were drawn up according to United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 6 of ensuring access to water and sanitation for all and rural water acquisition strategy.

As known by all the Union was drawing up Myanmar National Electrification Program in cooperation with World Bank to achieve 100 per cent electrification by 2030. Off-grid and on-grid systems to the National Grid were being implemented. In the oil and gas sector Ministry of Electricity and Energy in cooperation with Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia was drawing up and implementing a Natural Gas Master Plan. Furthermore oil and

gas pipeline network projects and long term projects like oil refinery projects were being set up in stages with regional and neighboring countries said the Deputy Minister.

Similarly questions raised by U Kyaw Kyaw Win of Rakhine State constituency 8 on financial assistant to expecting mothers and under two years old children and U Whey Tin of Chin State constituency 11 on assistant to conflict displaced person in Chin State Paletwa Township were also answered by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye while questions by U Okka Min of Tanintharyi Region constituency 8 on status of preparing bill to amend Myanmar Marine Fisheries Law and when it will be submitted to the Hluttaw and Dr Zaw Lin Htut of Mon State constituency 9 on plan to construct new buildings in State Agricultural Institution, Thaton, Mon State were answered by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Cambodian Ambassador

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr SOK Chea, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Cambodia to Myanmar who is leaving Myanmar after completion of his tour of duty in Myanmar at 11:00 am on 29 August 2019 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the farewell call,

they reviewed the status of the existing friendly relations and cooperation and discussed ways to strengthen the relations and cooperation between the two countries.—MNA ■

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for a documentary photo together with a delegation led by Cambodian Ambassador Mr SOK Chea in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



GAD workshop focuses on identifying detailed plans for its reform framework



Union Minister U Min Thu delivers the speech at the opening ceremony of second workshop in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



THE General Administration Department held a second workshop to identify the detailed plans for implementing the sector-wise projects included in its draft reform framework.

Union Minister for the Office of Union Government U Min Thu delivered speech at the opening ceremony of second workshop held at the Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

He said the GAD has adopted a draft reform framework that includes the three processes for reform plan, the six working areas, the expected sector-wise results and the detailed plans in the first workshop.

He also quoted the State Counsellor as saying the establishment of a frame-work for a multi-model collaboration based on the Myanmar Sustainable De-

velopment Plan(MSDP) to assist the Union government organization, region/state governments in working for the emergence of a federal union.

The second workshop will focus on the good governance, the development of organizational capacity and the promotion of collaboration between the public and the state, which are included under the Goal 1: Peace, National Reconciliation, Security & Good Governance of Pillar One- Peace and Stability.

The Union Minister also suggested the participants at the second workshop to discuss the targeted plans to be implemented by the end of this year and the finalization of manual for wards and village-tracts during this period, and the tasks of ward and village-tracts administrators in this manual.

U Min Thu also discussed the manual needs to include the specific tasks of ward and village-tract administrators as they are trying to enforce the 2012 Ward and Village Tract Administration Law and its bylaws.

He also asked for the plans to organize town hall meetings regular exposure to the public and to facilitate their needs.

The Union Minister concluded his speech as he called for the ideas to identify the detailed plans in the second workshop for implementing One State One Township project.

The Director General of GAD reported on reform activities of his department, draft reform framework, and expectations from the second workshop.

The Shan State's GAD officer clarified the establishments of rubbish from zones

and narcotic drug free zones in Kalaw and Aungban townships of southern Shan State under the One State One Township project.

Until 30 August at the same venue, the workshop will discuss policies on implementing the sector-wise goals and results and exchange views on solving possible challenges in the process.

The opening ceremony of the workshop was attended by Deputy Minister for the Office of Union Government U Tin Myint, the Director-General of GAD, advisors of the Union Minister, the former GAD staff members, experts, administrators from Nay Pyi Taw, states and regions, district GAD administrators, officials from the Ministry of the Office of Union Government and the invited guests.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Maritime trade continues to slide in current fiscal

MYANMAR'S maritime trade in the period between 1 October and 16 August in the current fiscal year totalled US\$21.6 billion, a decrease of over \$1.4 billion compared with the year-ago period, according to data provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

During the ten-and-a-half-month period, maritime exports were valued at \$8.4 billion, while imports were registered at \$13 billion. Compared to the same period in the previous fiscal, imports were lower by \$1.13 billion, while exports registered a drop of \$313 million.

For the same period, the value of trade through the border gates was estimated at \$8.99 billion, an increase of \$1.13 billion amid tight confiscation of illegal untaxed goods and trade suspension by Myanmar's main trade partner, China.

Meanwhile, the country's total external trade crossed \$30.59 billion, which is lower than the \$30.9 billion recorded in the year-ago period.

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

The country currently has nine ports involved in sea trade. The Yangon Port is the main gateway for Myanmar's maritime trade, and includes the Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port. — Mon Mon

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Second Amyotha Hluttaw’s 13th regular session holds 15th-day meeting

FROM PAGE-2
Hluttaw approves Rural Development Bill

Following the question and answer session Rural Development Bill was approved by the Hluttaw after Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Sai Tun Aung reread and explained the committee report on the bill. The bill was approved and sent with amendments by Pyithu Hluttaw.

Motion and ponds and reservoirs discussed and approved

As a final agenda of the

day, a motion urging the Union Government to restore and maintain ponds and reservoirs and construct new ponds and reservoirs for rural populace tabled by U Khin Win of Magway Region constituency 2 was discussed by U Hla San of Magway Region constituency 1, U Mya Min Swe of Magway Region constituency 9 and Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw.

In his discussion in support of the motion Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw explained

about works conducted by the ministry toward the matters urged by the motion and recommended the motion to be approved as it was supporting the works conducted by the ministry.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker then obtained the decision of the Hluttaw and announced the motion approved.

The 16th-day meeting of the 13th regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw is scheduled to convene on 3 September.—

Aung Ye Thwin
(Translated by Zaw Min)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 165/2019
14th Waning of Wagaung, 1381 ME
(29 August, 2019)

Permission to register as a political party

The New Democracy Party (Kachin) [N.D.P. (Kachin)] headquartered at Chan Maw Housing 17, Ward No 3, Panwa Town, Chipwe Township, Myitkyina District in Kachin State, has been permitted to register as a political party in accordance with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 29 August 2019.
The registration number of New Democracy Party (Kachin) [N.D.P. (Kachin)] is 119.

Sd/-
(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Joint Committee on Amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 30/2019

MEETING 30/2019 of the Joint Committee to amend 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Committee Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker 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 and members who were Hluttaw representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution holds 30/2019 meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint attends state dinner hosted by President of Timor-Leste



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint attends the state dinner hosted by President Mr Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo and First Lady at the capital Dili of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint attended the state dinner hosted by the President, Mr Francisco Guterres Lu-Olo and First Lady of Timor Leste at the presidential palace in capital

Dili. The Union Minister was there to attend celebration of the 20th anniversary of referendum of Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

Dili is the capital of Timor Leste, a country located at the eastern end of Indonesian Islands. It is economically significant country in Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Australia - Growth

Triangle. The former colony of Portugal, Japan and Indonesia was a historic city. She stayed under The United Nations Transitional Administration established in 1999 until her independence on

May 20th 2002. Subsequently, the independent nation was officially named the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and port city Dili was made its capital.—MNA ■
(Translated by Alphonsus)

Hluttaws donate K22.5 mln to flood-affected people

DEPUTY Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaws U Tun Tun Hein and Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung attended the donation ceremony for flooded-affected people throughout Myanmar held at the office of Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the ceremony, on behalf of the Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaws, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw and Hluttaw representatives of Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws, Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein and Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung handed over of K22.5

million – K6.36 million donated by Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaws, K8.64 million of Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, 3.02 million by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, and K4.48 million by Amyotha Hluttaw representatives – to Vice Chairman of National Disaster Management Committee Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye.

The Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw accepted the honorary certificates given by Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein and Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung hand over cash donations for flooded-affected people to Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO:MNA



Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo receives Chinese Ambassador

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received Ambassador of People's Republic of China Mr Chen Hai at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to co-operation between legal affairs organizations of the two countries and promotion cooperation between the two Attorney-General offices.—MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)

Mandalay records a rise in tourist arrivals

By Aye Cho

ABOUT 400,000 tourists visited Mandalay between January and July this year, an increase of over 66 per cent compared to the year-ago period, according to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Mandalay branch).

"In 2019, the number of tourists visiting Mandalay has increased significantly. Mandalay has also seen an increase in the arrival of Chinese visitors," said an official from the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Mandalay branch).

Mandalay has welcomed 393,394 tourists as of July, 2019. The number of tourist arrivals has increased by 132,587, compared with over 260,807 arrivals in the same period of last year.

"The number of Chinese tourists visiting Mandalay has increased because there are more airlines operating services from China. As of August, a total of 12 airlines are flying direct to Mandalay," according to the official.

"In 2018, there were only a few airlines from China. The number of airlines flying in from China has increased this year. The number of Chinese tourists visiting Mandalay has increased because the authorities have begun granting them visas on arrival," the official added.

Most visitors have come to Mandalay from China, Thailand, Japan, France, the US, India, Germany, South Korea, Singapore, and China (Taipei). (Translated by Hay Mar)

Deputy Information Minister U Aung Hla Tun receives Japanese Ambassador



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun holds talks with a delegation led by Japanese Ambassador Mr Ichiro Maruyama in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO:MNA

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun received Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Ichiro Maruyama at his office in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 am on Thursday.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed matters concerning exchanging contents between Myanmar's State-owned MRTV and Japan's national broadcasting organization NHK, developing professional capacity of the MRTV staff and promoting bilateral media cooperation.

Responsible information ministry officials were also present at the meeting together with the deputy minister while the Japanese ambassador was accompanied by NHK Executive Director Mr Yuki Itano and responsible Japanese embassy staff.—MNA ■

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

ACTING CHIEF EDITOR
Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT
Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORS
Zaw Min
Zaw Htet Oo
Alphonsus
INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR
Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

LOCAL NEWS EDITORS
Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com

TRANSLATORS
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun

REPORTER
Nyein Nyein Ei,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Aye Yamon Oo

PHOTOGRAPHER
Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar
Kyaw Zeya

COMPUTER TEAM
Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe, Nyi Lin Thu

EDITORIAL SECTION
(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114

ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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No proposals or plan to permit casinos: Yangon Region Chief Minister

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee (YRIC) has not received any proposals for casino businesses, and it does not plan to green light such businesses, said U Phyo Min Thein, the Yangon Region Chief Minister.

He made the remarks at a press conference held on Wednesday at the YRIC office.

“There is no proposal for setting up a casino business in Yangon Region. Also, the investment committee does not plan to endorse such businesses,” said U Phyo Min Thein.

“The casino legislation is still being drafted. After the rules and regulations are drawn up, the MIC would be able to grant permission for casino businesses,” said U Myo Khaing Oo, the secretary of the YRIC.

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) had received enquiries for establishing casino businesses, especially from Macau.

On 9 February, 2018, U Aung Hlaing Win, a representative of the Mingaladon constituency, had raised a question at the Pyithu Hluttaw, asking whether casino businesses would be

permitted in islands where most tourists flock to, as such businesses can earn revenue and help improve the hotel and tourism business.

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung had responded that the Ministry of Home Affairs had agreed to allow casinos only after the amendment of the Gambling Law 1986. “Under the existing law, casino businesses at islands that tourists usually visit cannot be approved. We will work for this as we have already obtained approval from the concerned ministry,” he had said.

On 22 August, 2018, the Public Affairs Management Committee submitted the 2018 gambling bill, including six chapters and 23 sections, before the Pyithu Hluttaw.

However, the two Hluttaws were divided over the 2018 gambling legislation. Later, the Bill Committee presented parts of each section of the bill and held a debate on the tenth day of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s 11th regular session on 26 February, 2019. Thereafter, the members submitted their suggestions to the committee. ■
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Yangon Region government to meet with boiler operators

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Region government will meet with commercial boiler operators, said U Myint Thauang, the Yangon Region Minister for Planning and Finance at a meeting held on Wednesday at the YRIC office.

“Regarding commercial boiler installation, we will meet with those businessmen. We will check whether boiler operators are following safety regulations or not,” said the minister.

“Additionally, the government will also inspect factories. If factories are found not complying

with safety rules, they may get their licence revoked,” he added.

“We issued permits only after a screening process conducted by the Directorate of Industry Supervision and Inspection to ensure safety conditions were being met. However, we need to keep monitoring the factories to

check if they are using charcoal, and the impact of boiler pressure. We will reinspect the businesses with the help of experts,” the minister said.

The government plans to hold a discussion with businessmen in this regard soon. ■
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

78 migrant workers return to Myanmar through Kawthoung



A team of officials from the Thailand Immigration Department, led by Myanmar Labor Attache U Kyaw Soe Wai, handed over 78 migrant workers to Myanmar authorities on Wednesday evening at the Kawthoung border gate.

The workers — 72 men and 6 women — were expelled to My-

anmar after they were found with expired visas and without proper documentation.

Officials from the General Administration Department, Labour, Immigration and Population Department, Anti-Trafficking in Person Police, Labour Department, and Disaster Management

Department received the workers and provided them some necessary healthcare. Afterwards, officials from the concerned departments sent the workers back to their homes. — Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung) ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

Paddy seeds distributed to farmers in flood-hit Kayin State

A TOTAL of 4,791 acres of paddy fields at Kya-in-Seikkyi Township in Kawkaik District of Kayin State were flooded because of heavy rainfall in the first week of August. On Tuesday evening, the Kayin State Government provided paddy seeds to flood-hit paddy farmers.

Before the distribution of seeds, U Wai Yan Kyaw, the Township Deputy Administrator, explained the settlement plan for flood-hit farmlands, and U Wai Lin Nyunt, the head of Township the Agriculture Department, advised farmers to use direct seeding methods along with fertilizers and pesticides, if necessary. Afterwards, the concerned officials handed out paddy seeds and fertilizers to farmers.—Ko Myo (Zamimayay) ■
(Translated by La Wonn)

Thailand’s top court upholds Myanmar workers’ death penalty in British backpacker murders

THAILAND’S Supreme Court yesterday upheld the death sentences of Myanmar migrant workers in the high-profile murder of two British backpackers on the popular tourist island of Koh Tao in 2014.

Zaw Lin and Win Zaw Tun were found guilty of the rape and murder of Hannah Witheridge, 23, and of killing David Miller, 24.

The 2017 appeal decision was read to the two migrant workers and it took for nearly four hours at the court yesterday, according to U Htoo Chit, who is from the special investigation commission-3 to the case formed by Myanmar, and who was present at the court.

He said the committee for the two migrant workers would request the Myanmar government to seek a royal pardon from the King of Thailand.

Prosecutors insisted the evidence against the men from Myanmar’s impoverished Rakhine State was clear, and a lower court upheld their conviction in 2017.

But during the proceedings, the defence said authorities mishandled the investigation and DNA evidence, not allowing independent analysis of samples and using confessions the pair said were coerced.

Police were accused of buckling to pressure to solve a crime that made global headlines and threatened to damage a tourism sector that accounts for a fifth of Thailand’s economy.

