

NATIONAL

Vice President U Myint Swe attends Natural Myanmar; National Promotion Conference

PAGE-7

NATIONAL

VP U Henry Van Thio pledges to fight trafficking in persons with public participation

PAGE-7

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 151, 5th Waxing of Tawthalin 1380 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Friday, 14 September 2018

Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues press release on State Counsellor's Viet Nam visit

Following is an unofficial translation of the press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

1. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar arrived back Nay Pyi Taw in the afternoon of 13 September, 2018 (Thursday) after attending the 27th World Economic Forum on ASEAN held in Hanoi, Viet Nam from 11 to 13 September 2018.
2. State Counsellor attended the Opening Session of the 27th World Economic Forum on ASEAN held at the Plenary Hall, National Convention

Center on 12 September 2018, and participated in the discussion on "ASEAN priorities in the age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution", together with Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam, Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of Viet Nam, Heads of State/Heads of Government from ASEAN Member States, business leaders and entrepreneurs.

3. At the Opening Plenary, Professor Klaus Schwab, Executive Chairman, World Economic Forum delivered the opening remarks and Mr. Fabrizio

Hochschild, Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination, United Nations read out the message, sent by Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations. Afterwards, H.E. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of Viet Nam, H.E. Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore and current chair of ASEAN, H.E. Mr. Hu Chunhua, Vice Premier of People's Republic of China and special guest delivered their remarks respectively.

SEE PAGE-3

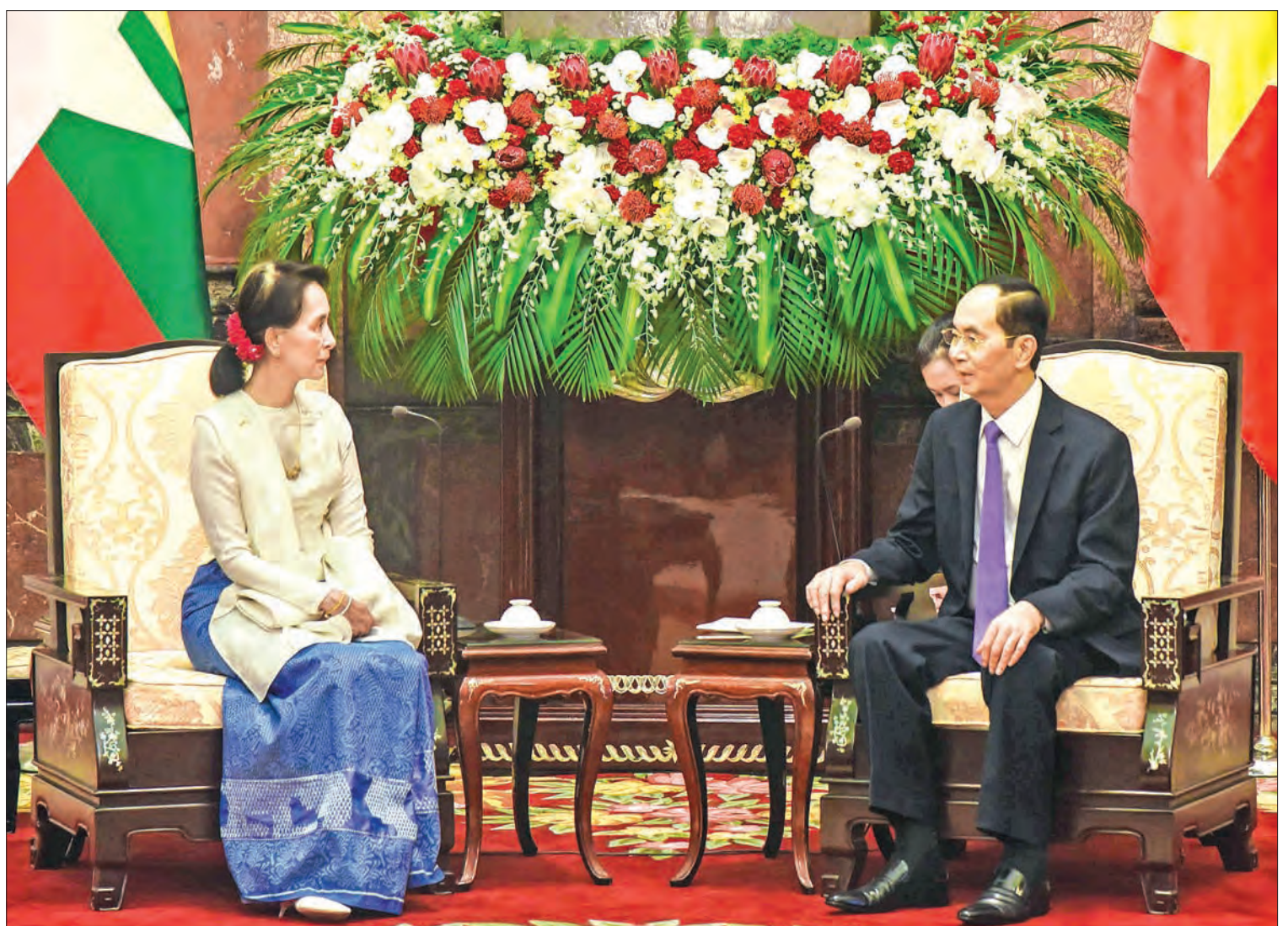
State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets President Mr. Tran Dai Quang of Viet Nam

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who was in Viet met Vietnamese President Mr. Tran Dai Quang at the hall of the presidential palace in Ha Noi at 10:30am local standard time.

At the meeting increasing bilateral relations, cooperation, trade and investment; expanding establishment of sister cities between the two countries; increasing engagement and travel between the people of the two countries and Viet Nam's continued support to Myanmar's efforts for internal peace and national reconciliation were cordially and openly discussed.

Present together with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi were Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Set Aung and Myanmar Ambassador to Viet Nam U Kyaw Soe Win.

The State Counsellor arrived back Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening. —MNA ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, left, talks with President Mr. Tran Dai Quang of Viet Nam in Ha Noi yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's ninth regular session holds 21st-day meeting

The 21st-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's ninth regular session was held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning. At the meeting Union Budget Bill was approved, a report read and Hluttaw representatives discussed Union Tax Bill.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves Union Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2018-2019

At first, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Public Accounts Committee Vice Chairman U Aung Min tabled a motion to approve by paragraph the fiscal year 2018-2019 Union Budget Bill.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat approved the motion after obtaining the comments of the members of the union level organisations on the motion.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker then obtained the decision of the Hluttaw by paragraph the fiscal year 2018-2019 Union Budget Bill and approved it.



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Following this Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win tabled a motion for the Hluttaw to approve the entire Union Budget Bill for fiscal year 2018-2019 as discussed, decided and amended in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's approval of the entire bill after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw.

Following this Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win tabled a motion for the Hluttaw to approve the entire Union Budget Bill for fiscal year 2018-2019 as discussed, decided and amended in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Joint Bill Committee member read report on Forest Bill

Next, Joint Bill Committee member U Kyaw Kyaw read the committee report on its findings and com-

ments on the Forest Bill sent back with comments by the President.

After the report was read and explained, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the bill to register their names.

Hluttaw representatives dis-

cusses 2018-2019 Union Tax Bill

Afterwards 2018-2019 Union Tax Bill was discussed by U Sai Ngaung Sai Hein of Mauk-mai constituency, U Kyaw Ni Naing of Shan State constituency 11, Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency, U Aung Kyaw Oo @ U Kyaw Oo of Mongton constituency, U Kyint Khant Pau of Chin State constituency 6, U Zon Hle Htan of Chin State constituency 4, Dr. Aung Khin of Pyin Oo Lwin constituency, U Tin Aung Tun of Magway Region constituency 5, Daw Wint War Tun of Shadaw constituency, U Myo Win of Mon State constituency 8, U Hla Tun Aung of Mahlaing constituency, U Tin Tun Naing of Seik-kyi-Khanaungto constituency and U Soe Thein @ U Maung Soe of Taninthayi Region constituency 10.

The 22nd-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is scheduled to be held today. — Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker observes capabilities of modern advanced fire-fighting, search & rescue vehicles

CAPABILITIES of modern advanced fire-fighting, search & rescue vehicles bought with loan from Poland was demonstrated in front of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday afternoon.

The demonstration was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, Union Ministers, Depu-

ty Ministers and departmental officials. The usage of modern advanced fire-fighting, search & rescue vehicle, fire-fighting support vehicle, machineries and related equipment were first explained. Afterwards fire brigade personnel demonstrated the search & rescue processes and the vehicles' capabilities.

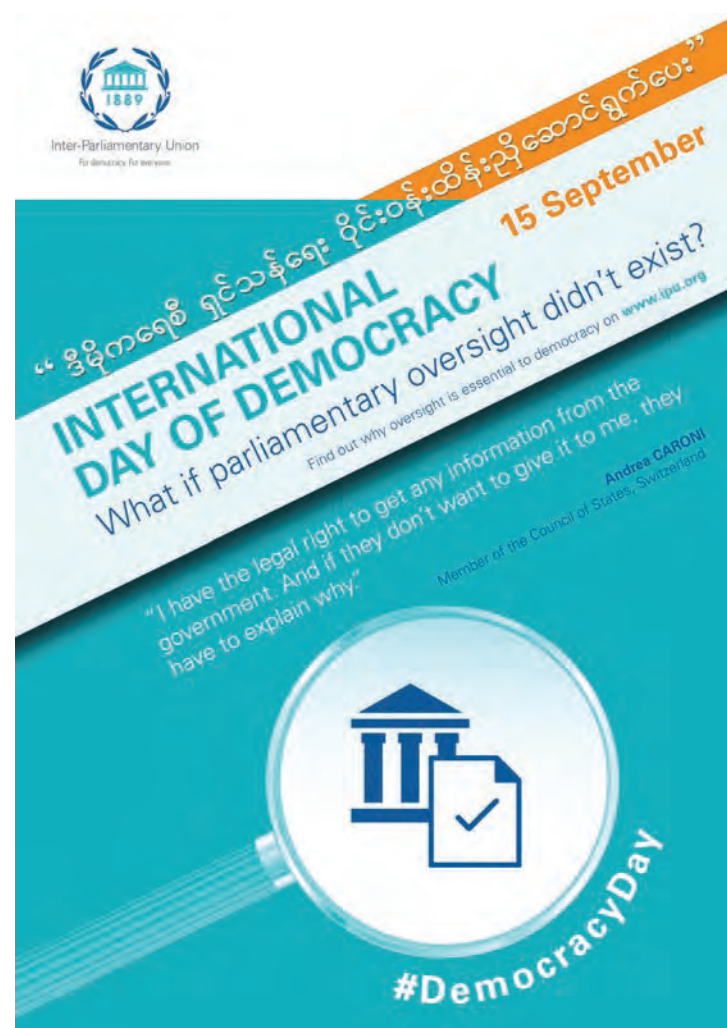
Next, Hluttaw representatives inspected the modern advanced fire-fighting, search & res-

cue vehicle, fire-fighting support vehicle, machineries and related equipment.

