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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Hluttaw committees mobilize for 14<sup>th</sup> regular meeting



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat addresses the coordination meeting of Central Committee for Organizing Hluttaw Meetings and working committees in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

**T**HE Central Committee for Organizing Hluttaw Meetings and working committees held its fourth coordination meeting for this year at the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

U T Khun Myat, Speaker of both the Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaws, gave a short speech at the meeting. He said the 14<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the Hluttaws

would commence on 4 November and would continue to debate and carry out the 2008 Constitution amendment processes.

He said all ongoing debates on bills and Hluttaw processes would continue according to their relevant degree of importance. The previous regular meeting was successful because of the systematic preparations of all working committees and

close cooperation during the entire meeting period, said U T Khun Myat. He said the same steps must be taken for the coming 14<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung urged all working committees to collaborate efficiently with their assigned duties to ensure the success of the upcoming meeting.

Next, union ministers, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries and officials gave brief statements about progress made in their respective working committees. After this the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker replied with suggestions and delivered his closing address.

— MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## NCA-S EAOs discuss 8<sup>th</sup> JICM on NCA in Nay Pyi Taw

**A** PRELIMINARY coordination meeting was held yesterday morning at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Nay Pyi Taw, where the Ethnic Armed Organizations who are signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA-S EAOs), discussed holding the 8<sup>th</sup> Joint Implementing Coordination Meeting on the NCA. Speaking on the occasion, NRPC Vice Chairman Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo said more than a year had went by after holding Union Peace Conference-21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong 3<sup>rd</sup> session and the fourth session could not be held due to the suspension of participation in official meetings on ceasefire work process and political dialogues; thus official discussions and meetings on peace process work were not held.

The government had raised the momentum of holding unofficial meetings with NCA-S EAOs to bring them back onto the path of regular political discussions. After holding the Union Peace Conference-21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong 3<sup>rd</sup> session, government representatives met unofficially with KNU seven times, with RCSS six times, CNF and ALP once each in addition to representatives of NCA-S EAOs for eleven times.

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## Joint Committee on Amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 50/2019

MEETING 50/2019 of the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Committee Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Joint Committee secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe and members who were

Hluttaw representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

The Joint Committee meeting on Amending the 2008 Constitution being held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.  
**PHOTO: MNA**



## 99<sup>th</sup> National Day Organizing Central Committee holds coord meeting

99<sup>th</sup> National Day Organizing Central Committee held a coordination meeting at the Ministry of Education meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi addresses the 99<sup>th</sup> National Day Organizing Central Committee meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

At the meeting committee chairman Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi said National Day was held annually on the 10<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tazaungmon and 99<sup>th</sup> National Day will be held grandly countrywide on 21 November 2019.

The message, theme and aims of 99<sup>th</sup> National Day were submitted to Union Government Office and it was important to hold the event countrywide according to the aims. It will be held township wise and due to this organizing central committee and sub-committees were being formed. Sub-committees are to work together toward successfully holding the event said the Union Minister.

Next, Basic Education De-

partment Deputy Director General U Ye Lin Myint explained about the report on holding 98<sup>th</sup> National Day and central committee secretary Education Research, Planning and Training Department Director General Dr Win Tun explained about the organization plan of holding 99<sup>th</sup> National Day ceremony.

Afterwards, Higher Education Department Director General Dr Thein Win explained about the draft National Day message.

Meeting attendees then discussed and suggested on the draft National Day message and explanation on sub-committee wise work status were made.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Myanmar, UNICEF review Multi-Year Work Plan (2018-2019)

SOCIAL affairs ministers from the States and Regions, relevant ministry officials and UNICEF representatives met at Nay Pyi Taw's Park Royal Hotel yesterday to review the implementation of the Multi-Year Work Plan (2018-2019) and to make preparations for Multi-Year Work Plan (2020-2021).

The multi-year plans are part of the Myanmar-UNICEF Country Programme (2018-2022).

Firstly, Director-General U Than Aung Kyaw of the Foreign Economic Relations Department and UNICEF Deputy Representative Mr Paul Edwards delivered opening addresses at the meeting.

The meeting then com-

menced with participants assessing the implementation of the 2018-2019 work plan and discussing on the prioritized topics and additional materials for the 2020-2021 work plan.

