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President U Win Myint attends World Environment Day 2019



President U Win Myint delivers the opening speech at the event to mark the World Environment Day for 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

The World Environment Day for 2019 was observed in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with an opening address by President U Win Myint.

IN his opening address, the President said the World Environment Day, on 5 June 2019 is the most important day for highlighting environmental conservation around the world. This year's World Environment Day was being hosted by the People's Republic of China with national and regional campaigns for the protection of the environment being held across the world.

There was no denying that environmental issues were affecting the entire

world, including Myanmar. Many of these were not exclusive to any country, and "air pollution" was one of the greatest environmental challenges of our time. To highlight this issue, the theme of World Environment Day this year, 2019 was "Beat Air Pollution".

It was most obviously necessary for the health of human-beings to breathe fresh air, meanwhile we also need clean drinking water and access for food safety.

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State Counsellor meets with President of Czech Republic



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by President of the Czech Republic Mr. Milos Zeman at the President's Office in Prague. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visiting the Czech Republic met with President of the Czech Republic Mr. Milos Zeman at the President's office at 3:15p.m. on 4th June.

During the meeting, they discussed promoting collaboration and close relationship between the two countries and national reconciliation in Myanmar. Union Ministers U Thaug Tun, U Kyaw Tin and Myanmar Ambassador to the Czech Republic Daw Yin Yin Myint and officials attended the meeting.

Then, the State Counsellor gave a key note speech at the "Myanmar

Ahla" photo exhibition being held at the Prague National Museum and viewed the exhibits.

Afterwards, she and her entourage left for Hungary from Prague. Czech Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Martin Tlapa, Myanmar Ambassador to the Czech Republic Daw Yin Yin Myint, Czech Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Jaroslav Dolecek and officials saw them off.

The State Counsellor and her entourage arrived in Hungary at 7:15pm local time.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Foreign car import tariffs will remain unchanged

THE 15th-day meeting of the twelfth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held yesterday.

First, U Kyaw Min, MP for Letpadan constituency, raised a question on whether the 2.199 acres of Zeepyugon station hospital's compound will be relinquished by the Department of Agriculture.

U Hla Kyaw, the Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, replied that the department will relinquish the confiscated land so that the hospital may expand its facilities and better benefit the public.

No decrease planned for import car tariffs

U Ohn Khin, MP for Palaw constituency, asked whether there were plans to reduce the tariffs for car imports to more suitable rates, whether parking fees, overnight parking fees and other related fees car owners have to pay on the road will be increased, and whether effective action will be taken against



MP U Kyaw Min.
PHOTO: MNA

vehicle owners for breaking the law.

U Kyaw Myo, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications, replied that there are currently no plans to reduce fees for vehicle license registration of foreign imports or overdue damage fees.

He explained that the Ministry of Commerce handles the permits for car imports and whether to increase or reduce restrictions.

He said the Customs De-



Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw.
PHOTO: MNA

partment under the Ministry of Planning and Finance taxes car imports depending on their category but the value is always within 3 to 40 per cent of the vehicle's real value. These rates are in compliance with the ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature 2017 that was implemented on 1 October of the same year, said the Deputy Minister.

He said the Road Transport Administration Department under his ministry collects licence



MP U Ohn Khin.
PHOTO: MNA

plate registration according to rates confirmed by the Union Government. He said they collect tax to acquire the necessary contribution to the national budget and exempts tax for certain vehicles after careful legal scrutiny.

Local graduates to be prioritized in subnational teacher appointments

MPs then debated a motion tabled by U Nyein Hein, MP for Thanbyuzayat constituency. The

motion urges the Union Government to implement a policy that prioritizes the appointment of local ethnic graduates in the teacher selection process of their respective regional school.

Tatmadaw representative Lt-Col Moe Kyaw Oo said the new KG+12 education system is quite different from the former system and will be challenging for a teacher who has not completed all required courses to teach in those classes. He said if those teachers were to take leave due to various health or personal reasons, then it would compromise the students' learning schedule. He suggested forming township observation groups to quickly provide substitute teachers should the need arise. He also said the ethnic graduates would have finished school during the previous education system and suggested providing them special courses to become acquainted with the new KG+12 system before being appointed as teachers.

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Amyotha Hluttaw

Second Amyotha Hluttaw 12th Regular Session holds its 15th day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin,
Lu Maw

THE 15th day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 12th regular session was held yesterday morning at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw, where questions were raised and answered, two bills were submitted and a report were read out.

Question & Answer session

At the question and answer session, U Kyaw Ni Naing of Shan State constituency 11 asked if there was a plan to build a stadium in Kongyan Township, Laukkai District, Kokang Self-administered Zone, Shan State. Regarding this query, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe replied that implementation would be made once the plot of land had been granted to use as a ministry-owned land and the allotment of fund would be listed in the immediate fiscal year of the Shan State government. Currently, it was learnt that there are basic education schools in Kongyan Township and efforts would be made to provide necessary sporting equipment for the



MP U Kyaw Ni Naing.
PHOTO: MNA

school children.

U Myint Naing of Rakhine State constituency 5 asked if there was a plan to upgrade the Meewa Village Sub-Rural Health Centre to the Rural Health Centre in Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State in 2019-2020 FY. Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe said that there was no plan to upgrade it for the time beings, but the matter would be submitted to the Union Government for approval.

U Zaw Min Lat (a) U Ko Lat of Shan State constituency asked if there was a scheme to upgrade a 16-bedded hospital in Aungban Town, Kalaw Township,



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe.
PHOTO: MNA

Shan State. Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe replied that implementation would be conducted as early as possible in order to provide traffic accident victims with medical treatment.

U Lin Tin Htay of Mon State constituency 4 asked whether it was a plan to build a concrete bridge No. 1 on Mudu-Daungzayat road, Chaungzon Township, Mawlamyine District, Mon State in 2019-2020 FY. Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin replied that the implementation process would be carried out once the allotment of state funds had been listed as a



MP U Myint Naing.
PHOTO: MNA

Class (A) in 2019-2020 FY.

Similarly, Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe replied the queries raised by U Hla Oo of Sagaing Region constituency 4 asking if there was a plan to open a Sub-Rural Health Centre in Nayyarkhin Village, Ayadaw Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Region, and U Maung Kyaw Zan of Rakhine State constituency 9 who asked if there was a plan to upgrade the health centre in Yathedaung Township, Rakhine State while opening new healthcare centres in Shwe Laung Tin, Kanpyin, Katchaung, Nyaungpinlae and Pyichaung

village-tract.

2019 Bill Amending Myanmar Investment Law

Then Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mehn Win Khaing Than notified the 2019 bill amending Myanmar Investment Law to the Hluttaw and which has been sent from the Pyithu Hluttaw without making any amendments.

Bill To Protect from the Rise of Imported Goods

Next, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo explained about a bill intended to prevent from the impact of import surges, which aimed at protecting the small and medium-scale enterprises from import surge into Myanmar. Thus he urged the Hluttaw to pass the bill in a timely manner. Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee Secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe clarified the bill to protect from the rise of imported goods. Afterwards, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the bill to register their names.

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State Counsellor meets with President of the Czech Republic

FROM PAGE-1

Deputy State Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr. Laszlo Varadi, Myanmar Ambassador to Hungary, U Myo Aye, Hungarian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Szilveszter Bus, Director-General of Asia-Pacific Affairs, Mr. Peter Jakab, Director-General of Protocol of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ms. Edina Pasztor and officials of the Myanmar Embassy in Hungary welcomed them

at the Budapest International Airport.

The delegation then proceeded to the Kempinski Hotel where they will be staying during the visit. —MNA
(Translated by Alphonsus)

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi looks around "Myanmar Ahla" photo exhibition at Prague National Museum in Prague, the Czech Republic, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for a photo together with Hungarian Prime Minister Mr. Viktor Orbán yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor meets with Hungarian PM, FM separately



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Hungarian Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Mr. Peter Szijjarto in Budapest yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with Prime Minister Mr. Viktor Orbán of Hungary in Budapest yesterday.

Before the talks, Prime Minister Mr. Viktor Orbán conducted the State Counsellor around the Prime Minister's office and they enjoyed the scenic views of the Danube River from the office.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor introduced the members of her delegation Union Ministers U Thaung

Tun and U Kyaw Tin, Myanmar Ambassador to Hungary U Myo Aye and officials to Prime Minister Mr. Viktor Orbán. He also introduced Hungarian Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Mr. Peter Szijjarto, Ambassador of Hungary to Myanmar and officials.

At the talks, they discussed promotion and cooperation in bilateral relations, bilateral ties in the areas of trade, investment and economy, efforts of Myanmar Government for

stability and development in Rakhine State and opening of embassies by the two countries in respective capitals.

Following the meeting, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi went to Hungary Foreign Affairs and Trade Ministry and met with Minister Mr. Peter Szijjarto.