A total of 75 modern fire-fighting and search & rescue vehicles brought by Fire Services Department under Ministry of Home Affairs with Poland government backed European Union loan assistance program will be deployed in state/region fire stations and highway fire stations it is learnt.—MNA ■



Firefighter demonstrates the capabilities of the modern advanced fire-fighting vehicle in front of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw building. **PHOTO: MNA**



Trade Mark Ads

Call
Thin Thin May,

09251022355,
09974424848

Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues press release on State Counsellor's Viet Nam visit

FROM PAGE-1

Subsequently, H.E. Mr. Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia, H.E. Mr. Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, H.E. Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Prime Minister of Laos, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of Myanmar and H.E. Prajin Juntong, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand made their remarks on ASEAN priorities in the Era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution,

4. Afterwards, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended the lunch hosted by Mr. Klaus Schwab, Founder of World Economic Forum at the National Convention Center. In the afternoon, State Counsellor received Mr. Taro Kono, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan at Daewoo Hotel and exchanged views on promoting bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Japan, matters relating to the forthcoming Japan-Mekong Summit, extending constructive support to Myanmar's government efforts in resolving the situation in Rakhine State and further strengthening cooperation between Myanmar

and Japan in the international fora including the United Nations.

5. In the afternoon, the State Counsellor, together with Heads of State/ Heads of Government from other (4) Mekong countries attended the Plenary Session entitled "A New Vision for Mekong Region", held at the National Convention Center and exchanged views on enhancing cooperation in the Mekong Region.
6. Afterwards, State Counsellor attended the Gala Dinner and Cultural Soirée, hosted by Viet Nam Prime Minister and spouse at the Banquet Hall, National Convention Center.
7. In the morning of 13 September 2018, State Counsellor participated in the Interactive Panel entitled "A Conversation with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of Myanmar" held at the Plenary Hall, National Convention Center. During the Panel, State Counsellor responded to the questions raised by Mr. Borge Brende, President of World Economic Forum on the issues of Myanmar's

democratic transition, Peace Process and National Reconciliation, the situation in Rakhine State, Foreign Direct Investment in Myanmar. Then, State Counsellor met with Mr. Klaus Schwab, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of World Economic Forum at the Chairman's Office, National Convention Center.

8. Afterwards, State Counsellor met with H.E. Tran Dai Quang, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and at Presidential Palace and exchanged the views on enhancing relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Vietnam, promoting trade and investment, establishing sister cities, increasing people-to-people exchanges, Viet Nam's support to Myanmar's peace and national reconciliation efforts, exchange of bilateral visits of Heads of States between the two countries.
9. In the afternoon of 13 September 2018, State Counsellor left Hanoi to Nay Pyi Taw by special aircraft and arrived back Nay Pyi Taw. ■

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

"A Conversation with State Counsellor" held in Ha Noi

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi gave talks on democratic transition, efforts for economic development and Rakhine issue in Myanmar in Ha Noi yesterday at the "A Conversation with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of Myanmar".

The event took place at the National Convention Centre in Ha Noi at 8.30 am local time.

Following the event, the State Counsellor met with Professor Klaus Schwab, Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, in the same building.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed about how the WEF could help Myanmar and efforts in the country to overcome current challenges. Also present at the meeting were Union Ministers U Thaung Tun and U Kyaw Tin and Deputy Minister U Set Aung.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for the documentary photo together with members of the Myanmar delegation in Ha Noi, Viet Nam yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

After the meeting, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had documentary photos taken together with Myanmar entrepreneurs and members of the Myanmar delegation.

Afterwards, the delegation led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi left for Myanmar at 4:30 pm local

time. The delegation was seen off at the Noi Bai International Airport by Mr. Chu Ngoc Anh, the Vietnamese Minister for Science and Technology, U Kyaw Soe Win, Myanmar Ambassador to Viet Nam and his wife, Brig-Gen Aung Zeya, Military Attaché of Myanmar to Viet Nam, embassy staff and officials. The delegation arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw at 6 pm and they were welcomed at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister of the Office of the State Counsellor, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung and his wife, U Min Thu, Deputy Minister for the Office of the President, Chief of the Myanmar Police Force Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo and officials and First Secretary of the Embassy of Viet Nam in Myanmar.—MNA■



TRÉSOR
COLLECTION

Ω
OMEGA

OMEGA Boutique:
Sule Square, Sule Shangri-La Hotel
Yangon Tel: + 95 9765117001

AVAILABLE AT:
Swiss Time Square
No.99, KaBarAye Pagoda Road
Yangon Tel: +95 1 540189

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

DEPUTY CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSZaw Min,
zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com
Win Ko Ko Aung,
kowink2aung@gmail.com**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**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**May Thet Hnin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
mayreporter.mm@gmail.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe**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.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

gnlmdaily@gmail.com

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/TheGNLM

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Write for usWe appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

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.

Five law officers, one police brought to court for corruption in comedian's murder case

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has filed cases against the advocate-general of Yangon Region, a judge, three law officers and a police officer for accepting bribes to drop the case against the suspects in the murder of Comedian Aung Ye Htwe.

The Anti-Corruption Commission said they took bribes

from U Khin Maung Lay, father of suspect Than Htut Aung, in exchange for their roles in dropping the case.

The Anti-Corruption Commission has filed the cases against Yangon Region Advocate General U Han Htoo; Deputy district Judge U Aung Kyi from the Yangon Eastern

District Court; Yangon Region law officer U Thein Zaw; Yangon Eastern District law officer U Ko Ko Lay; Yangon Eastern District deputy law officer Daw Thit Thit Khin; and Police-Lt Chit Ko Ko at Thuwanna Police Station.

The Anti-Corruption Commission said the advocate-general approved a request from

the victim's family to drop the case without conducting careful assessments. The law officers allegedly fabricated the murder case so that it would be viewed as lacking enough evidence to pursue further investigation, while Police-Lt Chit Ko Ko is charged with failing to fully investigate the case. —MNA ■

2nd Myanmar-German renewable energies symposium held

By May Thet Hnin

THE 2nd Myanmar-German renewable energies symposium was held at Rose Garden Hotel, Yangon, yesterday.

The symposium was organised by the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Myanmar (AHK) jointly with "the Energy Solutions made in Germany" initiative of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi), and with support from the Berlin-based Renewables Academy AG (RENAC).

The event was attended by local and foreign entrepreneurs, including representatives from eight German public and private companies from renewable energy sector.

This year, the symposium was dedicated to renewable energy powering Myanmar's industrial growth with a special focus on energy obtained from photovoltaic cell and biomass.



Mr. Martin Klose delivers the speech at the 2nd Myanmar-German renewable energies symposium in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

At the ceremony, German businesses discussed under the titles, "industrial growth with clean energy" and "innovative models for green business growth", while local and foreign businesses and officials from private renewable energy sector conducted panel discussions under the topics "solar power for Myanmar's industry, an underutilized resource in Myanmar's energy mix" and "stepping forward together for green industrial growth."

Mr. Martin Klose, Delegate,

Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Myanmar told of his belief that Myanmar renewable energy sector will significantly develop in the future. When Myanmar starts to implement that sector, the initial investment will be high. However, after ten years, it will be less expensive than producing electricity in a different way. By linking up with German companies and obtaining their experiences and technologies in this symposium, difficulties can be overcome and the government of Germany will

put special emphasis toward assisting the development of renewable energy sector in Myanmar, said Mr. Martin Klose.

The renewable energies symposium was held in Myanmar last year, and will be in the coming year, German government is planning to invite Myanmar companies to Germany and hold a symposium in Germany, it is learnt.

The Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Myanmar had opened an office in Myanmar for four years now for increasing bilateral economic cooperation, and during the past two years, there were significant progresses. Bilateral trade has increased by over 30 percent and German investments had also entered into Myanmar. AHK will continue to establish contacts in order to increase investments, he added.

The first symposium was held in October 2017 with more than a hundred participants from Myanmar and German public and private energy sector. ■

SEAPJ festival invites video contestants

THE second Southeast Asia Prix Jeunesse Video Festival (SEAPJ) will be held in November in Manila, the Philippines. Video makers from Myanmar are invited to take part in the SEAPJ video competition.

In the competition, there are three categories, professionals, amateurs (18 years old and above), and children and youths (12 years old and under, 13-15 years old and 16-18 years old). The title of the competition is "Everyday Heroes." Application forms for the competition are available at Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) on Pyay Road,

Yangon, and MRTV (Tatkone, Nay Pyi Taw). Forms can be obtained by e-mailing the competition organizing committee at seapjmyanmar@gmail.com.

Submission of entries and video clips must be sent not later than 15 October to the offices of MRTV (Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw) in person or at seapjmyanmar@gmail.com by email. Detailed information for the competition can be seen at www.seaprixjeunesse.com and www.facebook.com/seapjmyanmar, and can also be inquired by phone at 067- 79393 and seapjmyanmar@gmail.com. — MNA ■

Yangon Int'l Airport implements ACI's Apex programme

YANGON International Airport (YIA) hosted Airports Council International (ACI)'s Apex programme for a thorough airport safety assessment to its operations, aerodrome infrastructure, rescue and firefighting service and safety management system, from 3 to 7 September at the airport.

Yangon Aerodrome Company Limited (YACL), the operator of YIA, requested the international survey team to identify and propose required actions to meet international safety standards, enhancing its services and systemic safety awareness at the airport, based on its current and future requirements.

The Apex team comprises

international aviation professionals, such as airport safety, maintenance and regulator experts from ACI in Montreal (Canada), together with Bangalore International Airport, Delhi International Airport Ltd. (India), Airports of Mauritius Co. Ltd. and San Antonio International Airport (Texas-USA). YACL was recognised with a Commitment Declaration for compliance with ACI that covered all applicable international safety standards, adhering to one of the most renowned and recognized airport operations management programmes (APEX), aiming for a superior level of safety and airport service provision. —GNLM ■

Investments drop over past five months against last FY

By Nyein Nyein

LOCAL and foreign investments over past five months of current mini-budget period (from April to September) show a sharp drop compared to similar period of last fiscal year 2017-2018, according to data released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The sectors which attract domestic investments are hotel and tourism, manufacturing, transport and communications, real estate development, livestock and fisheries, construction, industrial estate, other services, mining, agriculture and power sectors. Between 1 April and 7 September of mini-budget period, 82 domestic enterprises were approved, with total invest-

ments, including expansion of investments, exceeding Ks968.86 billion. In the similar period of last FY, 51 domestic projects were approved by MIC, with a capital of Ks1,472 billion.