Andy Hall, an international adviser to the defence, said the evidence against them was “unreliable”.

“The death penalty sentence against the two accused and their conviction should be reversed and quashed,” said Andy Hall.—Pwint Thitsar ■
(Translated by GNLM)

Seminar on Experience sharing on EMB Engagement with Electoral Stakeholders held



Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein addresses the Capacity Building Program: Experience sharing on EMB engagement with Electoral Stakeholders in Nay Pyi Taw.
PHOTO: MNA

UNION Election commission held a seminar on Capacity Building Programme: Experience sharing on EMB engagement with Electoral Stakeholders in collaboration with Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) at Horizon Lake View Resort Hotel yesterday morning.

At the event, Chairman of the commission said that collaboration of related ministries, political parties, civil society organizations, media, and voters is needed to hold a successful election. Transparency and mutual trust are essential for a successful election. The commission will hold free, fair, acceptable and transparent election. Sub commissions are now working in accordance with election law, by-laws, regulations and directives without corruption.

In the process of election, voter list is ultimately important and it involved stakeholders.

He urges to stakeholders to produce a precise voter list on time.

He added that engagement with stakeholder is included in chapter 7 of Union Election Commission’s Grand strategic project (2019-2020). The event was organized by ANFREL for international experience of engagement with stakeholders. Then, Executive Director of ANFREL Mrs Chandanie Watawala deliver key note speech.

The participants discussed opportunities, expectations and challenges concerning engagement with stakeholders of election.—MNA ■
(Translated by Alphonsus)

Arrival Data for Foreign Visitors Entering Myanmar

Sr	Subject	January-July, 2018	January-July, 2019	Increase-ment	Percent-age
1	Arrival by air	745160	977598	232438	+31%
2	Arrival onboard cruise ship	6936	6084	-852	-12%
3	Arrival at border gates and getting into the country	25297	70668	45371	+179%
	Visitors with visa	777393	1054350	276957	+36%
4	Visitors entering to the border area	1192620	1419961	227341	+19%
	Total	1970013	2474311	504298	+26%

Visitor arrivals by nationality (Compare)

No.	Country/Region	2018(Up to July)	2019(Up to July)	Difference	percent-age
	<u>North America</u>	<u>44629</u>	<u>45674</u>	<u>1045</u>	<u>2%</u>
1	America	37901	39146	1245	3%
2	Canada	6728	6528	-200	-3%
	<u>Other Americas</u>	<u>6455</u>	<u>6050</u>	<u>-405</u>	<u>-6%</u>
	<u>West Europe</u>	<u>102601</u>	<u>100160</u>	<u>-2441</u>	<u>-2%</u>
1	France	25513	24790	-723	-3%
2	U.K.	22194	19813	-2381	-11%
3	Germany	15748	15580	-168	-1%
4	Italy	7962	9690	1728	22%
5	Switzerland	5330	4802	-528	-10%
6	Netherlands	5500	5412	-88	-2%
7	Belgium	3124	2911	-213	-7%
8	Austria	1839	2032	193	10%
9	Spain	5014	5680	666	13%
10	Others	10377	9450	-927	-9%
	<u>East Europe</u>	<u>10209</u>	<u>9995</u>	<u>-214</u>	<u>-2%</u>
1	Russia	3014	2804	-210	-7%
2	Others	7195	7191	-4	0%
	<u>Africa</u>	<u>2432</u>	<u>2472</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>2%</u>
	<u>Middle East</u>	<u>2946</u>	<u>3162</u>	<u>216</u>	<u>7%</u>
	<u>Asia</u>	<u>590438</u>	<u>870452</u>	<u>280014</u>	<u>47%</u>
1	China	153707	385942	232235	151%
2	Thailand	175095	157261	-17834	-10%
3	Korea	37794	67873	30079	80%
4	Japan	56847	69756	12909	23%
5	Singapore	32060	31309	-751	-2%
6	Viet Nam	31570	30266	-1304	-4%
7	India	25324	26539	1215	5%
8	Malaysia	26989	24196	-2793	-10%
9	Taiwan	20951	22289	1338	6%
10	Hong Kong	88	18902	18814	
11	Macau	2	1521	1519	
12	Philippines	9704	10104	400	4%
13	Others	20307	24494	4187	21%
	<u>Oceania</u>	<u>17683</u>	<u>16385</u>	<u>-1298</u>	<u>-7%</u>
1	Australia	15247	14201	-1046	-7%
2	New Zealand	2284	2095	-189	-8%
3	Others	152	89	-63	-41%
	Total	777393	1054350	276957	36%

Trade Mark Ads Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355,09974424848

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Helping investors thrive and prosper is our commitment

THE world is witnessing a monumental shift in its centre of economic gravity, a global economic rebalancing towards Asia, which is expected to account for over 50 per cent of the global GDP by 2040.

Even today, the continent accounts for almost 50 per cent of global investment. It is estimated that our region could drive up to 50 per cent of global consumption growth in the years ahead. In the next decade alone, close to one billion new middle-class consumers will emerge in Asia.

Positioned at the crossroads of Asia, Myanmar constitutes a key bridge between East and West — a link between India and China, a doorway to ASEAN. Myanmar seeks to capitalize on this favourable position by connecting these rising geo-economic regions, offering a strategic trade conduit, providing a gateway to the Indian Ocean, and thus,

benefitting the country and the region.

Myanmar is very much a part of the changing Asia and has entered a period of radical change accompanied by unprecedented growth. Our economy has expanded, with GDP rising from US\$8.9 billion in 2000 to over \$71 billion in 2018. This places our country amongst ASEAN's fastest-growing economies.

Economic reforms, including the relaxation of economic policies, the introduction of the online registration system, and the implementation of project bank and land bank, have increased investment to \$2.3 billion (77 per cent) by mid-2019.

Besides, with the promotion of a more favourable, friendly, predictable, and investment enabling

environment that ensures a fair and level playing field, we could attract responsible investment that creates jobs, provides new opportunities, sustains growth, and spreads prosperity.

Over half of the country's population is young and they can help drive the economy. Myanmar is also rich in natural resources and we can see the benefit in the demand and supply of raw materials.

We have implemented a number of significant reforms in the economic, political, and social spheres aimed at creating new opportunities for investors.

There has been progress, but there are also challenges to be overcome, barriers and obstacles to be removed. We are confident that the current and other reforms will prove fruitful in attracting increased foreign investment and will help us overcome the challenges.

We welcome investors as partners in our endeavor as we pursue the vision outlined in the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan for a more prosperous, peaceful, and democratic Myanmar.

We are committed to seeing foreign investment thrive and prosper.



Be prepared to do a good turn daily

By Tekkatho Pwintthu Aung

THERE are two main sources for national development. They are human resources and natural resources. The principle requirement of human resources is the education, and human resources development is also the main goal of education. Education promotes human intelligence and widens the scope of knowledge and innovative ideas, and the formation of scout bodies is one of the endeavours to reach this goal.

Scouting

Scouting or the Scout Movement is a movement with a strong focus on the outdoors and survival skills that aims to support young people in their physical, mental, and spiritual development so that they may play constructive roles in society. In other words, scouts are



Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and students attend the ceremony in Yangon marking the centennial of scouting in Myanmar. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT



Myanmar scouts pose for photo with dignitaries at National Strategic Planning Workshop. PHOTO: KO LATT

to help others, they must be independent and always ready for their work. They are trained to be sharp-eyed, active, cooperative, and free from politics. They must become models who are outstanding in their studies, pursuing a simple life, and having a strong determination. Scouting is an inclusive movement.