UNICEF has been assisting Myanmar with its health, education and humanitarian efforts since 1950. The current country programme aims to provide Myanmar's youths with proper healthcare, nutrition, education, clean drinking water, hygiene, child protection, social protection, and monitoring the rights of children. They are partnering with concerned ministries to implement these objectives and have provided a fund of US\$207.508 million towards the programme.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



The review meeting of Myanmar-UNICEF Multi Year Work Plan (2018-2019) being convened at Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Union Finance Minister holds meetings with World Bank, IMF, US officials



Union Minister U Soe Win and delegation attends the Annual Meetings Plenary of The World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund and other related meetings in Washington D.C. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win and his delegation, attended the Annual Meetings Plenary of The World Bank Group and International

Monetary Fund and other related meetings in Washington DC from 17 to 21 October.

The annual plenary was held at DAR Building's Consti-

tution Hall on 18 October where WBG President Mr David Robert Malpass and IMF Managing Director Ms Kristalina Georgieva delivered separate addresses.

The meeting was attended by governors and deputy governors of member countries to the WBG and IMF.

The Myanmar delegation also attended the Southeast Asian Nations Natural Disaster Protection Meeting, SEA Governors Meeting, IMF Managing Director and ASEAN Governors Meeting, and the meeting of Asia-Pacific Region Member Nations of IMF. The Myanmar delegation then met separately with the World Bank's Vice President for the East Asia and Pacific Region, Ms Victoria Kwakwa. They discussed cooperation from the World Bank for Myanmar's development and their continued support.

Next, the delegation held a meeting with the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department where they discussed IMF's continued technological assistance for Myan-

mar's tax reforms, and providing assistance to managing state-owned businesses.

Afterwards, the Myanmar delegation met with Executive Director for IMF's Southeast Asian voting group and the vice chairpersons of OECD, JBIC and IFC. On 21 October, the Union Minister and Deputy Minister attended the workshop for developing Myanmar's financial sector where they provided explanations and answered to queries from the attendees.

From there, the Union Minister met with officials from the US Department of Treasury and was accompanied by his Deputy Minister and Myanmar Ambassador U Aung Lin. They discussed bilateral financial cooperation and matters left to be resolved.

— MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Stimulant tablets worth over K 5bln seized in Pyin Oo Lwin



PYINOOLWIN anti-narcotic police seized over 2.5 millions stimulant tablets from a Nissan Diesel six-wheeled truck on PyinOoLwin bypass road, near Thabyay Yay Village, Pyin Oo Lwin on Wednesday. The police stopped and searched the truck and found 2.57 millions stimulant tablets and 650g of ice with 2 mobile-phones totally worth K 5159.5millions.

The driver Kyaw Lin Aung (a) Than Min Soe, aged 23 years, and his partner Chit Ko (a) Soe Pay, aged 22 years, have been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—MNA

## State Counsellor Office Ministry responds to multiple media questions

Director-General U Zaw Htay of the Ministry of Office of the State Counsellor held a regular press conference at the Presidential Palace yesterday.

### State Counsellor's itinerary

He first talked about the State Counsellor's visit to Japan to attend the enthronement ceremony of Emperor Naruhito. He said the trip was able to promote existing relations between Myanmar and Japan and communications between the leaders of both nations.

U Zaw Htay said the State Counsellor attended a Myanmar investment forum where she met with Japanese companies and entrepreneurs and succeeded in explaining investment prospects and extending invitations to invest in the country. He said the State Counsellor will be attending the 35<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Thailand from 31 October to 4 November.

### Peace process still on track

Next, U Zaw Htay talked about the peace process. He said they have held multiple meetings with signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

He said the UPDJC secretaries and JICM have discussed on a draft list of agreements

during the visits to Norway and Switzerland.

He said the preliminary coordination meeting yesterday achieved some agreements. He said they have also met with leaders of non-signatories as well. He said they have agreed to arrange a meeting between the Northern Alliance and Union Government, the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre within the month of October. He said they have made informal decisions on the nature of the talks and when it might take place.

