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Commerce, P&F, I&FER ministries give press conference on achievements in third-year period

THE press conference on the third-year journey of the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Planning and Finance, and the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations answered to reporters in the Ministry of Information's meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Ministry of Commerce

Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo said his ministry's main objective is to promote domestic and foreign trade and its primary objective is to increase national export, and the incumbent government aims to increase the current number by thrice the amount during their term in office.

He said the trade sector generated USD33.538 billion during the 2017-2018 FY and USD18.679 billion in 2018's mini budget period and has generated USD21.198 billion as of 10 May for the 2018-2019 FY. Exports generated USD14.850 billion for 2017-2018 FY and USD8.821 billion for 2018's mini budget period while generating USD10.146 billion as of 10 May for 2018-2019 FY.

The Deputy Minister said the CMP textile sector mainly contributed to the rise in exports by tripling its trade from USD800 million in 2015-2016 FY to USD2.561 billion in 2018-2019 FY as of 10 May. He said unverified sources have cited textile exports for this year have reached USD4.7 billion.

Additionally, the fishery sector has increased its trade by 65 per cent with USD699.04 million



Deputy Minister for Commerce, U Aung Htoo, speaks at the press conference on the third-year performance of Union-level ministries and organizations in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

in 2017-2018 FY, said the Deputy Minister, adding that the development of fish, prawn and crab breeding businesses is expected to increase trade in the fishery sector up to USD1 billion in 2020. He said they exported 3.5 million tons of rice in 2017-2018 FY and estimate exporting 2.2 million tons this year. The Deputy Minister said they are successful in decreasing the trade deficit year by year as the deficit was standing at USD5.212 billion in 2016-2017 FY but gradually dropped to USD3.836 billion in 2017-2018 FY, USD1.037 billion in 2018's mini budget period, and to USD0.905 billion for 2018-2019 FY as of 10 May.

He said they have organized fully online licensing for 32 export items and 49 import items, including CMP textiles, so as to increase trade. He said they shifted the issuing process for Individual Trading Cards in border trade camps from manual to an online application system on 1 October 2018. He said they also shifted to an online application system for issuing Certificate of Origin - CO Forms.

The Ministry is focusing on drafting laws for better consumer safety regarding food safety as well as protecting our local products. We are trying to prevent hugely discounted imports to come into the country

that can damage the local economy through quotas, said the Deputy Minister. The Ministry is drafting a Safeguard Law on Increased Imports in addition to an all-encompassing Trade Law for Myanmar in collaboration with World Bank Group and GIZ. The Myanmar Competition Law was passed on 24 Feb 2015 and came into force on 24 Feb 2017.

The Deputy Minister said they have prohibited multi-level marketing via a Notification No. 46/2018 issued on 18 September 2018. The notification says those found operating MLM-type businesses will face legal action under the Essential Supplies and Services Law. The law states

that if found guilty, the person will face imprisonment between six months and three years and shall also be liable for a fine not exceeding K500,000.

Ministry of Planning and Finance

Permanent Secretary U Tun Tun Naing said the Ministry is approaching projects according to the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (2018-2030) and is documenting all of them -public and private- in the project bank. In 2018, the Ministry published the National Disaster Report in June as well as the Export Import Financing Document for the banks.

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Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 12th Regular Session holds its eleventh-day meeting



MP U Aung Myo Latt.



Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win.



MP Dr. Myat Nyana Soe.



MP U Khin Cho.



MP Daw Cho Cho.

THE eleventh-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 12th regular session was held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning.

MPs debate Second Bill Amending 2008 Constitution

Firstly, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat said that the Hluttaw will debate the 2nd Bill Amending the 2008 Con-

stitution. The bill was submitted by Dr. Maung Thin of Meiktila constituency as it was signed by a total of 145 representatives, including 40 Hluttaw representatives and 105 Tatmadaw representatives, on 15 May, 2019.

Regarding the submission of the bill, 145 representatives account for 20 per cent of the total of 657 representatives. Therefore, the bill would be debated at the Hluttaw in accordance with Section 133 of the Union

Parliament Law.

Before the debate, with a view to scrutinizing the bill in line with the Section 135 of Union Parliament Law, a Joint Committee to study the 2nd Bill Amending the 2008 constitution was formed with all committee members of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw with Union Parliament Office Notification No. 40/2019 on 29 May 2019. Moreover, the notification and a copy of the draft bill had been distributed to the

parliamentarians.

Signing the MoU of the Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Cooperation Mechanism - BRITACOM

Regarding the signing the MoU of the Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Cooperation Mechanism - BRITACOM, Deputy Minister for Finance and Planning U Maung Maung Win said that it could enhance the bilateral relations between My-

anmar and China besides empowering the taxation management of the country. Therefore he sought the approval of the Hluttaw to sign as an observer country in accordance with the Union Parliament Section 61 (a) of the Appendix 1, No. 8 of the ruling. After that, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss it to register their names.

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Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives outgoing German Ambassador



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat shakes hands with outgoing German Ambassador Mrs. Dorothee Janetzke-Wenzel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, U T Khun Myat, received German Ambassador Mrs. Dorothee Janetzke-Wenzel, who has completed her tour of duty in Myanmar, at the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meet-

ing, they discussed the Hluttaw's legislative process and exchanged views on developing the Hluttaw.

The Speaker also expressed gratitude towards Germany for their cooperation in developing Myanmar's fishery sec-

tor and rural areas, the peace process, preserving Myanmar's cultural heritage, humanitarian support, and vocational training programmes. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives outgoing German Ambassador



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than meets with outgoing German Ambassador Mrs. Dorothee Janetzke-Wenzel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, Mahn Win Khaing Than, received German Ambassador Mrs. Dorothee Janetzke-Wenzel, who has completed her tour of duty in Myanmar, at the Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting,

they discussed strengthening bilateral relations between Myanmar and Germany, economic cooperation, cultural exchange, the legislative process of the Hluttaw, developing skills of Hluttaw representatives, bringing federal democratic system into

prominence, and amending the Constitution.

Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung and officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw Office were present as well. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Myanmar Investment Commission approves the projects in energy storage and distribution, telecommunication services and education services

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) meeting (8 / 2019) was convened at the meeting room of MIC in the morning on 29th May 2019 in Yangon. U Thaung Tun, Chairman of MIC, Dr. Than Myint, Vice Chairman of MIC and (9) members attended the meeting. The meeting approved

the projects in energy storage and distribution, telecommunication services and education services. The amount of USD (28.620) million and Kyats (106,435.99) million have been approved for above projects which will be created (659) job opportunities for citizens.— MNA



Union Minister U Thaung Tun attends the Myanmar Investment Commission meeting (8 / 2019) in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

MoP&F will use Dutch loans for Pyigyidagun Tsp water supply, says Deputy Minister

A PROJECT that will provide 7 million gallons of water per day to the 70 per cent of Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay Region, that are not connected to a water supply system, will be implemented using loans from Dutch based Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO) and ING Bank and financial support from the Netherlands government, said U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance.

The Deputy Minister made the remark while explaining the directive sent by the President concerning the procurement of Euro 29.96 million from the two Dutch banks, during the eleventh-day meeting of the 12th regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday.



Photo shows the map of Pyigyidagun Tsp water supply project area in Talingyi Village, Amarapura Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

Outline of the project

The Deputy Minister said the project will be conducted in two phases. The first phase will see the construction of a water purification plant in TalinGyi Village, Amarapura Township, which will draw in water from Dokhtawaddy River.

This will then be connected to a water pumping station and a reservoir with a 1 million-gallon capacity, both to be constructed in Pyigyidagun Township, said the Deputy Minister, adding that the water pipeline will measure

13 kilometres long and 630 millimetres in diameter.

The Deputy Minister said the rest of the project will focus on constructing the primary water distribution pipeline and its branches, district meter area zones to reduce wastage, connecting pipelines into houses, installing 20,000 water meters and 100 fire hydrants.

Costs & timeframe

The Deputy Minister said the project is estimated to cost Euro 59.92 million and will be

implemented in two 50 per cent phases. He said the first part of the phase will be funded by the loan from the FMO and ING Bank and the second phase funded by a Euro 29.96 million grant from the Netherlands government.

The loan will have a three-year grace period with the interest fees at Euro 0.707 million per year. After that, repayment must be made within ten years at a rate of 2.36 per cent interest per year (Euro 3.7 million), said the Deputy Minister.

He said the upfront fee will

be 0.6 per cent of the loan, the promissory fee will be 0.4 per cent of the remaining amount, and the facility agent fee will be Euro 15,000 per year. Furthermore, calculations show the grant element comes in at 59 per cent and is thus a concessional loan, explained the Deputy Minister.

The Deputy Minister said a feasibility study was conducted from 12 July to 15 November 2018 by Ballast Nedam, a Dutch-based construction and engineering company, and Royal Haskoning

DHV, an engineering consultancy firm headquartered in the Netherlands.

He said the findings were submitted to the Mandalay City Development Committee on 29 November of the same year. He said the project is targeted to be complete by 2021 and 1.5 per cent of the project funds (Euro 0.9 million) will be used for consultant fees.

