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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw concludes 9th session

THE Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw ninth regular session held its 23rd day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday and a report on the current work of the government by U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, was on the top of the agenda.

The report of Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, on behalf of the Union Government, was documented by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

(Below is the full text of the report.)

In yesterday's meeting, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw also approved the forest bill and the Union taxation bill-2018-2019, after scrutinizing them paragraph by paragraph.

Hluttaw gives nod to US$ 298.9 million loan from ADB for electrification project

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw also passed a motion to accept a loan of US$ 298.9 million from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to be used in implementing the power supply network project of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

In the debate, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr Tun Naing said the ministry is implementing the 19 projects to be able to satisfy a higher demand for electricity in the future, adding that US$10.48 million will be spent on hiring a consultant for the project and US$38.6 million for unexpected expenditures.

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Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw concluding its ninth regular session in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Report on the current work of the government: political, economic and social development, and the peace process

Following is the full text of the report delivered by Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe during the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting yesterday:

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe.

SPEAKER of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and all members of Parliament, I wish you all good health, wealth and prosperity.

In accordance with Article 228(B) of the 2008 Constitution, and the invitation dated 3 September 2018, I present this report on the work of the elected government to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Now is the time to reconstruct the nation to make it a peaceful, stable and strong one. At the same time, effort is being exerted to build up a Union in which the justice, freedom and equality aspired since attainment of independence will prevail. In addition to the prevalence of natural justice, equal rights in respect of political, economic and social justice shall prevail. The Union we are building shall be one which is pure in ideology and which is cherished by all.

Additionally, efforts are also being taken to develop our democratic transition into a mature democracy. In fact, these three processes are not to be implemented separately, but all together. This is what the government would like to emphasise.

Speaker and all members of Parliament,

In the process of establishing a peaceful, prosperous and resilient nation, we must take account of the need to strengthen the mechanisms and institutions of government. It is of paramount importance to uphold rule of law, ensure the mental and physical wellbeing of our citizens, provide for equality of taxation, deliver basic services to our people, including education, health and social services, transportation, communication and infrastructure development, and to strengthen the administrative mechanisms of government.

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Under the project, the 230 KV power-line linking Mawlamyine and Dawei passing through Ye, power stations in Ye and Dawei will be implemented. The Mawlamyine-Ye-Dawei power line will be over 177 miles long, according to the Deputy Minister.

Upon completion of the project, about 470 villages in Ye Township and Dawei District in Taninthayi Region would get access to electricity distributed by the ministry.

Besides, over 400,000 families in Mon State and Taninthayi Region will get access to electricity, said the deputy minister.

Work on building the Mawlamyine-Ye-Dawei power line and sub-power station is expected to be carried out in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

During the debate, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win said the suspension period for the ADB loan is eight years and the debt payment period is 24 years. The interest rate is one per cent during the suspension period and 1.5 per cent during the repayment period, according to the deputy minister.

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat. **PHOTO: MNA**

"The Ministry of Planning and Finance will carry out the process of getting loan, including negotiation, signing loan, activation of the loan and getting the loan, in accordance with the rules and regulations, and will try to timely complete the process," said Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win.

Following the debate, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the motion.

Union taxation bill 2018-2019

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the Union taxation bill 2018-2019, after the bill with remarks by the Joint Bill Committee was scrutinized, paragraph by paragraph by MPs.

Yesterday's meeting was the last day meeting of the ninth regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

In his conclusion remarks, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat said the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the National Planning Bill, the Union Budget Bill and the Union Taxation Bill during the ninth session of the parliament.

The efforts of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in the ninth regular session aimed at preventing wastage from the public fund, encouraging investment and increasing revenue for the country, while easing the burden of the tax papers, said the Speaker.

A total of five bills were approved in the ninth regular session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The achievements of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw during the session include the appointment of the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, seeking approval for Part-II of the Union Accord gained from the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong , approval of two signings of Myanmar into international organizations and putting the two issues of emergency fund on record.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw also discussed and documented the three reports and completed five issues of getting loans from international organizations.

The Speaker also urged the MPs from regions and states to submit proposals for development funds allocated by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, not later than December this year.—Myo Myint, Aung Ye Thwin ■

U Maung Maung Win.

UK Foreign Secretary arrives in Myanmar, visits AAPP

British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP poses for a documentary photo with AAPP secretary U Teit Naing in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

A DELEGATION led by the British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP, landed in Yangon at 3:45pm yesterday.

The delegation was welcomed by Daw Kay Thi Soe, Director General of the Strategic Studies and Training Department, British Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Daniel Patrick Brendon Chugg, and other officials at the Yangon International Airport.

The British Foreign Secretary and his delegation travelled to the extended Ward 33 in Dagon Myothit (North) Township at 5pm yesterday to observe the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) located there.

The British Foreign Secretary was first given a guided tour by AAPP secretary U Teit Naing of the AAPP's exhibition titled 'Memory of the Past'. He then met with AAPP officials and discussed about the state of political prisoners and the status of human rights.

Present at the meeting were AAPP secretary U Teit Naing, joint-secretary U Bo Kyi, in-charge U Aung Myo Kyaw, Yangon Region Hluttaw MP Daw Sandar Min, and Ma Thidar (Sanchaung). —MNA ■

Japanese Ambassador meets SWRR Union Minister

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye shakes hands with Japanese Ambassador Mr. Ichiro Maruyama. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye received Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama at the Maykalar Hall in his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they openly discussed the status of constructing houses in northern Rakhine State with support from the Japanese Government, closing down displaced people camps in Sittway, ensuring displaced people have appropriate livelihoods, assuring cooperation between local residents, the displaced people, humanitarian organizations, the regional government and UN organizations in the resettlement processes, and cooperation with UNHCR in repatriating displaced people who fled to Bangladesh. —MNA

Report on the current work of the government: political, economic and social development, and the peace process

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In order to achieve these aims, it is important that we create opportunities for citizens from across the country to participate in these endeavours. We urge all our citizens to cooperate together with the government.

We have witnessed the cooperation of government, civil society organisations and citizens both during the peace process and holding 21st Century Panglong Conferences, as well as in the course of adapting and creating new government policies.

Speaker and all members of Parliament,

The government is undertaking to establish a Union for the benefit of all its citizens, however, there are still many challenges to overcome to ensure our successful transition to democracy.

As the government has anticipated, the 2008 Constitution should be amended step-by-step, to guarantee the smooth transition. Similarly, the Democratic Federal Union can only be implemented if we can build freedom, equality and mutual respect amongst the ethnic people.

With this in mind, the current government has made the peace process a top priority. With the peace process at the centre, national reconciliation can be also achieved, and this, shall lead to democratic transition and the establishment of the Union.

The main goal of the current peace process is to reach political agreements, to sign the Union Accord,and to implement steps for establishing a Union based on democracy and federalism. In doing so, common approaches will be agreed through the process of holding political dialogue.

The role of military in the peace process is also very crucial. We need to overcome many challenges harmoniously during the peace process.

Establishing the federal Union and achieving the democratic standards anticipated by the government will take time and can only be done step by step. However, our ultimate goal to establish a democratic federal Union is unwavering. In order to bring about a political agreement, the 21st Century Panglong (Union Peace Conference) has already been held three times. As of now, 51 political agreements have been agreed. The government has reiterated its commitment to establish a Union based on democracy and federalism which has been continuously requested by the ethnic people.

At the second meeting of the 21st Century Panglong (Union Peace Confernece), an agreement was in fact reached on matters regarding the right to self-determination and the formulation of state constitutions. However, after reaching agreement, this had to be set aside. Just as non-secession is important, it is equally important to join hands together to build up a federal Union.

Speaker and all members of Parliament,

While the government is working to establish peace, stability and a democratic federal Union, there are many challenges. For over 70 years, previous governments have been trying to resolve the issues in Rakhine State, which have been smouldering in the background. This is the reason why the transition to democracy has been slow, as the current government is trying to take care of the Rakhine issue first.

Since the ARSA attacks in October 2016, the situation has been unstable. The issues reignited in August 2017 when 30 border police outposts and a military headquarters were attacked by ARSA.Due to the terrorist attacks, a significant number of people fled over to neighbouring Bangladesh, and as a consequence, Myanmar was blamed in the international arena.

The necessary arrangements for repatriation, relief and resettlement have now been undertaken in accordance with the bilateral arrangement signed by Myanmar and Bangladesh on 23 November 2017.

The Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE)

The Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) consisting of two well-known international personalities and two local experts was established in accordance with the law. This Commission is tasked to investigate allegations of human rights violations and the related issues of terrorist attacks. There will be cooperation and collaboration among relevant departments and organisations, the security forces and the ICOE.

We are capable of handling our national affairs not only by utilising our sovereign power, but also by being able and willing to do so.

Myanmar respects the sovereignty and dignity of each individual nation, and therefore it will continuously work towards fostering closer friendships that will contribute towards global peace and the improvement of international relations. In this regard, it is also crucial to follow international laws and agreements.

In order to handle the Rakhine issue, peaceful coexistence through diversity will be implemented. However, if mind-sets and perspectives remain the same as when the conflicts and tension occurred, we will not be able to resolve these issues.

Thus, the issue should be addressed with a new approach, taking into consideration regional and international perspectives, in accordance with 21st century globalisation. We will only be able to overcome the unfair challenges and pressures with the unity of our citizens.

The Rakhine situation is a very complex and sensitive issue.

The government would like to express its gratitude to the public for its understanding, trust and support during this difficult and stressful period as it is trying its utmost for the future development of the nation.

In its nation building endeavour, the government continues to strive to amend laws that are no longer agreeable to democratic values and accepted human rights standards.

The Union Government aims to institute the rule of law, through the development and promulgation of laws, rules and regulations, law enforcement, and the administration of justice through the legal system to promote good governance.

The Union Government has put great efforts into enhancing the ability of the youth to think critically and philosophically, by providing more access to libraries and research, so that a new generation of highly educated youth can be produced.

Better access to educational opportunities

In order for the new generation to have better access to educational opportunities, better and higher school attendance levels and to lower the rates of school leaving, the union government has upgraded 6,386 schools.

10,732 primary school teachers, 383 middle school teachers and 1,221 high school teachers have been appointed. A total of 4,799 buildings comprising 4,585 school halls and 214 staff accommodations were built.

Text books, exercise books and school uniforms have been distributed to government and monastic schools, free of charge. Pre-schools and primary school syllabuses were changed and 81 non-formal education programs, introduced.

In order to ensure greater job opportunities, the government training and vocational institutions have been further strengthened in Insein, Pyin-Oo-Lwin and Kyaitlatt. In addition, the Singapore- Myanmar Vocational Training Institute (SMVTI), the Nyaung Shwe Vocational Training Institute(NVTI) and the Nay Pyi Taw English Proficiency Training School were further introduced.