Meanwhile, 75 foreign enterprises brought in a capital of US\$1.43 billion. Last FY, 132 enterprises with a capital of \$4.1 billion received permits and endorsements.

Foreign investments flow into other services, real estate, manufacturing, transport and communications, agriculture, livestock and fisheries, mining, power, oil and gas, construction, hotels and tourism and industrial estate sectors.

Only \$1.4 billion of foreign direct investments were brought into the country in the past five months, in spite of the fact that



File photo shows an aerial view of Yangon's developing real estate, which draws in a considerable amount of investment from its citizens. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) targetted \$3 billion of FDI. MIC targets to attain \$5.8 billion of FDI for next fiscal year 2018-2019, said U Than Aung Kyaw, Deputy Director General of the DICA. The northern Rakhine State issue and instability of

the dollar exchange rate, resulting from escalating trade war between the US and China, affected the foreign investment. However, it didn't make any difference with investors from Asian countries, he added.

Of the 49 countries investing

in Myanmar, China tops the list with the largest foreign investment, followed by Singapore and Thailand.

FDI registered at \$5.7 billion in FY 2017-2018, \$6.6 billion in FY 2016-2017 and \$9.4 billion in FY 2015-2016 respectively. ■

Fish breeders unhappy with high price of aquafeed raw materials

By May Thet Hnin

FISH breeders are struggling with soaring prices of raw materials used in aquafeed production.

"Locally-produced feed stuff price keeps rising and it seems it would not come down. Prices of imported soy bean and other goods are also on the high side, while the US dollar is gaining in local currency market. Fish suppliers do not earn a great profit on account of high price of raw feed stuff. This being so, the number of fish and prawn breeders have decreased. They are struggling to survive in this business when feed price keeps soaring", said U Zaw Lin from Myanmar Fish Entrepreneurs Association.

The prices of primary raw materials used in aquafeed, such as broken rice, corn and bran hit a three-year record high. Last year, a viss (3.6 lb) of bran fetched only Ks350. The price has reached up to nearly

Ks600 per viss. Meanwhile, the price of corn also increased from Ks410 to above Ks650. The price of broken rice is also up from Ks420 to Ks590. Fish meal also fetches Ks2,500. Therefore, most of the traders cannot afford to purchase them.

Besides, there is a shortage of aquafeed raw materials in the market, along with high price of aquafeed.

In order to produce a viss of fish, it costs over Ks2,000 for aqua feed. There is no equilibrium between market price and input cost, traders criticized.

"Corn export to China also harms this industry. Chinese merchants are preparing to buy corn from Upper Myanmar which will be harvested in October, November and December. Those buyers have even started to offer prices", said Dr. Thet Hmu, chair of Myanmar Aquafeed Association.

Aquafeed is worth 75

per cent of fish and shrimp production cost. The entire livestock sector is affected from high price of feed stuff. It might even harm export and local consumption in the long term.

Myanmar's livestock feed mainly depends on agriculture by-products, such as broken rice, bran, sesame oil cake, bean oil cake and corn. Broken rice is shipped to foreign countries. Raw beans are exported and the number of oil millers are remarkably declining. Corn is also purchased by China. At present, breeders are bitterly battered by high price and shortage of aquafeed.

The demand on imported aquafeed pellets are on a sharp drop due to the US dollar exchange rate appreciating.

Myanmar's fish industry primarily breeds carp, rohu and catla. Striped catfish also has a potential for export market, prompting breeders to farm them. ■

Regional trade valued \$4.2 billion from April to July

THE value of Myanmar's regional trade with ASEAN countries through sea route and border gates is estimated at US\$4.2 billion in the first four months of the current mini-budget period (from April to September), according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Imports in regional trade surpassed exports, with exports worth over \$1.3 million and imports valued \$2.8 billion.

Since April, Thailand was ranked first among ASEAN countries for having the largest trade value of \$1.77 billion with Myanmar, followed by Singapore in second place with \$1.3 billion. Malaysia was listed third with a trade value of \$488.8 million, while Indonesia stood fourth with an estimated value of \$331

million. Myanmar's trade with Viet Nam reached \$274.4 million.

The value of bilateral trade with the Philippines was \$22 million. Bilateral trade with Cambodia reached \$4.4 million, while Laos and Brunei's trade with Myanmar were worth less than \$1 million.

The country's main export items are agricultural and fishery products, and minerals, while imports included food and beverages, electronic tools, motor vehicles and consumer goods. Apart from its main trade partner China, Myanmar's external trade was carried out mostly with its regional partners. Trade with countries in the European Union, however, remained uncompetitive, compared with regional trade partners. — GNLM ■

Trade Mark Ads

Call
Thin Thin May,

09251022355,
09974424848

Myanmar Farmer's Development Party presents policy, stance and work program



U Kyaw Swa Soe, Chairman of Myanmar Farmer's Development Party.

CHAIRMAN U Kyaw Swa Soe of Myanmar Farmer's Development Party presented the party's policy, stance and work program on radio and television on 13 September.

Following is a translation of the presentation:

Respected and esteemed people,

I am Chairman U Kyaw Swa Soe of the Myanmar Farmer's Development Party.

I will compete on behalf of the Myanmar Farmer's Development Party in the polls for Oktwin Township, Bago Region, in the coming by-election.

A total of 70 percent of population are farmers in our country. All the peasants and farmers constitute a majority, but they are mostly poor. Our motherland is an agricultural country. Since many centuries back, Bamar cultivators have been poor, and all other national races, such as Kachin, Shan, Mon, Kayah and Rakhine are also underprivileged.

As they are poor, they are marginalized. Due to lack of and weak in literary knowledge, they are being undermined. Despite the fact that they are being neglected, these people have been toiling in the muddy fields cultivating edible crops for the whole country to consume. A time has come to recognize and appreciate their identity by the entire people in the country.

They are constantly cultivating crops such as paddy, beans, corn and sesame. However, they sometimes encounter heavy losses due to misfortunes, such as that of irregular weather, lack of foreign crop market, heavy flooding, not having a single drop of rain but drought. No matter how hard and difficult, they endured and worked hard in the cultivation to feed the country. Indeed, they are amazing and wonderful people.

Some of the educated persons in the country with medical or engineering degrees never

engage themselves in the health or construction sector, but divert their careers by turning into shop owners at the popular Mingalar market, working as estate brokers, car dealers and some migrated to other countries and work there just for their benefit and advantage.

The poor peasants and farmers know the situation very well as they are not naïve and inexperienced. They love their country very much, and therefore, they toiled as cultivators their whole life as they valued the livelihood, whether they are at a loss or in heavy debt. As they work very hard in the cultivation of crops and animal breeding, we need to appreciate their humanity and acknowledge the existence of farmers.

Our Myanmar Farmer's Development Party is a poor party. The majority of the people are poor. There is no reason that they deserve to be poor. It was due to the negligence of successive governments that farmers have fallen into poverty. Workers are over burdened with debts, while working. Our people are not just sleeping without engaging in jobs. They became broke, while working. Believe me. Myanmar people are neither lazy nor sluggish.

This is a time the nation should take care of the farmers. If the government failed to care for the farmers, we may even have to import flowers from abroad to offer Buddha statues. We must assist farmers to get more income not only from cultivation, but also from animal breeding.

With a view to submit and hear about the genuine life and ground reality of farmers and their difficulties and crisis inside the parliament, we need to select and vote for farmers representatives as lawmakers.

Politics means scientific application and pragmatic approach. Therefore, the subject, "Political Science", has emerged in the educational sphere. The

representatives of farmers must never be disheartened. Politics is really practical, and all the words and suggestions of the generals, physicians, engineers, scholars, workers, farmers, artists, and basic workers are taken and mixed together to find necessary solutions, and it is called political science. One must believe that it is really practical and get answers and solutions out of it.

Therefore, it is necessary to believe that the peasants and farmers of the country are the main force of the country.

I would like to request the esteemed people to think of the past, that at the grass roots level of villages and wards, we were all together in all sorts of tasks, such as seeking donations and going on pilgrimage trips. Now, even the same villagers from the same village are wearing different badges and having varied attitudes. When badges are different, the mentality and attitudes become different. People are voting with a blind eye so that their own side would win, resulting in the loss of justice and righteousness. It is not important to look at badges and logos and symbols, but to choose who would really work and take care of the interests of the ward, village and township, and we should vote such a representative.

We need to equip ourselves in the nation to have the culture of responsibility and accountability. It is very much vital and important for the ruling class as well as the people. Ruling organizations must have discipline and regulations.

Candidly speaking, our country is full of unruly and undisciplined persons. We can witness such acts that of littering anywhere, that of spitting of betel quid and nuts, using abusive language on Facebook accessed through the mobile device, reckless driving of cars on all roads.

If we look into the matter, we can assess and evaluate two versions.

- (1) Are such people hindering the development of the country?
- (2) Is the lagging-behind situation of the country producing such people?

If the country does not develop due to these people, then the duty and responsibility are on the people. If the lagging-behind situation of the country produces such people, then the duty and responsibility are on the successive governments.

I firmly believe that it is the duty and responsibility of successive governments. It is because the people have no power to control and manage the gov-



Party logo.

ernments. The government has been formed and constituted to manage and guide the people. Therefore, we are in need of lawmakers in the parliament to guide the people, to make the people happy, to train the people for discipline, and to elevate the pride of the country.

They are the managers and caretakers of the country. They are not slaves. If some persons wanted themselves to be termed as slaves and act like slaves, then it is not the place for them, and that I wanted to make this clear.

It is a time when there is a huge and massive particular class in the country that may only understand the situation when they are told directly, in a blunt and candid way.

When I was on a trip on a polling campaign, I delivered an address from the stage telling the farmers to work very hard if they wanted to be free from the cycle of poverty. The attending farmers and peasants remained in total silent without a move.

Then I changed my words by saying that if our farmers' party wins in the general election, then the peasants and farmers do not need to toil hard as foreign assistance is coming to make them rich without much sweat. They applauded me with great enthusiasm.