### Q&A with media

The Director-General then answered to questions raised by media professionals. The questions include the state of domestic criminals on the run, taking action against the businesses of these fugitives, more on the peace process, whether the American Assistant Secretary of State will visit Myanmar, whether action has been taken towards the leaked notification from the President's Office concerning security, the status of the Tagaung mining project, whether all the leaders of ethnic armed

organizations will attend the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the NCA, the progress of ensuring ethnic citizens without NRCs and valid documents still receive full rights, progress on terminating the War Sein Taung mining project, the alluvial soil issue in Magway Region, recent fighting in Rakhine State, the construction of the Government Technical Institute in Nay Pyi Taw, whether journalists will be allowed to access the areas where fighting is taking place in Rakhine State, and other matters. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Director General U Zaw Htay holds the regular press conference at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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# NCA-S EAOs discuss 8th JICM on NCA in Nay Pyi Taw

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Under the joint arrangement of the governments of Norway and Switzerland separate meetings of Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) secretaries and peace process study tours were conducted from 25 September to 6 October 2019 where meetings and negotiations with NCA-S EAOs group's UPDJC secretaries were held. Talks on restarting the long suspended peace discussions with JICM meeting agreement were also held. The outcome was today's preliminary coordination meeting of the work group on holding JICM meeting.

The Union Government proposed four parallel work processes to strengthen the NCA. It is believed that there will be agreeable subjects in the proposal.

The government was also striving towards holding the Union Peace Conference-21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong 4<sup>th</sup> session in 2020. In this session political agreements on establishing a Democratic Federal Union, agreements on strengthening ceasefire, agreement on basic principles on democracy and federal system, work processes for the post 2020 period were expected to be reached, agreed and approved.

Today's meeting hoped to establish agreements on restarting official meetings. In order to hold JICM meeting soon, two sides were to discuss and coordinate on the JICM meeting agenda and discuss on the important matter of holding the Union Peace Conference-21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong 4<sup>th</sup> session from the official meetings that were suspended for more than a year. Agreement was reached among the leaders of the two sides on expanding the JICM Mandate. Negotiations will be held today to amend this JICM Mandate. Negotiated agreements will be submitted and decided in the soon to be held JICM meeting and implemented.

The aim of all this was believed to be achieving a sustainable peace. To achieve this same aim and goal, similarities are to be sought out with patience, understanding, and give and take. It was necessary to reach the desired aims and goals as quickly as possible



The preliminary coordination meeting to hold the Joint Implementing Coordination Meeting on Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement with NCA signatory Ethnic Armed Organizations being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

and there should be no room for halting or stopping. Only then could sustainable peace be achieved, which everyone desires.

NRPC wished to thank all the leaders who attended the meeting as well as those who helped and supported toward holding this meeting and that he hoped practical agreement would be reached, said the Union Attorney General.

Next, JICM coordination group leader Sao Sai Ngin said

As both sides have signed the NCA, the road to peace will be smooth and straight, if the agreement is followed. But peace will be difficult to achieve, if it is ignored. The fourth anniversary of the NCA would be held on 28 October and the requirement was to re-establish trust: JICM coordination group leader Sao Sai Ngin.

JICM was the highest machinery of NCA that played the main role of steering the implementation of NCA. JICM's guidance, leadership and resolving blockages were the main bloodline of the peace process.

JICM meetings had not been held for more than a year for many reasons and it greatly affected the peace process. He

thanked both sides for going over numerous discussions for this meeting to be held.

The JICM agenda for the meeting would be openly and cordially discussed today as well as other important subjects.

Today's meeting was held because of the peace process that restarted with the unofficial meeting of UPDJC secretaries on 13 and 14 June 2019 and gives and takes made during the study tour of Europe of

UPDJC secretaries.

While discussions and were held to ensure coordination on the government side, there were numerous discussions within the ten NCA-S EAOs. Efforts were made for everyone to come along. Much had to be done to balance all sides so that there were no frictions.

During the four years,

there would be eight sessions of Union Peace Conference-21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong if it were held twice a year as planned. There would be many more agreements than the 51 points so far agreed and a federal foundation would have been laid. Due to distrust and worries, inability to prevent extremism and taking of opportunities, the Union Peace Conference-21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong could not be held as scheduled. Everyone was held responsible for this. There was a need to strive toward holding 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong responsibly and transparently.