Similarly, before 2021, the government will open 36 technical institutes, government technical high-schools and vocational training schools, along with an increase of 2,933 teachers. Two-year educational colleges will be advanced to four-year degree colleges.

During the last three financial years, the education budget has been gradually increased. In the 2016/17 financial year, the budget was 1,726 billion Kyat; in the 2017/18 financial year, the education budget was 1,756 billion Kyat; and in the 2018/19 financial year, there will be an increase to 2,175 billion Kyat in expenditure.

An increase in the health budget

Similarly, in the health budget, there has been an increase. In the 2016/17 financial year, the budget was 881 billion Kyat; in the 2017/18 financial year, the budget was 1,076 billion Kyat; and in the coming 2018/19 financial year budget, the expenditure will be increased to 1,131 billion kyats.

Together with the increase of budget in the health sector, health care services have also been increased. A new 16-bed regional hospital, 18 rural health clinics, 20 rural sub-clinics, and 16 traditional medicine hospitals were newly built and 7 hospitals also received upgrades. A total of 22,421 doctors, nurses, midwives, health workers, dental experts and health workers were also newly appointed.

The building of 3,644 health-care staff quarters were also completed. Public health clinics were also opened in rural areas. This helped the early detection of diabetes, hypertension, etc. so that effective health care can be given in the early stages.

Work on the eradication of malaria is being conducted. 64,060 chronic disease patients suffering from TB and 156,372 patients suffering from HIV were being given health care. In order to give better health education, health care workers and health service staff were provided with mobile tablets to assist them with "e-Education, e-Consultation and e-Medicine."

Medical student enrolment from remote regions has increased from 3% to 6%. In 2016/17, 59 students were accepted. In 2017/2018, 81 students were accepted. There was also an increase in post-graduate studies in 10 disciplines and there are now 126 disciplines of post-graduate studies.

In terms of human resources, 3,952 doctors, 492 dentists, 1,121 health workers, 4,143 nurses, 2,550 midwives, 299 women health workers, 529 post graduate diploma holders, 529 masters degree holders, 1,581 Master of Science degree holders and 220 PhDs were produced. During the tenure of the new government, funds were made available for medical research, and advances in medical research projects were achieved.

We acknowledge the role of the Hluttaw Representatives in making possible a notable improvement in the education and health budget, thus allowing the government to realize a future generation that is healthier and better educated. The government also holds seriously its accountability to expending the nation's budget.

Sufficient and good infrastructures are mainly required for building a nation. 67 numbers of over 180-feet bridges, 218 numbers of bridges between 180 and 50 feet that are 285 numbers of bridges in total have been constructed across the country in the past two years. It is planned to complete the construction of Thayet-Aunglan Ayeyarwaddy bridge in the third year. It is also planned to complete the construction of over 400 bridges needed by the people across the country.

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Apart from the construction works by Ministry of Construction, 144 Union roads were upgraded with the assistance of the ADB, the World Bank, JICA, KfW of Germany. Of them, 333 miles of concrete road, 358 miles of tar road and 1,030 miles of nylon-tar road were upgraded.

Besides, the ministry upgraded 2,916 miles of road in total and 1,940 bridges in rural areas as part of efforts for providing the rural people with smooth transportation. The Ministry of Construction would upgrade roads in rural areas every year, setting its target of turning the roads to all-weather roads to be accessed by 80 per cent of the villages and 90 per cent of the rural population of the country.

Urban projects and industrial cities

Urban projects and industrial cities are being developed in some big cities like Yangon and Mandalay within 3 years for systematic development of urban housing.

Economic growth is expected to accelerate by having businessmen participate in these mega projects. The development of these mega projects will create job opportunities and have multiplier effects in the economy. These effects will drive the economy and positively influence on the national GDP.

The role of active young entrepreneurs has become important among today's businessmen. The government has been supporting to have more young entrepreneurs emerged. These young businessmen are the future of Myanmar's business environment. More businesses at the international level will emerge by supporting and nurturing them.

Negotiations have been made in cooperation with the IFC of the World Bank Group for the development of Yangon elevated road project in coming 2019 with a view to address the traffic issues in Yangon. Such development is being pursued with the expection not only to address traffic issues but also to create job opportunities.

Urban development is becoming a challenge for highly populated cities. It is important that future potential developments are taken into consideration to address these challenges.

During the past 2 years, it was planned to construct 10,924 rooms for public housing and for government employees, among which 57,48 rooms that is 70 percent of the plan are now available. Efforts are being made for timely construction of the rest and in addition, construction of over 10,000 rooms are planned, out of which over 4,000 rooms are to be constructed through different PPP models and over 6,000 rooms are to be constructed by private companies.

Urban projects in 33 cities across the country have been implemented and planning for additional urban projects are being developed in cooperation with the states and regional governments. The Master Plan for Yangon Regon, Master Plan for Yangon-Hantharwadi-Bago corridor and Master Plan for Southwest of Yangon have been developed in cooperation with JICA of Japan and KOICA of Korea.

It is important to have higher electricity supply in the process of developing road and transport connectivities, and also developing urban housing and infrastructures. Development of these basic infrastructures could open up business and job opportunities.

Electricity supply increased by 556 MW

During the past two and a half years, electricity supply has increased by 556 MW from 2,802 MW to 3,388 MW. Hence, electricity can be supplied to 33 cities, 3,843 villages and 684,013 households. As the electricity consumption has been rising from 15% to 19% per annum, it will increase up to 4,531 MW in 2020-2021.

In order to meet the electricity demand, efforts are being made to generate 220 MW in 2018, 449 MW in 2018-19, 737 MW in 2019-2010, 1,351 MW in 2020-2021 that are 2,757 MW in total.

The natural gas production may gradually decline as the production from Yadana project has reached a plateau level. Offshore national gas exploration and onshore oil exploration are being expanded to mitigate the effect of gradual national gas production decline.

Drilling of deep and shallow wells are being conducted in the sea near Rakhine, Ayeyarwaddy and Taninthayi coastal areas. Currently, prospects are observed in A-6 off the Ayeyarwaddy coast. Once the estimated reserves have been confirmed, official announcement would be made. Tender proposals will be solicited to international companies for the exploration of onshore and offshore blocks.

Agricultural sector depended on by the majority of population has become an important foundation in developing basic infrastructures for the nation building. To strengthen the important economic foundation, to have farmers' families benefited from their own farming, and to have the generations of farmers possess the right to their farm land, the 2012 Law on Farm Land and 2012 Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land Management Law have been amended to reflect the actual onground situation.

Encountering natural disasters on a regular basis

Along with the environmental degradation around the world, Myanmar has been encountering natural disasters on a regular basis due to climate change and losses are encountered on the annual basis.

During the perid under the existing government, Disaster Risk Management Committee and Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement have spent Kyats 2.4 billion and Kyats 11.330 billion respectively that are Kyats 13.739 billion in total for the support and rehabilitation activities in the disaster areas.

To avoid difficulty in access to agricultural and drinking water in the dry zone and coastal areas, plans are being made for effective storage of rain water.

Thanks to renovation and maintenance of reservoirs and irrigation system, about 1.23 million acres of rice received irrigation water sufficiently in this rainy season and about 1.167 million acres of rice were supplied with irrigation water from the reservoirs and dams. Besides, this year saw further 260,000 acres of rice in summer while about 1,500 tube-wells were drilled for agricultural purpose and about 400 tube-wells for supply drinking water.

To be able to adapt to climate change impacts on agriculture, to improve timeliness agricultural production and to minimize the loss and wastages in the sector, we believe that the use of farm machinery should be increased. Therefore, plans are underway to promote the use of agricultural machinery. Today, about 75 per cent of the cultivation were operated by mechanization from ploughing to harvesting.

The incumbent government has released a total of 63,417 acres of confiscated farmland so far and returned 13,091acres to farmers and 50,326 acres to ministries and regions and states.

To accelerate the country's economy based on the agricultural sector and to boost the agricultural products, the Union Government laid down the national export strategy, practicing all possible means and ways to get the export market for Myanmar's products.

Regarding the export sector, efforts are being made to produce value-added products from rice, peas and pulses, fish, textile, woods and rubber. Besides, the Union Government has stepped up its efforts for promoting transport, quality of export products, availability of information on trade and financial services. Today, Myanmar's export is relying on agricultural sector, fishery and livestock sector, and private small and medium enterprises.

Local production sector facing challenges

Meanwhile, local production sector is facing challenges, such as getting quality seeds, shortage of machinery in production, fertilizer, systematic use of pesticides, shortage of skilled laborers. To be able to provide the people with safety and nutritious food, efforts are being made to promote organic crops production and high-quality products. It is found that the special challenges for our SMEs are capital, technology and market penetration.

Government borrows ODA from JICA as two-step loans for SMEs in order to fulfill the need for finance and Kyats 60 billion loans has been extended to SMEs within 3 years. It is also planned to extend the loan of additional Kyats 200 billion to the SMEs in 2018-2019. In addition, the State-owned Myanmar Economic Bank also plans to extend the loan amounting to Kyats 250 billion as SME loans.

Similarly, JICA two-step loans amounting to Kyats 200 billion was acquired to support farmers and help them have better access to finance during a transformation process towards mechanized farming and Kyats 30 billion loans has been extended to farmers so far. Myanmar Economic Bank also plans to extend the loans amounting to Kyats 200 billion for agriculture and livestock farming businesses.

Agriculture loans extended by Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank has increased from Kyats 100,000 to Kyats 150,000 per acre for paddy farming. Loans extended for other crops have increased from Kyats 20,000 to Kyats 50,000 per acre and it is planned to further increase up to Kyats 100,000 per acre.

The presence of illegal trades, lower export generated incomes, loss of taxes, depletion of natural resources, illegal importation of consumer products have significant impacts on domestic small and medium sized industries and pose significant challenges exposing risks to consumers. It is planed to have these challenges properly handled in accordance with the Laws.

Trade imbalances exist due to current account deficits as imports are much higher than exports. As US dollar has strengthened significantly since the past April and June, many currencies in the world including Myanmar Kyats are becoming weaker. Although that is a global impact, depreciation of Myanmar Kyats is found to be more significant than those of other countries.

While there are many factors that cause Myanmar Kyat to depreciate, current account deficit, interest rates, inflation and economic prospects are factors among others that mainly influence on the exchange rate.