If we look into this occurrence, we may have noticed that our country has enormous number of citizens that wanted to be rich by doing nothing, and on the other hand the power seekers with a lot of empty promises. This scenario could result in chaos and havoc. What I would like to suggest the esteemed people is that to choose the right persons with good management to govern us. Never do this lightly. Think seriously.

Prepare yourself as knowledgeable persons and be responsible. If one has no wisdom, then one may choose a worthless person. If one is wise, then he or she might select a good representative. It is to remember that one may get what one actually deserves.

People in our nation have taken interest in politics. They take interest in politics because they are worried over food, clothing and shelter. It may not be wrong to say that people are born

in this world to exist in peace and tranquillity with adequate food, clothing and shelter, and pass the time. The main theme is sufficient food, clothing and shelter. The candidates that you are going to vote as lawmakers have the responsibility to undertake the task for adequate food, clothing and shelter, in a peaceful environment.

No matter whatever candidate that you have voted from any party, remember that you need to choose a person who has wisdom and work for the development of the town, locality and region. If you voted with incorrect perception over an individualized party and person, then things might go wrong and the whole township would suffer.

Our main objective and policy in the forefront of Myanmar Farmer's Development Party is to serve the people and make them comfortable in their daily needs of food, clothing and shelter. As the second priority, we have decided to make the country prosper through discipline. A nation, prevailing in peace and tranquillity, is very much vital. In the absence of peace, the people would be in distress and misery.

As always, I asked my representatives of our party and the persons in the leadership role to give utmost priority on the matters of the people rather than the party. At all times, I remind them that if we pay priority to the people's needs, then the people will surely rely and depend with full trust to the party.

On all occasions, I asked the leaders of the party to abide by the following:

- Never to favour the sister-in-law or co-sister-in-law than one's own wife.
- You got the sister-in-law or co-sister-in-law because you have a wife.
- When there are people, the party comes to existence.
- Never to favor the party but the people.
- If you favor the sister-in-law or co-sister-in-law, then you are sure to be blamed and cursed.
- If you favor the party more than the people, then you are done.

With these words, I conclude my presentation.

Translated by UMT (HK)

Vice President U Myint Swe delivers speech at Natural Myanmar, National Promotion Conference

VICE President U Myint Swe attended and addressed the opening ceremony of Natural Myanmar; National Promotion Conference held at 15th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) in the Nanning International Convention and Exhibition Center yesterday morning. The ceremony started off with an entertainment by the Myanmar traditional cultural dance troupe.

In his address, Vice President U Myint Swe first thanked the government of People's Republic of China, government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and CAEXPO secretariat for the help provided towards holding the Natural Myanmar; National Promotion Conference at the 15th CAEXPO.

The conference is held by Myanmar Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar Trade Promotion group and Myanmar chambers of commerce and business owners will participate. Digital economy/e-commerce sector, gem sector, pulses & bean sector, coffee & tea sector and fruit sector will be discussed by Myanmar business owners. Myanmar is producing and exporting to China natural fruits and agriculture products that China likes and are in high demand. As the day's discussion will be on opportunities for cooperation among businesses, it will support Myanmar-China trade



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the address at the opening ceremony of Natural Myanmar; National Promotion Conference at 15th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) in Nanning, China yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

development.

In addition to this, agreements on cooperation in technical and market promotion with China for development of Myanmar gem sector, vocational training and cooperation will be signed by relevant organizations from China and Myanmar. It is a happy and honorable moment because this new step in the bilateral relations of the two countries coincided with the 15th anniversary of China-ASEAN relationship.

Myanmar and China are neighboring countries sharing more than 2,000 kilometers of border and had a long history of relationship in trade, economic and cultural sectors. Pauk phaw relations as existed among rela-

tives was established. Trade volume can be seen as rising yearly. According to the records, it was US\$ 9.7 billion in 2014-2015, US\$ 10.99 billion in 2015-2016, US\$ 10.8 billion in 2016-2017 and US\$11.78 billion in 2017-2018. China is the major trading partner of Myanmar and is also at the forefront in investing in Myanmar. As a new Myanmar Investment Law and company law was enacted, there will be more opportunities for businesses and investment.

For the sustained development of the economy of Myanmar, the Myanmar government is relaxing trade and investment (barriers) as well as conducting reforms in private sector development.

Myanmar is also estab-

lishing work committees to implement the Myanmar-China bilateral economic cooperation according to the guidance and instruction of the leaders of the two countries. Cooperation in programs such as Myanmar-China Economic Corridor, Myanmar-China border economic cooperation zone, Kyaukphyu deep sea port and special economic zone and Mekong-Lancang cooperation based on President Mr. Xi Jin Ping's Belt and Road Initiative and international cooperation work process are being conducted.

This conference will increase friendship and cooperation between merchants and business owners of the Myanmar and China. The conference is

also important for increasing trade between the two countries. In his address, the Vice President specifically emphasized on establishing friendship between merchants and businesses of the two countries, strive toward resolving together the difficulties and obstacles that can occur when increasing bilateral trade, and urged to increase cooperation by sharing market requirements and information. The Vice President added that Myanmar government would help and assist in this and spoke of achieving good outcomes for increasing bilateral trade and technical cooperation between the two countries from this conference.

SEE PAGE-11

Vice President U Henry Van Thio pledges to fight trafficking in persons with public participation

AN event marking the Sixth Anti-Trafficking In Persons Day of Myanmar was held at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, where Vice President U Henry Van Thio called for public participation in combating the trafficking in persons as the country is overwhelmed by grievances caused by the crime.

In his opening speech, the Vice President said the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that 20.9 million people are forced to provide labour every year all over the world. The 2016 announcement by United Nations Office for Drug and Crimes (UNODC) says that cases of trafficking in

persons taking place all over the world brings in US Dollar 150 billion in profit every year, and out of these cases, 54% constitute sexual exploitation, 38% forced labour and 8% other forms of trafficking.

It also says that trafficking in persons where body organs are removed and sold off happen in 16 of the world's countries. An analysis of trafficking in person cases reveals that 51% of the people involved in the cases are women, 20% girls, 8% boys and 21% men.

The Vice President said that according to the global report released on 19 July, 2018, it is found that Myanmar ranks the

eighteenth in position among 167 countries; 575,000 people, which are approximately equivalent to 10% of the country's population are living under modern slavery. The lists of types of modern slavery identified by the report include, apart from normal slavery, human smuggling, forced labour, slaves purchased with money, forced marriage and having the under-aged do work and selling them.

Like other developing countries of the world in Myanmar, due to such factors causing vulnerability to people as scarce job opportunities, low income and outbreak of natural disaster and flare-up of armed conflicts, traf-

ficking in persons continue to happen, said the Vice President.

When trafficking cases in Myanmar are studied, it will be found that they are taking place in relation to and connection with market demands in countries inclusive of our neighbours. According to the 2017 data, it is found that in 73.34% of the cases people were trafficked into China, in 4.37%, they were trafficked into Thailand and in 0.29%, they were trafficked into Malaysia, 21.28% of the cases took place in the domicile. It is found that a majority of women who illegally migrate to neighbouring countries for jobs fall prey to the trafficking form of forced marriage. As a signifi-

cant development in 2018, a new form of trafficking cases which is surrogacy pregnancy was exposed and action has been taken against such cases. In domestic trafficking cases, prostitution and labour exploitation are taking place in the main.

The Vice President said circumstances of trafficking cases in Myanmar show that forced labour, forced marriage, sexual exploitation, forced adoption and debt-bondage are taking place. According to the 2017 data, forced marriages constitute 60.1%, forced prostitution 17.2%, forced labour 20.9%, child trafficking 0.8% and debt-bondage 1%.

SEE PAGE-11

Myanmar's potential for Digitalization

MYANMAR has lived five lost decades and lagged behind its neighbours in the level of economic development. It was only in 2011 that Myanmar has started liberalizing its economic sectors including telecommunications.

The Telecoms Law was enacted in 2013 and the liberalization of the telecoms sector lifted up Myanmar's potential of digitalization resulting in bringing down the price of mobile SIM card cost from US\$1500 from prior to 2013 to less than US\$ 1.5 today.

As a late comer, Myanmar enjoyed the advantage of leap-frogging from line phone to 4 G network. Myanmar's telecoms sector has grown so fast that mobile phone penetration rose to 105 percent today from less than one percent. Smart phone penetration reached 80 percent. Myanmar has shown itself to be among the countries with the fastest mobile broadband today.

Myanmar has thus rapidly become a country with the highest

potential to transform into a digital economy. This is one of the areas for potential foreign investments in helping us in adopting digital solutions to our challenges in various sectors such as education, health, tourism agriculture and financial services.

We have made significant achievements in the use of digital technology in promoting market access, strengthening the birth registration and electronic company registration.

We have adopted a people-centered 12-point Economic Policy in August 2016 with the aims to attract sustainable investment, increase employment and skills while raising competition. The Government supports the development of creative industries, encouraging entrepreneurship, innovation, and research and development (R&D). The Digital Economy Development Committee (DEDC) was established to facilitate Myanmar's digital transformation and to set up goals to be achieved by 2020. We are now in the process of drafting a Digital Economy Development Plan.

Only 30% of the population is able to access mobile banking. The digital format financial service that supports ecosystem, digital eco-system format is necessary to promote and encourage among the citizens. Myanmar is also striving to have higher readiness for financial inclusion infrastructure.

We are encouraged by the potential of our younger generations who are willing to learn and are immensely teachable. The team of Myanmar students came out sixth, first among the Asian countries at the First Global Challenge Robotic Competition held in Washington DC last year. 163 entrants from 157 countries competed.

That is an indicator of our potential, of how we shall find the resources to overcome the challenges of our transition. We need to make more investments in education for our youth to adapt to the changing world. Our education and vocational training systems must be adapted to better prepare people for critical thinking skills they will need in the future. We need to adjust the courses and education curriculum to keep up with the challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Business talk on mining sector

Q : Today's our business talk, we are going to present on mining and jewellery sectors. First, mining sector plays a pivotal role in the country's economic development, and it was learnt that rules are by-laws very important to manage the mining industry. As a director general of the Mining Department, could you explain about Myanmar Mines Law so that the people and investors can be able to fully understand it?

U Khin Latt Gyi : As you also know that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation assists the country in improving economic growth, and our country is rich in mineral resources. In the process of economic development of the nation, good management is of great importance. The government has enacted the new Myanmar Mining Law in December 2015 after amending Myanmar's 1994 Mines Law, aiming to bring into force the new law and encourage increased foreign investment. Formerly mining sector had been supervised by the Union Government.