Projected outcome

The Deputy Minister said the project will provide safe drinking water to over 200,000 people in Pyigyidagun Township around the clock once completed. In addition, it will also provide water to factories in industrial zones 1, 2 and 3, workshops and three villages near the project's water purification station.

The Deputy Minister said having access to a sufficient supply of safe drinking water is one of the basic requirements for upgrading Mandalay into a smart city. He said this will reduce the extraction of underground water from 85 to 70 per cent.

The water supply system in Pyigyidagun Township was first initiated in 2018 with a Yen 1.79 billion from JICA but it is currently only capable of supplying water to 30 per cent of the population. —Ko Min, Mar Mar Soe (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Correction

U KYAW KYAW of Rakhine State Constituency-4 asked an asterisked question at 11th meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 12th regular session concerning Buddha stupas vandalized in MraukU, Rakhine State. Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U

Kyi Min replied that the MraukU office of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum, under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, had filed a case with the MraukU Police over the damage to marble stupas inside the Lay Hmyat Hnar Pahtodawgyi in MraukU, Rakhine State on 18 October. The case was registered under Section 295/114 of the Penal Code. Police Inspector Aung Naing is investigating the

case and working on arresting those who damaged the stupas.

The MraukU office of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum had eight male staff on its rolls, including daily-waged workers, as on January, this year, and has beefed up security duties round the clock to protect and conserve the cultural heritage of MraukU. — GNLM

Union Election Commission Chair receives Dutch Ambassador

CHAIRMAN of Union Election Commission (UEC), U Hla Thein, received Dutch Ambassador Mr. Wouter Jurgens and delegation at the his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to the training for political parties, namely Myanmar School of Politics (MySoP), jointly conducted by UEC and NIMD/ Demo Finland (Nether-

lands Institute For Multiparty Democracy and political Parties of Finland for Democracy), hosting alumni gatherings, organizing inclusive multi-party dialogues, and possible cooperation in holding 2020 General Elections.

UEC members and officials from its office were also present at the meeting.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Union Election Commission Chair U Hla Thein meets with Dutch Ambassador Mr. Wouter Jurgens in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

EII Pilot Project launched in Mandalay



Officials pose for a documentary photo at the launch of the EII Pilot Project in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay. PHOTO: MNA

THE Employment Injury Insurance-EII Pilot Project, a joint effort by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, and Population and ILO-VZF was launched at the Yadanarbon Supercenter in Chanmyathazi Township of Mandalay.

U Myo Thit, the Manda-

lay Region Minister for natural Resources, Environmental Conservation and Labour, who represents from the Amyotha and Pyithu Hluttaws, representatives from Regional Hluttaw, the Director-General of the Social Security Board, U Mg

Mg Aye and officials, Ms. Mariana Infante Villarroel and representatives from ILO-VZF, and representatives of businesses and labour associations attended the project launch.

At the event, Regional Minister U Myo Thit spoke about

the team effort made by the regional government, concerned departments, and employer and employee associations to bring about convenient transportation, ensure safety in the workplace, better healthcare and job security for workers, good relations between employers and employees, and dispute resolution, according to labour laws.

He also said that if the project is effective, employers and employees alike will depend more on the Social Security Project.

Then, Ms. Mariana Infante Villarroel delivered the keynote speech.

Afterwards, the Director General of the Social Security Board said that their job is to give the insured workers healthcare and to provide compensation in case of poor health, bringing forth a baby, or death, and when salary is lowered or suspended,

or when workers are wounded in the workplace, to protect their families from the social and economic burden.

He added that they will test the new project, in collaboration with international experts, in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon and Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay from 1 January to December-end. He also called for collaboration between employer and employee associations, and officials from township offices for the success of the project.

Then, Ms. Mariana Infante Villarroel explained matters concerning the design of the project, and Director of Social Security Board Daw Than Than Nu detailed the work concerning the EII pilot project.

The event concluded with a question-and-answer session. ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Signing ceremony of Loan Agreement on NEP-IT held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Signing Ceremony of interest-free Loan Agreement on National Electrification Project: Off-Grid Component (NEP-IT) was held at the office of the Treasury Department under the Ministry of Planning and Finance in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 May, 2019.

The Soft loan agreement for National Electrification Plan was in collaboration with the Italian government, and which was an interest-free loan of 30 million euros and the total payment period is 28 years, including 18 years of

suspense period and the payment term is 10 years.

Director-General of Department of Treasury under the Ministry of Planning and Finance Daw Si Si Pyone signed the loan agreement with Cooperazione & Sviluppo (Head), Cassa Depositi e Prestiti S.p.A Mr. Carlo Segnl at the event.

The implementation project is a period of three years from 2018-2019 FY to 2020-2021 FY and will benefit a total of 96,500 households from 1,019 villages



The Ministry of Planning and Finance and the Italian Government sign a soft loan agreement for the National Electrification Plan. PHOTO: MNA

in Chin State, Sagaing Region and Sagaing Region (Naga). The project aims to provide access to electrification with the use of home-made solar systems and mini-solar light systems.

The ceremony was attended by permanent secretaries of the Ministry of Planning and Finance and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, invited high-ranking officials, Italian Am-

bassador to Myanmar Ms. Alessandra Schiavo, Cooperazione & Sviluppo (Head) and Cassa Depositi e Prestiti S.p.A Mr. Carlo Segnl.—MNA ■ (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 12th Regular Session holds its eleventh-day meeting

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The reports of the Child Rights Bill

In his finding reports of the Child Rights Bill that sparked disagreements between the two Hluttaws, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee Secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe said that the detailed lists and Appendix of the bill had been distributed to the parliamentarians. Therefore he asked for the approval of the Hluttaw to decide the matter in conformity with the Union Parliament Section 82. Then Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who wanted to dis-

cuss it to register their names.

Putting a motion on the Major Bridge Bill

Next, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee Secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe tabled a motion on the Major Bridge Bill that was sent back from the President with remarks, and then he sought a paragraph-by-paragraph decision from the Hluttaw and approved it. Then the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced that the Major Bridge Bill would be submitted to the President in line with the Union Parliament Section 109.

The Second Amendment to

the Settlement of the Labour Disputes Law

Then Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee Secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe tabled a motion on the second Bill Amending the Settlement of the Labour Disputes Law that was sent back from the President with remarks. He sought a paragraph-by-paragraph decision from the Hluttaw and the motion was approved by the Hluttaw. Then the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced that the bill would be submitted to the President in line with the rule of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Section 109.

Euros loan disbursement

from FMO and ING Bank of Netherlands

Regarding 29.96 million Euros loan receiving from FMO and ING Bank of Netherlands for the implementation of water supply project in Pyigyidagun Township in Mandalay Region, Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win explained about it and responded to the discussion made by the Hluttaw representatives. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the Euros loan arrangement to register their names.

The Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Union Supplementary

Budget Allocation Bill

The Hluttaw Representatives discussed the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Union Supplementary Budget Allocation Bill. Next, U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency, Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency, Daw Yin Min Hling of Gangaw constituency, U Bo Gyi of Chauk constituency and U Aung Myo Latt of Mandalay constituency took part in the discussion.

The twelfth-day meeting of the 12th regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will be held on 31 May, it was learnt. — Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Commerce, P&F, I&FER ministries give press conference on achievements in third-year period

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The Myanmar Economic Bank and Myanmar Agriculture and Development Bank loaned a total of K166 billion to 3733 persons through the Myanmar agro-businesses and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) within the last financial year.

There are also 177 microfinance organizations that have been created to help villagers with their SME businesses.

These microfinance organizations located across the country were able to loan up to K6267 billion in the previous financial year. The start of the financial year has also been moved from October 1st to September 30th to avoid holidays as much as possible.

U Tun Tun Naing said the Central Statistical Organization was able to publish the Key Indicators Report of the Myanmar Living Conditions Survey 2017 to better support preparations, response and rehabilitation towards natural disasters.

He said The Union Tax law was updated in 2018 with its implementation stage set for two years. The board has been formed and will be hearing and deciding on issues to move forward soon. The income tax law is going under review along with plans to move to a digital tax collection system with an Integrated Tax Administration System. The Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System has also proven to save the nation a lot of time



Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo.



U Tun Tun Naing.



U Aung Naing Oo.

and other resources so we will be expanding them throughout the nation as well.

U Tun Tun Naing said the government recently increased the amount for pensioners. This not only apply to people who are already on pension but also people who will soon be in the system as well. The system has been upgraded to a mobile payment system so pensioners can save time and money to travel to their respective banks. There are 8 bank branches as well in Yangon. A Central Provident Fund- CPF is also being discussed to ease the burden on the government for pension payments while making sure we are able to pay the pensioners long term.

U Tun Tun Naing said there are 4 state-owned banks in Myanmar: Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank, Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank, Myanmar Economic Bank, and Myanmar Agri-

culture and Development Bank. The banks have expanded the services they provided such as the introduction of JICA Two-step Loan. There is also the low-interest SME loans and for MFTB and MICB, there is trade financing for businesses that needs loans for export/import businesses. The banks are also introducing digital mobile banking and are trying to phase from the manual system. The Housing Finance program is also introduced to help people own houses on low-interest loans for up to 10/15 years.

Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations

Permanent Secretary U Aung Naing Oo said The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, set up in the incumbent government's third year in office, works to increase investment in the country so that smoother and effective pro-

cesses can take place between other union ministries, central organizations, regions and states governments which will, in turn, drive up businesses.

The ministry was officially added to the cabinet of the Union Government on 19 November 2018 with Notification No. 87/2018 from the Office of the President. The following is an interview with Union Minister U Thaung Tun on his ministry's progress in the four months since its inception.

He said the ministry's main objective is to attract more investment into the country to boost national development. Geographically, Myanmar is in a good location, the population is proper and have high untapped potential. He said with India, China and other ASEAN nations neighbouring the nation, we can achieve our goal to establish a modern, developed and prosperous nation if we can bring in their investments. He

said it was for this reason a separate ministry to focus on the investment sector was created.

Since its inception, the ministry has been working hard to create a new environment that will allow investments by domestic and foreign investors to be conducted in a more efficient and smoother manner, said U Aung Naing Oo.

He said the One Stop Shops bring everything an investor will need into one place, such as work permits. This will greatly convenience both domestic and foreign businesses in Myanmar. He said another one of the ministry's tasks in making Myanmar's businesses more attractive is organizing investment fairs, such as the ones held in Mandalay and Ayeyawady regions and Rakhine State.

He said the ministry also held an Investment and Regional Product Fair of Chin State in Yangon and the Invest Myanmar Summit in early 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw which was arranged for both domestic and foreign businesses and investors.

The Permanent Secretary said the ministry has launched the online system MyCO to make company registration easier. He said the ministry is working to have the registration completed within the hour after registering from the online platform and are working on similar changes.

Afterwards, the officials replied to questions from the media. — Tun Nanda Kyaw

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

UEC chairman receives IFES, Hornbill, MYNFREL delegates

UNION Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein received delegations led by International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), Hornbill and Myanmar Network Organization for Free and Fair Elections (MYNFREL) at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, delegates from IFES, Hornbill and MYNFREL spoke of aims of

“2020 First Time Youth Voters Program” candidates’ condition, places where courses were conducted, number of courses, lessons and experiences.

Then, UEC chairman and officials from UEC also discussed their explanations.

Officials and members of the UEC attended the meeting.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein poses for a group photo with delegates from IFES, Hornbill, MYNFREL in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

We do not support international pressure on Myanmar: Japanese Ambassador



Japanese Ambassador Mr. Maruyama. **PHOTO: NAY LIN**

THE Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr. Maruyama, said Japan would not support efforts by the international community to put pressure on Myanmar on the Rakhine issue.

He made the remarks to the media during an interview about the Official Development Assistance for Myanmar (ODA) at the Ambassador’s residence in Bahan, Yangon, at 10 a.m. yesterday.

“We cannot agree to the international community applying pressure or taking action

against Myanmar concerning the Rakhine issue. Things will become more complicated. The Rakhine issue is an enormously complicated one. The Japanese government’s stand is to work with the Myanmar government for the good of all,” he said.

He added that if the displaced persons in Bangladesh return, Japan would provide assistance to give them food, education, training, and assistance to get jobs.

“The Rakhine issue is complicated in many different ways.

Although the Myanmar government has worked hard, it has yet to achieve success. Not only the Myanmar public, but the international community needs to know the efforts being made by the Myanmar government for Rakhine State. This is what we want to see. It is also important to show the international community that they are actually cooperating with the UN organizations working hard,” he said. He added that the Japanese government would assist Myanmar in electric

power generation and building road networks, which are vital for the development of Rakhine State. It was reported that the Japanese government had earmarked Yen 8 billion as assistance to Myanmar over a 5-year period, and they have already spent Yen 5 billion on development projects.

The remaining 3 billion yen will be used in projects to eliminate poverty in the country. It is learnt that Rakhine State is included in these projects.—MNA (Translated by Alphonsus)

Local, foreign media cover ground situation in Inndin Village in Maungtaw Tsp



Journalists interview the Nga Khu Ya Reception Centre in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

A group of local and foreign journalists visiting Rakhine State covered ground situation in Inndin Village in Maungtaw Township yesterday.

During the trip to the village, the media group interviewed Maungtaw District Administrator U Soe Aung at the district General Administration Department office.

Afterwards, the Nga Khu

Ya Reception Centre’s Director U Kyaw Sein explained the process of repatriation.

The group went around the centre and officials answered their questions. Then, they proceeded to Kyeinchaung (South) Village and viewed houses where returnees will be accommodated.

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Two Myanmar- UK Motourlogue motorbikes visit Mann Oil Field in Minbu

TWO Myanmar- UK Motourlogue motorbike that left from People’s Square on 26th May arrived in Magway Region and visited Mann Oil Field in Minbu.

Two bikes, Ko Aung Kyaw Win and Ko Sai Zwam Pha arrived in Pyay in the evening of 26 May. They stop to rest for a night there and in the morning of 27th they got to Magway via Tuangdwingyi- Aunglan street.

They stop to rest for a night in Magway. In the morning of 29th

they visited MPRL E&P Pte Ltd office, which is running joint venture with Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, to meet with the staff and explained how the tour came about and how they will make a success of it.

Then they visited Mann Oil field where CRS projects are successful.

They will ride over 30000 miles and across 30 countries. Motourlogue was sponsored by Myanmar energy company

MPRL E&P Pte Ltd as main partner.

They aim to spread the information about the future of Myanmar energy in the country along and worldwide through media.

It was reported that the bikers will share and update their experience on the tour on social media pages of MOTOURLUGUE and MPRL E&P.—Moe Moe

(Translated by Alphonsus)



Motorcyclists Ko Aung Kyaw Win and Ko Sai Zwam Pha pose for a photo with residents of Pyay. **PHOTO: MNA**

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YRIC permits 11 foreign, domestic projects; to create over 5,600 jobs



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee gave the green light to eight foreign and three domestic projects with an estimated capital of US\$15.8 million and K6.2 billion, respectively, at a meeting held yesterday.

The projects are expected to create 5,630 jobs, according to a press release issued by the YRIC.

Since its establishment, the YRIC has approved a total of 204 domestic and foreign projects in the sectors of manufacturing, hotel services, and other services from China, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, India, China (Taipei), Malaysia, British Virgin Islands, and Seychelles.

During the 2017-2018 (August-March) fiscal year, the YRIC permitted 39 foreign and 9 domestic projects to invest in Yangon Region, with a capital of \$56.6 million and K23 billion, creating 22,481 jobs.

From April to September, 2018, the YRIC permitted 44 projects, including 34 foreign and 10 domestic enterprises, with a total pledged amount of \$72.5 million and K21.26 billion. A total of 21,173 jobs were created through those permitted enterprises.

Between 1 October and 29 May in the current fiscal year, the YRIC endorsed 97 foreign and 15 domestic projects, with a capital of \$170 million and K29.95 billion, creating over 59,720 jobs.

The manufacturing sector

attracted the most foreign investments in Yangon Region, from enterprises engaged in the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, container boxes, and Cutting, Making, and Packing (CMP) garments.

Among the regions and states, Yangon Region absorbs 60 per cent of investments, while Mandalay attracts 30 per cent. The other regions and states got only a small share of investments, according to statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

The region and state investment committees are allowed to grant investment proposals worth up to \$5 million (K6 billion).

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Magway Region attracts investments of K1.5 bln in current fiscal year

MAGWAY Region pulled in investments to the tune of K1.5 billion from local businesses between October and April in the current financial year, according to the regional government.

During the last mini-budget period (April-September 2018), Magway Region received foreign direct investment of US\$2.39 million and domestic investments of K2.8 billion. In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the region saw investments of K1.57 billion from Myanmar businesses and \$800,000 from one foreign business.

Investments in the region flowed into manufacturing and marketing of concrete poles; breeding and export of goats and sheep; cultivation and sale of mango, jackfruit, Sacha peanut, and gum tree (Karaya); software implementation and development; manufacturing of gloves on CMP basis; and other businesses in the agriculture and livestock sector.

The Directorate of Investment and Company Administration opened its regional office in Magway, Magway Region on 20 March, 2017.

Among the regions and

states, Yangon attracts about 60 per cent of both local and foreign investments, followed by Mandalay at 30 per cent. Last year, Magway Region ranked fifth in terms of investments.

Under the new Myanmar Investment Law, regional and state investment committees are authorized to grant approval to investment proposals with capital not exceeding \$5 million (K6,000 million), with the aim of easing the verification process of investment projects. —Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Price of farming fish likely to rise from June to October

By Aye Yamone

THE price of farming fish is likely to increase from June to October in the local market because there will be no supply of sea fish and freshwater fish in the market during that period. Currently, the price of farming fish is around K 4,200 per viss in the retail market according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF).