The Myanmar word for scout is "kinhtaunk". We can obviously find the word in the treatises of Inwa period. But the word "kinhtaunk" actually means scouting the enemy movement or situation, and not the scout activity. So, today's scouting is different from the past. It's the movement of youths for the good of the society, community and the country. Scouting is a movement to enable young people to learn various

fields of knowledge till becoming future leaders. So, it's a noble movement. It is a mere social activity which is totally free from political and military influences. The movement can produce independent and self-reliant citizens, who understand the value of responsibility and accountability.

The founder

According to records, Lieutenant-General Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, 1st Baron Baden-Powell (1857-1941) founded the scout movement. So, he is called the father of the world's scout movements. He found the movement for the youth members to have good morals, to understand the human ethics, and to stay away from selfishness.

erally regarded as the start of the Scout movement. England founded its first scouting association 1908. As the scouting became more popular, a girl's scout movement was founded in England in 1910. In the ensuing years, scouting spread beyond the British Empire. Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden continued its scouting activities after he retired from the active service. According to the Weekly Rangoon Times issued on 7 February 1921, he visited Myanmar in February 1921.

History of scouting in Myanmar

of YMBA and its sister organizations approved the idea of setting up scout associations in 1917. So, Myanmar started to form scout associations in 1916-1917. After the formation of scout associations Myanmar, Baden-Powell, the father of scout movement, visited Myanmar in 1921.

In 1925, scouts in Monywa protected the national school from catching fire; and in 1926, Anglo-Myanmar high school in Myintgyan opened a scout library. Those were some of the scout activities in Myanmar during the colonial period. Yamethin, a town in central Myanmar, founded a scout association at its

Scout movements bring out good citizens who are free from political and military influences. In accordance with the motto "be prepared", a scout is always in a state of readiness, in mind and body, to do his duty.

The British initiated the scout movement in Myanmar in 1910. In 1913, there were specific scouting movements in the country. The fourth YMBA conference held in Hinthada on 14 October 1916 discussed the formation of scout associations. It was an inclusive meeting. The conference

high school on 8 February 1934, where scouting knowledge was disseminated. Teachers at the school trained youth to promote their reading habit, social welfare undertaking, and serving other's interest. Unfortunately, the scout movement in Myanmar, founded by the British, halted

Translation: TMT



Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mrs. Hana Mottlová as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Czech Republic to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mrs. Hana Mottlová was born in Náchod, Czech Republic in May 1969. She studied Modern Philology at the Charles University in Prague from 1987 to 1992, International Relations at the Oxford University from 1994 to 1995 and Institute of American Studies fellowship at the Princeton University in 1997. Since 1992, she has served in various capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and Czech Embassies in London and Washington, D.C. From 2004 to 2018, she was the Director-General of the Section of the European Union, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the Hellenic Republic and Ireland, and Director of the Department of Asia and Pacific. Since 2018, she has been serving as Special Envoy of the Czech Republic for Brexit and Deputy Director, Foreign Analysis and Planning Department. Mrs. Hana Mottlová is fluent in English, French and Greek. She is married.—MNA

Public Announcement for remonstration

PEOPLE'S Pioneer Party headquartered at No 10/B, Kanbawza Tower, Myaynigon Quarter, Sangyaung Township in Yangon Region, submitted an application for registration as a political party in accord with the Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 16-8-2019. 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

People's Pioneer Party's Flag



People's Pioneer Party's Emblem



Seminar on Innovation and Young Entrepreneurship for regional development held in Nay Pyi Taw



Deputy Minister for Industry Dr Min Ye Paing Hein delivers the speech at the Seminar on Innovation and Young Entrepreneurship for the regional development in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: KO HTEIN**

DEPUTY Minister of Industry Dr Min Ye Paing Hein said Myanmar’s economy has the better chances of development as the third of the nation’s population is youth. He made the remark at the opening ceremony of Seminar on Innovation and Young Entrepreneurship for the regional development (Mekong –Lancang Cooperation) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the event, Deputy Minister urged youth entrepreneurs to take advantage of the country’s geopolitics to overcome challenges of the country.

He added that the seminar

aim at raising entrepreneurs of all age group and create regional network.

He also pointed out the need for MSMEs to be competition oriented as creativity plays a major role.

He expressed his belief that new experience and ideas can stem from exchanging knowledge. He concluded urging regional youth to exchange views.

Then, Counsellor Ms Yang Chengcheng, and Vice Chairman of Nation Coordination Unit, Deputy Director General U Win Zayer Tun delivered their key-note speeches. It was reported that the seminar held by the network

of business people from 6 countries for the development of youth entrepreneurs. They also aim at developing a thesis on international knowledge concerning new changes.

The seminar will be held from September 1st to 4th. It is being attended by young entrepreneurs from the People’s Republic of China, Cambodia, Laos, Viet Nam and Thailand, representatives from related departments, Myanmar Youth entrepreneurs, official from SME department responsible for development of small and medium enterprises in regions and states.—Han Lin Nang *(Translated by Alphonsus)*

15th-day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw’s 13th regular session

FROM PAGE-2

Receipt of Word Change Bill

Afterwards, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the receipt of Word Change Bill approved and sent without amendments by Amyotha Hluttaw and Bill Committee member Daw Mar Mar Khine submitted a report.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to table amendment motion to register their names.

16th-day meeting of Second



Daw Mar Mar Khine. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw’s 13th regular session will be held on 3 September it is learnt.—Aye Aye Thant, Kyaw Zin Htike *(Translated by Zaw Min)*



Deputy District Administrator U Ye Htoo interviewed by local and foreign journalists in Maungdaw. **PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)**

Business matching event held for Thai-Myanmar film industry in Yangon

THE 3rd Thai-Myanmar business matching in the film industry 2019 was held on 29 August at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon.

It was organized by the Department of International Trade Promotion (DITP) under the Ministry of Commerce from

Thailand.

Mrs Suphatra Srimaitree-phithak, Thailand’s Ambassador to Myanmar, U Maung Maung

Lay, the vice-president of the UMFFCCI, U Than Naing, the Director of Motion Picture Promotion Division under the Information and Public Relations Department and officials from Myanmar-Thai film industry attended the event.

“The exhibition is aimed at strengthening Myanmar-Thai business cooperation and promoting the investment sector. This is the third business matching for the Thai-Myanmar film industry in Myanmar,” said a spokesperson from the DITP.

Eighteen well-known film production companies screened famous movies, film production, and broadcasting programs at the event. Production companies; camera, filmmaking equipment, sound, and lighting companies; directors; local art-

ists; and, other businesspersons from film production industries attended the exhibition.

The participating companies were engaged in film and documentary production, television content provider services, post production services, animation, international film production and services, studio rental services in Thailand, crew hiring and management, talent sourcing, equipment rental, film distribution, distribution and production of motion pictures, production services for social campaigns, creative production houses, distribution of global branded equipment, digital content creation, news media and TV broadcasting, and TV content production. —Myint Maung

(Translated by La Wonn)



The opening ceremony of 3rd Thai-Myanmar business matching in the film industry held in Yangon on 29 August. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Yangon Govt, Lexis Nexis ink MoU on real estate information system

THE Yangon Region government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Southeast Asia Lexis Nexis Co. Ltd for developing the Housing Real Estate Information System (HREIS) on 28 August in Yangon.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said there are nearly 1.6 million households in Yangon. Of them, 64 per cent own houses and 36 per cent are renting accommodation, he said.

“Yangon is where migrants mostly come and settle. However, it has no reliable source of real estate information, which leads to difficulties in charting current prices, identifying tax avoidance, and contributes to market instability, so some buyers suffer. It is



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein delivers the opening speech at the signing ceremony for developing housing real estate information system in Yangon. **PHOTO: SAN KYAW OO (IPRD)**

also difficult, with these inaccurate figures, to draw up future development plans,” he said.