Under the new Mining Rule, regional and state government will also be given the authority to oversee small-scale mining blocks. But the regional and state governments will supervise the large-scale mining sectors. According to the section 11 (a) of Myanmar Mine law, the investor who got permission can carry out the mining production in accordance with the prescribed laws. Later many local investors are getting more interested in mining sector that can help the development of mining industry.

Q : Can I ask you some questions concerning challenges of mining industry? And what would you reply if you can find some restrictions and weakness are as an investor?

U Tun Lin Shein : As Director-General said, it was found that there are many local and foreign investors who became interested in mining sectors. The strength of the new law is that opportunities are given to change one permit to another because there are many types of different business permits such as



U Khin Latt Gyi



Dr Ye Myint Swe



U Tun Lin Shein

By Shin Min

A roundtable business discussion on mining sector was held at MRTV in Nay Pyi Taw recently, during which matters relating to challenges and opportunities of the mining sector were discussed by U Khin Latt Gyi, Director General of the Department of Mines under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Dr. Ye Myint Swe, Director General of Department of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration, and U Tun Lin Shein, Chairman of International Inventors for Mineral Development Association

small, medium and large permits. The good points of investors can be able to make joint ventures and partnering with foreigner investors. Another point is that permit may be legally transferred from one owner to another. Compared to former by-laws, we can see that there is some strength that can assist in doing an investment with a streamline process.

Q : How would you manage to prevent delayed measurements as of the Ministry?

U Khin Latt Gyi : This is such a good question, and many investors also ask similar questions by telephone or in person. It was found that the business

permits can be able to change into medium type in accordance with the new law.

U Tun Lin Shein : Yes, it is. The process becomes smoother and permissions are being granted to extend the work permits that can avoid some undesirable problems. Regarding the report submission, is there any guarantees for the investors to get production or digging permits?

U Khin Latt Gyi : When we discuss on new laws, the investors have to carry out the process according to the procedures of the relevant ministry. In doing so, we shall grant permission if they meet the requirement of the law that was prescribed in section 10 (a).

Q : What I would like to ask to DG is that what are correlation between mining sector and socio-economic development?

Dr. Ye Myint Swe : Mineral products are essential things for our utensils, machinery tools, buildings and bridges. The exploitation of natural resources is the use of natural resources for economic growth of the country. Increase in the sophistication of technology enabling natural resources to be extracted quickly and efficiently in the future. Every segment of society uses minerals and mineral resources every day, thus it is associated with our society and socio-economic life of the people. Mineral deposits are keys to society's development, therefore we need to reconcile mining activity with environmental protection and ensure future availability. Despite, and because of, all the technological progress,

mankind is as much as ever dependent on the steady availability of a wide range of natural resources such as air, biological resources, energy, land, minerals, and soils. Minerals can be found throughout the world in the earth's crust but usually in such small amounts that they not worth extracting. Only with the help of certain geological processes are minerals concentrated into economically viable deposits. Mineral deposits can only be extracted where they are found. We need to take into consideration of the mineral resource classification such as shape, size and volume so that it can be extracted with a smaller environmental impact. Generally speaking, there we can see many challenges and opportunities in the countries that rich in natural and mineral resources. If we can able to manage to exploit the mineral resources with effective and systematic methods, it can bring out the socio-economic development of the country. Or else, if we cannot be able to manage efficiently, there will come many consequences such as economic instability, social conflicts and later environmental deterioration that are needed to be careful. Mineral deposits are to be exploited as fuel energy, industry and utensils to use in our daily life. The profits and taxes derived from the mineral resources can alleviate the poverty of the ordinary class of people. Mineral deposits are vital to the development of both rich and poor countries alike.

Translated by
Win Ko Ko Aung



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 13th September 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal. **SPECIAL FEATURES:** According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, the tropical depression over the Gulf of Tonkin is crossing over North Viet Nam Coast.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 14 September 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions and Kayah State, Scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, fairly widespread in Shan, Chin and Kayah states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (100%). **STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3 - 6) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

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

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 September 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 September 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR Mandalay and NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 September 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Flood Bulletin (Issued at 14:00 hrs MST on 13-9-2018)

Flood condition of Sittoung River

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River has exceeded by about (1) foot at Madauk above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (3) days.

Flood condition of Thanlwin River

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River has exceeded by about (1½) feet at Hpa-an above its danger level. It may fall about (1) foot from the present water level during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

It is especially advised that people who have settled near the river banks and low lying areas in Hpa-an Township, to take precautionary measures.

Senior General visits Taunggyi hospital, Hopong school

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing travelled to Taunggyi City's Tatmadaw Hospital yesterday and met with officers and their families, veterans and local residents seeking medical care, and gave them words of encouragement.

Firstly, the Senior General entered the male medical ward and individually asked the officers, veterans and local residents about their medical conditions, giving them encouragement and donations of food.

Similarly, the Senior General's wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla visited the female medical ward and individually asked the family of officers, local residents and pregnant mothers seeking medical care and gave them encouragement and donations of food.

The Senior General then toured and inspected the hospital.

Next, the Senior General



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing encourages Tatmadaw member receiving treatment at the Defence Services Hospital in Taunggyi. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

and his entourage travelled to the Tatmadaw Computer and Technological Science School in

Hopong Station area, where the principal gave a presentation in the meeting hall about the cours-

es taught there.

The Senior General gave instructions to the school to

properly teach and raise skilled and qualified sergeants for the army, navy and air forces of the Tatmadaw. He said the school needs to properly enforce discipline as they instruct in the fields of military strategy, literature and engineering.

Afterwards, the Senior General and his entourage toured the school's exhibition rooms and observed the trainees in their classes, while giving necessary instructions to the officials concerned.

The Senior General and his entourage toured the exhibitions of the mechanical engineering department, electronics engineering department, chemical engineering department, computer engineering department, metallurgical engineering, industrial engineering, civil engineering, and electrical engineering, according to the news release of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief. —MNA ■

Norwegian vessel docks in Yangon, probes fish life, marine eco system data in Myanmar waters

THE Norwegian research vessel RV-Dr Fridtjof Nansen, which is surveying fish stocks in Myanmar's waters as from 24 August, docked at the Myanmar Industrial Port, on Wednesday.

The ship arrived Yangon after carrying out the survey in the waters of Ayeyawady Delta, Taninthayi coastal and Rakhine coastal area.

The ship will leave to Taninthayi coastal area on 14 September to study the status of marine resources there up to 29 September.

The ship is owned by the

Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) and is jointly operated by the Institute of Marine Research of Norway, and FAO to help developing countries improve their fisheries management.

Norwegian experts are working together with the officials of the Myanmar's Fisheries Department, faculties from universities in Yangon, Mawlamyine, Myeik and Patheingyi studying status of fish resources including fish stocks, egg and larvae distribution and probing plastic pollution in the waters.

The survey will also provide capacity building students and scientists in Myanmar as well as identifying critical habitats as spawning and nursery areas for important commercial species.

The plastic pollution will be recorded and samples of sediments will be collected during the survey.

The ship carried out its survey in Myanmar waters in 1979, 1980, 2013 and 2015.

The first Nansen research vessel was launched in 1975. It was named after Dr. Fridtjof Nansen; a Norwegian explorer, scientist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate. The first research vessel operated until 1993. The second ship too was named as Dr. Fridtjof Nansen and served until late 2016. To date the vessel has carried out surveys in over 60 countries and collected vast amounts of data, according to an FAO brochure.

In all the surveys, scientists from the beneficiary countries have received hands-on training in survey design, implementation, analysis and report writing. On average, there are eight to 10 surveys a year over 270 survey days involving about 80 participants from developing countries, the FAO brochure says.—Zaw Gyi ■



Norwegian research vessel RV-Dr Fridtjof Nansen docks at the Myanmar Industrial Port. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**

Myanmar military delegation leaves for Republic of India



Vice-Senior General Soe Win seen off by Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Thet Pon and senior military officers at Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A Myanmar military delegation led by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Soe Win left for India yesterday to pay an official goodwill visit at the invitation of India's Army Chief General Bipin Rawat.

During the visit, Vice-Senior General Soe Win will attend the BIMSTEC Army Chief's Conclave in Pune, India, according to the news release

of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief.

The delegation led by the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and wife was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Thet Pon and senior military officers, Dr. Sumit Seth, deputy chief of the Embassy of India in Yangon and military attaché Col Naveen Mahajan and officials, said the news release.—MNA ■

Vice President U Myint Swe delivers speech ...

FROM PAGE-7

Next, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region China Communist Party Guangxi Committee Permanent Committee member, political and legal affairs committee secretary Mr. Huang Shiyong delivered a speech.

Afterwards CAEXPO organizing central committee joint chairman Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint presented certificates of honor to a representative of the Myanmar companies that attended the CAEXPO eight times and above.

Following this memorandum of understandings (MoUs) on Myanmar-China cooperation was signed where Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association signed a technical cooperation MoU with Guangdong Institute of Diamond, Jade and Jewellery and Myanmar (Textile and Garment) Entrepreneurs Association signed a MoU on cooperation in vocational training with Guangxi Economic and Trade Vocational Institute. After this the Vice President posed for a commemorative group photo with

conference attendees. Present at the opening ceremony were Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region China Communist Party Guangxi Committee Permanent Committee member, political and legal affairs committee secretary Mr. Huang Shiyong, CAEXPO secretariat secretary general Mr. Wang Lei, Minister Counsellor of China Embassy to Myanmar Ms. Li Xiaoyan and officials from People's Republic of China, Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and

Finance, Deputy Attorney General, Kayin State minister for planning, finance and development affairs, Pyithu Hluttaw financial sector development committee chairman, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn, departmental officials, Myanmar Consul-General in Nanning U Soe Thet Naung, departmental officials, officials from Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and sister associations, Myanmar and China business owners and officials.

Later, Vice President U My-

int Swe and party went to Chongzuo and attended a luncheon hosted by Chongzuo Communist Party Committee Secretary Chongzuo People's Congress Standing Committee Chairman Mr. Liu Youming.

After the luncheon, Vice President U Myint Swe and party visited the Pin Xiang Integrated Free Zone at China-Viet Nam Youyi Guan border gate and Fruit City on the China-Viet Nam border. In the evening Vice President U Myint Swe and party returned to the Liyuan State Guest House in Nanning.—MNA ■

Vice President U Henry Van Thio pledges to fight...