At the meeting, they discussed boosting the relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Hungary, Tied Aid Credit loans from Hungary for

the development of Myanmar, promoting the relations in the areas of trade, investment and culture and promoting people to people relations, bilateral cooperation in the ASEAN region and the international arena, granting scholarship programmes to Myanmar students for human resource development of Myanmar, assistance from Hungary for promoting relations, trade and investment between Myanmar and EU, transition to democracy

in Myanmar, constructive help from Hungary to the national reconciliation efforts by the Myanmar Government and for Rakhine issue.

After the talks, they held a joint press conference.

Afterwards, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended a working luncheon hosted by Hungarian Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Mr. Peter Szijjarto.—MNA

(Translated by (Tun Tun Naing)

Union Constitutional Tribunal delegation leaves for Mongolia

AT the invitation of the Chairman of the Constitutional Court of Mongolia, a delegation of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, led by member U Myint Win and accompanied by Dep-

uty Director-General U Thein Win, departed from Yangon International Airport yesterday to attend the International Conference in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 6 to 7 June.

The delegation was seen off by officials from the Union Constitutional Tribunal office.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

President U Win Myint attends World Environment Day 2019

FROM PAGE-1

That was why, today's ceremony was being celebrated with the theme of "Beat Air Pollution" in order to make the Myanmar people aware of the issues.

When we think about air pollution's impacts, it was needed to consider Indoor Air Pollution and Outdoor Air Pollution. According to UN Environment research, about 4.3 million people die every year from respiratory diseases caused by Indoor Air Pollution. The major source of Indoor Air Pollution was burning of wood, charcoal and other fossil fuels for cooking. Moreover, Outdoor Air Pollution can be caused by the emissions from Industry, Energy, Transport and Agriculture sectors as well as by forest fire, sand and dust storms. Annually, about 3.7 million people suffered from Outdoor Air Pollution around the world. Globally, South-east Asia and the West Pacific were the most affected areas, especially to the children and women.

Actions needed to be taken to prevent or reduce incineration of plastic and other waste in open fields which causes air pollution, impacts on human health and contributes to climate change. Only half of the world's populations residing in urban areas have access to clean air.

So, the theme of this year indicates that air pollution issue is an environmental challenge which has to be solved continually as a priority issue.

The most obvious economic impact of air pollution was the cost to public health. According to World Bank data, air pollution costs the global economy 5 trillion US dollars every year. For example, in 2011, America spent 131 billion US dollars for health care costs associated with energy emissions. Oxford University Research showed that emissions from vehicles and trains cost society about 6 billion pounds annually. The European Environment Agency, found emissions from 14,000 industrial facilities had cost society and the economy totaling 189 billion Euros in 2012.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) had predicted that Outdoor Air Pollution could cause premature deaths which cost from 18 to 25 trillion US dollars worldwide per year by 2060. And, again, a breath of fresh air was necessary for our daily lives. That was why taking fast action on air pollution was discussed at



President U Win Myint observes the small-scale model of waste-to-energy plant displayed at the event to mark the World Environment Day 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly held in March 2019.

In Myanmar, air quality was relatively good, especially when compared to industrialized countries. But as we grow, Myanmar could not expect to maintain clean air unless we actively worked for it. Nowadays, Myanmar was promoting investment in the industrial sector including industrial zones. Moreover, urbanization and increased use of vehicles in urban areas were contributing to growing air pollution including greenhouse gas emissions and contributing to hazardous waste issues. So, it was necessary to systematically tackle the problem by undertaking strong environmental management planning and mainstreaming waste and air pollution control in the relevant sectors.

When we look at practical ways to clean air quality in our environment, there were many things we can do. We need to encourage the use of good quality machinery, tools and technologies that can reduce air pollution. Investing in renewable energy sources for electricity generation, such as solar, wind and hydropower, minimizing and effectively disposing of waste rather than uncontrolled incineration, matching technologies to emission standards and supporting villages by providing clean fuel stoves can significantly reduce air pollution. Moreover, we can help and make our cities healthier by adopting better transportation options and designing smart transport systems, by formulating standards to control emissions from vehicles, and by undertaking systematic

monitoring. I would like to urge all of you to recognize that there has already been plenty of technologies and experiences that Myanmar can draw on. This was why international cooperation was so important for formulating long term strategies.

During this summer, between March and April, Myanmar-Thailand border areas faced an issue of transboundary haze pollution mainly caused by forest fire. As Myanmar is a party to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, we had to tackle the problems of Transboundary Haze Pollution, through prevention, control and monitoring actions in cooperation with neighboring countries and international organizations.

In line with the guidance of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan- MSDP, the National Environment Policy, the Climate Change Policy, and Climate Change Strategy and Master Plan have been approved by the cabinet and were being disseminated in this ceremony in order to mainstream environmental conservation and climate change mitigation activities in all relevant sectors. He was greatly honored to launch these policies in this auspicious ceremony. These policies, strategy and master plan have to be implemented effectively in the relevant sectors through short- and long-term development plans and investments, respectively.

As all of you are aware, air pollution was the core reason for regional and global climate change. On its account, reducing air pollution supports greenhouse gas reduction which causes climate change through

global warming process. He believed that air pollution could be prevented by mainstreaming National Waste Management Strategy and Master Plan into Myanmar Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Master Plan.

There was no doubt that Myanmar had confidence to achieve sustainable and harmonious development which balances economic, social and environmental pillars. It could be achieved by understanding current promulgated environment policy and climate change policy, environmental conservation laws, by-laws, rules and regulations, guidelines in the relevant ministries, civil society, businesses, technicians, students and people, and also contributing to the development projects, investments and sustainable development activities, based on the technology and experiences with international best practices through reducing greenhouse gas emission and development of air pollution management plan.

He wanted to extend his appreciation and thanks to the international organizations like European Union (EU), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN-Habitat, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA), Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA), World Wide Fund (WWF), and Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) for their technical and financial assistance in de-

veloping these policies, strategy and master plan. He urged all those present at the meeting to cooperate with Myanmar in implementing these to achieve their targets.

It was necessary for all countries, with their common sense, to keep their air and water environment away from pollution because clean air and water were essential for human lives. Deteriorating global environment could only be restored in time by all-inclusive cooperation worldwide. The task of saving the world's environment could only be completed by the wise support and participation of each and every one all over the world.

In summary, the policies and the procedures such as the vision of National Environment Policy which is "a clean environment, with healthy and functioning ecosystems, that ensures inclusive development and wellbeing for all people in Myanmar", the vision of Climate Change Policy which is "climate-resilient, low carbon society that is sustainable, prosperous and inclusive for the wellbeing of present and future generations" and the vision of National Waste Management Strategy and Master Plan which is "Sustainable, Green, Clean and Healthy, Environment towards a brighter future" have been approved by the Government for combatting air pollution according to today's theme.

In conclusion, the President said he wished to urge Myanmar citizens, including all those present, to participate for the current and future sustainable development of Myanmar by changing daily lifestyles in order to support environmental conservation. He added that he would also like to urge again to beat air pollution as an important part of Myanmar's sustainable development to benefit Myanmar society as a whole.

Afterwards, Resident Coordinator of the UN Mr. Peter Batchelor read the message from the UN Secretary-General.

The Myanmar National Environmental Policy and Myanmar National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Master Plan (2018-2030) were declared with the approval of the Union Government meeting No. 22/2018 and 4/2019.

Afterwards, the President presented awards to winners of the article and essay competitions, school cleaning activities and video clip competitions held to mark the World Environment Day for 2019. —MNA

VP U Myint Swe addresses 3rd Myanmar-EU Economic Forum

THE Third Myanmar-EU Economic Forum was held at Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his speech, the Vice President said holding this economic forum for the third time was a firm indication of Myanmar and EU's strengthened cooperation. He thanked the EuroCham and UMFCCI for organizing the forum and said it would provide the best opportunities for EU investors to enter the country.

The Vice President said Myanmar was located in a strategic geographic location between China and India and had the potential to be a bridge between Southeast Asia and South Asia.

He said foreign investments had mainly flowed into oil and natural gas, electric power, media and communications, industrial production and real estate. He said these sectors had potential for market expansion but also highlighted there were many other sectors that could benefit both investors and the local people of a region.

The Vice President said the Union Government had set a 12 point economic policy in 2016 to aid multisector development and the establishment of an economic framework that would support national reconciliation. He said the Union Government has formulated the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) that will lead to a sustainable future towards 2030 and lay the foundation for a democratic federal republic.

The Vice President said My-



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the 3rd edition of the Myanmar-EU Economic Forum in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

anmar had enacted The Competition Law in 2015, The New Myanmar Investment Law in 2016, and The New Myanmar Company Act in 2017. He said this had allowed companies to register online and enabled more transparency, lessening of restrictions and guarantees for investors. He added that this also allowed foreign investors to own up to 35 per cent of shares in a domestic company, and put in 100 per cent of investments into a foreign owned wholesale and retail company.