Analyzing the depreciation of Myanmar Kyat, although it started with the external impacts, the domestic factors that include but are not limited to weak economic fundamentals and structural issues have significant impacts on the exchange rate. Looking at the trade, trade deficit was US$ 3.8 billion in 2017-18 and it is actually lower than previous years.

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In 2016-2017, trade deficit was US$ 5.2 billion and it was US$ 5.4 billion in 2015-2016. It is evident that these deficits have had a lot of pressure on the domestic currency.

Second, changes in seasonal foreign currency demands also have impacts on the exchange rate. Especially during the period from July to December, demands for foreign currency is usually high.

In order to reduce the trade deficit, to strengthen domestic economy and to be resilient and to withstand various impacts, the government has been going through various reform processes in cooperation with the private sector stakeholders.

Government of Myanmar places a lot of effort in enhancing productivity, developing main economic drivers, and creating favorable investment and business climate. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for application of business approvals and permits are being developed and a Single Window system according to which applications can be made and approvals and permits can be received at one place will be developed soon. Now, the new Companies Law has been enacted and online system through which companies can be incorporated without needing to come to the office has been up and running. Hence, it is projected that Myanmar's Ease of Doing Business ranking will improve in the years ahead.

With the cooperation of private sector and based on the efforts made by relevant government deparments, it is planned to improve the ranking of Ease of Doing Business for Myanmar from the current status of 171 to less than 100 in a few years time. It is aimed not only at improving the ranking but also at changing the existing procedures of the government departments, especially to change the current situation of unpopular red-tapes, increased corruptions, and the mismatch between the government's policy objectives and its departments' organization and performance.

Speaker and all members of Parliament,

At the same time, the government has established a four year (2018-2021) strategic plan for anti-corruption reforms and initiatives to reduce the erosion state funds and bring bribery and corruption under control.

The government's plans are now in place to implement the strategic plan for anti-corruption and bribery. At the same time, in order to protect individual rights and the basic rights of citizens, the protection of human rights is being implemented as a matter of great importance.

The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission is ensuring greater understanding, promoting awareness and protection. In police cells and prisons, noticeable improvements in food and accommodation can be seen.

Legal aid for people who cannot afford legal representation

Legal aid for people who cannot afford legal representation has been established. Legal aid is given to citizens who are poor and unable to defend for themselves, such as children, women, the elderly, disabled, and people suffering from communicable diseases.

Similarly, the President's Office has taken direct responsibility of the anti-narcotics taskforce. It is encouraging to see that there has been continuous cooperation from the people in reporting information on drug-related crimes.

Since the taskforce was established on 27th June 2018, until 17th September 2018, a total of 698 reports were made and 514 of these were investigated, resulting in 174 arrests made. A total of 426 people (356 males and 70 females) were apprehended. A total of 2,626.97 grams of heroin, 16.71 grams of ICE, 34,896.85 grams of opium, 144,781 tablets of amphetamine, 3,356.74 grams of marijuana, 10 assorted arms, 179 assorted ammunitions and 1 hand grenade were confiscated. To date, there have still not been many reports of large-scale drug traffickers received.

Three centres for youth rehabilitation managed by the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, and 9 centres for rehabilitation managed by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement were opened to give assistance, education and treatment programs to people taking mind-altering drugs and other kinds of substances. Assistance and rehabilitation to people suffering both physically and mentally was also given through educational and vocational training.

The Myanmar police force, which plays a vital role in upholding the role of law, has been enhanced to improve law enforcement. Arms and weapons have been updated, and training schools have been upgraded together with international institutions. Updates were also made to the forensics and DNA lab facilities. Communication equipment has been upgraded. It is understood that for nations going through transition, it takes an average of 10 years for the rule of law to take firm hold.

It is a long-term investment, where dynamic and unrelenting motivation is required, if the nation is to live in harmony, peace and security under a strong and firm rule of law.

Speaker and all members of Parliament,

May I conclude by clarifying that the government will exercise the powers vested in them by the people, with the collected efforts of the people, by:

- Ensuring the rule of law and promoting socio-economic development;
- Peace and national reconciliation; and
- Firmly upholding our objective to amend the constitution, which is the basic foundation for building a Democratic Federal Union.

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Nepali National Day held in Yangon

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu and his wife Daw Khin Thidar attended the Nepali National Day celebration held at Melia Hotel yesterday evening.

The celebration was opened with the national anthem of both Myanmar and Nepal.

This was followed by speeches from Nepalese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Bim K. Udas and the Union Minister, after which they proceeded to cut the celebratory cake.

The Union Minister and his wife, the Nepali Ambassador and his wife, then took a documentary photo with the attending guests.

The Ambassador and his wife then entertained the guests with a dinner banquet.

Attending the celebration were foreign ambassadors assuming office in Yangon, charge d'affairs, UN departmental representatives and other invited guests. —MNA

Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu delivers a speech at a celebration of the Nepali National Day in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Low pressure in Bay of Bengal likely to form depression in next 24 hours

THE cyclonic circulation in Bay of Bengal over the East Central Bay of Bengal and adjoining Myanmar Coast still persists and the low pressure is likely to intensify into a depression in the next 24 hours, according to the 6:30 pm observation of the weather bureau yesterday.

With this system in the bay, squalls with rough sea are likely to happen at times off and along Myanmar coasts, said the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40 miles per hour and wave height will be about 9 to 12 feet off and along Myanmar coasts.

Fishermen and locals are advised not to venture into the sea.

The forecast of the weather bureau said that rain or thundershowers will be scattered in southern and eastern Shan and Kayah states, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago regions, northern Shan and Chin states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavy falls in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, Rakhine and Mon states, with full per cent degree of certainty.—GNLM

Zo National Region Development Party presents its policy, stance and work program

Chairman U Kham En Thang.

CHAIRMAN U Kham En Thang of Zo National Region Development (ZNRD) Party presented the party's policy, stance, work programs and other issues on radio and TV on 19 September.

Following is a translation of the presentation:

Mingalarbar.

I am Chairman U Kham En Thang of Zo National Region Development Party. The party is also known as Zo Party.

First of all, I would like to introduce our party to the people. I will make my presentation in two parts – one is Zo National, and the other is Region Development.

Zo is one of the 135 tribes of ethnics legally acknowledged in Myanmar. Its ethnic code is 421. The significance of Zo is when Chin tribes are translated, it becomes Zo Minam; Zo is in Myanmar language. Mi refers to human being (Homo sapiens), and Minam means tribes. Therefore, Zo Mi means Zo human being or Chin human being, and Zo Minam refers to Zo tribes or Chin tribes. So, it can be deducted from these facts that Zo ethnic refers not only to Zo but all the Chin tribes. In a similar way, Chin State is called Zo Gam, Chin cuisine is Zo An and Chin songs are Zo La, replacing Chin by the word Zo.

Regarding the second part, Region Development, it refers to development across the region in which all national races including Zo tribes. The federal union, the main topic of today's political dialogue, is a chance to carry out development undertakings in own respective regions independently. A country is formed with several regions and regional stability and unity are essential for development of these regions or a country. Although there may be differences in traditions and religious belief, unity in diversity will help ensure peaceful coexistence automatically. A politician from the Western world said, "Peace is not unity in similarity, but unity in diversity."

Same opinion is basically needed for regional development. The best example is Singapore which we claim to be on a par with her within 20 years. Singapore gained her independence on 31 August in 1957, ten years after Myanmar gained independence. But 30 years later, around 1990, she became one of the Four Tigers of Asia. In other words, Singapore which was at the status of a fishing village, when Myanmar gained independence, became a developed country in the 1990s to which illegal immigrants tried to enter against the severe punishment of caning.

In retrospect, there have been three main factors for multi-racial and multi-religious Singapore's development, and they are as follows:

(1) Singaporeans share the same view with its leader Lee Kuan Yew who prioritized regional development and equality of citizens;
(2) Discrimination of race and religion is strictly prohibited;
(3) Nurturing modern and educated youths and encouraging them to participate in nation-building tasks.

Party logo.

We need to learn and take good examples from them if we really want to develop Myanmar. A policy of prioritizing extreme racism and religion is based on similarities, and thus there is a never-ending cycle of conflicts, pending development. It is the mother of the concept, "Those who are not similar to me are my enemies", which leads to harming of peace. Since peaceful coexistence is the essence of democracy, it is very important for us not to try to be similar but to share same opinion.

Our party will compete for a vacant seat in Tamu Township constituency 2 for the Sagaing Regional Hluttaw. The region is known as Kabaw valley. As the region is composed of plains and mountain ranges, it possesses scenic beauties and it is home to various nationalities. It is easy to access and thriving with agriculture and trade.

Our party has nominated a youth candidate who is educated and who can lead the people for ensuring regional development.

We would like to urge you, who love this Kabaw area, to help us with your ballot paper which comes from the bottom of your heart. Let me take this opportunity to inform you that supporting the national race parties is practicing multiparty democracy system which is the cause of the State. In developed countries with matured democracy, they vote in favour of qualified candidates of other parties if necessary. This is the symbol of independent democratic practice. A garden blooming only one species of flowers cannot be beautiful, but colourful flowers make it gorgeous. In like manner, Myanmar's future will be bright only with participation of national races' parties, in addition to strong parties in the respective parliaments.

In conclusion, I would like to urge you to give support to the candidate of Zo National Region Development Party at the coming by-election who will beautify the Kabaw valley.

Thank you.

Translated by Wallace

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo receives Country Director of IDLO

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received Ms. Christina Beninger, Country Director of International Development Law Organization (IDLO) at Union Attorney General office guest hall yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to work being carried out in accordance with the MOU signed in 2016 by Union Attorney General Office and IDLO, extension of Rule of Law Center projects, jointly implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and IDLO, cooperative works to promote policies related to gender equality, preventing violence against women and children.

Implementation to go in accordance with ethical standards for judges and fair judicial norms adopted by Union Attorney General Office, human resources development and other works to be carried out, were also discussed at the meeting.

The meeting was also attended by Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin. —MNA ■

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo meets with IDLO Country Director Ms. Christina Beninger yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Campaign talks of three parties on 21, 22, 23 Sept

THE Mirror Daily, the Myanma Alinn Daily and the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily will present campaign talks of the National Development Party, Union Farmer-Labour Force Party and Myanmar People's Democratic Party on 21, 22 and 23 September, respectively.—MNA ■

Traders: High dollar exchange rate can adversely affect nation's economy

By May Thet Hnin

Myanmar local currency banknotes. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

AMIDST concerns by entrepreneurs, Myanmar currency against the US dollar exchange rate is weakening in the market, which can adversely affect Myanmar's economy, businesspersons remarked.

The US dollar exchange rate to Myanmar currency yesterday was Ks1,620, under the floating exchange rate system.