“There are four stages in building a real estate information system – pre-scoping, selecting

tenders, setting up the Housing Real Estate Information System, and maintenance,” said the Chief Minister.

“As Lexis Neixs has offered to conduct the pre-scoping free of

charge, the MoU has been signed to launch the project,” he added.

With the setting up of the HREIS, facts and information about real estate will be available at one place. Laying down real

estate policies, predicting property prices, and drawing up future development plans will also be made simpler with the collation of facts and information, said the Chief Minister. He then called for cooperation between related governmental departments and organizations for developing the information system. This was followed by the signing of the MoU.

Thereafter, the selling housing projects supervision committee presented a certificate of honor to RITZ Company which assists with technologies for selling fair-priced and low-cost apartments. Also present at the event were Yangon Region ministers and officials from Lexis Neixs Co. Ltd. —San Kyaw Oo (IPRD)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Developers asked to pay security deposit on jointly owned buildings

By Aye Yamone

FOR construction of jointly owned buildings, developers will now have to hire an appraiser and deposit 15 per cent of the estimated value of the property with a bank, according to the Yangon Region Collectively Owned Buildings Construction Management Committee.

“Currently, developers don’t have an appraiser to calculate the partial value of jointly owned buildings. So, they are not being issued construction licenses for building jointly owned buildings. They have already submitted a

request to the authorities concerned to hire an expatriate partial value appraiser. Additionally, developers will have to make a 15 per cent security deposit at a bank. The purchasers will also have to deposit money at the same bank. We are having discussions now related to when a deposit can be withdrawn from the account, and also, how it can be withdrawn,” said U Myo Myint, a member of the committee.

If the matter of appraising the partial value can be resolved, developers who have already constructed buildings according to the Condominium

law will not have to make the 15-per-cent security deposit.

“Currently, we are making arrangements for developers to hire a partial value appraiser in Myanmar. Construction licenses are expected to be issued at the end of September to those who are holding a license for construction of jointly owned buildings,” said U Myo Myint.

“We’ve asked them to deposit 15 per cent for the sake of safety. But, we haven’t decided on a bank yet. When the bank has been chosen, they will have to deposit 15 per cent with that particular bank, and the pur-

chasers will also have to deposit money with the same bank,” he said.

The collectively owned buildings law was enacted on 29 December, 2016, and its provisions have been amended several times since then. Under the law, foreigners are permitted to purchase apartments, but foreign ownership of jointly owned buildings cannot be more than 40 per cent.

“Currently, we cannot sell apartments to foreigners because developers are facing difficulty in calculating the partial value,” said U Myo Myint.

Moreover, jointly owned buildings must be over 20,000 square feet wide. And, the buildings must have more than 6 floors, a lift, an assembly place, and waste disposal system.

Up till now, construction founder licenses for jointly owned buildings have been issued to 30 local companies and two foreign companies. Construction permits for jointly owned buildings will be issued at the Collectively Owned Buildings Construction Management Committee Office soon, it is learnt.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Trade at Muse continues to be suspended over security concerns

INFLOW of goods through the Muse gate has been suspended for over two weeks owing to fighting in northern Shan State, said U Min Thein, the vice chair of the Muse Commodity Depot.

“Following the fighting on 15 August, trade at the Muse 105-mile gate has been halted completely, as the trucks cannot go down from Muse. The trucks cannot travel on the Mandalay-Muse road. In the last two days, some trucks stranded at Muse gate were seen leaving for Mandalay. The gate has also seen entry of some trucks. However, there is no product inspection or security screening procedures at the gate as trade has now been suspended completely,” said U Min Thein.

Therefore, only some stocks of goods left at Muse gate can

flow into China, according to the Muse depot.

“Only small volumes of goods are being sent to the China market as there is no supply to the Muse gate due to the closure of the road,” said U Min Thein.

To tackle the trade halt, the government is conducting discussions with the related organizations, said Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint at the 29th meeting of Vice President 1 with private businessmen, held on 24 August at the UMFCCI office.

Earlier, Muse and Chinshwehaw gates witnessed trade worth million dollars. At present, the trade value at the gates is estimated to be in just six figures. Trading has halted in some places. The Muse 105-mile trade zone



Trucks seen at the 105-mile trade zone in Muse, northern Shan State. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

normally handled goods worth \$6 million per day, prior to the outbreak of fighting. After 15 August, trade at the gate plunged to around \$700,000 a day. Similarly, the Chinshwehaw trade zone earned \$1.2 million per day before the attacks. On 15 and 16

August, the gate registered trade of just \$300,000. From 17 August, trading has been suspended.

“The fighting in the northern Shan State has cut off transportation on the major trading route, which has drastically affected Muse gate. In addition to damage

to infrastructure on that road section, the entire trade chain, including truck drivers, owners, workers, and businessmen are suffering on account of this,” said Dr. Than Myint.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Malaysian embassy celebrates 62nd National Day of Malaysia, 56th Malaysia Day, 86th Armed Forces Day

THE Embassy of Malaysia in Yangon celebrated the 62nd National Day of Malaysia, 56th Malaysia Day and 86th Armed Forces Day at the Wyndham Grand Yangon hotel in Yangon yesterday.

It was attended by Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun.

The ceremony began with the national anthems of Myanmar and Malaysia.

Afterwards, Ambassador of Malaysia Mr Zahairi Bin Baharim and Union Minister U Thaung Tun extended greetings.

In his remarks, Union Minister U Thaung Tun recounted the deep ties of friendship between the two countries which established diplomatic relations in 1957.

“We seek to share our success with Malaysia, just as Myanmar seeks to share in Malaysia’s success,” said U Thaung Tun.

According to statistics made available by the Myanmar Investment Commission, Malaysia is the 8th largest investor, with some 66 investments.

Bilateral trade between the two countries has also remained strong over the years, reaching some US\$ 738 million



Union Minister U Thaung Tun welcomed by Malaysian Ambassador Mr. Zahairi Bin Baharim at the celebration of 62nd National Day of Malaysia, 56th Malaysia Day and 86th Armed Forces Day in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, said U Thaung Tun.

The Union Minister continued to say that Myanmar, with a population of around 54 million, a youthful workforce, low labour costs and a rapidly growing consumer market, is an ideal location for Malaysian investments.

He also welcomed Malaysia as one of Myanmar’s major trading and investment part-

ners—including in areas such as oil and gas exploration, agriculture, construction, energy, IT, manufacturing, banking, finance and tourism.

Following his remarks, Union Minister U Thaung Tun and Malaysian Ambassador Mr Zahairi Bin Baharim cut a cake to mark the celebration of 62nd National Day of Malaysia, 56th Malaysia Day and 86th Armed Forces Day.

The ambassador hosted a dinner for the guests.

Also present at the dinner were Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein and wife, Lt-Gen Min Naung of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and wife, senior military officers, diplomats, representatives of the UN agencies and guests.—MNA

(Translated by GNLM)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Organic beauty is big business right now

WASHINGTON — The beauty industry is getting an organic overhaul, and it could mean big business in the next few years.

According to a new report, the global organic personal care ingredients market size is on track to reach US\$11.1 billion by the year 2025, representing a 5.4 per cent compound annual growth rate from 2019 to 2025.

The report points to growing consumer awareness about the benefits of organic personal care products — which are free from potentially harmful chemicals — in comparison to their synthetic counterparts as one of the key reasons for a surge in demand. The organic personal care sector is biggest in the US, but emerging economies such as China and India have also witnessed an increase in demand over the last few years.—AFP ■

Tax body finds Facebook Japan failed to report 500 mil yen in income

TOKYO — The Japan unit of Facebook Inc. failed to declare about 500 million yen (\$4.7 million) in taxable income over the two years through 2017, sources close to the matter said Thursday.