The Vice President said the Ministry of Planning and Finance allowed five foreign companies to open up business

in the insurance sector on 5 April 2019. He said this would increase insurance and protection to foreign investors coming into Myanmar.

He said these noticeable changes aim to boost Myanmar's economic development in 2019 to 2020. He said the country's GDP was 6.2 per cent in 2018 and is projected to rise to 6.6 per cent in 2019 and 6.8 per cent in 2020, according to Asian Development Bank.

Furthermore, foreign direct investment (FDI) into Myanmar reached US\$80,150.472 million as of April 2019, said the Vice President. He said investments from 49 countries were flowing

into 12 sectors in Myanmar, with the majority being made in oil and natural gas (27.97%), power generation (26.42%) and industrial production (13.56%).

The Vice President said trade between Myanmar and EU amounted to US\$1.27 billion in 2016-2017 FY and increased by over US\$800 million to US\$2.07 billion in 2017-2018 FY, and was estimated to rise even more for 2018-2019 FY. He said there were 158 European countries approved for investment in Myanmar, as of April 2019, and their total investment amount had reached US\$6.87 billion, accounting for 8.6 per cent of all FDI into the country.

The Vice President said the Myanmar-EU Trade Helpdesk was established in May 2016 to promote bilateral trade and investment between Myanmar and the EU. He concluded by wishing for the increased and continued cooperation between both sides.

Next, the EU Ambassador delivered a speech and attendees took a documentary photo together.

In the second part of the forum, Mr. Philipp Dupuis, EU's Minister Counsellor to Myanmar, and UMFCCI Vice President Dr. Myo Thet delivered separate remarks.

Afterwards, attendees discussed the challenges, difficulties, benefits, progress and other matters related to Myanmar and EU's cooperation and investments in the country.

The opening ceremony was attended by the follow persons:

Deputy Speaker U Aye Thar Aung, Union Ministers U Thant Sin Maung, Dr. Than Myint, U Soe Win, U Han Zaw and U Ohn Maung, Union Auditor-General U Maw Than, Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi, Deputy Ministers U Aung Hla Tun and Dr. Tun Naing, parliamentary representatives from the Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws, EU Ambassador Mr. Kristian Schmidt, foreign diplomats, departmental heads, UMFCCI Vice President, representatives from the European Chambers of Commerce (EuroCham), economists, businesspeople and other invited guests.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

MOFA, CCPR jointly organize awareness raising workshop on International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

THE awareness raising workshop on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Centre for Civil and Political Rights based in Geneva, is being held in Nay Pyi Taw from 5 to 6 June 2019. Director-General U Chan Aye, International Organizations and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs delivered opening remarks at the workshop.

A total of fifty participants

including the members of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, officials and scholars from the Union Supreme Court, Union Election Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Border Affairs, Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor, Ministry of Information, Ministry of the Office of the Union Government, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Edu-



Awareness raising workshop on ICCPR jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Centre for Civil and Political Rights based in Geneva held in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

cation, Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, Union Attorney General's Office, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and Myanmar Institute of Strategic

and International Studies are attending the workshop.

By signing ICCPR, which is regarded by the international community as an international covenant supporting the strong democratic nation, Myanmar will be able to show

its political will to protect and promote human rights. The workshop is being held with an aim to have better understanding of the ICCPR and to explore the challenges in the implementation in its systematic manner.—MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Deputy Chief of State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence of China



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Deputy Chief of the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence of the People's Republic of China Mr. Xu Zhanbin.

PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Deputy Chief of the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Xu Zhanbin, at the Bayintnaung Guest Hall

yesterday.

At the meeting, they discussed collaboration related to military technology and in other sectors, cementing the friendship between the two countries through collaboration between the two armed forces, and based on this collaboration, acquiring

technologies that could benefit the people and the country, according to a news release from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)

U Myint Lwin presents Credentials to President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

U Myint Lwin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, presented his Credentials to Her Excellency Ambassador Sahle-Work Zewde, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, on 30 May 2019 in Addis Ababa.—MNA

Daw Kay Thi Soe appointed as Ambassador of Myanmar to the Czech Republic

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Daw Kay Thi Soe, Director-General of the Strategic Studies and Training Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Czech Republic.—MNA

Movie analysis to be held

CRIA Cuervos will be analyzed at Film Development Center at 12 pm on June 9th.

The program is to be held as 18th sub program of Cinematheque Program with the purpose of developing Myanmar Film. Member of management

team of Myanmar Film development Center, Dr. Aung Min will lead the discussion.

Cria Cuervos by Director Carlos Saura is a Spanish Art Film which won Special Jury Prize in 1976 Cannes Film Festival. ■ (Translated by Alphonsus)

Union Minister U Ohn Win attends roundtable talks on 2019 World Environment Day

A ROUNDTABLE talk to commemorate the 2019 World Environment Day was held yesterday at the Myanmar International Convention Center II in Nay Pyi Taw, where Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win attended and delivered a speech.

In his opening speech at the event, Union Minister U Ohn Win said that the event would help combat the effects of casualties, economic and social loss caused by air pollution and which could benefit the works process in future through co-operation.

With a view to combating the air pollution, the roundtable was being held in cooperation with governmental organizations and private industries. Thus concerted efforts should be made to set up long-term policies and strategic plans aiming at coping with the impacts of environmental hazards while fostering sustainable development in Myanmar. It was of great importance to implement the Myanmar National Environmental policy, Myanmar's climate change policy, strategies and

mainstream of the work process in cooperation with all stakeholders in national, regional and state levels. He also urged to coordinate and implement the short and long-term schemes to make it a success. He added that sustainable development could be achieved through the cooperation with people and different organizations from all sectors.

Then EU Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Kristian Schmidt, Myanmar-based EU Ambassador Mr. Peter Batchelon, Country Programme Manager Mr. Bljay Karmacharya and representative from Myanmar Climate Change Alliance (MCCA) delivered remarks at the event. Next, Director General of the Department of Natural Environment U Hla Maung Thein clarified the Myanmar National-level Climate Change Policy, strategies and the prime schemes (2018-2030).

In the afternoon, a roundtable talks on "Air Pollution" was held and Environmental Health Consultant Dr. Ohnmar May Tin Hlaing acted as a moderator, Amyotha Hluttaw Natural Resources and Environmental

Conservation committee secretary U Sa Khin Zaw Lin, Directorate of Industrial Collaboration Director U Wai Zin Oo, Yangon City Development Committee's Department Head Dr. Aung Myint Maw, Environmental Conservation Department Deputy Director Dr. Tin Tin Thaw, Public Health Department Deputy Director Dr. Kay Khaine Aye and Chairman of Sein Lan Myay U

Win Myo Thu took part in the discussion.

The roundtable talk on "Climate Change" was continued and UNDP Program Officer U Hone Lain acted as moderator.

Pyithu Hluttaw's Natural Resources and Environmental Committee member U Ye Mon, Department of Disaster Management Deputy Director General U Than Htut Swe,

Environmental Conservation Department Director U Kyaw San Naing, Department of Meteorology and Hydrology Dr. Kyu Kyu Sein, RECOFTC Dr. Maung Maung Than contributed to the discussions on this theme. At the event, officials explained about the process of the environmental conservation to the students attending the event.—MNA ■ (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Union Minister U Ohn Win delivers the speech at the event to mark the World Environment Day 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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Improved rights for prisoners through Parole System

THE Ministry of Home Affairs is drafting a Probation Bill, taking a step towards putting in place a Parole System in attempt to solve the problem of over population in the nation's prisons.

The bill reflects the government's pragmatic approach to reduce the chronic overcrowding in its prisons.

There are 93 prisons and labour camps in Myanmar, including 42 prisons, five jails, 18 labour camps and 30 agricultural and livestock production camps under the Correctional Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Those held in overcrowded prisons have only limited access to healthcare services. Therefore, they are highly susceptible to communicable diseases, such as tuberculosis, HIV, hepatitis and cholera.

In Myanmar's prisons, overcrowding is the result of high levels of selling and using drugs, with nearly half of Myanmar's 65,000-70,000 prisoners serving sentences related to drug offences, according to statistics released by the 3MDG Fund last year.

Overcrowding in prisons is a type of violation of the human rights of prisoners. The Parole System used in other countries would solve this problem and reduce the high social and financial costs of incarceration.

This move comes after the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and the Ministry of Home Affairs submitted the problems in the prisons to the President.

The issue was also brought before the Hluttaw recently, with a lawmaker asking the Home Affairs Ministry whether it had a plan to put in place a Parole System, since the prisons were overcrowded.

If successful, the parole system could lead to improvements to meet the minimum standards of health, food, potable water, accommodation, sanitation and hygiene in the nation's prisons.