"The appreciating dollar exchange rate hiked up prices of fuel oil, fundamental food items and pharmaceuticals. All key stakeholders involved in the currency market, including government, private banks, the Central Bank of Myanmar and businesspersons should tackle this issue. Some unscrupulous traders manipulating the market with massive buying of cash notes should consider the economy of the country and lives of the people with low-income", said Dr. Soe Tun, a money changer, who is also chair of Myanmar Automobile Manufacturers and Distributors Association.

In the floating exchange rate regime, traders buying foreign currency in hard cash are more seen than international bank-to-bank transfers or foreign exchange dealing services for large multi national.

"Policies are needed to regulate growing illegal currency market and to persuade them to enter legal market from black market.", said U Than Lwin, senior advisor at Kanbawza Bank.

The escalating trade war between US and China is a contributing factor to dollar appreciation in the global market. Myanmar is drastically affected from this, as Myanmar's export volume is lesser than those of neighbouring countries. The country needs to formulate long-term plans to bolster potential export items. Also, small and medium enterprises should be encouraged to support import-substituting businesses. Myanmar should significantly reduce unnecessary import items, according to traders.

"Myanmar has export related plans. However, implementing stages are not that satisfying," said U Ye Myint Maung, an exporter from Myanmar Food Processors and Exporters Association.

"Current exchange rate is on an unexpected high. Afterall, people are suffering from this. If we cannot deal with this, it will get worse", said Daw Toe Nanda Tin, vice chair of Myanmar Fishery Processors and Exporters Association.

Despite dollar appreciation, exporters do not reap a great profit as they have to buy raw materials at current exchange rate. Traders are expecting a dollar price stability for their businesses to run well. They are concerned over devaluations in local currency.

The dollar exchange rate in the first quarter of this year was around Ks1,300-1,400.

The rate increased above Ks1,500 in mid-August. It hit a record high of Ks1,620 on 19 September. Last fiscal year's highest record was only Ks1,380.

From 1 April to 7 September of mini-budget period, trade deficit is registered at US$1.33 billion, which is down form $2.1 billion in the similar period of last FY 2017-2018. Trade deficit can be narrowed down against last FY. Also, the export income is up by $1.5 million, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM), the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Planning and Finance are jointly conducting weekly discussions to regulate the dollar exchange rate. The CBM has also sold dollars to private banks. At present, the US is planing increase retaliatory tariffs on China's imported goods next week, which has also led to dollar instability in domestic market, besides money manipulation.■

Japan-Myanmar trade worth over $696 million from April to July

THE value of trade between Myanmar and its development partner Japan reached US$696.6 million from April to July, during six-month mini-budget period, according to the data of the Ministry of Commerce.

In these four months, Myanmar's export to Japan is worth $452 million, while its import fetched only $244 million.

Myanmar's export items to Japan are garments, marine products, rice, black sesame, green grams, rubber and other products. In return, it imported machines and machine equipment, electronic equipment, fertilizers, chemical products, medicines, automobiles, and other products.

Bilateral trade was registered at $1.92 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, $2 billion in the 2016-2017 FY, $1.84 billion in the 2015-16 FY, $2.3 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, $1.8 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, $1.49 billion in the 2012-2013 FY and $822 million in the 2011-2012 FY.

Japan-listed three enterprises brought in foreign direct investments of $85 million in the four months, according to statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

In addition to this, Japan makes up nearly 30 per cent of total FDI in Thilawa Special Economic Zone, with an estimated value of $441 million, since its establishment in 2014-2015 fiscal year.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) offers loans, such as ODA and two-step loan, with a view to bringing about socioeconomic development in Myanmar. JICA and Myanmar signed loan agreements for many development projects such as Agriculture Income Improvement Project, Project for the Development of Finance for Small-and Medium-sized Enterprises, Housing Finance Development Project and Yangon-Mandalay Railway Improvement Project Phase II, Regional Development Project for Poverty Reduction Phase II, Agriculture and Rural Development, Power Distribution System Improvement Project in Major Cities, Greater Yangon Water Supply Improvement Project, Yangon Circular Railway Project, etc.—GNLM ■

Export to Germany outperforms import during four months

MYANMAR'S export to Germany from April to July, during mini-budget, surpassed its import, with US$186 million worth of export and $60.8 million valued import, according to the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce. Germany was ranked first among members of European Union with the largest trade value of $247 million with Myanmar, followed by the UK with about $180 million. France was listed at the third place with trade values of about $132.9 million.

Beyond regional trade regime, Myanmar has established trade links with EU members. The main export items are rice, pulses, tea leaves, coffee, garments on Cut-Make-Pack basis and fisheries. Meanwhile, machinery, data-processing equipment, electrical and optical goods, chemical products, motor vehicles and parts and pharmaceutical products, cosmetics, food and beverages and consumer goods are imported into Myanmar. Myanmar reinstated EU's Generalized Scheme of Preference, starting from 19 July 2013. Myanmar can enjoy GSP for export of fisheries, rice, pulses, agro products, bamboos and rattan finished products, forestry products, apparels and finished industrial goods. Trade value with Germany was about $584 million in 2017-2018 FY, $342 million in 2016-2017 FY, $153 million in FY 2015-16, $147 million in 2014-2015 FY, $123 million in 2013-2014 FY, $187 million in 2012-2013 FY and $137 million in FY 2011-2012. EU member countries invest in petroleum and natural gas enterprises, manufacturing, transportation, hotels and tourism and livestock businesses.—GNLM ■

20 SEPTEMBER 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Time to show zero tolerance to wildlife crime

MYANMAR has become an illegal wildlife trading hub with an increasing demand for wildlife products. The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) reports that there is a big central market for illegal wildlife trade in the Golden Triangle area where the border areas of China, Myanmar, Laos and Thailand meet.

Some 1,400 suspects, guilty of wildlife crimes, had been identified worldwide and that tons of meat, elephant ivory, pangolin scales and illegally trafficked timber were seized in a crackdown, according to Interpol.

In Myanmar, the growth in demand in neighboring China has led to a rise in the number of elephants and other protected species being killed, but local communities are also fighting back.

Authorities seized 20 bags of pangolin scales, which are prized for their alleged medicinal value, with a street value of over K50 million at a check-point in Kalay Township, Sagaing Region, on 16th September. The latest seizure in northern Myanmar is just the tip of the iceberg.

> “Long term aims were established and efforts made to eradicate illegal trades and instill good practices for abiding the law in the community.

In another event, villagers in northern Myanmar near the country’s border with China stopped a truck just before it crossed the border into China and saved 175 star tortoises.

Wildlife trafficking in Myanmar involves many species of animals and animal parts beyond pangolin scales, turtles, tigers and elephants.

Long term aims were established and efforts made to eradicate illegal trades and instill good practices for abiding the law in the community. Disregarding the enacted laws and taking part in prohibited activities for self-gain are to be suppressed and prevented, jointly by the government, people and civil society organizations.

Only then can a stable, peaceful community where rule of law prevails, be achieved.

Meanwhile, the Department of Forestry is conducting awareness campaigns to stop shops from selling wildlife animal souvenirs and cuisines at pagoda precincts, airports and markets.

In order to be adaptable with changing times, the Protection of Wildlife and Protected Areas Law 1994 was revised and reenacted on 21 May 2018.

When the by-law of the wildlife protection law is ready, illegal wildlife trade can be strictly controlled.

Crime and punishment under the previous law are no longer relevant. The new law seems to cover criminal liability and so, punishments will vary depending on cases for fully and partially protected wildlife animals. This move is hoped to be effective in cracking down on illegal wildlife trade in the country. Today is the time to take a zero-tolerance approach to wildlife crime in Myanmar.

Paper by civil society organisations read at 2018 International Democracy Day ceremony

MINGALABA to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speakers, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, Deputy Speakers of Hluttaws, officials from international organisations and guests. This is the fourth time civil society organisations (CSOs) are attending the Democracy Day event organised by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. I would like to thank Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for inviting CSOs and is honoured to read a paper by CSOs.

While Myanmar is in transition towards democracy, the Democracy Days are an opportunity for us to reflect on the progresses we had. We CSOs, would like to reiterate again that establishment and development of democracy and national unity is most important for all of us.

Ma Thin Nwe Soe.

As democracy is established/developed, all nationals will become brotherly and sisterly while having individual roles to play.

The challenges CSOs currently face are not having wide views and fully understanding the division of duties in the roles CSOs had to play in establishing, strengthening and developing democracy.

Government need to accept this, recognize the important role of CSOs in Myanmar’s political transition process and raise political transparency and democracy practices. Enacting of the most importantly required Association Registration Law in 2014 made the CSOs happy and excited. But implementing of that law is becoming a challenge. It is freedom of speech and freedom of association. CSOs face much difficulties and delays in registering. As such CSOs are reviewing the implementation of this law and the outcomes (of the review) and reality at the grass root level will be submitted to the policy makers and the government. News media are considered as an important fourth pillar that provides news and information to the government. In addition to this, news media are the one that strengthens the political processes by distributing news and information to the people. Therefore, media freedom needs to be protected and Communication Law section 66 (d) need to be reviewed and amended.

CSOs recognize that development is important for sustainable success that benefits all the people and progress in the in-country reforms.

CSOs understand the role they have to play and participate for the country’s development and are searching for ways to monitor the effectiveness of development supports and assistances. In addition to these ways for CSOs to participate not only in the country but onto the world stage is being made. CSOs welcome the formations of DACU (Development Assistance Coordinating Unit) in early 2017 because it was formed with the aim of reducing poverty and using development assistance fully and effectively. The unit formed SCGs with relevant donor organisations, INGOs (international non-government organisations) and CSOs, in which CSOs are enthusiastically participating in it. As Myanmar has drawn up and approved long term development project 2018-2030 as well as approved 2018 development assistance policy, assistance will be effective and sustainable development goals will be fulfilled. If CSOs are permitted to participate with other relevant organisation in this as partner organisations it will be more effective and sustainable.

Together with the country’s democracy transition, CSOs are transiting from humanitarian works to development works starting from 2013. Although CSOs are participating in humanitarian works, its participation in development works is few. Much humanitarian assistances are required in Kayin State and Bago Region that are facing natural disasters. CSOs are helping in this together with government and private organisations. Only when the role of the CSOs are raised, can the requirements of vulnerable groups of women, disabled, child, youth, ethnic nationals SOGIE (Sexual orientation, gender identity and expression) will be understood.

Peace process is the priority work of the government at the moment. We all need to be aware that participation of all, interconnection and mutual trust are essential requirements. We are glad and happy for the recognition and roles afforded to the CSOs in the peace process. However, CSOs are still considered as outer rims. Therefore, the government is urged to permit the participation of CSOs and women in the peace process in a more meaningful way.