Since April 2018, the fish price has declined in the local market after Saudi Arabia has suspended the import of aquatic products from several countries including Myanmar. Since then, only a few local fish breeders have continued to be engaged in the farming businesses. So, the fish price has increased in the local market in accordance with the principle of demand and supply.

“This year, only farming fish will be available in the local market. Despite this issue of scarcity of fish supply, the farming fish production is also on the decline because of the problem faced in the previous year,” said U Win

Kyaing, the general secretary of MFF.

The sea fish and the freshwater fish are not available in the market because of designation of no-fishing period for the fishing boats from 1 June to 31 August and of no-freshwater fishing from May to July.

“This is a very peculiar price. The price of farming fish reached K 4,200 per viss. This time of last year saw the price of farming fish to be only around K 2,600 or 2,700 per viss in the wholesale market. The retail price will be naturally higher in the local market. The farming fish price will increase till October”, said U Win Kyaing.

Although the price of the farming fish has increased in the local market, the local fish breeders are not enjoying much profit because of the high cost of breeding.

The price of the farming fish such as Rohu, Nrigal and Sliver and Striped cat fish has increased in the local market.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar trade deficit narrows to \$974 mln in seven months

A RISE in exports and decline in imports over the last seven months of the current fiscal year helped cut the trade deficit to US\$974.2 million from \$2.75 billion in the corresponding period of the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

From 1 October to 17 May in the current FY, Myanmar’s external trade increased to \$21.8 billion from \$21.6 billion in the previous FY. The figure includes an estimated \$10.45 billion in exports and \$11.43 billion in imports. Compared with the same period a year ago, exports increased by \$1 billion, while im-

ports declined by \$756 million.

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

The country’s export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. Export earnings from the CMP (cutting, making, and packaging) garment businesses are rising, while reliance on natural resources, such as natural gas and jade, is lessening.

The government is trying to reduce the trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting exports, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar’s trade deficit stood at \$1.3 billion in the last mini-budget period, \$5.5 billion in the 2016-2017FY, \$5.4 billion in the 2015-2016FY, \$4.9 billion in the 2014-2015FY, \$2.5 billion in the 2013-2014FY, and \$91.9 million in the 2012-2013FY, according to statistics released by the Central Statistical Organization. —Mon Mon

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Finding alternative livelihoods for fishermen during closed season is a must

RECENTLY, the Bangladeshi government announced a 65-day ban on fishing in its seas prompting protests by local fishermen in the southern part of the country.

The ban on fishing during the mating and breeding season is meant to save aquatic resources from depleting in the long run, but it has hit the livelihood of local fishermen in the present.

Similarly, no-fishing zones and periods have been designated in the Myanmar sea to ensure marine resources are not depleted, and to increase the reproduction of marine life.

A ban has been announced on offshore and inshore fishing vessels in the coming closed season, starting from June and ending in August.

Myanmar's coast is home to a variety of fish, reptiles, birds, crustaceans, and other marine life.

On comparing the research findings in 1979-1980 and 2013, a decline in fish resources in the country's waters is evident. The population of Pelagic fish decreased 90 percent, while that of Demersal fish dipped 75per cent, according to research.

There are unique ecosystems in Myanmar, and the invaluable coastal ecosystem is facing a serious crisis.

Our aquatic resources have declined compared with the previous decades due to overpopulation and over extraction, short-term oriented practices, use of land with unsustainable practices, and inadequate knowledge of socio-economic benefits from coastal ecosystems, and insufficient implementation of laws and regulations.

At the same time, scientists on a Norwegian research vessel carried out a month-long study of fish resources and the marine ecosystem off Myanmar's coast last year.

The vessel has visited Myanmar in 1979, 1980, 2013, and 2015, primarily to survey fish resources at the start and end of the monsoon season.

On comparing the research findings in 1979-1980 and 2013, a decline in fish resources in the country's waters is evident. The population of Pelagic fish decreased 90 percent, while that of Demersal fish dipped 75per cent, according to research.

In 2015, the population of Pelagic fish increased by 77per cent and Demersal fish rose by 40per cent, according to rough calculations by researchers.

The development of illegal fish farming, use of inappropriate methods and banned fishing nets, climate change, and the depletion of mangroves was a blow to the declining fisheries resources.

To conserve marine resources, the government is working on updating the Fish Breeding Laws, the Myanmar Marine Fisheries Law, and the Foreign Fishing Enterprise Approval Law to stay relevant to the current times.

However, we must find alternative livelihoods for fishermen operating over 3,000 off-shore fishing boats and over 20,000 inshore fishing boats during the annual three-month 'no-fishing season'.

New Plant Variety Protection Law: to help the growth of agricultural sector by generating and cultivating new improved varieties

By Dr. Pa Pa Win (Research Officer)

IN a world where an ever-increasing population is in continuous need of food, the earth's many resources are being utilized. As a result, impact on the environment and the species that reside within it has been detrimental. This poses a challenge to feed the world as scientists and laymen alike adapt and find methods to incorporate our survival requirements so that it does not threaten the life of other beings.

Methods include introducing new varieties of plants through science so that they are better to withstand the harsher temperatures caused by global warming as well as provide better yield for the lowest impact on the environment while keeping costs low.

The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) protects farmers and plant breeders so that they can work towards developing and providing new varieties of plants.

Established in 1961 in France by the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plant, the Union is now



A researcher examines corn on a farm to get new plant variety.

sons and temperatures. Creation of such plant varieties also helps the environment such as the air and soil quality of the area as farmers are able to use less pesticides/insecticides as plants prove to be more resistant.

The international network for the Union is also vast and very well-connected which provides a platform for collaboration efforts between countries.

The New Plant Variety Protection Law was also introduced and adopted by Myanmar on 20th January 2016. This was a much-needed law to encourage the creation of stronger and better-quality plants that satisfies not only the needs of the farmers to provide better yield, improving their economic standings as a result.

The Ministry of Livestock, Fishery and Irrigation of My-

anmar also created a New Plant Variety Protection Department under the Agricultural Research Department to enforce and encourage a systematic and ethically sound approach to the Law in May 2016. Now, farmers and plant breeders can apply to protect their corn, sugar canes, avocados, and rice.

New Plant Variety Protection Law 2019

Myanmar is currently working towards being a full-fledged member of the UPOV to participate in the international research network in addition to providing better pathways to invite investors in the agricultural sector.

The New Plant Variety Protection Law 2019 is under development is awaiting the final approval of the Parliament so that the law can be implemented. The Law abides by the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plant that was passed in 1991. The Union Parliament is now accepting discussion papers regarding this law with submissions open to the public.

Translated by Myat Thu

New developments in research can also provide plant species that provide better yields and reinforce the economic power of farmers as well as give the customers better choices for their selection.

headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland with a total of 75-member countries. The convention was revised in 1972, 1978 and 1991.

Regional Groups

There are regional groups under the Union such as the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) created in 1994 in Europe, the African Intellectual Property Organization created in 1999 by African Countries and the East Asia Plant Variety Protection Forum (EAPVP) for the Asian region. The regional organizations often come together to discuss new discoveries, share findings and help each other with research development.

In 2007, ten ASEAN countries got together in an East Asia Plant Variety Protection Forum (EAPVP) including Myanmar. The main objective of the organization was to help bring the mission UPOV to fruition so countries can work together to develop new varieties of plants for better food security and as a

result, an overall benefit to society.

Benefits of adopting the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plant

Myanmar is not the only country that relies on its abundant natural resources such as timber, seafood and agricultural products. If countries work together collectively and adopt principles to protect the environment in their socioeconomic policies, the benefits are tremendous.

New developments in research can also provide plant species that provides better yields and reinforce the economic power of farmers as well as give the customers better choices for their selection.

Examples include the more nutritious iron rich rice/ vitamin rich rice, biotic stress resistant species that fare better with pest infestations and the species that can withstand the changes in sea-



Preparing for new crop variation of sunflower.



Variety trial plantation for fibrous sugarcane.

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Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 29th May, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 30th May, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states, fairly widespread in (Southern and Eastern) Shan State, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw and Magway regions and Rakhine State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavy falls in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely to be Deltaic, Gulf of Motama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5 - 8) feet Deltaic, Gulf of Motama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (4-6) feet off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuations of likelihood of thundery activities in Deltaic areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30th May, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 30th May, 2019: Some rain or thundershowers which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.). – **Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar**

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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.

Nepal tourism promotion program launched

A program to promote tourism to Nepal, 'Visit Nepal 2020: Beyond Lumbini', was launched at a ceremony held on 29 May at the Chatrium Hotel in Yangon.

The ceremony was organized with the aim of encouraging Myanmar travellers to visit Lumbini, which is a major site on the pilgrimage circuit to Bod Gaya. U Ohn Maung, the Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism, delivered the opening speech at the ceremony.

The ceremony was attended by Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, Nepalese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Bhim Udas, Myanmar Tourism Federation chairman U Yan Win, the Yangon Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism Director, and officials and entrepreneurs from the tourism industry.