Out of 10 chapters of the Probation Bill, seven have been approved. The remaining chapters, 6, 7 and 8, are being discussed with the Union Supreme Court and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. After all chapters are approved by departments concerned, the Ministry of Home Affairs will seek remarks from the Union Attorney-General about the bill and will take steps to submit the bill so it might become a law.

The proposed reform will ensure sustainable and long-term solutions to prison overcrowding, reducing the high social and financial costs of incarceration.

We welcome the spirit behind the Probation Bill, believing that the law will help the prison system move towards the rehabilitation which treats inmates humanely.

We are confident that the problem of overcrowding will be addressed soon.



To curb drug menace

Myanmar enacted the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law in 1993 to replace the 1974 Narcotic and Dangerous Drug Law, and the drug eradication work has been carried out as a national duty across the county by cultivating substitute cash crops in place of poppies for many decades, but the drug menace is still there.

Reasons to grow poppy

A valley is a low area between hills or mountains typically with a river running through it, and they are surrounded by lush and green forests. At the end of February the valley was abloom with the white and velvet flowers of opium poppies.

They happened to be killers of human being and they are growing fast and rapid on the beautiful hills of Shan State and Kachin State.

Statistics showed that poppies are grown in 40 townships in Shan State; 6 townships in Kachin State; 3 townships in Kayin State; 2 townships in Chin State; a total of 51 townships with 3,00,000 households completely caring for the killer plants.

In Shan State, villagers are growing poppies as main source of income, and one in ten households is doing the job.

Daw Khin Hnin Thit of Pandaung constituency discussed that Myanmar is the second largest opium producer on this planet after Afghanistan, and it is pushing 14 percent of the world demand into the market. Ninety percent produce of the whole country comes from Shan State.

The lawmaker added that the poppies are growing profusely due to the reasons such as the area's instability and insecurity, difficult road communication and poor rule of law, the low income of the local pop-



The file photo shows a poppy field in a village of Shan State.

ulation and no other alternative for livelihood, the climate and surrounding environment that favors the growing of poppies, the low market values of the poppy substitute cash crops and the higher cost of cultivation for other crops. She also added that one fourth of the world production on opium comes from the golden triangle where Myanmar, Thailand and Laos meet according to the assessment.

According to Reuters news report a press brief was held in March 2019 in Thailand over the drug seizure. Thailand police shows to the media one of its largest crystal methamphetamine busts during a news conference in Bangkok, and indicated the drug volume has climbed up to ten times during two-year period and implied the drug supply was from Myanmar.

An expert on narcotics was of the view that the drugs from Myanmar entered into Thailand, and from there these small loads crossed Asia and Pacific Region arriving to New Zealand, which badly tarnishes the image of Myanmar.

The drugs changed into many hands starting from the grower, the producer, the peddler, and the user including the young ones in various secret methods, and that the trend is rising year by year in Myanmar.

Half of the inmates in the cells are the drug users and the majority is youth, and therefore the menace prompted the need to handle the matter effectively as the national duty.

In an effort to rebalance the approach to drug challenges in Myanmar, the Government of Myanmar and UNODC announced a new National Drug Control Policy in February 2018.

The overall aim is to contribute to safe, secure and healthy communities including the development of nationalities through a policy that addresses

all aspects of the drug problem, focusing on the unique needs of the country, in eradicating the poppy cultivation and uplift the lives of the cultivators.

Daw Khin Hnin Thit of Pandaung constituency added that the President of the country and the State Counsellor have already directed on the eradication of narcotic drugs. Moreover, the 71st Anniversary Independence Day National Objectives emphasized that to effectively combat and protect against the use of drugs and narcotic substances which can harm and erode the health and character of all citizens.

Furthermore, when the President took oath at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and at the New Year greetings speech, he urged for the suppression of

under his office to secure and reward drug informants. The centre has been equipped with phone numbers, fax number, and e-mail address that will ensure the protection of informants.

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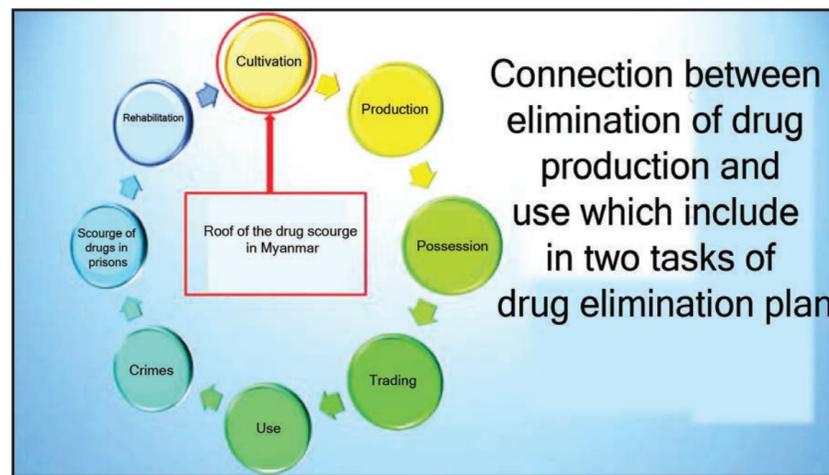
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The growing of poppies is the livelihood of the growers since their ancestors for many



Drug elimination processes in Myanmar

narcotic drugs. At the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking event, the President told to solve the drug problems.

In January 2017, the State Counsellor issued a thank you message to the people where she mentioned that the future of the nation lies in the hands of the next generation youth, and therefore, they are to be nurtured in healthy surrounding with safe environment with strong spirit and good mentality to be ready to take charge of the country. It is therefore, the drugs problems are to be solved and the dark issue is to be erased.

Supporting viable alternatives

The president also announced the creation of the Special Anti-Drug Reporting Centre

in momentum the office of the President announced. The experts on drug affairs are of the view in the same direction such as that of to reduce the cultivation of poppies; that of total eradication of poppy cultivation; that of in Thailand the poppy substitute crops are being grown resulting with the lesser production of poppies year by year; that of aid assistances being offered by UN agencies and foreign countries to grow substitute cash crops in place of poppies in 5 townships in Shan State; that of the need in providing business opportunities and other vocational careers to the poppy growers enabling them to stand on their own; that of the need to craft the national plans and the development programs.

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Yangon Project Bank includes only PPP projects: Yangon Region Chief Minister

By Nyein Nyein

YANGON Project Bank only funds projects that are part of the public-private partnership agreements (PPP), as opposed to wholly government funded projects, said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

“Yangon Project Bank can be defined as the roadmap for Yangon’s future plans. We only have joint ventures between the public and private sectors in PPP agreements, and government funded projects will not be part of it”, said U Phyo Min Thein.

The Yangon Region chief minister made his remarks at a ceremony held on 3 June organized by the Yangon Region Young Entrepreneurs Association (YR-YEA), in which future plans for the Yangon Project Bank were announced.

The ceremony also sought to display to the public the transparency of the regional government. Some projects can be approved by the regional government, while some are required to be forwarded to the Union Government.

“This Project Bank will en-

hance transparency. Some projects no longer need to receive approval from the Union Government and they can start running when the regional government gives a nod to them. Yet, some businesses that are strategic to the government and might have possible environmental and social impacts and other issues require permits from the Union Government. For example, proposals to set up industrial zones in 11 townships outside YCDC’s area have to be submitted to the parliament (Hluttaw)”, the Yangon Region chief minister

pointed out.

Eighty projects in the PPP are included in the Yangon Project Bank.

The Yangon Region is seeking to shape itself as a livable commercial capital through sustainable development and the conservation of its heritage. Additionally, Yangon is expected to become a mega city by 2040, with inner and outer circular roads to assist in transportation for the Yangon population, U Phyo Min Thein added.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Conservationists struggle to bring Arakan forest turtles back from extinction

THE Arakan forest turtle, one of the world’s rarest turtle species, is being conserved in Gwa, as the number of turtles rose to 50 this year, having increased from just five in 2005.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature-IUCN regard the Arakan forest turtle as a critically endangered species. There are about 50 Arakan forest turtles that are under the protection of the Myanmar Wildlife Conservation and Fisheries laws.

“Although this turtle species is freely living in the sanctuary, they can easily become extinct for many reasons. Beginning in 2005, five Arakan forest turtles were brought under the care of the Wildlife Conservation Society-WCS (Myanmar) and have now increased to 50 turtles”, said U Tun Thu, a research officer from WCS-Myanmar’s Turtle Survival Alliance.

The Arakan forest turtle is the common name, with the scientific name being *Heosemys depressa*, which are now



A rare species of Arakan forest turtle, scientific name *Heosemys depressa*, which lives only in Rakhine Yoma. **PHOTO: PEINZALOAT THEIN NYUNT**

being monitored in the Rakhine Yoma elephant sanctuary in Gwa Township, Rakhine State.