As both sides have signed the NCA, the road to peace will be smooth and straight, if the agreement is followed. But peace will be difficult to achieve, if it is ignored.

The fourth anniversary of the NCA would be held on 28 October and the requirement was to re-establish trust. All need to bear in mind that putting great efforts in the peace process over difficulties and challenges was not for the benefit of an individual or a group but for the entire union, said JICM coordination group leader Sao Sai Ngin.

Afterwards the two sides cordially and openly discussed NCA Chapter 3 ceasefire, NCA Chapter 4 implementing work processes to strengthen ceasefire, amending JICM ToR, holding Union Peace Conference-21<sup>st</sup> Century Pan-

glong fourth session in early 2020, holding UPDJC meetings and other related meetings to hold Union Peace Conference, agreement to be included in Union agreement part 3, implementing 5<sup>th</sup> JICM meeting decision number six and continuing the efforts based on the NCA for more EAOs to participate in the peace process.

Meeting attendees also discussed general matters and the meeting came to a close after NRPC Vice Chairman Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo and JICM coordination group leader Sao Sai Ngin delivered a closing speeches.

The meeting was attended by NRPC Vice Chairman Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, members Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Lt-Gen Min Naung and Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win, secretary Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin, Pyithu Hlut-taw representative U Htay Win Aung @ U Pyone Cho, Peace Commission Advisory Board members U Hla Maung Shwe, U Moe Zaw Oo, Director-General U Zaw Htay from Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor, NCA-S EAOs' JICM coordination group leader Sao Sai Ngin, members Khun Myint Tun, Nai Aung Ma Nge, Solomon, Padoh L Klusay, Saw Kyaw Nyunt, Saw Sein Win, Dr Hlan Hmon Sar Khaung, Daw Saw Mra Razar Lin, Yebaw Myo Win and officials.— MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

## Media delegation observes film, library development, visits Kyodo News in Japan



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint meets with Minister for Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, Mr Koichi Hagiuda in Tokyo yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



The Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister Dr Pe Myint visits the Kyodo News in Tokyo, Japan, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Myanmar media delegation led by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint arrived at Narita Airport, Tokyo, Japan at 7 am yesterday morning and stayed at the Shinagawa Price Hotel.

The Union Minister and his entourage met with Mr Koichi Hagiuda, Minister for Education, Culture, Sports, Science

and Technology, at Agency for Culture Affairs at 2:45 pm and the Union Minister also exchanged views with Vice-Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications Mr Masahiko Tominaga at the MIC at 3:30 pm.

During the meetings, they discussed matters related to films co-production with Myanmar and Japan, important role

of restoring films for the film sector development, arrangements for the Myanmar film sector development and possible assistance for that sector.

Following the meeting, Union Minister and party visited the Hibiya Library and Museum at 4:30 pm. They then observed the books, arrangement for readers in library and books

rental system.

At 5:30 pm, Union Minister and his entourage visited Kyodo News and observed operation of the news agency.

Kyodo News was established in November 1945 after the dissolution of Domei News Agency after World War II. The Kyodo News has employed over 1,000 journalists and signed

news exchange agreements with over 70 international media outlets.

The newspapers using its news have about 50 million subscribers. Its online news site is in Japanese, Chinese, Korean and English languages. — MNA

*(Translated by TTN)*

## Union Minister observes documentaries, cultural demonstration of ethnic groups

UNION MINISTER for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin attended the screening of documentaries on ethnic groups and a demonstration of playing a traditional nose flute by another ethnic group conducted at Ministry of Ethnic Affairs assembly hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The documentaries were of Danaw ethnic people from Shan State, Kalaw Township Taung Po Hla Village and Yintale ethnic people from Kayah State Pasawng Township Won Ong Village while the flute playing with the nose was demonstrated by a Dai

Chin ethnic people.

Also present at the screening of the documentaries and cultural demonstration were Deputy Minister U Hla Maw Oo, directors general and departmental personnel.