The tech giant’s advertisement revenues earned in Japan were paid to its branch in Ireland, where the corporate tax rate is lower, in an attempt to reduce taxable income at the Japan unit, the sources said.

Facebook is believed to have corrected its tax declaration and paid the additional levies of over 100 million yen imposed by the Tokyo Regional Taxation Bureau, the sources said.

“We are cooperating with taxation authorities to comply with legal regulations in each country,” the Japan unit said.

Regulators are stepping up scrutiny over tax-saving measures taken by digital hegemony such as Facebook, Apple Inc., Amazon.com Inc. and Google LLC, including transferring locally derived revenues to a unit in a country with lower tax rates.—Kyodo News ■



File photo taken in November 2018 shows preparation under way for dismantling an exhaust pipe used by the disaster-hit Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant’s No. 1 and No. 2. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Japan utilities, Toshiba, Hitachi eye nuclear business alliance

TOKYO — Two Japanese utilities and Toshiba Corp and Hitachi Ltd. said Wednesday they have agreed to discuss potential collaboration in the nuclear business, as the industry faces a difficult environment following the Fukushima accident.

Amid lingering safety fears over nuclear plants, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc., operator of the crippled Fukushima complex, Chubu Electric Power Co. and the two major nuclear reactor builders said they consider jointly developing human resources, technologies and supply chains.

Since the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster, stricter safety requirements have been implemented and only nine reactors at five complexes in Japan have restarted operations. At the time of the disaster, Japan had 54 nuclear reactors for commercial use.

The four companies said the envisaged partnership is aimed at effectively operating and developing nuclear technologies, and that they plan to promote cooperation especially in the boiling water reactor business.

However, demand for nuclear energy in Japan is unlikely to recover to the pre-Fukushima disaster level.

Facing huge compensation payments and other costs stemming from the Fukushima disaster, Tokyo Electric Power Company is eager to resume operating two reactors at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear plant in Niigata Prefecture but has found difficulty in obtaining necessary approval from host municipalities.—Kyodo News

Dollar slips into upper 105 yen on US-China spat, Brexit fears

TOKYO—The US dollar fell into the upper 105 yen range Thursday morning in Tokyo on persisting concerns about the US-China trade conflict as well as increased fears over a “no-deal Brexit” after it was decided to suspend the British Parliament.

At noon, the dollar fetched 105.91-92 yen, compared with 106.08-18 yen in New York and 105.73-75 yen in Tokyo at 5 p.m. Wednesday.

The euro was quoted at \$1.1081-1085 and 117.36-38 yen against \$1.1072-1082 and 117.48-58 yen in New York, and \$1.1092-1094 and 117.28-32 yen in Tokyo late Wednesday afternoon.

The dollar initially drew modest buying against the safe-haven yen as an overnight rise in US

shares lifted investor sentiment, dealers said.

But the dollar was later sold back amid caution ahead of Washington’s planned imposition Sunday of additional tariffs on Chinese imports, dealers said.

Selling increased with fears growing about the United Kingdom’s potential departure without any deal from the European Union as the suspension of Parliament means British politicians will have less time to discuss ways to prevent a no-deal Brexit before an October 31 deadline. “A fall in Japanese shares also weighed on the US unit,” said Hideki Shibata, senior interest rate and forex strategist at the Tokai Tokyo Research Institute.—Kyodo News ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK WOLGAST VOY. NO. (933S/935N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK WOLGAST VOY. NO. (933S/935N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-8-2019 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. (022N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (022N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-8-2019 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.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

Japan to introduce tighter rules for tech giants to protect customers



This photograph taken on 28 September, 2017, shows a smartphone being operated in front of GAFA logos (acronym for Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon web giants) as background in Hédé-Bazouges, western France. **PHOTO: AFP**

TOKYO—Japan’s antitrust watchdog said Thursday it has compiled draft guidelines for tighter regulations of technology giants to strengthen customers’ data protection, as it aims to introduce the first such rules as early as October.

The Japan Fair Trade Commission said the guidelines are designed to address criticism against major tech companies such as Amazon.com Inc., Apple Inc., Facebook Inc. and Google LLC for obtaining personal data by making use of their “superior bargaining position.”

These companies are

facing growing criticism that they are discouraging new companies from entering the market by monopolizing customer data through their platforms to bolster their competitive positions.

The new guidelines will be applied to companies providing services of online shopping, social media, search engines and video, music and apps distribution, the commission said.

The regulators will apply the antimonopoly law for the first time to business practice between a company and customers to protect consumers’ privacy. —Kyodo News ■

Call for Expression of Interest for Pre-Qualification for
Qualified Design and Supervision Consultancy Firms (Vaccine Cold Chain Sup-depots)
In Different Regions of Myanmar
Reference: REOI/2019/003

UNICEF invites Sealed Expressions of Interest (Eoi) for Pre-qualification of Design and Supervision Consultancy Firms to undertake construction of “One (1) Central Expanded Program (cEPI) training centre and Seventeen (16) vaccine cold chain sub-depots in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory and (14) different regions of Myanmar.”

Selection criteria includes:

1. Registration and valid licences to operate in Myanmar
2. Specific technical experience
3. Experience in management of multiple sites
4. Proven in-house technical capacity with qualified Human Resources and required Equipment
5. Proven experience/capacity to work in remote geographical contexts
6. Audited financial report for the last two years
7. Reference checks – preferably previous work experiences with UN Agencies preferable

Interested consultancy firms who have the required licences to operate in Myanmar in this field are invited to request for the Eoi form through email at the following address: msoe@unicef.org with the reference mentioned in subject. Last date to collect the EOI form is 12th September 2019. Kindly mention Reference in the subject.

The duly filled in Eoi form along with the requested information and documentation must be delivered in hard copy as per instructions in the Eoi form on or before 3:00 pm (local time Yangon/Myanmar) 27th September 2019. Late receipts of the EOIs shall be rejected. Responses to EOIs sent via email also not be accepted.

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Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study for exploration drilling program in Block AD-8 Offshore Myanmar

Woodside Energy (Myanmar) Pte. Ltd. (Woodside) proposes to undertake an exploration drilling program in Block AD-8 located offshore Rakhine State, Myanmar. Woodside proposes to commence the drilling program in 2020 over a five year period, drilling potentially one or up to eight wells. The wells will be located approximately 60 miles from the Myanmar coastline.

Under the Environmental Conservation Law and Environmental Conservation Rules of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Woodside is required to undertake Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for the proposed activities.

The Scoping of EIA studies was conducted by Environmental Resources Management (ERM) and Resource and Environment Myanmar (REM), on behalf of Woodside, in accordance with the Myanmar EIA procedure (2015).

The Scoping report for AD-8 has been submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC). Future engagement will be conducted for the Project in Yangon and Rakhine.

Any queries, comments or suggestions on the proposed activities can also be provided in writing to feedback@woodside.com.au or woodside.myanmar@erm.com.

Court bids launched to stop Johnson suspending UK parliament

LONDON — Prime Minister Boris Johnson's (pix) suspension of parliament weeks before Britain's EU departure date faced legal challenges on Thursday following a furious outcry from pro-Europeans and MPs opposed to a no-deal Brexit.

The Conservative leader announced the surprise decision Wednesday to dismiss parliament — known as proroguing — for nearly five weeks next month, claiming it was necessary to allow him to pursue a “bold and ambitious” new domestic agenda.