We commend and recognize the distinct success of Anti-Corruption Commission formed by the present government. According to Asia and Pacific region norms, Myanmar stands at 67.58%. But there still remain many challenges.

Engagements between union level government departments and CSOs for anti-corruption is positive but at the state/region and lower level there remains challenges such as lack of mutual trust and inconsistencies in the work processes. Myanmar National Human Rights Commission was formed to promote and protect rights of the nationals under the 2018 Constitution. People’s enthusiastic participation need to be obtained to be in accordance with the theme of this year’s International Democracy Day, “Assist and guide for sustainable democracy.” The importance of ICCPR (international covenant on civil and political rights) is recognized and Myanmar is urged to endorse and sign the resolution. Only then can the people conduct political and economic matters in a dignified way and without violating their human rights.

Democracy is people leading the works that are based on their beliefs. Due to this, people need to participate and guide political processes. Therefore, we earnestly request the government to value the voices of the people and to work as friends of the people in the democracy process.

CSOs together with other participants in maintaining and defending democracy society will ensure that voices of the people are heard by the legislators, and pledges again to work with other differing peoples and organisations towards establishing democracy and nation construction. ■

Paper by student youths read at 2018 International Democracy Day ceremony

GREETINGS and well wishes to honorable Speakers of Hluttaws, Union Ministers, Hluttaw representatives and guests. The title of the paper read on the occasion of International Democracy Day that fell on 15 September 2018 is,“Assist and guide for sustainable democracy.” In practising a democracy system, rule of law, internal security and strengthening of the basic laws are very important. Furthermore, everyone knew that a most successful democracy will only come about when there is no corruption. To protect and maintain the democracy achieved is the duty of the entire Myanmar nationals including the students.

All nationals know that democracy will not come about on its own. Now is the moment when Myanmar is increasing the momentum of its walk down the path of democracy. As it is very important not to go down the wrong path, a good leader is necessary. It is difficult to defend democracy with one or two leaders. It is important to have many good leaders.

New generation students who will sustain and develop Myanmar’s democracy society are going down the path of democracy correctly. Ministry of Education is also implementing works toward a democracy system education.

To be successful in this implementation works, students need to cherish both fiction and non-fiction literature while becoming experts on specialized subjects. They need to strive towards becoming exemplary in having good moral, abide by rules and laws, and to be on par internationally. Only then can they get a true democracy education.

Everyone knows that at the moment, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi herself is meeting directly with students and holding literature talks for students to cherish fiction literature. It is to show that knowledge gained from fiction literature will provide knowledge and balanced thinking that benefit the majority of the people. Everyone also knows that students from all regions are enthusiastically following the discussions led by the State Counsellor. To see the literature knowledge of the students and their will towards development must be an encouraging force for the state. New generation students must strive towards becoming good leaders for the country in the future. The good habit of a democracy system – mutual respect, understanding, discussion and cooperation were being exercised and established. The students are striving towards not only improving themselves but also their surroundings for the development of a democracy nation. Democracy mindsets are being instilled in the students by encouraging students in universities and colleges to participate enthusiastically in non-curriculum activities.

Ma Shwe Ma Ma Maung.

As good practices of democracy are being applied, youths are sure to cherish and maintain democracy.

Even though Myanmar transition process started quite recently, it is developing peacefully and gently while gaining strength toward establishing a democratic political system. During this transition process, protecting and maintaining the democratic rights are the duty of all nationals as well as the students. All students and youths are to participate in this as a historical duty.

I would like to conclude by wishing that the honourable, knowledgeable, skilled persons and guests work together with the people, including the students in realizing the title of the paper “Assist and guide for sustainable democracy.” ■

LOW PRESSURE AREA CONDITION
(Issued at (07:00) hours MST on (19- 9 -2018)

According to the observations at (06:30)hrs MST today, the low pressure area over the East Central Bay of Bengal and adjoining Myanmar Coast still persists.

It is likely to further intensify into a depression during next (24) hours.

General caution

Squalls with rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph. Wave height will be about (9- 12)feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware trawlers, vessels and ships off and along Myanmar Coasts.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued on Wednesday 19 September 2018)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Chin and Rakhine states, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing and Bago regions and widespread in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavy falls in Mandalay Region and isolated heavy falls in Lower Sagaing Region. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Pyawbwe (2.91)inches, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (2.87)inches, Central-Yangon (2.79) inches, Hmawbi and Yangon (Mingaladon) (2.63)inches each, Kungyangon and Myaungmya (2.05) inches each, Mindat (2.02)inches, Shwebo and Bago (1.97)inches each, Hainggyikyun (1.93)inches, Northern Dagon (1.89)inches, Dawei (1.73)inches, Launglon (1.65)inches, Kyeikkhame (1.61)inches and Yamethin (1.50) inches.

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (13:30)hrs MST today, the low pressure area over the East Central Bay of Bengal still persists. It may further intensify into a depression within (12) hours. Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 20 September 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in (Southern and Eastern)Shan and Kayah states, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago regions, Northern Shan and Chin states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with isolated heavy falls in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, Rakhine and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph. Wave height will be about (9 - 12) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of thundery conditions in Central Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 September 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 September 2018: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20 September 2018: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Union Minister attends 1st ARIMM, GICC 2018 meetings

AT the invitation of the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, a delegation led by Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung travelled to Seoul, ROK, on 17 September to attend the 1st ASEAN-ROK Infrastructure Ministers' Meeting (1st ARIMM) held at the Intercontinental Seoul COEX Hotel.

Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung attending 1st ASEAN-ROK Infrastructure Ministers' Meeting in Seoul. **PHOTO: MNA**

Attending the meeting were South Korean Minister for Land, Infrastructure and Transport Ms. Kim Hyun-mee, other transport, construction and infrastructure ministers from ASEAN countries, and officials from the office of the ASEAN Secretary General.

At the meeting, the Union Minister discussed Myanmar's ongoing transportation basic infrastructure projects and future prospective collaboration efforts with South Korea and other ASEAN countries. The ARIMM meeting is being held for the first time, starting this year, with the intention to promote development of basic infrastructure sector between South Korea and ASEAN countries.

Before the meeting, the Union Minister met separately with South Korean Minister Ms. Kim Hyun-mee. They openly discussed the status of basic infrastructure and transportation projects, operating with loans from South Korea, as well as continued cooperation processes.

On 18 September, the Union Minister attended the Global Infrastructure Cooperation Conference (GICC 2018), held in correlation with ARIMM. —MNA ■

Businesses from 23 countries to join industrial & infrastructure event

By May Thet Hnin

A MEGA Industrial & Infrastructure Event will be held from 11 to 13 October at Yangon Convention Centre, with participants from 23 countries, including China, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, India, South Korea and Japan.

This event will bring together four trade shows, such as Construction, Power and Mining; Intermach, Subcon & MTA Myanmar; Myanmar Water; and Renewable Energy Myanmar. These trade shows are to be held for the sixth time at the Mega Industrial & Infrastructure Event.

Over 350 companies from 23 countries will showcase their products, technology and their services, including subcontracting, business-matching, technology for construction, mining, power and waste water management, energy and renewable energy sectors. This mega event also includes Myanmar-Water Conference for sustainable development on water supply, sanitation and wastewater treatment.

Industrial & Infrastructure Event holding a Press conference in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

The event is organized by UBM Asia, cooperated and supported by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce (UMFCCI), Myanmar Industries Association (MIA), Myanmar Federation of Mining Association (MFMA), Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association (MCEA), Myanmar Engineering Society (MES), Renewable Energy Association of Myanmar (REAM), Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC), Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Myanmar.

This event will bring opportunities for local businesspersons to link with respective foreign counterparts, said U Aye Tun, deputy chair of Myanmar Industries Association.

At present, Myanmar has potential for foreign investments. Hopefully, this event will fulfill the requirements of industrial and infrastructure enterprises, said Mr. Fraser Hawkes, general manager of UBM Myanmar. ■

MIC grants permits, endorsements to four local, foreign enterprises

MYANMAR Investment Commission (MIC) recently approved permits and endorsements for four local and foreign enterprises at the Myanmar Investment Commission meeting 15/2018.

A press conference on permitted enterprises, according to MIC meeting 15/2018 was held in the morning of 15 September at the office of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), under the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

Two foreign enterprises were approved permit and endorsements by MIC, which provided two foreign direct investments worth US$44.148 million at a recent meeting. The investments will be made in one industrial sector and one in transport and communications sector, creating 752 local employment opportunities.

A total of 77 foreign enterprises received permits and endorsements, bringing in a capital of $934.102 million, as of 15 September in the current six-month interim period, prior to next fiscal year 2018-2019.

Overall foreign direct investments totalled $1650.798 million so far, including $1479.698 million in increased investments and $171.100 million in Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

In the similar period last year, two local enterprises with a capital of Ks6,092.000 million were approved by MIC and the respective investment committees in Kachin State. The investments will be engaged in other sectors, creating 226 employment opportunities for local residents.—GNLM ■

Myanmar, Bangladesh conduct coordinated patrol

A COORDINATED patrol between Myanmar and Bangladesh was conducted at the border mile posts 50 to 51 from 10:25 am to 12 noon on 18 September.

The Myanmar patrol was led by Sub-Inspector Aung Kyaw Soe from No.5 Border Police sub-division (Aung Thabyae), Area 1, Maungtaw Township, and the Bangladesh patrol was led by officer Subedar Md. Mahamud Hossain of No. 11 Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB).

PHOTO: POLICE FORCE

Similarly, on the same day, another patrol between Myanmar and Bangladesh was conducted at the border mile posts 38 to 39 from 10:00 am to 12 noon.