First, Department of Ethnical Literature and Culture Director General explained about making documentaries on the lives of ethnic groups Yintale and Danaw that were almost on the verge of disappearing. Documentaries on their history, belief, traditions, festivals and lives were then screen. Next, Daw Shwe Ma Na, an ethnic



Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin observes the ethnic demonstration of playing the traditional nose flute yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



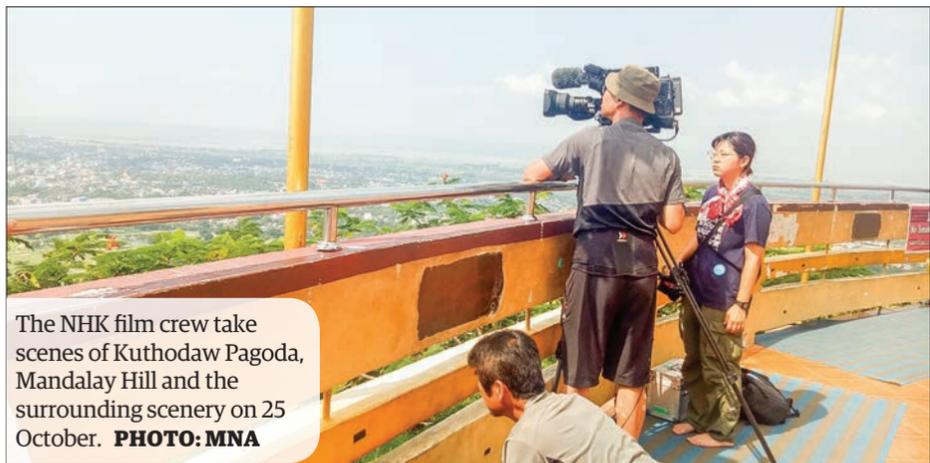
Dai Chin woman from Chin State, Kanpetlet Township demonstrated the playing of a pipe with the nose and Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin presented a cash award.

Producing and showing the

documentaries of ethnic people that were on the verge of disappearing were expected to encourage ethnic nationals to value and maintain their literature, language, cultures and traditions.

The practice of playing a flute with the nose will be taught to personnel in National Races Village (Yangon) to demonstrate to the public it is learnt. — MNA

*(Translated by Zaw Min)*



The NHK film crew take scenes of Kuthodaw Pagoda, Mandalay Hill and the surrounding scenery on 25 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Japanese film crew documents scenic Mandalay

Japan's NHK film crew took scenes of Kuthodaw Pagoda, Mandalay Hill and the surrounding scenery on 25 October.

Earlier in the week, the crew had filmed applying gold leaves on the Maha Myat Muni Buddha Image, devotees paying

obesance, the Pyi Taw Aye Buddha Image and interviewed its donor U Hla Win, scenes of people walking on the Eastern Moat of the palace at night, Mandalay Zay Cho, and gold leaf workshop of "King Galon" The NHK crew will also be filming

Mandalay's kyauk wine market, U Bein Bridge and other landmarks from 25 to 27 October. They will broadcast their films on NHK BS' travel program 'Beautiful Cities in Myanmar' in 2020. — Kyaw Swar (FDC) *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

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**Citslinc International Inc President meets UMFCCI officials**

PRESIDENT Mr Leo Liu of Monterey, California based Citslinc International Inc. met with Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) officials in UMFCCI office yesterday afternoon to discuss exchanging visits of business representative groups and to seek out business opportunities between the two countries.

At the meeting Mr Leo Liu discussed investment and trade between UMFCCI and US merchant association; investment and trade between UMFCCI, US and Canada.

UMFCCI Vice President Dr Maung Maung Lay spoke



President of the Citslinc International Inc. Mr Leo Liu meets with officials from the UMFCCI in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: UMFCCI**

of being honored to meet a person with much experience and offered to connect with travel sector associations and organ-

izations to discuss further on travel sector. Also present at the meeting were UMFCCI CEO U Tint Swe and Myan-

mar Travel Association Secretary General Daw Thazin Pe Chit.—UMFCCI (Translated by Zaw Min)

**Loikaw to host Tazaungdaing fire balloon festival**

The Tazaungdaing fire balloon festival will be organized from 9 October to 13 October at Buddha Garden, Loikaw, Kayah State, under the supervision of the Kayah State Government.

The five-day Tazaungdaing festival in Loikaw will include fire balloon competitions, robe offering ceremonies, free shows, lighting festivals, and entertainment programs. Well-known singers and artists will participate in the festival.