The attendees gave a stand-up salute to the national anthems of the two countries, as a gesture of respect. The Union Minister and the Nepalese Ambassador formally opened the program by lighting a candle.



Union Minister U Ohn Maung delivers the opening speech at the ceremony of 'Visit Nepal 2020 Beyond Lumbini' in Yangon on 29 May. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG SOE**

At the ceremony, the Union Minister said the two nations will promote each other's tourism industry, and that Myanmar and Nepal have a cultural affinity. He also said it is important to encourage Myanmar travellers to visit Nepal, and Nepal travellers to visit Bagan.

Thereafter, the Union Minister and the Nepalese Ambassador presented certificates of honor to three travel and tour

companies as well as U Nanda, the chairman of the All Myanmar Hindu Central Council.

"Currently, we are discussing direct flights from Yangon to Kathmandu from January 2020. These would be the first direct flights between Myanmar and Nepal. Now, a flight from Yangon to Nepal costs between US\$450 and \$500 as tourists have to take connecting flights. But direct flights will cost travellers

between \$280 and \$300," said U Ko Ko Lat, the Vice Chairman of Myanmar Nepal Business Entrepreneurs Association. In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the number of Myanmar travellers to Nepal increased to over 30,000 from 25,000 a year. The authorities expect the number of Myanmar travellers to Nepal to increase to 150,000 in 2020 after direct flights start to operate.—Myint Maung Soe (Translated by Hay Mar)

Over 43,000 students register in Northern District during school enrolment week



Students enrolling in basic education schools in Yangon from 25 to 31 May. **PHOTO: THAN HTIKE**

THE school enrolment week is being held from 25 to 31 May across the country for the 2019-2020 academic year. A total of

43,566 students have registered at schools in the Northern District of Yangon Region during four days of enrolment in Yangon Region.

"As the education system is free of charge, the government is providing textbooks and a dozen exercise books to each student. Moreover, books donated by Hluttaw representatives and general administrators are also being distributed free of charge to students during the school enrolment week. Among the four districts in Yangon region, there are 1,001 schools in the Northern District," said Daw Aye Thandar Chit, the head of the Northern

District Education Office. The Ministry of Education will provide derivative training courses for Grade-3 and Grade-6 in the Northern District, and teachers have completed a summer course to become familiar with the new curriculum. They will teach the new curriculum to students which is aimed at encouraging innovation, accountability, unity, and democratic practices. Among the 43,566 registered students in eight townships of the Northern District, there are 26,437 Kindergarten students, 13,614 middle students, and 3,515 high school students.—Than Htike (Translated by La Wonn)

YBS Complaint Center received over 2,500 complaints in 2018

By Nyein Nyein

THE YBS Complaint Center received more than 2,500 complaints regarding the bus service in 2018, according to the Yangon Region Transport Authority.

The companies were mostly related to charging extra for tickets, treating customers in a disrespectful manner, driving without stopping on some bus stops, reckless driving, and

over-speeding, while some complaints concerned failing to complete bus routes, deviating from regular routes, not putting the bus fare in the cash box, driving without licence, and abuse.

In 2018, the YBS Complaint Center received 350 complaints in January, 183 in February, 202 in March, 193 in April, 168 in May, 172 in June, 221 in July, 202 in August, 204 in September, 183 in October, 264 in November,

and 251 in December, totalling 2,593 complaints. As commuters in the commercial hub of Yangon depend on bus services, the YRTA is endeavouring to offer better services to the public than the All Private Bus Lines Control Committee.

"To manage the discipline of the YBS bus lines, the YRTA formed three inspection teams and conducted a series of checks such as surprise checks, regular

checks, and inspections under specific projects," said U Hla Aung, joint secretary, YRTA.

The YRTA has been supervising the Yangon Bus Service in the region since 16 January, 2017. Over 100 bus lines, including the Airport Shuttle, are operating 4,300 buses on 123 routes. The number of daily commuters is estimated to be 1.8 million. (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Care International in Norway documents Gender-based project in Loikaw Tsp

CARE International in Norway visited Kan Ni village in Law Pi Ta Village-tract, Loikaw Township, Kayah State, with Norwegian government media NRK met a women organization doing gender-based work and made a documentary about them.

Care International in Norway and the team interviewed the president of Kyalsin Nyi Ama (star sisters) about their gender-based work.

Then, they made a video of interviews with women and of

livestock, agriculture run by the women with the help of Care International Myanmar.

It was reported that Care International in Norway are visiting Kan Ni and Nant Tut villages in Law Pi Ta Village-tract, Loikaw Township, Kayah State, with NRK, from 28 to 31 May, to meet a women organization doing gender-based work and to make documentary about them.—Loikaw IPRD ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)



Members from Care International in Norway interview women for Gender-based project in Loikaw Township, Kayah State, yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



A woman weaves a cotton textile on a hand loom in Hpa-an Township, Kayin State. PHOTO: HTAIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)

Cotton, textile, weaving courses to be offered in Hpa-an Town

THE Weaving and Vocational Training School in Hpa-an Township, Kayin State, will offer a year-long course on cotton and textiles and a six-month course on weaving. The cotton and textile course has 20 seats, while the weaving course has 10 seats.

The school will give a stipend of K30,000 per month to trainees.

The courses will open on 1 July. Those who have finished

middle school and are aged between 16 and 25 years can apply for the courses. The school will arrange the accommodation and other necessary aids for trainees.

Interested candidates can register for the courses by contacting 058-21607 and 09-253525348 by 29 June. — Htain Lin Aung (IPRD) ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

Mueller denies report cleared Trump, but charges ‘not an option’

WASHINGTON (United States) — Special Counsel Robert Mueller denied Wednesday that his investigation of Russian election meddling had exonerated Donald Trump of obstruction of justice, but said Justice Department policy prevented him from charging the US president.

Making his first statement after two years overseeing the high-stakes probe, Mueller said that, having detailed at least 10 possible acts of obstruction by Trump, it was not possible to say the US leader committed no crime.

That oblique conclusion confused the public when the summary findings of the 448-page report were first released in March, allowing Trump to declare full exoneration.

But Mueller emphasized that he was bound by the longstanding policy that a sitting president cannot be charged with a crime — saying it was now up to Congress,

by its impeachment powers, to pursue the issue.

“If we had had confidence that the president clearly did not commit a crime, we would have said so,” Mueller stressed.

Trump, who has assailed the Russia investigation as a treasonous “witch hunt” and a “hoax,” declared the case over minutes after Mueller finished speaking.

“Nothing changes from the Mueller Report. There was insufficient evidence and therefore, in our Country, a person is innocent,” he tweeted.

“The case is closed! Thank you.”

However Jerry Nadler, the Democratic chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, which handles impeachment proceedings, said Mueller made clear Trump was “lying” about the report’s conclusions.

“Given that Special Counsel Mueller was unable to pursue criminal charges against the

President, it falls to Congress to respond to the crimes, lies and other wrongdoing of President Trump — and we will do so,” Nadler said in a statement.

‘Find the truth’

Mueller said in his brief, nationally televised statement that, from the start of the investigation, charging Trump with any federal crime “was not an option that we could consider.”

“It would be unfair to potentially accuse somebody of a crime when there can be no court resolution of the actual charge. So that was Justice Department policy.”

“Those were the principles under which we operated, and from them we concluded that we would not reach a determination one way or the other about whether the president committed a crime.”

But he stressed that the obstruction probe of Trump and others close to him was a “critical”



Robert Mueller was named as an independent prosecutor to lead the Russia investigation in May 2017. PHOTO: AFP

side of the investigation.

“When a subject of an investigation obstructs that investigation or lies to investigators, it strikes at the core of the government’s effort to find the truth and hold wrongdoers accountable.”

Reiterating that his report had not exonerated the president, Mueller made clear he believes

it is now up to Congress to investigate and decide if the evidence shows Trump broke the law.

Given the Justice Department rule against charging a president, he said, “the constitution requires a process other than the criminal justice system to formally accuse a sitting President of wrongdoing.”—AFP ■

Japan law loosens rules for self-driving cars

TOKYO (Japan)— Stuck in traffic on a Japanese highway? If you're in a self-driving car you might be able to kick back with a sandwich and check your phone under new legislation in the country.

The law, passed Tuesday and published on the lower house website, takes effect from next year ahead of the Tokyo Olympics and offers a slight loosening of the current restrictions on autonomous vehicles.

There were few immediate official details about the new rules, but Jiji Press agency said it would come into effect in May and would apply only to limited circumstances, including traffic jams on a highway.

It would allow drivers in those situations to use a smartphone behind the wheel as their vehicle drives itself, so long as they are able to switch to manual driving immediately in case of emergency, the agency said.

There is no specific language in either existing Jap-

anese legislation or the new law that bans reading, using a laptop or eating while driving, meaning drivers of autonomous cars could sit back with a book and their lunch if they found themselves snarled in traffic.

While the new legislation eases restrictions, it still leaves Japan behind some other countries, where autonomous ride-share vehicles have been operating in limited areas.

Self-driving cars are a key sector for development in the auto industry, but there have been recent setbacks, including several accidents last year.

