

# The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XX, Number 19

4<sup>th</sup> Waning of Kason 1374 ME

Wednesday, 9 May, 2012

## President U Thein Sein congratulates Russian President Putin

NAY PYI TAW, 8 May—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Vladimir Putin, on his assumption as the President of the Russian Federation on 7 May 2012.—MNA

### True patriotism

- \* It is very important for every one of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
- \* Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

## Waxed ballot complaint by NLD a sham, suggests UEC investigation

NAY PYI TAW, 8 May—The secretary of central campaign team of National League for Democracy complained to Union Election Commission on 1-4-2012 by a letter that returning officers in Pale, Mawlamyine, Myanaung, Magway, Taungdwingyi, Kawhmu, Mingala Taungnyunt, Mayangon, Dagon (Seikkan) and Kalaw (Aungpan) Townships gave voters waxed ballot papers unable to put the tick on in 1 April by-election; request for change was turned down; waxing the ballot papers caused destruction to them; and it was happening all around the country.

While UEC was launching investigations into the incident constituency-wise by separate teams, the secretary of NLD central campaign team said in interview with VOA (Myanmar Version) on 2-4-2012 that waxing the ballot was the act destroying it and harmed free and fair election. The story was also run in journals and publications as the secretary disclosed it in a press conference.

Acting on the report of NLD, UEC assigned investigation teams comprised of chairmen and secretaries of Region/State, District and Township Subcommissions and two political parties concerned in 10 townships where the complaint arose to look into the case, enabling them to inspect already-voted ballots in each poll station.

In the light of findings, the investigation teams and some parties suggest that there was no case of waxing the ballots and no legal complaint about it in those 10 townships; it was groundless complaint; 1-4-2012 by-election was a national concern; such false accusation could harm the image of Myanmar's by-election closely watched by the world; and legal action should be lodged against the false grumbler.

The NLD campaign manager was also quoted in Vol. (1) No. (93) of Monitor News Journal in pre-by-election period that it was hard to be free and fair election, citing false stories. UEC sent Letter No. 1/NaNgaRa-MaPaTa (1)/KaMaRa dated 1-3-2012 to the chairperson of the party concerned, warning against speaking ill of the election which led to misunderstanding among the people and the international community by any CEC member of the party.

The complaint made by the secretary of the NLD central campaign team is invalid. In accord with the law, UEC has warned the secretary of the party concerned against stating such groundless information, leading to misunderstanding among the people, for taking action if necessary.

MNA

YANGON, 8 May—Asia/Pacific Regional Conference on Ageing 2012 was opened at Sedona Hotel here this morning, with an opening address by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Kyi.

The opening ceremony was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe, Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein, departmental heads and officials, senior representatives from 29 countries of the Asia Pacific Region and members of social organizations.

First, Regional Director of Help Age International Mr Eduardo Klien presented the representatives to the conference.

In his opening speech, Union Minister U Aung Kyi said more than eight per cent of the population from the Southeast Asian countries is 60 years old and above and it has been estimated that the ageing population of that rate will increase by 12 % by 2030 and 20% by 2050. The change of population proportion can be challenges to developing countries, so all have understood the importance of Madrid International Plan of Action for Ageing – MIPAA. The Union Minister added that the number of 60-year-olds and above in Myanmar has increased from 8.7 % in 2007 to 9.1% in 2010. This means that 10 percent of the total population represents the elderly people. Since 1915, Myanmar has been providing care services for the elderly and started the project on door-to-door services for caring the older people in collaboration with international organizations as well as local social organizations. Community-based associations for caring the aged have been formed in 101 villages of Ayeyawady, Mandalay and Yangon Regions. As prescribed in the 2008 constitution that the State shall have to care for the aged and the disabled, Myanmar is practically providing services for caring the elderly people in cooperation with partner organizations including the UN. In the time of new government, the pensions of retired service personnel who had difficulties with their insufficient monthly pensions have been increased. In drafting a social security law, provisions on social guarantees for the aged people have been included. Now it is time to adopt aging policies and plans suitable to the regional countries. In conclusion, the

## In time of new government, pensions of retired service personnel who had difficulties with their insufficient monthly pensions increased



Participants of Asia/Pacific Regional Conference on Ageing 2012 pose for photo together with Union Minister U Aung Kyi after opening ceremony of the conference at Sedona Hotel in Yangon.

MNA

Union Minister expressed his belief that the conference would be able to seek ways not only to consider for the increased aging population in the future but also to render necessary assistance to the elderly people at present.

After the ceremony, the Union Minister posed for a documentary photo together with the representatives. Then, the conference started and Deputy Health Minister Dr Win Myint, Executive Director of Help Age International Mr Richard Blewitt and U Paw Myint Oo of Htoo Foundation extended greetings. It continues up to 11 May.—MNA

### Significant Day Temperatures (8-5-2012)

Chauk	(43°C)
NyaungU	(42°C)
Monywa	(42°C)
Myingyan	(41°C)
Minbu	(41°C)