But the move sent shockwaves through the British political system, which relies on centuries of precedents and conventions instead of a codified constitution.

Opponents labelled the suspension a “coup” and a “constitutional outrage” and it prompted immediate court bids in London and Edinburgh to halt the process.



Demonstrators decried Boris Johnson's suspension of parliament weeks before the Brexit cutoff date. **PHOTO: AFP**

Gina Miller, a businesswoman and leading anti-Brexit campaigner, said she had applied

for an urgent judicial review challenging “the effect and the intention” of the suspension.

“We think that this request is illegal,” said Miller, who in 2017 successfully won MPs the right to

vote on formally starting to leave the EU in a court challenge.

“There is no example in modern history when prorogation has been used in this way,” she told BBC radio.

“It is clearly being used to hamper, in our view, parliament legislating against no deal.”

Meanwhile, Scottish National Party (SNP) politician Joanna Cherry said lawyers had applied for an urgent interim hearing at Scotland's highest civil court which they hoped would take place as early as Thursday.

However, arch-Brexiteer minister Jacob Rees-Mogg defended the suspension and insisted MPs would still have time to debate Brexit ahead of Britain's 31 October EU departure date.

“The candyfloss of outrage, which is almost entirely confected, is from people who never wanted to leave the European Union,” he told BBC radio.—AFP

EU backs US-Iran talks but says nuclear deal must stay

HELSINKI — The EU's diplomatic chief said Thursday that the bloc would support talks between the US and Tehran, but only if the current nuclear deal with Iran is preserved.

Tehran and Washington have been locked in a bitter standoff since last year when US President Donald Trump unilaterally pulled out of the 2015 deal that

gave Iran relief from sanctions in return for curbs on its atomic programme.

The idea of direct talks between Washington and Tehran as a way out of the crisis has grown this week after Trump mooted the idea and the new US defense secretary urged Iran's leaders to engage. The EU has desperately sought to stop the deal from col-

lapsing completely, arguing it is the best way to stop Iran developing nuclear bombs.

EU diplomatic chief Federica Mogherini gave a cautious welcome to the idea of negotiations, after Trump said Monday he was ready to meet Iran's President Hassan Rouhani within weeks.

“We are always in favour of talks, the more people talk, the more people understand each other, the better, on the basis of clarity and on the basis of respect,” Mogherini said as she arrived for a meeting of EU foreign and defence ministers in Helsinki. But she added “first and foremost what is existing needs to be preserved” — specifically the 2015 deal known formally as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or JCPOA.

“We will always advocate for the full respect by all sides of the UNSC resolutions and that includes the JCPOA,” she said.—AFP ■



Tehran has breached certain limits on its nuclear production after the US pulled out of the 2015 accord. **PHOTO: AFP**

Yemen's separatists regain control of Aden: Security officials

ADEN — Yemen's separatists have regained full control of the interim capital Aden following clashes with government forces who withdrew from the southern port city, security officials from both sides said Thursday.

“The Security Belt force completely controls the city of Aden along with its entrances,” Haitham Nezar, a spokesman for the pro-independence Southern Transitional Council, told AFP.

A government security source confirmed Aden was under the full control of the STC, saying government troops who entered parts of the city on Wednesday “withdrew from Aden” to the nearby Abyan province.

The internationally-recognised government of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi claimed on Wednesday it had

seized back Aden from the separatists who captured the strategic city on 10 August after a fierce battle.

Nezar said the Security Belt forces are now setting their sights on Abyan and Shabwa provinces which had been retaken the government troops earlier this week.

“Aden is fine,” STC vice president Hani bin Breik wrote on Twitter on Thursday.

He posted pictures of himself and other southern leaders touring the streets of the city including the airport, while warning fleeing government loyalists of punishment.

Thousands of Security Belt troops, dominated by STC and backed by the UAE, were recalled from several parts of the country, including from Hodeida, to reinforce the STC in Aden.—AFP ■

China to continue actively participating in Iraq's reconstruction: envoy

UNITED NATIONS — A Chinese envoy said Wednesday that China will continue to actively participate in Iraq's reconstruction, while stressing that the international community should fulfill its commit-

ment to provide help for Iraq.

“China will continue to actively participate in Iraq's reconstruction in sectors such as energy and infrastructure, and under the framework of the Belt and Road,” Wu Haitao,

China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, told the Security Council meeting on the situation concerning Iraq.

“To the best of its abilities, China will provide assistance

to Iraq for its economic and social development, and help Iraq achieve peace, stability and development,” said the envoy.

“China supports any and all efforts that help maintain

peace and stability in Iraq and combat terrorism, and supports the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) in actively continuing its work according to its mandate,” he added.—Xinhua



FILE PHOTO : Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte during his State of the Nation on 22 July. PHOTO: AFP

Duterte to raise territorial claims in talks with China: Ambassador

BEIJING — President Rodrigo Duterte will bring up territorial issues in his Beijing meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, the Philippines ambassador said on Thursday, as tensions rise over claims to the South China Sea.

The Filipino leader faces growing pressure at home to confront China over its aggressive approach to upholding its contested territorial claims in the waterway after largely setting aside the standoff for his years in office.

Beijing claims the majority of the sea, often invoking its so-

called nine-dash line to justify its alleged historic rights, but the waters are also contested by Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Brunei.

“The President has made it clear that from his point of view the time has come” to discuss the issue, said Philippine Ambassador Jose Santiago Santa Romana, noting Thursday’s meeting will be the eighth between the two heads of state.

A series of recent confrontations have stoked simmering domestic discontent in the Philippines.—AFP ■

Mine spill turns PNG coastline red

PORT MORESBY — Papua New Guinea officials have sealed off the area around a Chinese-owned nickel plant in the north of the country after the leakage of potentially toxic slurry that has turned the ocean red.

The Mineral Resources Authority said on Thursday it had cordoned off a portion of Basamuk Bay in the north of the country, while emergency tests are carried out to determine the scale of environmental damage.

The water and coastline were dyed ochre red by the slurry, which is said to have overflowed from tanks at the Ramu Nickel refinery for almost an hour. The multibillion facility is run by the state-owned China Metallurgical Group, which mines and processes nickel, a metal widely used in batteries, including in electric

cars. The Mineral Resources Authority said it had moved to “prevent villagers from going near or fishing within the affected area” while investigations “determine the nature of the slurry, including toxicity, pH” and whether heavy elements were discharged.

The incident is believed to have taken place at 4:30 am on Saturday, but was not reported until the afternoon. Officials finally reached the site on Monday and they have now been joined by Mining Minister Johnson Tuke.

The probe will “establish any procedural failures on the part of the operator and necessary remedial measures will be imposed”, the authority said. “In the meantime, we are placing our efforts in safeguarding the local communities as our priority.”—AFP ■

US-Taliban deal ‘close’, insurgents claim

KABUL — The US and the Taliban are “close” to a deal that would see the Pentagon slash troop numbers in Afghanistan, the insurgents said Wednesday, although the US military insisted that the country must not become a sanctuary for extremists.

The foes have been meeting in Doha to put the final touches on a historic deal that would see the Taliban make various security guarantees in return for a sharp reduction in the 13,000 or so US troops based in Afghanistan.

“We are close to an agreement. We hope to bring good news for our Muslim and freedom seeking nation soon,” Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid tweeted.

In Washington, General Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and America’s most senior uniformed officer, sounded a note of caution,

telling reporters he was not yet using the word “withdrawal” to describe the deal.

“I’m using ‘we’re going to make sure that Afghanistan is not a sanctuary, and we’re going to try to have an effort to bring peace and stability to Afghani-

stan,” he said.