The Tazaungdaing festivities are aimed at developing the tourism sector in Kayah State by drawing tourist attention. During the festival, visitors would be able to explore the



Five-day Tazaungdaing festival in Loikaw will include traditional fire balloon competitions.

**PHOTO: THIHA MOE THAW (CITY LOIKAW)**

culture, food, and lifestyle of the Kayah ethnic people. More

information is available on the website [www.kayahtourism.org](http://www.kayahtourism.org).

—MOHT (Translated by La Wonn)

**Only legal owners will be allowed to extend vehicle registration in 2020: RTAD**

By Nyein Nyein

STARTING 2020, only legal owners will be allowed to register or extend the registration of their vehicles, said U Lian Cin Mang, also known as Ngam Khai Pa Pa, the director of the Road Transport Administration Department (RTAD).

He made the remarks at a media conference held on 25 October at the RTAD office, where he outlined how owner books will be made and renewed by the department.

From 1 January, 2020, the RTAD will check the ownership of a vehicle against the current owners' national identity or household certificates when they apply for the initial vehicle

registration or an extension of vehicle registration. Those who fail to furnish the documents will have to pay tax at the Internal Revenue Department and transfer the ownership in their name.

"We will check the current owners' ID or household certificate when they register and apply for extension of registration. We will also check if they have ID recommendations when they are traveling. If the vehicle owners have not transferred the ownership in their name, we will change the name of the holders. Then, we will continue with other processes," said U Lian Cin Mang.

The filing of correct information about vehicle owners,

their names, and addresses with the RTAD is very important to ensure rule of law, safety, and regulatory compliance of vehicle, as well as for the smooth implementation of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), according to the RTAD, under the Ministry of Transport and Communications..

Earlier, the Internal Revenue Department collected a minimum 15-per cent and a maximum 30-per cent in tax per car. According to Section 25 of the 2019 Union Tax Law, vehicle owners have to pay the tax. So, the department has urged current owners of vehicles to get their ownership transferred in their name within the tax relief period, according to the de-

partment "We are encouraging vehicle owners to update the ownership. The RFID system is also being implemented to track traffic crimes and control unregistered vehicles. Therefore, we would like to urge the current owners of vehicles to get the ownership transferred in their name within one year (from 1 October, 2019 to 30 September, 2020) as we cannot guarantee any tax relief thereafter," he added.

Next year, the extension of vehicle registration will be allowed only for legal owners. Vehicle owners who do not transfer the ownership in their name will face legal action, beginning 1 January, 2020, according to the RTAD.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## Wetthe Lake helping lotus fiber businesses in Salin generate profits

THE residents of Salin Town, Minbu District, Magway Region said they are earning a good income from producing fibers from lotus plants growing in Wetthe Lake and selling them to weavers around Inlay Lake in Nyaungshwe Township of southern Shan State.

Earlier, people residing in villages near Wetthe Lake, including western Kanbaung, Siyino, Winpyae, Tamarchaung, Ywarthit, Sinkyone, and Shanywarkone, plucked lotus flowers, seed pods, and roots from the lake and sold them in the market. But, since the past eight years, the residents have been producing lotus fiber and supplying it to markets in Inlay, which have famous traditional weaving businesses.

“First, we pluck about 800 lotus plants from the lake and tie them into bunches. A bunch of

lotus plant fetches K1,000, and a worker can pick up to five bunches of lotus plants per day. The length of lotus stems depends on the depth of the lake. After plucking the lotus plants, we need to extract lotus fiber from the lotus stems by hand, using a knife. Then, the fibers are rolled together by hand to form threads. Raw cloth can be generated after the fiber threads are spun at the spool and dried. A viss (one viss equals 1.6 kg) of lotus fibers fetches K300,000, and the fibers are sent to lotus robe and fabric weaving businesses in Inlay markets,” said U Thaug Sein, a lotus fiber maker from Shanywarkone Village.

Although the locals in Salin Town are willing to weave lotus fabric, they are facing difficulties in terms of access to techniques, capital, and creating a market in



The Wetthe Lake located in Salin, Magway Region covered with different varieties of colorful lotus. PHOTO: SOE MOE THU (SALIN)

Magway Region.