Those rarest turtle species are being nursed by the staff from the Forest Department, WCS (Myanmar), Rakhine Yoma Elephant Sanctuary, and Turtle Survival Alliance.

Arakan forest turtles can only be found in Myanmar, especially in Rakhine State, and are not present in other countries. They are protected under

a breeding system, said U Tun Thu.

The Arakan forest turtle can lay between three and seven eggs per year, but only two or three eggs can be fertilized, while other turtles lay three times per year and have high breeding rates.

The turtles live in forests in Rakhine and can be spotted along the streams. They can especially be seen in Rakhine State and can also be found

in the western part of the Ayeyawady Region.

Previously, a large number of Arakan forest turtles were facing illegal poaching in Myanmar, but now they are registered as the world’s third rarest species. Myanmar has maintained this species as its natural heritage, and they are listed as a critically endangered species.— Peinzaloat Thein Nyunt

(Translated by La Wonn)

Myanmar’s highway accident death toll declines in May

Five people died on Myanmar’s highways in May due to accidents, which is a decrease from nine in April, according to the highway traffic police force.

From January to May 2019, a total of 233 road accidents, with 433 people injured and 46 killed, were seen on the high-

way connecting commercial hub Yangon with the country’s capital Nay Pyi Taw and the second-largest city, Mandalay.

The Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay Highway saw five people killed and 59 injured in 43 road accidents in January, seven people killed

and 56 people injured in 40 accidents in February, 20 killed and 113 injured in 51 accidents in March, while it witnessed 58 road accidents with nine people killed and 144 injured in April, ending with five people killed and 71 injured in 41 accidents in May.

Speeding is the main cause of accidents on the country’s roads and expressways. Other causes include reckless driving, unsafe vehicles and severe weather conditions. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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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.

Foreign car import tariffs will remain unchanged

FROM PAGE-2

The motion was further discussed by U Saw Kyaw Win Maung, MP for Kyaikmaraw constituency, U Kun Than Htoo, MP for Hsihseng constituency, U Kyaw Swe Win, MP for Kawhmu constituency, U Saw Victor Clyde, MP for Thandaunggyi constituency, U Ar Moe Si, MP for Khaunglanphu constituency, and U Nyunt Win, MP for Kanpetlet constituency.

Next, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun discussed the motion. He said the Department of Higher Education suggests matriculation graduates to apply for the Diploma in Teacher Education (D.T.Ed) course and assigns them to the relevant subnational education college depending on their grades.

He said the department also suggests the Pre Primary Teach-

er Training (PPTT) for college graduates as preparation for entering the workplace.

The Deputy Minister said supporting local graduates to apply for teaching positions within their region decreases the costs and challenges that come with assigning teachers to states/regions they are foreign to and promotes student attendance in those respective regions. He said the ministry is actively working towards prioritizing appointment of local ethnic teachers who fulfil all the specified criteria and asked for the Hluttaw to approve the motion.

The Speaker then asked for the opinion of the MP tabling the motion, who replied his approval. After calling for the deliberation of the Hluttaw, the Speaker announced the motion has been approved as no one voiced any objection. ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

8th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee to hold second 47-member leading committee meeting

THE second 47-member leading committee meeting of 8th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee will be held on 7 and 8 Waxing of Waso 1381 ME, (8 and 9 July 2019), (Monday and Tuesday) at the Maha Nayaka Monastery on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon.

A preliminary coordination

meeting for second 47-member leading committee meeting of 8th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee will also be held on 3, 4, 5 and 6 Waxing of Waso 1381 ME, (4, 5, 6 and 7 July 2019), (Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday).

State Sangha Maha Nayaka Sayadaws are invited to

come to the Maha Nayaka Monastery on Kaba Aye Hill on 2 Waxing of Waso 1381 ME, (3 July 2019) (Wednesday), according to the Department of Religious Affairs. —MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Matriculation exam results to be released on 8 June

THE matriculation exam results for academic year 2018-2019 will be released at 6am on 8 June, according to Department of Myanmar Examinations.

The exam results will be announced at the exam centres of the respective townships the same time.

In addition, the exam results of states and regions will

also be announced at BEHS No.1 Insein Township, BEHS No.1 Yankin Township, BEHS No.2 Sangyoung Township, BEHS No.1 Lanmadaw Township, BEHS No.2 Dagon Township and BEHS No. 1 Thingangyun Township.

The exam results will then be enquired at the education offices of the respective townships, districts and regions/

states later 6am on 8 June.

The websites of Ministry of Education, www.moe.gov.mm, and of Department of Myanmar Examinations, www.myanmarexam.org, are also arranged to be updated with the exam results at 6am on 8 June. —MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Second Amyotha Hluttaw 12th Regular Session holds its ...

FROM PAGE-2

Bill On Urban and Regional Development Scheme

Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin submitted the bill on urban and regional development scheme and said that the motion has been tabled with a view to fostering urban development and drawing up systematic schemes that played a crucial role in the infrastructure of the country. Then Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Brig-Gen Tint Lwin read out and clarified the reports of the bill on urban and regional development scheme. Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the bill to register their names.

Regarding the reports on motions and questions that have been submitted from the first regular meeting to 11th regular meeting, Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee member Daw Lwee Zar said that the commit-

tee has been carrying out the on-going, implementation and work process of the Hluttaw representatives and coordinated it. It was found out that there were many motions and queries as long as the Hluttaw meetings took place. As for the committees, utmost efforts would be made to fulfill the requirements of the proposals made by the Hluttaw representatives in cooperation with relevant ministries. Moreover the committee has planned to conduct field trips to Chin State and Magway Region as an act to inspect the pledges and undertakings while carrying out the work process in line with the guidance of the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker. Following this, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the report to register their names. The 16th day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 12th regular session will be held on 6 June, it was learnt. ■ (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

YSX Stock trading value in May registered the highest this year

STOCK trading of 275,325 shares by five companies listed on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) in May reached a five-month high of K1.4 billion, according to YSX monthly report.

The figure doubled over last month's record of K506 million with 102,682 shares; while trading value in January was registered at K526 million with 89,576 shares and trading values slid to K409 million and K396 million in February and March respectively as the share price decreased.

At present, shares of five listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB) and TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd. — are being traded on the YSX.

In May, the share prices were closed at K11,000 for FMI, K3,200 for MTSH, K7,700 for MCB, K22,000 for FPB and K3,000 for TMH. Stock trading in May saw increase in share prices compared to April's.

YSX was launched three years ago with a view to enhance private business sector. We will disseminate the rules and regulations of stock exchange at the upcoming Monywa Stock Investment Seminar which will be held



Traders seen at Yangon Stock Exchange in downtown Yangon. PHOTO- PHOE KHWAR

on 9 June, 2019, said U Thet Tun Oo, executive senior manager of YSX.

YSX increased the matching time from two to four per day. In addition to this, YSX held a promotional event for investors in order to increase number of new investors and encourage existing investors to trade more actively. YSX called for government's support in order to entice more public companies to participate in stock market and more institutional investors such as financing companies, investment banks, insurance companies to emerge.

In 2016, YSX was seen trading shares of only three companies — First Myanmar Invest-

ment, Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings and Myanmar Citizens Bank. One more public company, First Private Bank, entered the YSX market in 2017. Last year saw a new entry of TMH Telecom Public Co. Ltd on YSX.

More than 2.5 million shares were traded by three listed companies on YSX in 2016, their value estimated at K70 billion. In 2017, despite an increase in the stock trading volume to 2.6 million shares, the trading value was only K22 billion. Five companies traded K11.5 billion worth 2.3 million shares on YSX in 2018, according to annual report of YSX. —GNLM ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Indian school demands waste plastic as 'fees'



Indian students put plastic bags inside bottles to make eco-bricks, which will be used for construction purposes at the Akshar Forum school in Assam state. **PHOTO: AFP**

DISPUR (India)—One school in northeast India has taken a novel approach to addressing the scourge of plastic waste by making its collection a condition of free attendance.

Every week the 110 pupils at the Akshar Forum school outside Dispur in Assam state must bring up to 20 items of plastic gathered from their homes and the local area.

"The use of plastics is rampant across Assam," said Parmita Sarma, who set up the project together with her New Yorker husband Mazin Mukhtar.

Until last year schooling was completely without charge, but the school decided to introduce the plastic "fee" after a plea to parents to take part in a recycling scheme fell on deaf ears, Mukhtar told AFP.

"We tell (the parents) to

send the plastics to the school as fees if you want your children to study here for free."

In addition, the parents have to make a "pledge" not to burn plastics, said Sarma.

Awareness

The fact that the children now go from home to home asking for plastics has also increased awareness in the local area. According to local non-governmental organisation Environ, Dispur alone—home to just under a million people—produces 37 tonnes of waste rubbish daily, a seven-fold rise over 14 years.