FROM PAGE-7

To combat these trafficking cases, such activities have been conducted as promulgation of the Anti-Trafficking In Persons Law, formation of the Central Body for Suppression and Prevention of Trafficking In Persons and formation of the Anti-Trafficking In Persons Division in the Myanmar Police Force. Moreover, five-year plans dedicated to combatting trafficking in persons have been drafted and are being implemented, he said.

In the horizon of the third five-year (2017-2021) plan, necessary activities are being conducted to revise and approve the 2005 Anti-Trafficking In Persons Law. Moreover, in order to draft a National Referral Mechanism providing direct support to victims of trafficking, draft a National Standard Operating Procedure for repatriation, reintegration and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking, gear up implementation or preventive measures, raise awareness about safe migrations, improve efficiency of Criminal Justice System, draft National Standard for identification of victims of trafficking and increase the number of shelters for victims of trafficking, necessary activities in the key sectors will be systematically undertaken.

When it comes to challenges in relation to trafficking in persons in Myanmar, such challenges are being faced such as difficulties in arresting offenders hiding in foreign countries, difficulties in arresting offenders hiding in foreign countries, difficulties in conducting timely rescues of victims of trafficking who are abroad and a need for creating more concrete job opportunities. In 2018, the book on cooperation guidelines between Station Police



Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers the address at the Sixth Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



and Anti-Trafficking In Person Task Force Police and the book on victim-centred approach and victims of trafficking identification process were distributed to police officers across the country. Moreover, the book on cooperation guidelines between Police and Law Officers over trafficking in persons cases was distributed, too. ASEAN Convention against Trafficking In Persons, Especially Women and Children has been rectified. Bilateral Standard Operating Procedures between Myanmar and Thailand on repatriation and reintegration of victims of trafficking has also been signed.

The Vice President said Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between Myanmar and Thailand, and Myanmar and China were signed in 2009. At present, activities are under way to revise the MoU between Myanmar and Thailand. Besides, activities are also under way to sign an MoU between Myanmar and India. As for bilateral meetings, bilateral meetings with China, Royal Thai Police and Department of Special Investigation of Thailand have been held.

He said many challenges are being faced in our endeavours to prevent trafficking in persons.

Especially, developing countries of the ASEAN Region are bearing the brunt of these challenges. Therefore, it is necessary for source, destination and transit countries to craft and implement special plans to conduct prevention activities.

Likewise, it is important for source countries to improve their

According to the 2017 data, forced marriages constitute 60.1%, forced prostitution 17.2%, forced labour 20.9%, child trafficking 0.8% and debt-bondage 1%.

economic, social and political conditions. In order to combat trafficking in persons, it is necessary to cooperate on development of other sectors.

As regards Myanmar's combative actions against trafficking in person since the observation of the Fifth Anti-Trafficking In Persons Day, 201 trafficking in person cases have been exposed, and a total of 250 victims of trafficking comprising 32 males and 218 females have been identified. 142 cases have been prosecuted and actions have been taken against a total of 366 offenders

comprising 106 males and 260 females. In dealing with trafficking in person cases, efforts are also being made to take actions against money and assets arising from the crimes under Anti-Money Laundry Law in order to augment our combative power.

Despite different legal systems among countries, the same level of protection must be provided to victims of trafficking. Even though a dedicated fund to provide support and assistances for victims of trafficking cannot yet be established, supports and assistances are being rendered to them. In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, a total of 175 victims of trafficking comprising 6 males and 169 females were provided with cash amounting to MMK 19,748,000 (Myanmar Kyats Nineteen Million, Seven Hundred and Forty-Eight Thousand Only).

Concluding his speech, the Vice President expressed his thanks to government departments, the UN, INGOs, NGOs, embassies, foreign and domestic donors, artistes of various artistic professions, media and all the guests present at the occasion—all of who have been giving cooperation from various aspects in respective sectors. The Vice President said that as Myanmar

is a source country and overwhelmed by grievances arising from trafficking in persons, only with collective strength produced from the participation of the entire public will trafficking in persons be combated. He cited the motto of Anti-Trafficking In Persons for this year "The entire public needs to participate, Trafficking in persons to eliminate...". Afterwards, a video documenting anti-trafficking operation conducted in Myanmar was shown and the event was then concluded.

The Vice President then took a documentary photo with the participants and then toured the anti-trafficking related photo exhibition at the hall. Attending the event were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Sein Win, Dr. Pe Myint, U Thant Sin Maung, U Thein Swe, Dr. Myint Htwe, Dr. Win Myat Aye, and Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Thu, permanent secretaries, department heads, representatives from embassies, UN organizations, members of the Central Body for Suppression and Prevention of Trafficking In Persons, civil society organizations and other invited guests.—MNA ■

Myanmar Motion Picture Org donates fund to flood affected people in regions, states

MYANMAR Motion Picture Organization (MMPO) has donated funds for flood affected people and the funds were transferred to Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at a ceremony held in the ministry, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the ceremony, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint said peoples from the motion picture industry frequently provide support and donations to the public whenever the public faces disasters and as for now, under the supervision of MMPO, personnel from all levels of basic video groups and motion picture personnel collectively donated for flood affected people.

Next, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Re-



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint hands over cash donation from MPPO for flood victims to Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye. **PHOTO: MNA**

settlement Dr. Win Myat Aye said the donated funds will be provided to those who are in most need in flood affected regions and states.

Afterwards, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint presented Ks 15 million to the Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye who in return presented a certificate of honor

to Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint.

The Ks 15 million donations includes Ks 1 million from Thakayta basic video group, Ks 4 million from central basic video group and Ks 10 million from MMPO. The cash donation was first made to Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint at the meeting hall of the MMPO. —MNA ■

4th ASEAN Health Cluster 2 Meeting held in Mandalay

THE 4th Meeting of ASEAN Health Cluster 2 was held at Aureum Palace Hotel in Bagan Cultural Zone, Mandalay Region on 12 September.

Director General Dr Tha Tun Kyaw of the Union Minister's office, Ministry of Health and Sports attended and opened the meeting. During the meeting, the director-general briefed and discussed about Myanmar, a member of ASEAN countries, actively participating in ASEAN Political Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC); Health Cluster 2 consisting of important matters like preventing and responding to new and old disease outbreaks, upgrading laboratory skills, preparation for responding to public health sector emergencies; Myanmar taking over the

chair for ASEAN Health Cluster 2 in 2018-2019; accepting and implementing the outcomes of the 3rd Meeting of ASEAN Health Cluster 2 held in Malaysia when taking over the chair; benefits to Myanmar health sector in taking over this responsibility; implementing works of ASEAN Health Cluster 2's 2016-2020 Work Programme; appraising works to be conducted in 2018-2019 and the requirement for coordinating with partner organisations. In the meeting, Myanmar took over as chair of ASEAN Health Cluster 2 until 2019.

The meeting was attended by a total of 70 persons consisting of 20 officials from Ministry of Health and Sports and 50 representatives from ASEAN member countries. The meeting will be held until 14 September.—MNA ■

HIV/AIDS affects over two hundred thousand PLWHAs in Myanmar, says 2017 study

A STUDY in 2017 estimates that there are over 220,000 people living with the HIV virus in Myanmar and an incidence of 0.57 per cent, it was announced at the awareness raising event for drafting a bill for the rights of people living with HIV (PLWHA), held in Hotel Amara in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Various topics were presented for explanation at the event including (1) the aim and object of The Rights of People Living with HIV Bill by Myanmar Positive Group Chairman U Thaw Dar Tun, (2) HIV preventive measures and treatment by Dr. Kay Khaing Kaung Nyunt, Assistant Director of the HIV/STD Eradication Project, Ministry of Health and Sports, (3) a summary of the HIV Bill by UNAIDS Policy Officer Daw Aye Aye Nwe, (4) the consequences of HIV stigmatization by Alliance Myanmar Chairman Dr. Soe Naing, (5) HIV and its social impacts by Dr. Phone Myint Win, department representative from Burnet Institute, and (6) the HIV Bill drafting process by Phoenix Association Chairman U Thiha



Awareness raising event for drafting a bill for the rights of people living with HIV (PLWHA) held in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MHWAE KYU HAN**

Kyaing.

U Thaw Dar Tun, Myanmar Positive Group Chair, said the bill will not only help the 240,000 plus people in Myanmar living with HIV, but also the entire national population. He said the bill was first drafted with PLWHA in mind, with technical assistance from NGOs and UN organizations. He added that the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is providing support to enact the bill.

The National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS 2016-2020 aims to provide access to affordable preventive measures and treatment for HIV by all Myanmar citizens.

Concerning preventive measures and treatment, Dr. Kay Khaing Kaung Nyunt said that according to their yearly calculations, the number of new HIV incidences has dropped from 15,000 in 2011 to 11,000 in 2017. The number of AIDS related deaths has also dropped, she added, from 13,000 in 2011

to about 6,000 in 2017.

She said HIV is less common in the general population but high in specific demographics such as needle sharing drug users, men who have sex with men (MSM), and in sex workers and their partners. A series of studies of the correlation between HIV incidences and the aforementioned demographic's behaviors revealed that needle sharers have a 28.5 per cent of contracting HIV, says a 2014 study; while a 2015 study shows MSMs have a 11.6 per cent chance, and sex workers have a 14.6 per cent chance. The 2017 study estimates that male have a higher rate of contracting HIV, and of the total number of PLWHA, 215,000 are people above fifteen years of age while 8,000 are children aged under fifteen.

New HIV incidences occur the highest among needle sharers in Kachin State, Northern Shan State and Sagaing Region, while Yangon and Mandalay regions have a high incidence among MSMs.

A national strategic plan -NSP to combat HIV/AIDS is

drafted once every 5 years, and currently it has reached its third draft.

The NSP was first drafted in 2006 and the current 2016-2020 NSP has been drafted together with its implementation partners. The NSP aims to completely eradicate HIV/AIDS by 2030.

There is a need for a law to ensure the rights of people living with HIV as they still suffer from stigmatization when accessing healthcare, education, in the workplace and the community.

Concerning the support given by the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in endeavoring to enact the HIV Bill, commission member U Tin Maung Win said Ministry of Health and Sports is seeking to prevent the spread of the HIV virus, but what is truly needed right now are proper laws. He said the bill has already been submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw six months ago. He added that the quicker the bill is enacted, the better it will be for Myanmar. —Shin Min, Mhwae Kyu ■

Border trade using ITCs reaches Ks17 billion

THE value of border trade using Individual Trading Cards (ITC) amounted to Ks17 billion as of 31 August, during the six-month interim period, prior to the next 2018-2019 financial year, which includes the export value of Ks4.2 billion and the import value of Ks13 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myawady border trade is reported to have the largest volume of trade with a value of more than Ks10 billion. According to the ministry statistics, the export value with ITC was Ks723,677 as of 31 August this year, while the import value with ITC was Ks10 billion. Trade value through ITCs at border points was Ks2.7 billion at Tamu trade camp, Ks26 million at Muse

border gate, Ks51 million at Tachilek trade camp, Ks385 billion at Kanpikete, Ks425 million at Kawthaung border town, Ks289 million at Reed border trade camp, Ks3.4 billion at Mawtaung gate, Ks68 million at Keng Tung border trade camp and Ks0.6 million at Maese border camp.