In 2018, Uber temporarily suspended its autonomous ridesharing programme after a crash that killed a woman in the US state of Arizona.

It later restarted the programme, but with a driver behind the wheel at all times. In the same year, Japanese car giant Toyota said it would pump about \$500 million into Uber as part of a deal to work



Tokyo's Haneda airport held a 10-day experiment in January with a self-driving prototype minibus. PHOTO: AFP

together on mass-producing self-driving vehicles.

And in January, six Japanese firms, including national carrier ANA, jointly held a 10-day experiment with a self-driving prototype minibus at Tokyo's Haneda airport. The vehicle holds a maximum of 10 people and cruises along a route connecting two terminals at a speed of up to 30

kilometres (19 miles) per hour using GPS and magnetic markers on the road.

Japan is hoping the 2020 Games will be a chance to showcase cutting edge tech projects in the country, but autonomous transport is also an important sector for a nation suffering labour shortages and a shrinking, ageing population. —AFP ■

Merkel team talks climate as voters turn up heat

BERLIN (Germany) — German Chancellor Angela Merkel's "climate cabinet" meets Wednesday to discuss combatting global warming as her government struggles to convince voters it is willing and able to address the crisis.

Strong gains by the Greens at the expense of Germany's two ruling parties in Sunday's European Parliament elections were seen as an indictment of Berlin's policy on climate change. Merkel, in a CNN interview Tuesday, acknowledged that "we have to give better answers" to the planetary challenge. Her conservative CDU/CSU bloc and their leftist junior partners the SPD suffered heavy losses Sunday while the Greens scored over 20 per cent, becoming Germany's second strongest party for the first time.

Young voters in particular — energised by the Fridays for Future school strikes, anti-coal protests and blockades, and by a passionate campaign from leading YouTube stars — abandoned the mainstream parties in droves. Germany was long seen as a clean energy pioneer, and Merkel dubbed the "climate chancellor", for pushing renewables while committing to phase out nuclear power by 2022 and now coal by 2038.

However, green activists now feel that progress has stalled and demand a far earlier end to coal and the combustion engine, as well as dramatic shifts in transport, agriculture and building insulation. Germany is now set to miss its target of cutting CO2 emissions by 40 per cent by 2020 from 1990 levels. It is currently on course for only a 32-per cent reduction.

'No further delays'

Since the election, criticism has been raining down from all sides — even from Friedrich Merz, a conservative former investment fund manager with designs on Merkel's job. "After this European election, the CDU must ask itself why, after 14 years of having a 'climate chancellor', we are missing our climate targets, burdening households and companies with the highest electricity prices in Europe and at the same time losing strategic and cultural control over the issue," he told news site Der Spiegel. —AFP ■

SpaceX satellites pose new headache for astronomers

WASHINGTON (United States) — It looked like a scene from a sci-fi blockbuster: an astronomer in the Netherlands captured footage of a train of brightly-lit SpaceX satellites ascending through the night sky this weekend, stunning space enthusiasts across the globe.

But the sight has also provoked an outcry among astronomers who say the constellation, which so far consists of 60 broadband-beaming satellites but could one day grow to as many as 12,000, may threaten our view of the cosmos and deal a blow to scientific discovery. The launch was tracked around the world and it soon became clear that the satellites were visible to the naked eye: a new headache for researchers who already have to find workarounds to deal with objects cluttering their images of deep space.

"People were making extrapolations that if many of the satellites in these new mega-constellations had that kind of steady brightness, then in 20 years or less, for a good part the night anywhere in the world, the human eye would see more satellites than stars," Bill Keel, an astronomer at the University of Alabama, told AFP. The satellites'

brightness has since diminished as their orientation has stabilized and they have continued their ascent to their final orbit at an altitude of 550 kilometers (340 miles).

But that has not entirely allayed the concerns of scientists, who are worried about what happens next. Elon Musk's SpaceX is just one of a several companies looking to enter the fledgling space internet sector. To put that into context, there are currently 2,100 active satellites orbiting our planet, according to the Satellite Industry Association.

If another 12,000 are added by SpaceX alone, "it will be hun-

dreds above the horizon at any given time," Jonathan McDowell of the Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics told AFP, adding that the problem would be exacerbated at certain times of the year and certain points in the night.

"So, it'll certainly be dramatic in the night sky if you're far away from the city and you have a nice, dark area; and it'll definitely cause problems for some kinds of professional astronomical observation."

Musk's puzzling response

The mercurial Musk responded to the debate on Twitter with contradictory messag-

es, pledging to look into ways to reduce the satellites' reflectivity but also saying they would have "0% impact on advancements in astronomy" and that telescopes should be moved into space anyway.

He also argued the work of giving "billions of economically disadvantaged people" high-speed internet access through his network "is the greater good."

Keel said he was happy that Musk had offered to look at ways to reduce the reflectivity of future satellites, but questioned why the issue had not been addressed before.

If optical astronomers are concerned, then their radio astronomy colleagues, who rely on the electromagnetic waves emitted by celestial objects to examine phenomena such as the first image of the black hole discovered last month, are "in near despair," he added. Satellite operators are notorious for not doing enough to shield their "side emissions," which can interfere with the observation bands that radio astronomers are looking out for.

"There's every reason to join our radio astronomy colleagues in calling for a 'before' response," said Keel. —AFP ■



In this screengrab taken from a video shot by Marco Langbroek, a group of SpaceX Starlink satellites passes over Leiden, Netherlands on 24 May 2019. PHOTO: AFP

Huawei asks US court to throw out federal ban

SHENZHEN (China) — Chinese telecom giant Huawei stepped up its legal battle on Wednesday to overturn US legislation barring American federal agencies from buying its products amid an escalating high-tech dispute.

Huawei filed suit against the US bill in March, calling it “unconstitutional” and saying the US Congress had failed to provide evidence to support its restrictions on Huawei products.

The company filed a motion for summary judgment on Wednesday (Tuesday in the United States), seeking a quick determination by US courts on whether the case has merit to proceed.

“The US government has provided no evidence to show that Huawei is a security threat. There is no gun, no smoke. Only spec-

ulation,” Huawei’s chief legal officer Song Liuping told reporters. Speaking at Huawei headquarters in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, Song added that US politicians “want to put us out of business”.

The firm also faces a broader US executive order preventing the use of its equipment in the United States as well as the more damaging inclusion this month on an “entity list” that cuts it off from critical American-made components for its products, though a 90-day reprieve was issued.

Huawei, the world’s biggest supplier of telecommunications networking equipment and number-two smartphone manufacturer, has emerged as a central bone of contention in the worsening China-US trade rivalry.—AFP ■



Chinese tech giant Huawei is facing fire on multiple fronts, including limits on its access to the US market and accusations of links to the Chinese government. **PHOTO: AFP**

INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER No.1/2019

- (1) Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, No.(1) Mining Enterprise Invites to submit the tender quotation sale open tender in the United State Dollars.
- (a) Cathode Copper (5000)M/T (15) Lot
- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Group (1) (1)Lot | 100 Tonnes each, 5 Lot | Monywa, Mine Site |
| Group (2) (1)Lot | 200 Tonnes each, 5 Lot | II |
| Group (3) (1)Lot | 500 Tonnes each, 3 Lot | II |
| Group (4) (1)Lot | 1000 Tonnes each, 2 Lot | II |
- (b) Base price of Cathode Copper shall be based on the London Metal Exchange Copper price on the date of tender opening. The highest proposal amount (Premium amount added to the L.M.E price and deduction of transportation and handling expenses) shall be winning tender.
- (c) Low Grade Zinc 20000 M/T Tangyan, Mine Site
- (d) Lead Ore and other mixed 57.66 M/T Namtu
- (e) Ferruginous Bauxite & other mixed 78.00 M/T Ywa Ngan
- (2) Tender Closing Date and Time is 2nd July, 2019 (14:00)hrs and Opening Tender (15:00)PM.
- (3) Tender document are available from the Procurement Department, No.(1) Mining Enterprise, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Office Building No.(19), Nay Pyi Taw and Details Can be asked to +95-(0)67-409012 and 409162 within the office hours.

Tender Committee
No.(1) Mining Enterprise

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Boris Johnson faces court hearing for Brexit 'lies'



Johnson is running to replace Theresa May as leader of the governing Conservative Party, and therefore prime minister. **PHOTO: AFP**

LONDON — Boris Johnson, the frontrunner to become Britain's next prime minister, must attend court over allegations that he knowingly lied during the Brexit referendum campaign, a judge announced Wednesday.

Johnson, the former foreign secretary, will be summoned to appear before a court over allegations of misconduct in public office, judge Margot Coleman said in a written decision, without specifying the date.

The case is over the claim that Britain sends £350 million (\$440 million, 400 million euros) a week to the European Union.

The exact amount of Britain's net and gross EU contributions was one of the biggest issues during the 2016 referendum campaign. Businessmen Marcus Ball has crowd-funded the private prosecution. Coleman's decision follows a hearing last week at Westminster Magistrates Court in London.