"Earlier, we used to burn the plastics and we had no idea that the gas emitted from that was harmful to our health and environment," said Menu Bora, the mother of one pupil.

"We also threw these away

in the neighbourhood. But that would never happen again...

This is a good step initiated by the school." After collection, the school makes good use of the plastic waste.

Pupils stuff plastic bags inside plastic bottles to make "eco bricks" which can then be used to construct new school buildings, toilet buildings or pathways.

The students are also paid to do this, something which dovetails with another aim of the school: getting children out of the local stone quarries and into education.

"The parents of most of our school students cannot afford to send them to school," Mukhtar said. "It was tough but we have motivated them and brought them back to the school."—AFP ■

Labor minister opposes banning female dress codes with high heels

TOKYO—The labor minister indicated Wednesday he will not support a drive to ban dress codes that force women to wear high heels at work.

"It's generally accepted by society that (wearing high heels) is necessary and reasonable in workplaces," Health, Labor and Welfare Minister Takumi Nemoto said during a Diet committee session.

His comments came after a group working against gender-based workplace discrimination submitted a petition with 18,800 signatures to the labor ministry on Monday calling for the government to ban companies from requiring women to wear high heels in the workplace, citing health and other issues.

The group is part of the #KuToo movement — an amalgam of "#MeToo," and the Japanese words for shoes, "kutsu," and pain, "kutsuu."

Nemoto was responding to Kanako Otsuji, a member of the opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, who said forcing women to wear high heels at work is "outdated."

While Otsuji stressed that a dress code applied only to women amounts to harassment, Nemoto said, "It's abuse of power if a worker with a hurt foot is forced (to wear high heels)."

In contrast, Emiko Takagai, a senior vice minister for Nemoto, said during the same session she does not believe women should be forced to wear high heels.—Kyodo News ■

Tempers flare as oil-rich Venezuela starts to ration gas at the pumps

BARQUISIMETO (Venezuela)—Maria Lopez complains about gasoline rationing that Venezuela—home to the world's largest oil reserves—has started introducing in some areas to tackle extreme fuel shortages. "It's a joke," Lopez said. But for ordinary Venezuelans, it is a cruel joke without a punchline — a driver recently died of a heart attack after waiting in line for days to fill his tank.

Since Monday, drivers in the western state of Lara can buy only 30 liters (eight gallons) of fuel a week, while a rationing system based on vehicles' license plates has been introduced in Bolivar state in the south and Monagas in the west. Fuel shortages have long been chronic in the smuggling-prone states close to the border with Colombia. But the situation worsened in recent weeks as the United States slapped more economic sanctions on Venezuela and its state-run petrol company PDVSA. Lopez had been waiting in line to fill her tank for six hours in Lara's capital Barquisimeto, but had to leave without getting any fuel because she had to go search for medicine for her ailing brother, who suffers from meningitis.

"It's a joke!" she fumed again as she left the gas station empty-handed, despite the fact that between state-regulated gas prices, hyper-inflation and black-market dollar exchange rates, a dollar could technically buy almost 600 million liters of fuel. Even though President Nicolas Maduro said last August that the rock-bottom fuel prices would go up, there has not been an increase so far. Ivan Herrera had also run out of luck: he had been to three gas stations without managing to top up. According to industry sources, 40 percent of the 104 gas stations in Barquisimeto—a city of a million people—are

shut. "There shouldn't be any rationing in a country like ours, an oil nation," said Ivan Herrera. "It's just backwardness." According to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Venezuela's oil output has dropped from 3.2 million barrels per day a decade ago to 1.03 million barrels in April this year. Other estimates put that output as low as 768,000 barrels per day. Sanctions imposed by Washington in an effort to force Maduro to step down have paralyzed gas deliveries from the United States, which are vital for meeting Venezuela's domestic demand, and have also hindered the import of the thinners needed to dilute and refine Venezuela's own heavy crude.

Confusion

In the town of Puerto Ordaz, in the state of Bolivar, Yackson Salas woke up in his car on Monday in a line at a gas station.

"I slept in the queue," he told AFP, complaining about the confusion that surrounds the new system: drivers are supposed to fill their tanks according to their license plates, with alternating days for tags ending in odd or even numbers. "But lots of people join the line even on days when it's not their turn," Salas said. And despite the measures, the lines "stretch for kilometers," said John Velasquez, one of 300 or so drivers waiting for his quota. One of the waiting drivers tried to alter his license plate number with a felt-tip pen, but was spotted and thrown out of the line.

The head of PDVSA, Manuel Quevedo, said last week that the government would guarantee supplies but the shortages persisted. Maduro, for his part, blamed the shortfall on sabotage carried out against oil tankers, but offered no details.—AFP ■



People push a vehicle up to the pump to fill up on gas at a station in Acarigua in Venezuela, which has started rationing fuel. **PHOTO: AFP**

India aborts mission to recover climbers' bodies on Nanda Devi

PITHORAGARH (India)—Treacherous conditions forced India's military Wednesday to abort an aerial attempt to recover the bodies of eight climbers feared killed high in the Himalayas, officials said.

An Air Force helicopter took off early Wednesday carrying elite paramilitary mountaineers to conduct what officials described as a "very high-risk" operation at more than 5,000 meters (16,400 feet). They were trying to retrieve the bodies of four Britons, two Americans, one Indian and one Australian believed to have been killed in an avalanche last week on Nanda Devi, India's second-highest mountain.

On Monday helicopters spotted from the air what officials believe to be five bodies and their scattered mountaineering gear. The remains of the other three climbers were thought to be nearby. But on Wednesday, the helicopter had to return to base after making three failed attempts to hover over the spot and airdrop the soldiers from the Indo Tibetan Border Police paramilitary mountain force.

The aircraft was hindered by turbulent winds, the risk of further avalanches, the bowl-shaped terrain, the high altitude, and the fact that there was only one possible approach route to the site. "When a chopper enters into such places, they have to also consider a return path, which was unavailable in this case, so the pilots decided not to take any risk," local district magistrate Vijay Kumar Jogdande told reporters. The officer said they would launch another aerial operation and also attempt to send a ground mission to reach the spot, something that would take a week to prepare and acclimatize for.—AFP ■

China's Xi in Russia to boost cooperation amid US tensions

MOSCOW (Russian Federation)—Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin praised their countries' ties during a meeting in the Kremlin on Wednesday, as Beijing and Moscow seek to shore up cooperation amid tensions with the US. Putin said the visit was a "key event" in relations between the two neighbours. "Our relationship will be better and better," said Xi, who was received with full honours when he arrived at Moscow's Vnukovo airport in the afternoon.

The trip comes five years after Moscow's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea peninsula led to a serious rift with its Western partners and subsequent turn toward its neighbour to the east. "In recent years, thanks to your direct participation, the relationship between Russia and China has reached an unprecedentedly high level," the Russian president said.



Xi was received with full honours at Moscow's Vnukovo airport. PHOTO: AFP

Following the talks and a visit to the Bolshoi Theatre late Wednesday, Xi is set to travel to Russia's former imperial capital

Saint Petersburg. There he will attend an economic forum hosted by Putin on Thursday and Friday. China and Russia "have strong political mutual trust, and support each other firmly on issues concerning each other's core interests and major concerns," Xi said

during an interview with Russian media ahead of the visit. Putin's foreign policy aide, Yury Ushakov, earlier said Xi and Putin would sign a new declaration on their "global partnership and strategic cooperation, which are entering a new era". The Chinese delega-

tion brought two pandas as gifts, bound for the Moscow Zoo. "The animal is a symbol of China and the gesture is very important to our partners," Ushakov said. The partnership is yielding increasing trade, which has increased by 25 percent in 2018 to hit a record \$108 billion (96 billion euros), he added, calling China "Russia's most important economic partner".

Russia's 'pivot' paying off

Russia may have had unrealistic expectations from its pivot to the east following Western sanctions over Ukraine, said Alexander Gabuev, who heads the Asia programme at the Carnegie Moscow Center. Nevertheless, China's share in Russian foreign trade has nearly doubled since then, he added.—AFP ■

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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACITA VOY. NO. (038 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 06-06-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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

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Climate Adaptation in Coastal Communities of Myanmar: Improved Management of Mangrove Forests
Denmark-Myanmar Country Programme 2018-2023



Request for Proposal (RFP): "Development of National Integrated Coastal Management-ICM Program in Myanmar"

Under the Denmark-Myanmar Country Programme 2016-2020, the Forest Department (FD) is currently implementing a five year(2018-2023) project of "Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience-building through rehabilitation and sustainable management of mangrove forests in coastal areas of Myanmar (The CCA Engagement)" with the support of Climate Envelop fund mainly in Rakhine State and Tanintharyi Region to rehabilitate the degraded mangroves and to build the resilience of the coastal communities to adapt the climate change.