The total trade value with ITCs was Ks45.94 billion in FY 2017-2018. The Ministry of Commerce has permitted 292 ITCs in 2012-2013 FY, 261 cards in 2013-2014 FY, 317 cards in 2014-2015 FY, 146 cards in 2015-2016 FY, 248 cards in 2016-2017 FY, 168 cards in 2017-2018 FY and 61 cards this year, as of 31 August. Since its introduction, to date, the ministry issued a total of 1,493 ITCs.—Zwe ■

“Physical Activity is Medicine” conducted in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe addresses the MWSF's physical activity in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

JOINTLY conducted by the Ministry of Health and Sports and Myanmar Women's Sports Federation, a physical activity titled “Healthy Myanmar-Exercise, Physical Activity is Medicine” in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Before the physical activity at the Wunna Theikdi Stadium at 3:30 pm, Union

Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe appreciated the MWSF for its efforts for conducting the activity, urging the body to organize the similar activities nationwide.

The Union Minister also expressed his delight for systematic activities of the Sports and Physical Education Department of

the ministry and plans for future sports activities.

Following his remarks, Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein, in her capacity as the patron of MWSF, explained the purpose of the activity and about the Myanmar Women's Sports Federation. Afterwards, Deputy Minister, wives of the Un-

ion ministers, deputy ministers and sports enthusiast played the Myanmar fitness dance and balance fitness.

The MWSF conducted the similar physical activities in Yangon Region and Mon and Kayin states in March and in Mandalay and Sagaing regions in June.—MNA ■

Myanmar anti-human trafficking in persons day ceremony held in Maungtaw

MYANMAR anti-human trafficking in persons day ceremony was held at Basic Education High School, BEHS (1) in Maungtaw, Rakhine State yesterday morning.

First, Maungtaw District Deputy Commission-

er U Ye Htut read a formal message sent by Vice President U Henry Van Thio at Sixth Myanmar Anti-human Trafficking in persons day ceremony followed by the other officials discuss on legal knowledge about anti-human traffick-

ing and probable side effects and diseases affected by the human trafficking. Next, officials presented awards to students who won in painting and drawing, cartoon, poster and essay writing.

The ceremony was attended by departmental officials, teachers and students.—Hein Htet Zaw (Myanma Alinn) ■

Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated patrol



A coordinated patrol between Myanmar and Bangladesh was conducted at the border mile posts 47 to 48 from 9:15 am to 12:15 pm on 12 September, according to the Information Department of the Myanmar Police Force.

The Myanmar patrol

was led by Inspector Zaw Lin Aung from No.5 Border Police sub-division (Aung Thabyae), Area 1, Maungtaw Township, and the Bangladesh patrol was led by officer Subedar Md. Mosharaf Hossen of No. 11 Border Guards Bangladesh.—Myanmar Police Force ■

**MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE
EXPORT MARKETING & MILLING DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER**

1. MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WILL SELL TEAK & HARDWOOD ROUND LOGS AND SAWN TIMBERS BY OPEN TENDERS IN US DOLLARS. PARTICULARS OF THE OPEN TENDER SALES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(a) DATE & TIME

- (20-9-2018) (09:00)A.M
- EX-SITE HARDWOOD LOG ONLY**
- (21-9-2018) (09:00)A.M
- YANGON & EX-SITE TEAK/HARDWOOD (LOG AND CONVERSION)**
- (24-9-2018) (12:00) Noon
- YANGON TEAK LOG ONLY**

(b) COMMODITIES & VOLUME

- TEAK LOGS ABOUT (1122) TONS
- TEAK CONVERSION ABOUT (437) TONS
- IN, KANYIN, SAGAWA, THINGADU, THAPYAY, TAUNGPAINNE, TAUNGTHAYET, INGYIN ABOUT (10044) TONS
- HARDWOOD LOGS
- (2017-2018 EXTRACTION YEAR)**
- TAW WIN HALL, GYOGONE, INSEIN TOWNSHIP, YANGON.

(c) PLACE

2. FOR FURTHER DETAILED INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE HEAD OFFICE AND ALSO VISIT MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WEB-SITE (www.myanmar-timber.com.mm).
Contacts; Office Ph; 01528771,
E-mail; marketing1ppy@gmail.com

OPEN TENDER COMMITTEE
MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO. (028 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO. (028 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-9-2018 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

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V EVER ALLY VOY. NO. (0258-569W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EVER ALLY VOY. NO. (0258-569W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-9-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185



Actress Nicole Kidman attends the Michael Kors Collection Spring 2019 Runway Show in New York. PHOTO: AFP

Top 5 take-aways from New York Fashion Week

NEW YORK—New York Fashion Week wrapped up with Rihanna's outre Brooklyn party unveiling her new Savage X Fenty lingerie line, snatching an honor traditionally the preserve of creme-de-la-creme designer Marc Jacobs.

As the spring/summer 2019 season flits to Europe, with style fests in London, Milan and Paris, here's a quick round up of the top 10 takeaways from the Big Apple.

Happiness is the truth

Dark times be damned was the vibe this season. Why suffer in unease about the Trump presidency, global warming or threat to Western liberalism when you can put on a yellow frock?

There were bright colors galore. Yellows, mustards and chartreuse were on display at Carolina Herrera and Kate Spade. Michael Kors dubbed his show "Sunny Side Up." Matthew Adams Dolan sported fluorescent yellow. "Especially today, when things are heavy

and dark and difficult and we don't know the way through, it's good to deal with that with a light touch," said Niall Sloan, the creative director at Escada.

Happy Birthday

T'was the season of anniversaries. Ralph Lauren marked half a century in the business, by inviting A-list stars such as Oprah Winfrey, Steven Spielberg and Kanye West to a black-tie do in Central Park. France's Longchamp turned 70, hosting celebrities at the World Trade Center, while Germany's Escada also jetted Stateside to celebrate 40.

Black is beautiful

Models of color were center stage like never before. Pyre Moss went for an all-black lineup. Hugo Boss, Kate Spade and Tory Burch had diverse casting. Older women also strutted their stuff at Sies Marjan and Maria Cornejo. Friends and relatives of the designers walked at Vaquera. Women of all shapes and colors

frolicked for Rihanna.

Brooklyn

New York's most populous borough, so big that if it was independent it would be the fourth largest city in the United States, has been the den of hipsters and international cool for years.

This season it hosted Rihanna's underwear bash. Pyre Moss took the glitterati to a heritage center to honor a collection that embodied black power and Eckhaus Latta took over an industrial space.

Go vote

New York's Democratic primaries are Thursday and a few of the more politically minded urged their guests to head to the ballot box.

Red-carpet favorite Christian Siriano endorsed "Sex and the City" actress Cynthia Nixon in her attempt to unseat Governor Andrew Cuomo while Maria Cornejo exhorted guests to "use your voice and vote".—AFP ■

'Hollywood East' girds for real-life disaster film as storm nears

WILMINGTON (United States) —The sandy beaches and historic red brick homes of Wilmington, North Carolina have been the setting for many a Hollywood production, but there's nothing make-believe about the powerful hurricane bearing down on the picturesque coastal city.

Hurricane Florence, a powerful and dangerous storm described as the biggest to hit this part of the US East Coast in decades, could make landfall in the Carolinas late Thursday with devastating fury.

In its expected path is Wilmington—a port city of roughly 120,000 that is sometimes called

"Wilmywood" or "Hollywood East." It has served as the backdrop for dozens of films and television shows—from action blockbuster "Iron Man 3," to charming TV teen drama "Dawson's Creek" to the eerie CBS series "Under the Dome."

But these days, the only cameras around belong to news crews filming frantic people getting ready for the monster storm heading their way.

People are boarding up homes and shops, supermarket shelves have been emptied by people grabbing all the essentials they can find, and gas stations have run out of fuel.—AFP ■

Pygmies, masters of the forest, tackle tough lifestyle changes

DOUMASSI (Gabon)—Just back from the hunt with a choice selection of plants, Ebona feels at home in the endless forest where many Gabonese fear to tread.

"Townfolk paid me to find these leaves," the Pygmy says, setting the heap down outside his wooden hut, 500 metres (yards) from the rest of Doumassi village in north Gabon. Ebona's people, the Baka, are held in folklore to be Africa's oldest inhabitants, living today in forests stretching from Gabon and Cameroon inland to the Congos and the Central African Republic.

The dense woods where national borders cease to exist hold no mysteries for the Baka.

"This is our first home," says another villager, who introduces himself as Jean, declining, like

of which is planned for October 6 with a second round later next month, electoral officials have made little effort to put Baka adults on the voters' roll.

But many Baka steer well clear of national politics. They say they just want to "survive". Jean-Baptiste Ondzagha-Ewak works for the Association for Family Mediation (AMF) that seeks to bring mutual understanding to the communities.

The NGO records Baka births to make them official so the children can go to school and receive health care.

For lack of access to health facilities, villager Norbert saw five of his seven children die prematurely, but he joyfully announces that his wife is pregnant once more.



Ebona is one of the ethnic Baka Pygmies in Gabon whose profound knowledge of the forest is their sole source of income. PHOTO: AFP

the other Pygmies, to divulge their Baka names, used only within the community.

"We sleep in it, we hunt in it, we live in it," he adds.

The ethnic Baka Pygmies often have a difficult relationship with their Fang neighbours, the main ethnic group in the area, who tend to treat them like children, leading to complaints by the Baka. They also struggle to have a legal existence in Gabon, as they find themselves without identity cards, which complicates their lives.

"I am Gabonese, 100 percent, but I don't have an identity card. They promised us that we would have it, but we're still waiting..." says villager Christian, who, like other Baka, wants the same rights as other Gabonese citizens.

"How will I send my children to school?" he asks, in frustration. "How will I vote? How do I get medical care?"

Dilemma

Just weeks before parliamentary elections, the first round

For a long time, the ways of "city people" had a limited impact on communities of hunter-gatherers. The Baka are still reluctant to go where "cars make a noise", except to buy goods such as "tobacco, soap, alcohol and petrol", according to Christian.