The Myanmar patrol was led by Police Inspector Kyaw Zaw Oo from No.1 Border Police sub-division (Taung Pyo), Area 3, Maungtaw Township, and the Bangladesh patrol was led by officer Naib Subedar Md. Ruhul Amin of No. 34 BGB.—Myanmar Police Force ■

Foreign visitors to Myanmar increase

THERE has been a total of 869,788 foreign visitors arriving in Myanmar in 2018, a 1 per cent increase from 861,384 in 2017. There were 835,557 foreign visitors arriving by flight to Myanmar in 2018, a 1 per cent increase from 830,727 in 2017. There have been 7,009 foreign visitors arriving by cruise ships in 2018, a 34 per cent increase from 5,228 in 2017. There were 27,222 foreign visitors entering into Myanmar through border gates in 2018, a 7 per cent increase from 25,429 in 2017. A total of 1,390,193 people passed through the border gates in 2018, a 2 per cent decrease from 1,417,860 in 2017.—Ministry of Hotels and Tourism ■

Inaugural ASEAN Prize seeks nomination

THE ASEAN Secretariat is calling for nominations for the first ASEAN Prize, which aims to recognize inspiring achievements and contributions of an individual or organization that foster the ASEAN identify, promote the ASEAN spirit, and champion the ASEAN way in designated focus areas such as:

(a) collaboration between ASEAN Member States;
(b) collaboration between ASEAN and the world;
(c) people-to-people engagement among ASEAN Member States;
(d) economic integration and promotion of standards between Member States, or
(e) outstanding contributions towards ASEAN Community Building

A judging committee, consisting of incumbent and past Secretaries-General of ASEAN, will select the eventual winner, who will be awarded a cash prize of US$ 20,000. The inaugural prize will be presented at the ASEAN Leaders Summit in November 2018.

To be eligible, the nominee must be a citizen or an organization in any ASEAN Member States. The nominee must demonstrate verifiable achievements for the period of April 2017 to March 2018. The nominee should also share their future plans in continuing the work after winning the prize.

Submissions are open from now until 27-9-2018 and the nominee can submit his/her or the organization's information and achievements to the ASEAN Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office No.9, Nay Pyi Taw or dgasean@gmail.com.

For further information, please visit http://asean.org/?staticpost-asean-prize-2018. ■

Putin vows to improve security of military personnel in Syria in wake of Il-20 tragedy

MOSCOW — Moscow's response to the Ilyushin Il-20 aircraft crash will be aimed at ensuring the security of Russian military personnel deployed to Syria, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at a press conference following talks with the Hungarian prime minister.

"As for retaliatory measures, they will be first and foremost aimed at additionally ensuring the security of our military personnel and facilities in Syria," he said.

The Russian leader described the loss of the Ilyushin-20 over the Mediterranean as a result of a string of tragic circumstances and offered condolences to the victims' relatives.

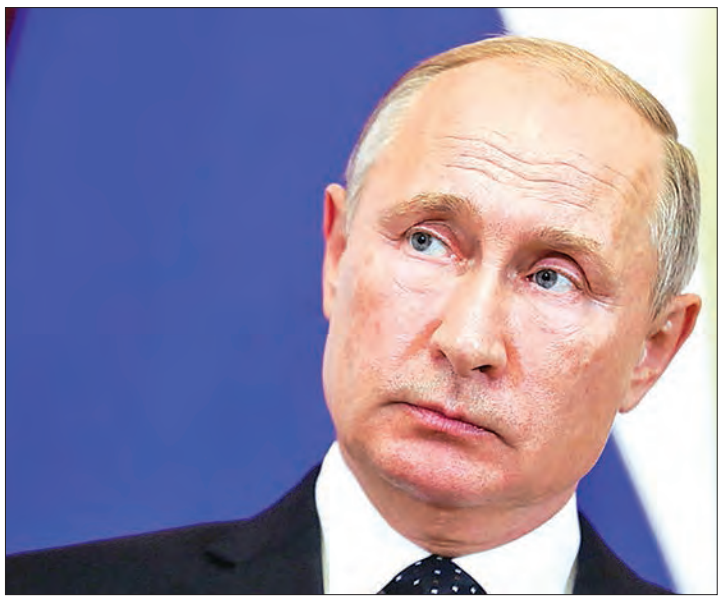
"When people get killed, particularly so, under such tragic circumstances, it is always a great misfortune to us, to the country and to the relatives of our late comrades. I offer condolences first and foremost to the relatives of those killed," Putin said at a news conference following Russian-Hungarian talks. "As for comparison with the well-known events (the attack on a Russian plane), when a Turkish fighter jet shot down our plane, it was a different situation. This time it looks like a string of tragic circumstances."

Downing of Il-20 aircraft

According to the Russian Defence Ministry, at about 23:00 Moscow time (20:00 GMT) on September 17, contact was lost with a Russian Il-20 aircraft flying over the Mediterranean Sea back to the Russian Hmeimim air base in Syria.

The ministry said the aircraft had disappeared from radar during an airstrike carried out by four Israeli F-16 fighter jets on targets in the Syrian province of Latakia.

On Tuesday morning, the Russian Defence Ministry stated that the Il-20 aircraft had been accidently downed by Syrian air defences because the Israeli F-16 jets had been using it as cover. According to Defence Ministry Spokesman Major General Igor Konashenkov, Israeli pilots "could not but see the Russian plane, which was approaching the runway from an altitude of five kilometres." The ministry added that it considered such actions by Israel to be hostile.



Russian President Vladimir Putin. **PHOTO: TASS**

Later in the day, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu held a telephone call with his Israeli counterpart Avigdor Lieberman, stating that Israel was solely to blame for the downing of Russia's Il-20 aircraft over the Mediterranean Sea. "The Israeli Defence Ministry's actions are not in the spirit of Russian-Israeli partnership so we reserve the right to take retaliatory steps," the Russian defence chief stressed.—Tass ■

Israel expresses 'sorrow' for Russian deaths, blames Assad and Iran

JERUSALEM (Undefined) — Israel's military expressed "sorrow" on Tuesday for the deaths of crew members of a Russian military aircraft accidentally downed by Syria during an Israeli strike, but blamed Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and Iran.

"Israel expresses sorrow for the deaths of the aircrew members of the Russian plane that was downed tonight due to Syrian anti-aircraft fire," a military statement said in Israel's first reaction to the incident.

"Israel holds the Assad regime, whose military shot down the Russian plane, fully responsible for this incident. Israel also holds Iran and the Hezbollah terror organisation accountable for this unfortunate incident."—AFP ■

N Korea's Kim says to visit Seoul, shut missile site

SEOUL (South Korea) — North Korea's Kim Jong Un will soon make a historic visit to Seoul, he said on Wednesday, and has agreed to close a missile testing site in front of international inspectors, as a rare inter-Korean summit unfolded in Pyongyang.

However, progress on the key issue of dismantling the North's nuclear arsenal was limited, even though the South's President Moon Jae-in had hoped to bring fresh momentum to stalled talks between his hosts and the United States.

Kim said he would travel to Seoul "in the near future", adding that the agreement he signed with Moon "carries the people's fresh hope and the people's strong, flaming desire for reunification".

South Korean President Moon Jae-in (L) shakes hands with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (R) during a joint press conference after their summit at Paekhwawon State Guesthouse in Pyongyang on 19 September, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

The visit would be the first by a Northern leader to Seoul since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, when hostilities ceased with an armistice rather than a peace treaty, leaving the divided peninsula technically in a state of war.

Talks in Pyongyang built on a growing rapprochement, with the two leaders agreeing on Wednesday to hold family reunions on a regular basis, work towards joining up road and rail links, and mount a combined bid for the 2032 Olympics.

Moon said Kim's visit to Seoul could happen this year and would be a "turning point in South-North relations".

The North had agreed to "permanently close" a missile engine testing site and launch facility in Tongchang-ri "in the presence of experts from relevant nations", he added.

At Kim's historic summit with US President Donald Trump in Singapore in June — brokered by Moon — he declared his backing for denuclearization of the peninsula. But no details were agreed and Washington and Pyongyang have since sparred over what that means and how it will be achieved.

Trump welcomed Wednesday's declaration, tweeting that Kim had "agreed to allow Nuclear inspections, subject to final negotiations" and adding: "Very exciting!"

But experts were sceptical.

'Short of expectations'

The North — whose ballistic missile programme is banned under UN Security Council resolutions—has carried out several long-range rocket launches from the site, also known as Sohae, but has also used many other locations, including Pyongyang airport.

Satellite pictures in August suggested workers were already dismantling an engine test stand at Sohae. "Kim is playing this brilliantly: verify that I dismantle a single site that I no longer need anyway while I mass produce the missiles the site helped me develop," said Vipin Narang of MIT.

Moon also said the North could close its Yongbyon nuclear facility if Washington takes "corresponding measures" — a significant caveat.

Arms control expert Jeffrey Lewis said the consensus view was that the uranium enrichment facility at Yongbyon "was built for (the) express purpose of being sacrificed". After the high symbolism of Moon and Kim's first meeting in April in the Demilitarized Zone, and the Singapore summit, progress has largely stalled.

Washington is pressing for the North's "final, fully verified denuclearisation", while Pyongyang wants a formal declaration that the 1950-53 Korean War is over and has condemned "gangster-like" demands for it to give up its weapons unilaterally.

Ahead of the Pyongyang summit there had been speculation Moon could secure a promise from Kim of a list of the North's nuclear assets, but no such document was mentioned.

"On the denuclearization issue, the agreement fell short of expectations," Korea University political science professor Yoo Ho-yeol told AFP. "Had the North promised to hand over information on its nuclear arsenal, for example, it would have looked much more encouraging."

Mass applause

But the two Koreas have been pressing ahead with their own rapprochement, with Kim looking to secure economic cooperation from the far wealthier South, and Moon looking to reduce the risk of a US-North Korean conflict that would devastate his country.

The Rodong Sinmun newspaper, the mouthpiece of the North's ruling party, has given the summit blanket coverage, with dozens of photos of the two leaders embracing on Moon's arrival Tuesday, parading together through the streets of the capital, enjoying a concert, and toasting at a banquet.

On Wednesday evening, Moon's party will dine at a new fish restaurant in Pyongyang opposite Mansu hill, where giant statues of Kim's predecessors — his grandfather Kim Il Sung and father Kim Jong Il — look out over the city. It was chosen after Moon expressed interest in dining at a local restaurant with ordinary citizens. However, a retail shop there sells North Korean caviar at $50 for a 50-gramme jar — a luxury far beyond the reach of most North Koreans.

Afterwards, Moon will attend a performance of the "Mass Games" — North Korea's spectacular propaganda display featuring tens of thousands of performers against an ever-changing backdrop, made up of 17,490 children turning the coloured pages of books in sequence to send images rippling across one side of the May Day stadium.

The premiere of the latest version of the show, called "The Glorious Country", earlier this month featured video footage of Moon and Kim together at their first summit in Panmunjom — prompting the unusual sight of tens of thousands of North Koreans applauding images of the South's president.—AFP ■

China sets retaliatory tariffs on $60bn in US goods

BEIJING (China) — China on Tuesday announced tariffs on US goods worth $60 billion in retaliation for President Donald Trump's decision to slap duties on $200 billion in Chinese products next week.

Tariffs of between five and 10 percent will take effect on some 5,200 US products on Monday, on the same day as the new US duties, the finance ministry said.

The two side already traded tariff salvos on $50 billion in goods from each country in the summer.