Defence Secretary Mark Esper, standing next to Dunford, also said a deal with the Taliban must guarantee that Afghanistan “is no longer a safe haven for terrorists to attack the United States.”—AFP ■



“I’m not using the ‘withdrawal’ word right now,” said General Joseph Dunford, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff (r), with Defence Secretary Mark Esper by his side. PHOTO: AFP

China ‘rotates’ troops in Hong Kong ahead of planned rallies

HONG KONG — China’s military on Thursday said fresh troops had arrived in Hong Kong as part of a routine rotation, as the financial hub prepares for fresh political rallies against Beijing’s tightening grip on the city.

State media published a video of armoured personnel carriers and trucks driving across the Hong Kong border in the border.

“The Hong Kong Garrison of the Chinese People’s Libera-

tion Army on Thursday morning completed the 22nd rotation since it began garrisoning Hong Kong in 1997,” Xinhua news agency reported.

A new mass rally was planned for Saturday.

But Hong Kong police denied permission for the demonstration on security grounds, raising the likelihood of another weekend of clashes between police and protesters.

In a letter to the rally organ-

isers the Civil Human Rights Front (CHRF) on Thursday, police said they feared some participants would commit “violent and destructive acts”.

Protesters have not only carried out “arson and large scale road blockades but also used petrol bombs, steel balls, bricks, long spears, metal poles, as well as various self-made weapons to destroy public property,” the letter said of previous protests.—AFP ■

S Korea top court sends ex-leader Park’s bribery case to lower court



Former South Korean President Park Geun Hye. (File photo) PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

SEOUL — South Korea’s Supreme Court on Thursday nullified a lower court ruling that sentenced former President Park Geun Hye to 25 years in

prison and sent her corruption case back to a lower court.

In sending the case back to the Seoul High Court, the top court found there had been a violation of rules for trying crimes and ordered separate trials on her charges. It did, however, still find the 67-year-old guilty of accepting bribes, determining that she had conspired with a close friend in doing so.

The lower court had found Park guilty of accepting large bribes from multiple conglomerates, such as Samsung Group, in conspiracy with her close friend, Choi Soon Sil, with the appeals court ordering the former leader to pay 20 billion won (\$16.5 million) in penalties.

Park faced bribery and other charges, including accepting a 7 billion won bribe from major conglomerate Lotte Group in conspiracy with Choi.

The former president was also charged with forcing multiple South Korean conglomerates, including Samsung Group, to donate a total of 77.4 billion won to foundations under Choi’s control. In Thursday’s ruling, the Supreme Court also sent back to a lower court a case involving Samsung Group’s de facto leader Jay Y. Lee. He was originally sentenced to five years in prison for bribing Park, but an appeals court had reduced his sentence by half and suspended it for four years.—Kyodo News ■

Myanmar to play friendly match against China today



Myanmar national footballers (red) sing the national anthem during the international friendly match against Chinese Taipei team on 19 March at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE national football teams of Myanmar and China will play a friendly match today in Langfang City, China.

Team Myanmar left for China on 27 August and have undertaken physical exercise and special training under the guidance of head coach Miodrag Radulovic. Twenty-three Myanmar national footballers have been selected for the friendly match.

In their last friendly meeting on 26 May, 2018, China defeated Myanmar by a narrow 1-0 score. The goal was scored by Wu Lei at 41 minutes.

Earlier this year, the international FIFA friendly match between Myanmar and Chinese Taipei on 19 March at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium ended in a

draw. Today's friendly match is part of the preparation for the second round of the World Cup qualifiers for Group F, in which Myanmar will take on Mongolia on 5 September, according to officials from the Myanmar Football Federation.

Myanmar faces tough competition in Group F for advancing to the next stage as the team has been grouped with the world-class Japan team and Asian tiger Krygyzstan. But, there is still hope for Myanmar dominating against other teams in the group — Tajikistan and Mongolia. After today's friendly match against China, team Myanmar will leave for Mongolia for the first match of the World Cup qualifiers, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

'Rough and unpredictable': Djokovic troubled by shoulder at US Open

NEW YORK — Defending US Open champion Novak Djokovic complained of feeling "quite rough and unpredictable" as a nagging shoulder problem hampered him during Wednesday's second-round win over Juan Ignacio Londero.

The world number one received medical treatment to his left shoulder throughout the match on his way to a 6-4, 7-6 (7/3), 6-1 win and said he feared the injury could have forced him to retire. "It was not easy to play with this kind of sensation, to be honest. I did not experience that too many times in my career," Djokovic said. "I had obviously,

you saw, a medical timeout. At changeovers, I tried to use within the rules as much as I can physiotherapy and medical help. That has definitely helped me stay in the match.

"The way it has started for me, especially midway through the first set, I didn't know if I would be able to finish the match."

Djokovic, who is attempting to become the first back-to-back men's champion here since Roger Federer won from 2004-2008, said the problem affected both his serve and backhand. He also revealed it was an issue he has been dealing with for "quite a while".—AFP ■

AFC-level futsal coaching course to be held in Yangon

WITH the intention of improving Myanmar futsal standards and grooming talented Asian Football Confederation-certified futsal coaches, a Level I AFC Futsal Coaching Certificate Course will be conducted from 21 to 26 October in Yangon, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

AFC-level trainers will conduct the course. To be eligible for the course, candidates will have to be between 21 to 35 years old and have at least a high school-level degree, said officials. But, the educational

requirements will be waived for those who have served as national futsal players, according to a statement issued by the federation.

Candidates would also need some futsal skills, proficient in English, and be well-versed in the practical and theoretical aspects of the course.

The candidates will have to be in a perfect health and will be required to attend the course till its conclusion. Priority will be given to current coaches of local futsal clubs, according to the federation.

If government employees wish to apply for the course, they would need recommendations from their respective departments and organizations, it added.

The fees for the course has been set at K50,000 for locals and US\$500 for foreigners, according to the MFF.

Applications for the course need to be submitted by 10 September on the link provided on the Myanmar Football Federation's Facebook page on 29 August.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Lewandowski extends Bayern Munich contract until 2023

BERLIN — Striker Robert Lewandowski has extended his contract at Bayern Munich until 2023, the defending Bundesliga champions announced Thursday.

"FC Bayern is one of the three largest clubs in the world and we have an outstanding team. I am proud to be part of this club," said the 31-year-old, who has scored 207 Bundesliga goals in 292 appearances for Bayern and former club Dortmund.

Lewandowski, reportedly one of Bayern's highest paid stars on 15 million euros (\$16.6m) per season, will be approaching his 35th birthday by the time his

new contract expires in June 2023.

His pre-season demands that Bayern sign more players to strengthen their star-studded squad seem to have been appeased by the arrival of Brazil midfielder Paulino Coutinho from Barcelona and back-up striker Ivan Perisic from Inter Milan.

"FC Bayern has become my sporting home. We also feel very comfortable as a family in Munich," added Lewandowski, whose wife gave birth to a daughter in 2017.

"I am convinced that we will achieve a lot more in the coming

years."

Bayern are delighted to have secured the long-term future of their star striker amid persistent rumours he was being courted by Real Madrid.

"Robert is for me the best centre forwards in the world and for years a supporting pillar of our team," said Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

"We are therefore very happy that he will be playing for FC Bayern for a long time to come".

Lewandowski wrote himself into Bayern folklore by scoring five goals in just nine minutes during a Bundesliga match in 2015.



Lewandowski is one of Bayern's highest paid stars. **PHOTO: AFP**

The Polish hot-shot hinted on Saturday that he was "95 percent" likely to sign an extension after scoring a hat-trick in Bay-

ern's 3-0 win at Schalke, leaving him with five goals in the first two league games so far this season.—AFP ■