But the need for money has raised problems for Pygmies whose profound knowledge of the forest is their sole source of income. Seen as one way to help their children go to school, the Baka hire themselves out like "integrated GPS" devices, ready to guide outsiders hundreds of kilometres (miles) into the wild to find game.

'They never miss'

Despite their poor relations, the Baka are nevertheless prepared to hunt for their Fang neighbours, too.

While they tend to treat the Pygmies as "subhuman" purely on account of their short stature, the Fang acknowledge that there is no equal to a Baka hunter's skills.—AFP ■

Apple unveils premium iPhone XS, health features for watch

CUPERTINO (United States)—Apple unveiled three new iPhones on Wednesday in a bid to bolster its spot in the premium smartphone market, along with an upgraded smartwatch that takes electrocardiograms and detects falls.

The California tech giant said it would begin selling its 5.8-inch iPhone XS and 6.5-inch iPhone XS Max later this month, keeping the starting price of the company's top-end model at \$999 but bumping the entry price for the version with the larger screen.

Apple also announced a new iPhone XR starting at \$749, available in October, with a 6.1-inch display to broaden its pool of buyers.

The phones are updates to last year's iPhone X ("10"), which marks the 10th anniversary of the smartphone—stretching the screen while keeping the overall handset size at or near that of previous models. "I think Apple did extremely well here," GlobalData analyst Avi Greengart said after checking out the new offerings at the unveiling at the company's headquarters in Cupertino, California.

"Overall, this is going to be a very good year for Apple."

The analyst expected the line-up to be a hit, pushing up the average selling price of Apple smartphones.

The new iPhones have more powerful processors and cameras, and a dual-SIM card feature for top-of-the-line



The new iPhone line-up includes three updates to the top-end X model. PHOTO: AFP

devices. Home buttons were replaced with screen swipes, taps and facial recognition capabilities.

"We are going to take iPhone X to the next level," chief executive Tim Cook said.

While the iPhone has made Apple the world's most valuable company, worth more than \$1 trillion, it has slipped to third place among smartphone makers as Chinese-based Huawei has grabbed the number two spot behind Samsung.

Analyst Patrick Moorhead of Moor Insights & Strategy said Apple had done enough "to keep its smartphone growth going until the competition responds."

Apple said the XS models would be sold from September

21 and the XR from October 26. **New smartwatch features**

Apple also introduced a fourth generation of the Apple Watch with a major redesign -- and a series of features designed to improve its performance as a medical and health device.

The watch, sold in the United States from \$399 and up, will be available in stores on September 21. "Apple Watch has become an intelligent guardian for your health," chief operating officer Jeff Williams said.

The smartwatches are able to detect hard falls, and an electrical heart rate sensor can take an electrocardiogram.

"This is the first ECG product offered over the counter directly to consumers," Williams said. "Now you can take an ECG

any time, anywhere, right from the wrist."

The fall detection upgrade is expected to appeal to worker safety concerns in factories or other industrial settings, as well as to elderly or disabled users.

"Identifying a fall may sound like a straightforward problem, but it requires a lot of data analysis," Williams said.

If a person falls, and then is motionless, the watch will call emergency services, he added.

Moorhead said the health features for the new devices were notable. "I can see kids buying one for their parents and grandparents," he said of the smartwatch.

"I believe Series 4 will sell better than all previous models."

—AFP ■

France to run driverless mainline trains within five years

PARIS—French railway operator SNCF said Wednesday it was planning to introduce prototypes of driverless mainline trains for passengers and freight by 2023, and include them in scheduled services in subsequent years.

"With autonomous trains, all the trains will run in a harmonized way and at the same speed," SNCF chairman Guillaume Pepy said in a statement. "The train system will become more fluid."

The operator hopes that the switch will allow it to run more trains on France's busiest mainlines, and cut energy consumption.

Many cities, including Paris, already run driverless metro trains but driverless long-distance travel presents a new set of challenges, Pepy said.

"Railways are an open system, and the unexpected is the rule," Pepy said.

SNCF will be partnering up with rolling stock specialists Alstom and Bombardier who will each be heading up consortia for freight and passenger traffic, respectively.

The shift to driverless trains is to happen in stages, Pierre Izard, who runs SNCF's rail technologies division, told AFP, "up to the most extreme of automatisa-tion, when there is no human presence onboard".

Pepy said that autonomous trains "are clearly the future", but he also said it may take time before passengers accept boarding driverless trains.

Although Australia, China and Japan are already experimenting with driverless trains, France is not coming too late to the game, said Carole Desnost, head of innovation at SNCF.

SNCF said it was talking to German operator Deutsche Bahn about promoting a European standard for driverless trains.—AFP ■



Qingdao Int'l Ocean Science and Technology Exhibition held in Shandong

People watch an unmanned aerial vehicle during the Qingdao International Ocean Science and Technology Exhibition in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province on 12 September 2018. The exhibition opened here on Wednesday, and will last for three days. PHOTO: XINHUA

Japan's Osaka has 'no regrets' over chaotic US Open final

NEW YORK—Japan's Naomi Osaka has refused to criticise Serena Williams after her historic US Open victory was overshadowed by the American's furious row with the chair umpire.

The 20-year-old melted hearts when she broke down sobbing after thrashing her idol 6-2, 6-4 to become Japan's first Grand Slam singles champion in New York last weekend.

Japanese tennis legend Kimiko Date told AFP it made her "heart ache" to see Osaka reduced to tears and unable to savour her moment of glory.

But after returning to Japan on Thursday, Osaka insisted there were no hard feelings towards Williams, who branded umpire Carlos Ramos a "thief" in an astonishing tantrum triggered by a code violation for coaching that culminated in a docked game.

"For me I don't feel sad because I wouldn't even know what I'm expected to feel," said Osaka, who has climbed from 19th to seventh in the new world rankings.

"I don't think I even thought about feeling sad because there's no experience for me to draw on in any other Grand Slam



Japan's Naomi Osaka is eyeing a break into the world top five. PHOTO: AFP

final," she added.

"I just thought I shouldn't have any regrets. Overall I felt really happy and know I accomplished a lot."

Osaka, who competes at next week's Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo, also revealed her plans to break into the top five this year – and win a shiny gold medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

"I think for this year my immediate goal would be to get to Singapore," said

Osaka after putting herself firmly in contention to reach the season-ending WTA Finals.

"I want to do well at the Pan Pacific Open and maybe year-end top five—but I'm not putting pressure on myself. For now I'm just sort of riding the wave."

"Of course I'm very excited the Olympics are going to be held in Tokyo," added Osaka, who is of Haitian-Japanese descent and was raised in the United States.—AFP ■

Players picked for AFF Futsal Championship 2018

PLAYERS have been selected for Myanmar national futsal team to play in the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) Futsal Championship 2018, according to an announcement of Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) yesterday. A total of 22 players have been selected to be considered as key players for the national futsal team.

They are: Goalkeepers Zwe Pyae Sone from GV Athletic FC, Kyaw Htet Aung and Yan Paing Hein from MIC FC and Zaw Myo Htike from VUC FC, players Thant Zin and Kaung Chit Thu from GV Athletic FC, Ye Yint Oo from Myoma YTD FC, Kyaw Soe Moe, Naing Ye Kyaw, Pyae Phyto Maung-2, Khin Zaw Lin, Pyae Phyto Maung-3, Hlaing Min Thu and Ko Ko Lwin from MIC FC, Phone Nga from Comrade FC, Myo Myint Soe, Sai Pyone Aung, Nyein Min Soe, Aung Zin Oo, Naing Lin Tun Kyaw and Wai Zin Oo from VUC FC, and Min Hein Htet from Pyay United FC. Wellexperienced coaches, head coach U Htay Myint, assistant coach U Kyaw Zin Nyunt and goal coach U Tun Latt, will handle the team. Training for all 22 players selected to participate in the tourney will begin on 16 September.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Kane, Salah in spotlight as struggling stars clash

LONDON—Harry Kane and Mohamed Salah have the perfect stage to end their unexpected slumps when the superstar strikers go head to head at Wembley on Saturday.

Just four months ago, Tottenham striker Kane and Liverpool forward Salah were being hailed as Europe's most feared marksmen after the pair tore through Premier League defences on a

weekly basis.

Yet they go into this weekend's eagerly anticipated clash between Tottenham and Liverpool with concerns about their ability to maintain that breathtaking form in the midst of a post-World Cup malaise.

Kane and Salah slugged it out for the Premier League's Golden Boot prize right up to the last game of the season.

The Egypt international, with 32 goals, pipped his England rival to the coveted prize despite Kane's first 30-league-goal season.

Salah bagged an

credible 44 goals in all competitions in his debut year with Liverpool, earning him the Professional Footballers' Association and Football Writers' Association player of the year awards.

But Salah's season came to a bitter conclusion in the Champions League final when he suffered a shoulder injury after a cynical challenge from Real Madrid's Sergio Ramos.

Leaving the pitch in tears, Salah's departure triggered Liverpool's 3-1 defeat and ultimately cast a cloud over his World Cup, where he missed the first match and was unable to stop Egypt crashing out at the group stage.

The 26-year-old returned to Merseyside to kick off the new campaign with a goal in the demolition of West Ham.

But while Salah has scored twice in four games so far for Jurgen Klopp's high-flying Liverpool, he has not been the effervescent figure that tormented opponents last term.

The combination of lethal finishing and off-the-cuff

inspiration that made him such a joy to watch has been replaced with a more subdued demeanour that gives the impression he has lost his mojo for now.

Replicating the sky-high standards of 2017-18 was never going to be easy for Salah and, ironically, he was warned of the potential for a sophomore slump by Kane last May.

"For me it is about doing it year after year. Any player wants to do it on a consistent basis and that's what defines a good player from a great player," he said.

Kane and Salah have a respectful relationship, but their rivalry intensified when Salah questioned the decision to award Tottenham's second goal in April's 2-0 win at Stoke to Kane, after it had initially been credited to Christian Eriksen.

Burnout

Kane may have been hurt by the perception he was greedily hunting individual accolades but, undeterred, the England captain finished as top scorer at the World Cup with six goals.

Yet, by his own admission, Kane was not quite at his best in Russia despite England's run to the semi-finals and the hangover has continued into the new campaign. The 25-year-old has just scored two goals in six games for club and country this season, with the statistics behind those numbers making for even more unsettling reading.—AFP ■



Tottenham striker Kane (l) and Liverpool forward Salah (r). PHOTO: AFP