"If the United States insists on raising tariffs even more, China will respond accordingly," the finance ministry said in a statement. China had previously warned that it would target $60 billion in US goods if Trump made good on his threat to impose the new tariffs.

The lower Chinese figure highlights Beijing's inability to match the US dollar-for-dollar in a tariffs war.

The US imported around $500 billion worth of products from China last year, compared to $130 billion in US goods imported by the Asian country.

Trump threatened to hit another $267 billion in Chinese goods if Beijing took retaliatory action. The Chinese finance ministry did not provide a detailed list of products to be hit by the new tariffs on Monday.

A previous list said products ranging from pig hides to cocoa butter and condoms would be targeted. China had previously said the $60 billion in US goods would face tariffs of five to 25 per cent. It was unclear if the tariffs announced on Tuesday were lower to match the US plan.

The US said the Chinese imports will face 10 per cent tariffs through the end of the year, and then the rate will jump to 25 per cent.—AFP ■

Eight people rushed to hospital, 24 treated at scene after chemical leak at Sydney hotel

SYDNEY — A chemical leak at a luxury Sydney hotel on Wednesday has seen eight people taken to nearby hospital and 24 others treated at the scene, a New South Wales State Ambulance spokesperson said.

The guests at the Pullman Sydney Hyde Park Hotel were treated for "eye irritation and breathing problems," the spokesperson told Xinhua.

Despite the initial panic, he confirmed that everyone who was treated is now in a stable condition. Four fire trucks and 16 firefighters responded to the incident on level 20, 21 and 22 of the building at around 9:00 am. local time this morning after a strong odor was detected. "It happened on the pool level area," the spokesperson explained. "Someone was doing some kind of work on the pool and apparently there was a mixture of chemicals that did not mix well together.""Somehow the fumes have escaped and gone through the building."—AFP ■

EU targets BMW, Daimler, VW in pollution cartel probe

BRUSSELS (Belgium) — The EU opened an in-depth probe into alleged collusion by major German carmakers over anti-pollution technology on Tuesday, a fresh blow to the scandal-hit industry three years after the notorious "dieselgate."

Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager said BMW, Daimler and VW are suspected of agreeing "not to compete against each other on the development and roll-out" of anti-pollution systems for petrol and diesel passenger cars.

"If proven, this collusion may have denied consumers the opportunity to buy less polluting cars, despite the technology being available to the manufacturers," she added.

The probe lands three years to the day after shock revelations in the US that VW installed software in millions of its diesel vehicles around the world to cheat emissions tests.

The latest case does not involve these so-called "defeat devices", but instead focuses on the development of state-of-the-art control systems that reduce smog-causing pollution, such as nitrogen oxides and particulate matter.

The Commission said the probe was working with evidence of meetings and collusion by a group it called the "circle of five": BMW, Daimler, Volkswagen, in addition to VW units Audi and Porsche.

EU regulators working the investigation launched a series of raids a year ago in Germany. Daimler and VW are widely reported to be putting themselves forward as whistle-blowers in the case, in order to win leniency with the EU authorities.—AFP ■

Trade Mark
Ads
09251022355,
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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (099N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (099N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-9-2018 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
Ministry of Construction

INVITATION FOR BID

1. The Government of the Union of Myanmar has received a loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of " Regional Development Project for Poverty Reduction Phase 2 MY-P17" . It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contracts for the construction of the pilot projects listed below for "Regional Development Project for Poverty Reduction Phase 2(MY-P17)."

2. The Department of Highway (DoH), Ministry of Construction now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the construction and completion of the work below:

IFB No	Project ID	Works
DOH-1A	NgaThineChaung-Gwa Road in Ayeyarwady Region	18.1km Concrete Pavement Road, Drainage structures and other miscellaneous structures
DOH-1B	NgaThineChaung-Gwa Road in Ayeyarwady Region	17.798km Concrete Pavement Road, Drainage structures and other miscellaneous structures
DOH-2	Taungoo-Latetho-YarDo Road in Bago region	16.86km Concrete Pavement Road, Drainage structures and other miscellaneous structures

3. Selling of Bid Documents: (20.9.2018) to (26.9.2018)
4. Submission of Bids: (12:00) noon on (9.11.2018)
5. Opening of Bids: (13:30) hours on (9.11.2018)
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidder at the address below and upon payment of a non- refundable fee of: Fifty Thousands Myanmar Kyat (ks. 50,000/-)
7. Interested eligible Bidder may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office of Project Inspection and Quality Control Department (Construction), Department of Highways, Ministry of construction, Building No.(11), NayPyiTaw.

Contact Person: U AUNG KYAW HAN
Phone No: 09-5080-434 / 09257728844 / 09450330580
E-mail address: dohjica.sector@gmail.com
aungthurawin.thipaw@gmail.com

Myanma Port Authority "Notice of High Tide"

Exceptionally high spring from 20.01 feet to 21.54 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of September 25th to September 30th, 2018. Please be noted that is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO. (226 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO. (226 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-9-2018 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
သတင်းစာ၊ဂျာနယ်စာစောင်များ အား နိုင်ငံတကာအဆင့်မီ
ပုံနှိပ်စက်ဖြင့် ပုံနှိပ်ပေးပါသည်။
Newspapers & Journal Printing Service.
Contact: 09-254435478

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (100 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (100 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-9-2018 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SOUL OF LUCK VOY. NO. (1827-1828)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SOUL OF LUCK VOY. NO. (1827-1828) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-9-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/T.M.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ANDAMAN STAR VOY. NO. (009N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ANDAMAN STAR VOY. NO. (009N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-9-2018 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 KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. (KHSA 0091 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. (KHSA 0091 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-9-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

New York expo on conspiracy theories aims to capture zeitgeist

NEW YORK—The Kennedy assassination, Watergate, 911 and the war in Iraq: all these landmark events in US history fueled public suspicions about the elites and fostered conspiracy theories that inspired artists, and are the focus of a new exhibition at New York's Met Breuer museum.

"Everything Is Connected: Art and Conspiracy," which opened on Tuesday and runs until 6 January, attempts to capture the zeitgeist of an age riven with alternative theories about the hidden machinations of power, in what museum director Max Hollein calls a "timely exhibition."

The history of conspiracy theories goes back centuries, but the show at the Met Breuer — an offshoot of the Metropolitan Museum of Art dedicated to modern and contemporary works — kicks off with the most famous of the modern era, the assassination of president John F Kennedy.

A woman looks at works by the SILENCE = DEATH Project (1987) at New York's Met Breuer museum as part of the "Everything Is Connected: Art and Conspiracy" show that runs through 6 January, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

It is not so much the event itself but the investigations that followed, notably the Warren and Church commissions that examined the actions of the US spy agencies, which drive the show.

"It was really spurred on in a way by all of the commissions that were taking place in the 1970s reexamining what happened," said curator Ian Alteveer. "It begins to simmer and it comes to a slow boil by the 1970s." An example of how that has translated into the artistic psyche is the 1976 work "The Lee Harvey Oswald Interview," featured on the poster for the exhibition.

The work by veteran US artist Lutz Bacher — who uses a pseudonym and has never revealed her real identity—features an imagined interview the artist herself carries out with the president's assassin, together with a montage of pictures of Oswald. —AFP ■

Seger hangs up guitar after half-century career

NEW YORK (United States)—Heartland rocker Bob Seger said on Tuesday that he was retiring from touring, announcing final dates after a half-century career.

The 73-year-old songwriter – best known for his hit "Old Time Rock and Roll," his 1979 tribute to what then already seemed like a retro musical style — will tour across North America starting in November with a final date on May 2 in Houston. Seger's representative said in a statement that the concerts would be his "final tour" but did not elaborate on the reasons.But Seger has repeatedly hinted at retirement and last year underwent surgery for a ruptured disc in his back.

"I hope this pain goes away, 'cause they can never really guarantee it — and if it doesn't, then I'm done, dude," Seger told the music site Louder earlier this year, while emphasizing that he was recovering and his voice was unaffected. —AFP ■

Hollywood star Ben Affleck. **PHOTO: PTI**

Ben is trying to be sober for his kids' sake and for their mom: Casey Affleck

LOS ANGELES—Actor Casey Affleck has said his brother Hollywood star Ben Affleck is trying hard to get over his alcohol addiction for the sake of his kids and their mother, ex Jennifer Garner.

Ben shares Violet, 12, Seraphina, nine, and Samuel, six with Jennifer.

"Alcoholism has a huge impact on not just the person, but also their family. I think for his kids' sake and for their mom, and for himself, he's trying to do the work and get it together," Casey told Entertainment Tonight.

"Ben is an addict and an alcoholic. Most of my grandparents are alcoholics. My father is an alcoholic, as bad as you can be, and he's been sober for about 30 years. I've been sober for about six years," he added.

Casey said it is "hard" for Ben but he is lucky to have resources to treat his addiction.

"Ben is trying to put it together, and it can be a very hard thing to do. He has the kind of resources and time, luckily, to take the time and go to a good facility. —PTI ■

Belgian builds musical bridge across the Bosphorus

BRUSSELS—Belgian musician Tristan Driessens found his inspiration and his calling east of the Bosphorus, becoming one of the West's few masters of the oud and of Ottoman classical music.

Now he is helping build a musical bridge for others, working with refugees arriving from the east to help preserve and develop their musical culture in European exile. "Sometimes you choose your fate, sometimes fate chooses you," Driessens told AFP, explaining how he came to master the oud, the oriental lute, and become artistic director of Refugees for Refugees.

This group brings together refugees who have fled to Belgium from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and as far as Tibet to play concerts and record new music together in Brussels. A record, named "Amerli" after an Iraqi town besieged by the Islamic State jihadist group, was released in May 2016 by the world music educational association Muziekpublique.

A portion of the sales of the recording was invested in two Belgian NGOs working with refugees from the conflicts in the Middle East, Globe Aroma and Synergie 14.

Driessens, a 36-year-old Belgian oudist already leads several successful groups: Lamekan Ensemble, Seyir Trio, Soolmaan Quintet and La Compagnie d'Elias. But he did not impose his own vision on the refugee ensemble, trying to draw music from their talents, traditions and life experience, and to guide it towards forming a whole. "There are so many rich personalities," Driessens told AFP.

Belgian musician Tristan Driessens is one of the West's few masters of the oud, the oriental lute, and now works with refugees to preserve and develop their musical culture in their new host country. **PHOTO: AFP**

Among the group are Dolma Renqingi, a Tibetan singer, Asad Qizilbash, a Pakistani who plays the sarod, another form of lute, Afghan troubador Aman Yusufi and "musicians who have such important experiences, as refugees and as human beings, in the realm of music".At Muziekpublique, Driessens teaches Turkish music, but he invited his new colleagues to share all "their baggage, their musical tastes and their technique."