"The allegations which have been made are unproven accusations and I do not make any findings of fact," the judge said.

"Having considered all the relevant factors I am satisfied that this is a proper case to issue the summons as requested," she wrote. Referring to Johnson as the "proposed defendant", Coleman said he would be required to attend a preliminary hearing that could then result in a trial.

Johnson 'repeatedly lied'

Johnson is considered the favourite among the 11 candidates vying to replace the outgoing Theresa May as leader of the governing Conservative Party, and therefore prime minister, by the end of July.

The summons application made by Ball's lawyers alleges that Johnson "repeatedly lied and misled the British public as to the cost of EU membership" and "knew that such comments were false or misleading". "Lying on a national and international platform undermines public confidence in politics."

The maximum penalty for misconduct in public office is life imprisonment. The elements of the offence are that a public officer, acting as such, wilfully neglects to perform their duty or wilfully commits misconduct to such a degree as to amount to an abuse of the public's trust in the officeholder, and does so without reasonable excuse or justification. Johnson was not present at last week's hearing, but his lawyer Adrian Darbishire said the pro-Brexit figurehead staunchly denied acting in an improper or dishonest manner.—AFP ■

Venezuela talks under way in Oslo, but US says focus must be Maduro

OSLO (Norway) — Talks between Venezuela's government and opposition on ending months of crisis were under way in Norway, sources said Tuesday, but Washington insisted that the only item for discussion should be President Nicolas Maduro's removal.

US-backed opposition leader Juan Guaido, who more than 50 countries recognize as interim president, had been leading a push to oust leftist firebrand Maduro, who presides over a crumbling economy.

But the opposition agreed to come to the table under Norwegian auspices after an army uprising coupled with street protests, which Guaido hoped would deal decisive blow, instead fizzled out a month ago.

Norwegian diplomats had said that the two sides would meet this week in Norway in their first face-to-face meeting since Guaido claimed power in January, without specifying a date or venue.

Sources close to the process told AFP that the talks were taking place in Oslo. The Norwegian foreign ministry declined to comment.

Maduro, while describing the opposition as "extremist" and working on behalf of the United States, promised to make an effort to resolve the crisis.

"We are going to be showing our very best good faith... to be able to find, based on the platform the parties agreed on, peaceful, democratic solutions to help overcome Venezuela's conflict," Maduro said in a televised address Monday.



Representatives of Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido, left, and Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro are meeting in Oslo. **PHOTO: AFP**

US firm in shunning Maduro

The United States has refused to speak to Maduro on anything but logistical matters, calling his leadership illegitimate. While not rejecting the talks in Oslo, the United States stood firm in its stance.

"We note the talks in Norway. As we have repeatedly stated, the United States believes the only thing to negotiate with Nicolas Maduro is the conditions of his departure," State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus told reporters in Washington. "While previous efforts to negotiate have failed because the regime has used them to divide the opposition and gain time, we hope that the talks in Oslo will focus on the departure of Maduro as a precondition for progress."

In a symbolic rejection of Maduro, whose government is still recognized by the United Nations, the United States walked out of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva as Venezuela

assumed the UN body's rotating presidency.

"Whatever is discussed in there, whatever is decided, has absolutely no legitimacy because it is an illegitimate regime presiding over that body," the US ambassador to the conference, Robert Wood, told reporters outside the council's chamber.

President Donald Trump, who has cast Venezuela as part of a broader struggle against socialism, has tried to topple Maduro by imposing an escalating raft of economic sanctions that have included cutting off revenue for Venezuela's state-owned oil company.

Millions of Venezuelans have fled the country as astronomical inflation and broader economic woes have made food and basic supplies unobtainable for average people. Maduro, however, still enjoys the support of Russia, China and Cuba, as well as his own country's powerful military.—AFP ■

Fresh strikes on Syria jihadist enclave kill 13

BEIRUT (Lebanon) — The latest strikes in an unprecedented wave of regime bombardment on a jihadist enclave in northwestern Syria killed at least 13 civilians on Wednesday, a war monitor said.

Air strikes, some using deadly barrel bombs, and shelling by both government and Russian warplanes have claimed a mounting civilian death toll over the past few weeks.

The violence, which has rattled a fragile truce deal brokered by Moscow and Ankara in September, is causing mass displacement and bringing Syria to the brink of the worst humanitarian

catastrophe yet in its eight-year-old conflict.

The United States and the United Nations demanded an end to airstrikes on Tuesday, as bombardment by Damascus killed 27 people — the single highest civilian death toll in the region since the regime increased attacks in late April.

But on Wednesday, aerial bombardment did not relent. According to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring organisation, seven of Wednesday's victims were killed in an air raid on the village of Sarja.

It lies in Idlib province, most of which is controlled by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, a group dominated by former members of Al-Qaeda's Syria affiliate.

The four other victims were a father and his three children in the village of Bara, said Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman.

Two others were killed in strikes on the Idlib town of Hbeit, he said. "The bombardment by the regime and Russia continues to be intense on several areas. The Russian strikes are focused on Khan Sheikhun but have not caused any casualties for now," he said.—AFP ■

Japan to propose Abe-Kim summit to N Korean officials next week

TOKYO — The Japanese government plans to reach out to North Korean officials next week in Mongolia to propose a summit between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the North's leader Kim Jong Un, government sources said Wednesday.

Abe has said he is willing to meet Kim "without conditions," softening his previous stance. He had said it would be a prerequisite for a summit that North Korea moves closer to returning Japanese nationals abducted by its agents in the 1970s and 1980s.

US President Donald

Trump, who has met Kim twice for negotiations on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, said during a visit to Tokyo this week that he supports an Abe-Kim summit. According to the sources, Japanese officials hope to speak with North Korean diplomats on the sidelines of a Northeast Asian security conference to be held 5-6 June in Ulaanbaatar. The conference will be a rare opportunity for Japanese and North Korean officials to speak as the countries do not have formal diplomatic ties.—Kyodo News ■

Iran ‘almost certainly’ behind ship attacks off UAE: Bolton

ABU DHABI (United Arab Emirates) — US National Security Advisor John Bolton said Wednesday that Iran was almost certainly behind oil tanker attacks that sent Gulf tensions soaring — an accusation Tehran dismissed as “laughable”.

The new war of words came on the eve of emergency Arab and Gulf summits called by Iran’s regional rival Saudi Arabia to discuss the standoff and ways to isolate Tehran.

It follows a US military buildup that includes the deployment of an aircraft carrier, B-52 bombers and 1,500 more troops to the region.

Speaker during a visit to the UAE capital Abu Dhabi, Bolton said that additional US forces were sent to the Middle East as a “deterrent” and that Washington’s response will be prudent.

The four ships, including two Saudi tankers, sabotaged off the Emirati coast on 12 May were attacked using “naval mines almost certainly from Iran”, Bolton told a press conference.

“There’s no doubt in anybody’s mind in Washington who’s responsible for this,” he said in a clear reference to Iran.

Bolton however declined to provide specific evidence for Iran’s hand in the attacks.

“Not going to get into the specifics. That’s something the ship owners and the countries involved will release at their discretion.

But I think it’s important for the leadership in Iran to



The Saudi tanker Amjad was one of four vessels damaged by sabotage attacks off the United Arab Emirates on 12 May. PHOTO: AFP

know that we know,” he said.

‘Evil desires for chaos’

Iran strongly rejected the accusation.

“Making such laughable claims... is not strange” coming from the US, foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said.

“Mr Bolton and other warmongers and chaos seekers should know that the strategic patience, high vigilance and complete defensive readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran... will prevent the fulfilment of their evil desires for chaos in the region,” Mousavi added.

US experts are part of a five-nation team that is investigating the attacks off the UAE

emirate of Fujairah. Two days after they took place Yemen’s Huthi rebels — accused by Abu Dhabi and Riyadh of being proxies of Tehran — hit a strategic diversionary pipeline in Saudi Arabia with two drones.

The east-west pipeline, which has the capacity to carry some five million barrels per day from the oilfields of the kingdom’s Gulf coast to the Red Sea, was shut for two days as a result of the attack.

Bolton said that there has also been “an unsuccessful attack on the Saudi port of Yanbu a couple of days before the attack on tankers.” Yanbu is Saudi Arabia’s largest oil terminal on the Red Sea and is home to oil refineries and export facilities. —AFP ■

Japan police search home of stabbing attacker

TOKYO (Japan) — Japanese police on Wednesday searched the home of the man behind a stabbing rampage in the town of Kawasaki a day earlier that killed two people, including a child.

The 51-year-old attacker, identified by police as Ryuichi Iwasaki, died after stabbing himself after the rampage, and his motives for the horrifying assault remain unclear.

On Wednesday police searched his home, not far from the scene of the morning attack, seizing unspecified material, public broadcaster

NHK reported.

Local media said Iwasaki was living with relatives in their 80s, but gave no further details. His occupation was unknown.

Police had no comment on the investigation and declined to offer any further details about the attacker.

The rampage in the town south of Tokyo on Tuesday morning killed two people — 11-year-old schoolgirl Hanako Kuribayashi and a 39-year-old parent identified as government official Satoshi Oyama, a Myanmar specialist.