The Project is requesting a national Service Provider (SP) to submit a proposal with the aim to develop a Myanmar National ICM Program and to facilitate and recommend the concepts for two Regional ICM Programs in Rakhine State and Tanintharyi Region to be followed up next steps down to developing regional level ICM plans.

Duration of Assignment: Approximately 14 months (starting from August 2019 and to be completed by September 2020)

Main Tasks:

1. Develop and finalize an ICM Program Concept Note (in collaboration with CCA Engagement team for national as well as two regional programs in Rakhine and Tanintharyi)
2. Facilitate ICM consultations (cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder consultations at both national and regional levels)
3. Drafting of ICM Program (based on the outcomes of the consultation process)
4. National Completion workshop on the draft ICM Program
5. Completion of a comprehensive national ICM program and two regional/state ICM programs for Rakhine State and Tanintharyi Region and submission of relevant authorizes

Outputs from the Consultancy

1. ICM Program Concept Note
2. Consultation Minutes / Reports
3. National and Regional ICM Program

Requirements: The SP should be a recognized organization with the following specific competencies:

- Comprehensive experience in ICM development and implementation in Myanmar, and/or Southeast Asia
- Experience with capacity building related to ICM
- Proven experience from working within a multiple stakeholder environment (government, donor civil society, the private sector, local communities);
- Proven reporting, facilitation, and communication skills in both English and Burmese

Deadline for Submission: 1st July, 2019 (16:00hours). Potential SPs can obtain Application package, including detailed TOR, by sending an email to the Project Director, FDCCA Project, Watershed Management Division, Forest Department (watershedfdmonrec@gmail.com) and CC: to Mr. Anders Poulsen, International Technical Advisor (afpoulsen@gmail.com). Submissions received after the deadline will not be considered. Only selected SP will be contacted for further contracting process.

Contact Details: Watershed Management Division, Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Bldg; 39, Nay Pyi Taw, Phone: +95 67 3 405398, +95 67 3 405115

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China warns its citizens of police harassment, crime in US

BEIJING (China)—China on Tuesday issued a pair of travel alerts to its citizens going to the United States, warning them of police harassment and crime as tensions soar between the global powers. The world's two largest economies have been locked in a protracted trade war, and any major drop in Chinese tourism to the United States could cost billions to the US economy. While it did not threaten to curb tours to the United States, China has used tourism as a weapon during previous diplomatic rows with South Korea, Japan and the Philippines. Tuesday's warnings were issued as China also angrily hit back at US criticism of its human rights record on the 30th anniversary of the brutal crackdown on the Tiananmen protests, adding to tensions.

The foreign ministry said US law enforcement agencies have "repeatedly" used methods such as immigration and on-site interviews to "harass" Chinese citizens in the US. It urged Chinese nationals and Chinese-funded institutions in the US to be cautious and "increase awareness and strengthen preventive measures".

"This is a response to the circumstances, China would not have done this if it was unnecessary," foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a regular press briefing. "At the same time, I

want to emphasise China holds an open attitude towards normal people-to-people exchanges and contacts between our two countries, but such exchanges and contact must be based on mutual respect."

US warns its citizens

A separate travel warning by China's culture and tourism ministry warned: "Recently, shootings, robberies and thefts have occurred frequently in the United States."

It urged Chinese tourists to "fully assess the risk" and "improve their awareness of safety and security". Three million Chinese visited the United States last year, down from 3.2 million in 2017, according to the US National Travel and Tourism Office. They represent the fifth-largest group of foreign visitors, spending \$36.4 billion last year. This is the second travel advisory for the US issued by China over the past 12 months. The Chinese embassy in Washington last July warned Chinese tourists to be aware of issues including the threat of public shootings and robberies, searches and seizures by customs agents, telecommunications fraud and natural disasters. The latest warnings come a day after the education ministry said Chinese students and academics were facing US visa problems and urged them to assess the "risk" of travelling to the United States. —AFP ■



More than one hundred thousand people take part in a rally demanding the resignation of Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis on 4 June 2019 on the Wenceslas Square in Prague. PHOTO: AFP

Some 100,000 join demo to demand Czech PM's resignation

PRAGUE (Czech Republic) —Around 100,000 Czechs filled Prague's Wenceslas Square on Tuesday to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Andrej Babis in the biggest demonstration the country has seen in decades.

The 64-year-old billionaire was charged last year in connection with a two million euro (\$2.25 million) EU subsidy scam, while an audit by the European Commission ruled that he has a conflict of interest as a politician and entrepreneur. "Andrej Babis gives us a new reason to protest every week," Benjamin

Roll of the Million Moments for Democracy NGO, one of the organisers, told the protesters. "We've had enough." While an AFP correspondent estimated the crowd at 100,000, organisers put the figure at 120,000. Tuesday's protest was the largest in a series that began in late April against Babis and his justice minister Marie Benesova, who is suspected of putting the brakes on legal moves against the prime minister.

The Commission suspects that the Slovak-born Babis, who is the Czech Republic's second wealthiest person, still rakes in

profits from the company he founded. Brussels has also halted subsidies to the food, chemicals and media Agrofert holding pending the audit verdict. Babis transferred Agrofert to a fund in 2017, months before becoming prime minister, to avoid a conflict of interest. But a public Slovak registry still lists him and his wife as the final benefactors of Agrofert's units in Slovakia. Brussels is asking the Czech Republic to reimburse 17.4 million euros worth of subsidies, according to a draft text to be finalised in the coming months. —AFP ■

Sudan military offers to talk after 60 die in protest crackdown

KHARTOUM (Sudan)—Sudan's army ruler said Wednesday he was open to negotiations even as gunfire crackled across the capital after a crackdown that doctors close to protesters said left at least 60 people dead.

Despite mounting international concern at what demonstrators called a "bloody massacre", a bid at the UN Security Council to condemn the killings was blocked by China with support from Russia.

Hospitals in Khartoum said they were struggling to cope with the number of wounded after security forces launched a deadly raid on Monday on a weeks-long sit-in outside army headquarters.

"The situation is very difficult. Most of the hospitals have taken in more casualties than they have capacity for," a doctor who works at two hospitals in the city told AFP.

"There's a shortage of medical staff, a shortage of blood, and it's difficult to do surgery because some operations can only be done in certain hospitals," said the doc-



Heavily armed Sudanese security forces were out on patrol as Muslim worshippers attended Eid al-Fitr prayers. PHOTO: AFP

tor, who asked not to be named. "Among the wounded there are still people in a serious condition and I expect the number of deaths to rise." There was a heavy security presence as worshippers in some neighbourhoods came out to mark the Eid al-Fitr festival following a call by protest

leaders to "pray for the martyrs". In Omdurman, just across the Nile from Khartoum, security forces were seen patrolling in trucks mounted with what appeared to be anti-aircraft and machine guns and other weapons including rocket-propelled grenades. Sudan's military ousted

ed veteran president Omar al-Bashir in April after months of protests against his authoritarian rule and had agreed a three-year transition period to a civilian administration.

But army ruler General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan said following the crackdown that the

agreement had been ditched and an election would take place within nine months—a plan rejected by demonstrators.

'Total civil disobedience'

On Wednesday, Burhan appeared to strike a more conciliatory tone, saying the military rulers "regret the events" and were ready to hold talks on the country's future.

"We in the military council open our arms to negotiate with no restriction but the national interest to continue building a legitimate power that reflects the aspirations of the Sudanese revolution in every way," Burhan said in a speech broadcast on state television.

Protest leaders have called on their supporters to take part in "total civil disobedience" to topple the ruling military council.

On Wednesday, hundreds of residents of the north Khartoum blocked off streets with barricades made from stones, and waited by them in silence, a witness told AFP.—AFP ■

Trump, queen and world leaders remember D-Day heroes

PORTSMOUTH (United Kingdom)—US President Donald Trump and Queen Elizabeth II gather with 300 veterans on the south coast of England on Wednesday to commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day—one of the heroic turning points of World War II. Other world leaders will join them in Portsmouth for Britain's national event honouring the Allied cross-Channel invasion of the Normandy beaches in France. It remains the largest amphibious assault in history, claiming the lives of an estimated 4,400 troops in one day.

Trump, the queen and British Prime Minister Theresa May will be joined by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel for an event with the veterans, the youngest of whom are now in their 90s. It will be the last act of Trump's three-day state visit to Britain. Portsmouth was the main staging point for some 156,000 US, British, Canadian and other Allied troops who sailed for the beaches of northern France. The Battle of Normandy on June 6, 1944 led to the liberation of Europe and helped bring about the end of World War II the following year.

'Allies and friends'

In a joint D-Day proclamation, the 16 attending nations af-



The Battle of Normandy, the largest amphibious assault in history, was a key moment that helped lead to the end of World War II. **PHOTO: AFP**

firm their shared responsibility to ensure that the horrors of World War II are never repeated.