"From there, I put together a rundown," he explains. "I spot the pearls... to create something of relevance, but for me this group is first and foremost a human adventure." A second Refugees for Refugees album is due out next year. —AFP ■

Roscosmos commission on Soyuz MS-09 air leak to end work in November

MOSCOW—A commission of Russia's state corporation Roscosmos to investigate circumstances under which the Soyuz MS-09 spacecraft was damaged plans to complete its work by the end of November, Roscosmos First Deputy Director General Nikolai Savostyanov told reporters.

"We have outlined the plan of work," he said, commenting on the commission's first meeting that took place on Tuesday. "We plan to gather once in two weeks and complete the commission's work in late November."

Savostyanov said that an internal check in the Rocket and Space Corporation Energia (RSC Energia) revealed no systemic flaws in the production of the Soyuz spacecraft.

"A check by the company's internal commission found no systemic problems in the production technology of the Soyuz spacecraft, which could have led to an accidental damage of the Soyuz MS-09 spacecraft," he said.

Meanwhile, Roscosmos Executive Director for Piloted Programs Sergei Krikalyov said Russian cosmonauts would examine the hole in the Soyuz MS-09 spacecraft during their scheduled spacewalk on 15 November.

"In line with the work schedule of the Russia segment of the ISS [International Space Station], a scheduled spacewalk will take place on 15 November. Among other things, works outside the Soyuz MS-09 spacecraft are planned to examine the hole," Krikalyov said. He said the cosmonauts will remove the layer of thermal isolation and the anti-meteorite shield to get to the hole.

The work is expected to take about two hours.

The crew has already been given instructions and started preparations for the operation.

A drop in air pressure occurred on the ISS on 30 August. The station's crew examined the ISS compartments and spacecraft attached to it one by one to spot a two-millimeter hole in the hull of the Soyuz MS-09 spacecraft. It was patched with several layers of epoxy resin.

The air pressure returned to normal. On 31 August the crew added another sealant layer.

Roscosmos chief Dmitry Rogozin earlier said the inquiry would last as long as necessary, but "within reasonable limits."

Also, he said the incident had turned far more difficult to investigate and all "competent agencies" were taking part in the work.—Tass ■

An internal check in the Rocket and Space Corporation Energia (RSC Energia) revealed no systemic flaws in the production of the Soyuz spacecraft. **PHOTO: TASS**

File photo illustration taken on 23 March, 2018 shows Twitter logos on a computer screen in Beijing. **PHOTO: AFP**

Twitter to offer users option to go back to 'chronological' feed

WASHINGTON, (United States) — Twitter is preparing an option for users to go back to its original chronological news feed, responding to complaints about its algorithmic system implemented two years ago.

In a series of tweets late Monday, Twitter told users it was "working on new ways to give you more control over your timeline."

The short-message social network said it still believes most users will want to see the "best" tweets at the top of their feed but will allow people to switch based on their preference. "We've learned that when showing the best tweets first, people find Twitter more relevant and useful," the San Francisco company said.

"However, we've heard feedback from people who at times prefer to see the most recent tweets."

After years of operating with a chronological timeline, Twitter began in 2016 to follow the lead of Facebook in using algorithms to offer what it deemed to be the most relevant messages for users as part of an effort to stimulate growth and engagement. But it acknowledged Monday that some users don't like this approach.

"Our goal with the timeline is to balance showing you the most recent tweets with the best tweets you're likely to care about, but we don't always get this balance right," the company tweeted. "So, we're working on providing you with an easily accessible way to switch between a timeline of tweets that are most relevant for you and a timeline of the latest tweets. You'll see us test this in the coming weeks."

Twitter and other social networks have faced criticism in recent weeks including from President Donald Trump that they suppress some messages based on political bias. The company has denied the allegations.—AFP ■

China to launch Long March-9 rocket in 2028

BEIJING — China plans to launch the heavy-lift carrier rocket Long March-9 in 2028, said an official of China National Space Administration (CNSA) at the World Conference on Science Literacy 2018 on Tuesday.

Li Guoping, director of the Department of System Engineering of the CNSA, said that the length of the Long March-9 will exceed 90 metres, and the rocket would have a core stage with a diameter of 10 metres. —Xinhua ■

Scientists resort to machine learning's seeing powers on cell structures

WASHINGTON — Scientists at the Allen Institute used machine learning to train computers to see more clear parts of the cell, without the costly fluorescent labels.

The study published on Monday in the journal *Nature Methods* described the AI technique that used only black and white images generated by inexpensive technique known as brgihtfield microscope.

It allowed scientists to see larger picture of human cells that have more than 20,000 proteins.

"This technology lets us view a larger set of those structures than was possible before," said Greg Johnson, scientist at the Allen Institute for Cell Science and the senior author on the study.

"This means that we can explore the organization of the cell in ways that nobody has been able to do, especially in live cells," said Johnson. Fluorescence microscopy, which uses glowing molecular labels to pinpoint specific parts of cells, is very precise but only allows scientists to see a few structures in the cell at a time.

The prediction tool could also help scientists understand what goes wrong in cells during disease, according to Rick Horwitz, Executive Director of the Seattle-based Allen Institute for Cell Science.

Cancer researchers could potentially apply the technique to archived tumor biopsy samples to better understand how cellular structures change as cancers progress or respond to treatment.

The algorithm could also aid regeneration medicine by uncovering how cells change in real time as scientists attempt to grow organs or other new body structures in the lab. The researchers used an existing machine learning technique, known as a convolutional neural network, to train computers to recognize finer details in the black and white images, such as the mitochondria, cells' powerhouses.

They tested 12 different cellular structures and the model generated predicted images that matched the fluorescently labeled images for most of those structures, according to the researchers. —Xinhua ■

Messi scores hat-trick as Barcelona thrash PSV

BARCELONA—Lionel Messi pictures the Champions League ending with him hoisting the trophy and it began with him scoring a hat-trick on Tuesday as Barcelona put four goals past PSV Eindhoven.

An early kick-off at Camp Nou meant that before most of the tournament's teams had even named their line-ups, Messi was up and running, his sumptuous free-kick from the edge of the area nestling in the top corner, exactly where it was intended.

Messi would have his second and third before the end, and a record eighth Champions League treble, but the game was up by then thanks to a superb strike from the excellent Ousmane Dembele.

Only when Barca were three ahead was Samuel Umtiti sent off for a second yellow card, meaning he will miss the trip to Wembley to face Tottenham next month. Even with 10 men, Messi completed his set for a 4-0 win.

Dembele's goal was worthy of deciding any match but this was Messi's night. After a miserable World Cup trying to retrieve the irretrievable Argentina, Barcelona's now-captain proved his quality again to any doubters that are left.

Four goals already in La Liga, seven overall, neither age nor Cristiano Ronaldo's exit from Spain appear to have taken the edge off.

"Normally if you score a hat-trick you frame it," said Barca coach Ernesto Valverde. "But he makes the extraordinary routine."

Even if Messi remains as good as ever, his team will need others to step up. Philippe Coutinho was impressive here and, after a difficult debut campaign, Dembele is finding his rhythm, and his place.

"Just as there is room for players that pass, there must be others that can make things happen," Valverde said.

The 21-year-old's driving run earned Messi his free-kick while a sizzling shot brought the goal his bustling display deserved.

Perhaps more importantly, this victory was a clean slate for Barcelona.

It was exactly 23 weeks ago that Roma pulled off one of the greatest comebacks ever seen in this competition and sent the club into a depth of disappointment that, in truth, not even winning the double could alleviate.

Instead, Madrid rubbed salt into the wound by making it look easy and winning their third in a row. "It is a thorn in our side," Luis Suarez said. "It's time to win the Champions League," said Messi. —AFP ■

Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi celebrate safter scoring during the UEFA Champions' League group B football match FC Barcelona against PSV Eindhoven at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on 18 September, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

Myanmar beat Malaysia in AFC U-16 Women Championship 2019 Qualifiers

MYANMAR U-16 women football team had a great start in Group E, by beating Malaysia U-16, 3-0, in AFC U-16 Women Championship 2019 Qualifiers, at the Halchowk Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal, yesterday.

Myanmar's big win was due to the 3 goals scored by its brilliant player Myat Noe Khin.

Both teams displayed good tactics and choice of strategies and demonstrated good communication among the players. There were some goal opportunities in the late minutes of the first half, but neither team could convert them into goals.

Again, Myanmar used speedy and skillful play in the second half.

After a goalless first half, Myanmar opened the scoring through Myat Noe Khin's 75th minute goal, before she added two more goals in the 87th and 89th minutes to secure the win.

Myanmar U-16 women team will next play against Nepal U-16, while Malaysia U-16 will play against the Philippines U-16 on Friday.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Myanmar (white) vies the ball with Malaysia (blue) in yesterday's AFC U-16 Women Championship 2019 Qualifiers in Kathmandu, Nepal, yesterday. **PHOTO: MFF**

Man City have best players to finally conquer Champions League: Arteta

MANCHESTER (United Kingdom)—Manchester City's tag as favourites to win the Champions League is recognition for having the best players in the world to choose from, according to assistant manager Mikel Arteta.

The Spaniard will take charge of City's European opener on Wednesday at home to Lyon as Pep Guardiola serves a ban for being sent to the stands during a quarter-final defeat to Liverpool last season.

Arteta admitted he is surprised that Real Madrid haven't retained their status as favourites after winning three consecutive Champions League titles and with the final to be played in the Spanish capital this season.

However, the former Arsenal midfielder insists there is far more to what City are building in trying to win the European Cup for the first time than simply spending hundreds of millions in assembling one of the strongest squads in the competition.

"For me, we have the best players in the world," Arteta said.

"They are fantastic, the mix we have between senior players and younger players, the hunger they still have in this group it is incredible.

"People talk about other things because of the money that has been spent, but people have to see what is inside this club and what has been created which is phenomenal."

City recently celebrated a decade under the ownership of Emirati owner Sheikh Mansour, which has transformed the clubs fortunes thanks to huge investment on and off the field in facilities.That has reaped rewards domestically with three Premier League wins, but City's best run in Europe remains a semi-final appearance in 2015/16 before Guardiola took charge.

"That's the aim (to win the Champions League)," added Arteta. "We have a young squad, they have gained experience and we feel better prepared than in the previous two years.

"We are preparing every single detail and learning from the past because we believe we can do better."

Arteta was linked with a return to Arsenal as Arsene Wenger's successor as manager earlier this year. —AFP ■