Seventeen more people, mainly young children, were injured, according to authorities.

Iwasaki crept up silently behind pupils of the Caritas school as they waited for a bus and began slashing randomly at them with knives held in both hands before fatally stabbing himself in the neck.

Local media, citing police sources, said Wednesday that the attack took less than 20 seconds to unfold and that two additional knives were discovered inside the attacker’s backpack, which he had left at a nearby convenience store. —AFP ■

Modi healthcare scheme won hearts, and votes

SITAPUR (India) — While Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s nationalist tub-thumping has been widely credited with his recent election win, another factor was one he kept relatively quiet about: Modicare.

Despite some teething problems and a dire need for further reforms and more spending, this huge initiative launched last year — one of the world’s largest publicly funded healthcare programmes — has made a difference.

“This scheme has infused a sense of belief in the poor that if they fall sick they will get treatment without spending a rupee,” said Anil Agarwal, chief medical superintendent at a hospital in Sitapur, a city with some of India’s worst health indicators.

Indeed, voting data from the mammoth election that ended last week with a landslide for Modi showed particularly strong support for his right-wing party in poorer areas where people would have benefited most. “It has certainly been welcomed as a welfare measure by the poor and probably contributed to (Modi’s) electoral victory,” said K. Srinath Reddy, president of the non-profit Public Health Foundation of India.

The flagship programme, dubbed Modicare, covers hospital costs up to \$7,200 for the poorest 40 per cent of Indians, or some 500 million people, in a country where the average annual income is about \$1,670. Even before Modicare, or the National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS), was introduced in September, treatment was largely free at government hospitals. But patients still had to shell out for diagnostics and medicines, which make up a big

chunk of the costs of hospital care, as well as for implants like stents.

Private clinics were out of reach for many, with a consultation alone costing some 1,000 rupees (\$15) — a large amount for millions living on less than \$2 a day. But now poorer Indians can visit these clinics, providing they sign up to the scheme.

New belief

Sabir Ali, an impoverished weaver who got a Modicare card for himself and his family to use at any of the 15,000-odd participating hospitals, had a cyst removed from his forehead.

“It was unbelievable to hold the card in my hands,” Ali told AFP, his head bandaged at the Sitapur district hospital in northern India. “I used the card and I didn’t have to spend a single rupee on my treatment.” Until recently only a quarter of India’s population had any health insurance, forcing hundreds of millions to pay out of their own pockets, go to quack doctors or just skip treatment.

An estimated 60 million Indians are pushed below the poverty threshold every year paying for medical care, while a report last year by The Lancet medical journal found substandard healthcare was responsible for some 1.6 million deaths a year.

Almost two million people have benefited from the scheme so far, with the government allocating some \$1.2 billion since the launch. The costs are shared between federal and state governments 60:40. “Schemes such as Modicare played a larger role (in the election outcome) than anyone had anticipated,” said political analyst Parsa Venkateshwar Rao. —AFP ■



Modicare, a huge public health initiative launched last year, was a significant factor in Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s recent election win. PHOTO: AFP



Khin Zaw Lin (white) prepares to pass the ball to his teammate during the Thai Futsal League Club match between Surat Thani F.C. and Bangkok BTS F.C. **PHOTO: MFF FUTSAL**

Khin Zaw Lin shines in Thai Futsal League

Myanmar futsal star Khin Zaw Lin, who recently joined Thai Futsal League club Surat Thani, has become a crucial player in the team and got a chance to display his skills in the tourney, according to officials with the Myanmar Futsal League.

Nicknamed The Lightning Shrimps, Surat Thani is based in the Surat Thani Province, located in the south of Thailand. The club is currently playing in the Thailand Futsal League, and Khin Zaw Lin has signed a half-season contract with the team.

He got a chance to show his brilliant skills in the match between Surat Thani F.C. and

Bangkok BTS F.C. yesterday.

The game was the first for Khin Zaw Lin with his new futsal club.

The match ended with Surat Thani beating Bangkok BTS 4-3, and Khin Zaw Lin assisted his team mates to victory in a crucial match.

“I am happy with the win and the chance to be a part of the team. I trained long for the team’s matches. In fact, the win has made me so happy that I will try my best for the next games along with the team,” said Khin Zaw Lin.

Surat Thani F.C. is currently positioned in the second place in the league.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

YREO beat University team 5-2 in thrilling Week-12 Women’s League match

The Yangon Region Education Office (YREO) team beat the University team by 5-2 in Week-12 of the Women’s League 2018-2019, organized on Tuesday by the Myanmar Football Federation in Yangon.

YREO launched a speedy attack from the start, but the opening goal was scored by the University team.

The leading goal for the University team was scored by Kyawt Mhu Han at 22 minutes. The goal resulted from an unexpected counter attack from the opponents.

But 10 minutes later, YREO scored the equalizer in a penalty

shootout after a foul by the University team.

The penalty was successfully converted by Nwe Ni Win.

YREO scored their second goal at 38 minutes. The goal was scored by a free kick by youth player Nhin Sandar Hlaing.

Just before the first half ended, YREO equalled the score. The goal was scored by Nwe Ni Win.

The thrilling first half ended with a score of 2-2.

YREO played better in the second half, showcasing their innovative tactics and scoring

more goals.

Swe Mar Aung scored the third goal for YREO at 50 minutes.

The goal lifted the spirit of the team, and YREO again scored the fourth goal at 70 minutes. The goal was scored by Pont Pont Pyae Maung.

Again, taking advantage of the breach in the University team’s defense line, the fifth goal was scored by Phyu Phyu Win of YREO.

There were no more goals in the later minutes, and the match ended with a score of 5-2 in favour of the YREO team.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



A YREO team player (red) attempts to pass the ball over a University team player (blue) during Week-12 of the MFF Women’s League in Yangon. **PHOTO: MWL**

Wilder announces Ortiz rematch

LOS ANGELES (United States)— World Boxing Council heavyweight champion Deontay Wilder announced a rematch with Cuba’s Luis Ortiz on Tuesday, dealing a fresh blow to hopes of a unification bout with rival Anthony Joshua.

In an announcement on Twitter, Wilder said he had signed a deal to face Ortiz once more following a bruising first battle in March 2018.

Wilder won his first encounter with the Cuban nicknamed “King Kong” with a 10th round stoppage, but not before the 40-year-old had badly shaken the undefeated champion.

“To all my fans, I want to

announce that Luis Ortiz and I have signed for a rematch, with the date and site to be announced shortly,” Wilder wrote on Twitter.

“All my controversial fights Must get dealt with ASAP,” he added.

While no date or venue was announced, US media reports said the two men would face off in Las Vegas on September 28.

Wilder, 33, defended his title for the ninth time on May 18 after demolishing Dominic Breazeale with a first round knockout.

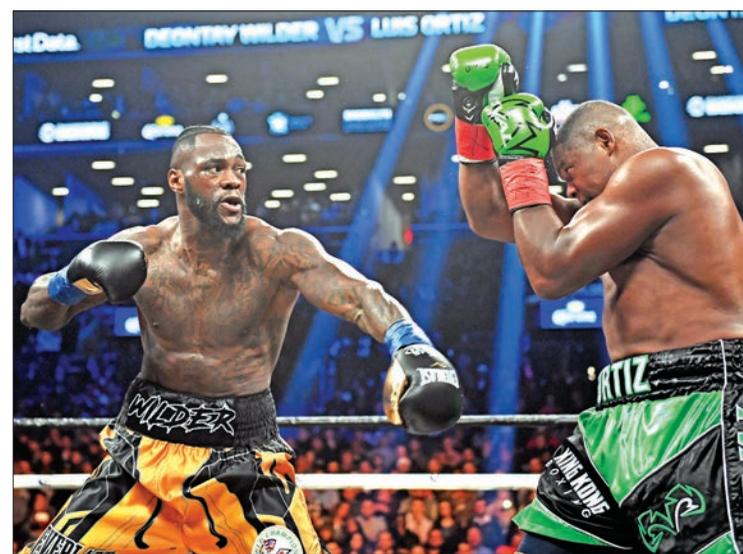
The WBC champion is unbeaten in 41 fights, including 40 inside the difference, with the

lone blemish on an otherwise perfect record a draw with Britain’s Tyson Fury last December.

Wilder’s decision to fight Ortiz makes it unlikely he will meet rival Joshua in a much-anticipated unification fight this year.

Wilder has not fought more than two fights in a calendar year since 2015, and would realistically face a short two-month turnaround to squeeze in a bout with Joshua before the end of the year after his bout against Ortiz.

Speaking after his recent win against Breazeale, Wilder said he was ready to face Joshua but called for patience from fans.



Deontay Wilder (l) will face Luis Ortiz (r) in a rematch of their explosive March 2018 fight. **PHOTO: AFP**

“This fight will happen,” Wilder said. “The big fight will happen, I promise you that. I just want you guys to have pa-

tience and give us a little time to make this thing happen so we all benefit from it, not only just you fans.”—AFP ■