"Over the last 75 years, our nations have stood up for peace in Europe and globally, for democracy, tolerance and the rule of law," it said. "We will work together as allies and friends to defend these freedoms whenever they are threatened." The event on Southsea Common, an expanse of waterfront grassland in Portsmouth, includes an hour-long production recounting the story of the invasion with testi-

mony from veterans, theatrical performances and live music, as well as a flypast. Some 4,000 military personnel, 26 British military aircraft and 11 British naval vessels will participate, along with presidents and prime ministers from other EU nations, Australia, New Zealand.

Tragic letters

In the event's official programme, Queen Elizabeth, 93, will say: "I am sure that these commemorations will provide an opportunity to honour those who

made extraordinary sacrifices to secure freedom in Europe. They must never be forgotten."

Trump will read an excerpt from the prayer President Franklin Roosevelt delivered by radio on D-Day, when he told the US nation about the Normandy operation. May will read a letter written by Captain Norman Skinner to his wife Gladys on June 3, 1944.

The letter was in the British soldier's pocket when he landed on Sword Beach in Normandy on June 6. He was killed the next day.—AFP ■

Thai junta leader OK'd as PM for 2nd term, 1st under civilian rule

BANGKOK—Thailand's parliament on Wednesday elected junta leader Prayut Chan-ocha to head the country's first civilian government since a 2014 military coup.

Prayut, the candidate of the pro-junta Palang Pracharath Party, defeated Future Forward Party leader Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit, who was supported by the populist Pheu Thai Party that won the most seats in the March 24 general election. The retired general, who heads the National Council for Peace and Order, had been serving as prime minister since the coup that overthrew a Pheu Thai-led government five years ago.—Kyodo News ■



Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha delivers a speech in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand, on 13 March 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Australian police raid public broadcaster amid media crackdown



ABC's editorial director Craig McMurtrie speaks to the media as Australian police raided the headquarters of public broadcaster in Sydney on 5 June 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

SYDNEY (Australia)—Australian police raided the headquarters of public broadcaster ABC on Wednesday, the second high-profile raid on journalists in 24 hours in a sharp crackdown on sensitive leaks. Six police descended on the corporation's offices in Sydney armed with a warrant targeting three senior journalists and execu-

tives involved in a two-year-old investigative report.

In 2017, ABC obtained documents that showed Australian special forces had killed innocent men and children in Afghanistan.

The Australian Federal Police said the search was "in relation to allegations of publishing classified material, contrary

to provisions of the Crimes Act 1914." ABC executive editor John Lyons said the search warrant demanded access to reporters' handwritten notes, emails, story drafts, footage and passwords, among other things -- going through a total of 9,214 documents. "This is a really serious escalation of the attack on the free media, and that hits the public," he said as the raid continued. "I've never seen an assault on the media as savage as this."

"It's not just about the media. It's about any person out there who wants to tell the media about a bad hospital or a school that's not working. Or a corrupt local council." A day earlier police raided a journalist's home in Canberra over a report that detailed the authorities' bid to gain powers to spy on Australian citizens communications at home.

Police said there was "no

link" between the two raids which relate to "separate allegations of publishing classified material".

Both stories involved sensitive and potentially classified materials and were embarrassing to the Australian government and the security services in particular.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has tried to distance himself from the raids, which come just days after the re-election of his conservative government, insisting they were police, not government, matters.

"Australia believes strongly in the freedom of the press and we have clear rules and protections for the freedom of the press," he said during a visit to London. "There are also clear rules protecting Australia's national security and everybody should operate in accordance with all of those laws passed by our parliament."—AFP ■

Nepal looks to limit Everest access after deaths, but doubts linger

KATHMANDU (Nepal)—Under pressure after a deadly season on traffic-clogged Mount Everest, Nepal is considering tightening access to the world's highest peak, but mountaineering experts fear the proposed changes could amount to little more than lip service.

Eleven people died during the climbing season that ended this week, as record numbers lined the route to the summit. Although overcrowding was blamed for at least four deaths, many say inexperience is a bigger killer.—AFP ■

Football star Nanda Lin Kyaw Chit joins Ayeyawady United



Midfielder Nanda Lin Kyaw Chit celebrating the victory. PHOTO: PRACHUAP FC

IN preparation for the second round of the MPT Myanmar National League 2019, Ayeyawady United recruited Myanmar football star Nanda Lin Kyaw Chit yesterday, according to a statement from the team.

The signing contract with Nanda Lin Kyaw Chit, who previously played for Thai League-1 Club, Prachuap FC and Singaporean Club Balestier Khalsa FC, is for a half season period in the national league, according to team Manager U Khin Maung Tun.

Nanda Lin Kyaw Chit, 27, played the midfielder position in Myanmar national football team and the Myanmar national team. He started his career

with Ayeyawady United and then moved to Yadanarbon FC in Myanmar National League in 2013, becoming second runner-up for the 2013 MNL Best Player Award.

He displayed his skills with the Myanmar national team and was highly regarded in the 2014 Philippines Peace Cup's football Tournament.

Nanda Lin Kyaw Chit also participated with the Myanmar U22 national team during the 2013 AFC U-22 Asian Cup Qualifiers.

Upon his arrival with his former club, Ayeyawady, he said, "I want to express my heartfelt thanks to my team officials for their believing in me", said Nanda

Lin Kyaw Chit. "Actually, Ayeyawady is a like a home for me. I've already felt the warmth and friendship from the team, as the players are my former teammates. In the second round for the Myanmar National League, I will play my best for my team, scoring as many goals as I can," he added.

Ayeyawady United is boosting its team's power and recruiting talented players for the second round of the national league, which will be scheduled to start on 15 June.

Ayeyawady United is in sixth place, earning 18 points with just a 3 point difference from the top team, Shan United.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Hein Lin Htet's goal gives University FC win over Silver Stars

University FC defeated Silver Stars FC 1-0 by a single goal by Hein Lin Htet during play at the U-18 MPT Myanmar National League, 2019 in Yangon yesterday. The win for University FC was mostly brought about by the terrific play and scoring by star player Hein Lin Htet, who scored the winning goal for his team just before the end of the first half.

Both teams played equally in the early minutes of the start of the match.

The match is a very competitive match, as the defenders work hard for their massive defense line, while strikers launched stylish attacks.

Silver Star attempted to con-

trol the ball in the Silver Star's defence line in the middle of the first half. At the 40 minute mark, University FC scored an opening goal, scored by youth star Hein Lin Htet. The first half finished with a 1-0 win over Silver Stars FC. The single goal lifted the team's spirit and University FC scored more attacks over its opponent in the second half.

Playing in the rain, both teams put more effort into scoring goals in final minutes, but all chances were blurred by the wet conditions on the pitch. There were no additional goals before the final whistle, ensuring victory for University FC.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



A player from University FC (blue) vies for the ball against Silver Stars FC (orange) during the U-18 MPT Myanmar National League match yesterday. PHOTO: MNL

Joshua takes shock defeat on the chin

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Anthony Joshua said on Wednesday there is no one to blame but himself for the shock loss of his heavyweight boxing titles to Andy Ruiz Jr last Saturday.

The 29-year-old British pugilist went down to one of the biggest upsets in the history of the heavyweight division at Madison Square Garden with Ruiz sensationally stopping Joshua, the previously unbeaten WBA, IBF, and WBO heavyweight champion. The 29-year-old Ruiz started the fight as a massive 32-1 underdog but floored Joshua four times on his way to a win which upended the heavyweight division.

Joshua, whose camp activated a rematch clause on



Britain's former world heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua says there is no one to blame for his shock defeat to Andy Ruiz Jr but himself. PHOTO: AFP

Tuesday, moved on Wednesday to dispel rumours something had been wrong with him as many pundits had wondered about his listless performance.

"I had no panic attack," he said in video posted online.

"I have to take my loss like a man. No blaming anyone or anything." Joshua, who first came to public attention in winning Olympic gold in London in 2012, has refused to cut ties with trainer Rob McCracken and accepted the blame lay with him. "I am the one who went in there to perform and my performance did not go to plan. My gameplan didn't go to plan," said Joshua.

"I have to readjust, analyse, do my best to correct it — and get the job done in the

rematch."

Joshua, whose promoter Eddie Hearn initially said he felt his fighter would never recover from the defeat to his Mexican-American opponent, said unlike others he was not searching for excuses as to why he under-performed. "There have been a lot of accusations and worries about what was wrong with me," he said. "I want to tell you this: I am a soldier and I have to take my ups and my downs — and on Saturday I took a loss.

"Congratulations to Andy Ruiz. He has six months or so to be champion because the belts go in the air and he has to defend them. "I would not mind if (the rematch) was in New York again or in England." — AFP ■