The Wetthe Lake was declared an Environmental and Wildlife Conservation area in

1953. The lake is spread over 919 acres and is 350 acres wide. Every year, it is covered with different varieties of colorful lotus,

except in the winter season, and birds flock to the lake to rest. — Soe Moe Thu (Salin)

(Translated by La Wonn)

## FDI touches \$300 mln in Oct; up over \$250 mln from last year

By Nyein Nyein

FOREIGN Direct Investment (FDI) of US\$300 million flowed into the country in less than one month since the start of the new fiscal year, which is an increase of \$250 million compared to the same period of the 2018-2019 Financial Year, according to U Thant Sin Lwin, the director-general of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

From 1 October to 21 October in the 2019-2020FY, a total of 10 foreign enterprises were granted permits and endorsements and brought in a capital of \$288.829 million. Myanmar received a total of \$292.942 million, including increased investment, according to official statistics from the DICA.

“A total of eight projects brought in \$37.49 million in investments in the 2018-2019FY, it is learnt from the first Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) meeting for that fiscal year. In the current fiscal, the MIC has approved FDI of over \$292 million,” said U Thant Sin Lwin.

“So, Myanmar has good potential to attract huge investments in this fiscal year. But, we are scrutinizing those investments. We are also focusing on responsible businesses,” he added.

Foreign investors are more likely to make investments in the oil and gas, agriculture, mining, industrial, and industrial estate sectors, he said.

Foreign investments are likely to increase in the current FY, once proposals for offshore oil blocks and minerals are scrutinized and approved, said U Thaug Tun, the Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations at the 30<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the Private Sector Development Committee with Myanmar entrepreneurs, held on 19 October at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Yangon.

The MIC has set an FDI target of \$5.8 billion for the 2019-2020FY. It had set the same target for the 2018-2019 FY, but the total FDI fell short by over \$1 billion to reach just \$4.4 billion.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## About 160 Form D slips issued in Oct against de-registration of modified vehicles

By Nyein Nyein

A total of 159 vehicle owners were issued Form D slips for de-registering modified vehicles between 1 and 24 October, said U Lian Cin Mang, also known as Ngam Khai Pa Pa, the director of the Road Transport Administration Department (RTAD).

The department has currently issued Form D slips to owners of 159 modified vehicles, including de-registered vehicles kept at the police station, de-registered vehicles kept at the RTAD, and newly identified vehicles, he added.

In accordance with Section 18 (e) of the 2015 Vehicle Law, the authorities are sending the modified vehicles to the traffic police for de-registration. Currently, the government has released some vehicles on sympathetic grounds, considering the hardship to the people, said U Lian Cin Mang.

“Vehicle modification is not allowed under the vehicle law. Modification means changing the body of vehicles which are to be registered. Under the law, requests for registering such modified vehicles are rejected,” he added.

The RTAD, under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, will release some announcements beginning 1 October with respect to a permanent ban on vehicle modifications and issuance of Form D slips to owners of modified vehicles so that they can import vehicles in place of the old, de-registered vehicles.

“If we find vehicles with modifications in the body coach, we will issue Form D slips after they are de-registered,” said U Lian Cin Mang.

The RTAD, under the Min-

istry of Transport and Communications, has already informed the vehicle owners to contact the department.

According to official statistics provided by the RTAD, the department has found 362 modified vehicles between 2007 and 23 September, this year.

As of now, more than 1.09 million vehicles are registered across the country, and over 540,000, or half of them, are registered in Yangon.

(Translated by Hay Mar)



More than 1.09 million vehicles are registered across the country.

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

# End corruption to build moral society for future generations

**T**HE scope of corruption goes beyond the act itself. Abuse of power or authority can occur not only in the public sector, but also in private businesses, and it can involve a small bribe or state-owned funds or property.

Abuse of power, in the form of "malfeasance in office" or "official misconduct", is the commission of an unlawful act, done in an official capacity, which affects the performance of official duties.

The latest amended version of the Anti-Corruption Law was enacted on 21 June, 2018, and according to the law, corruption no longer involves just bribery. The law now defines corruption as any action which breaks existing laws, rules, and regulations, and results in loss of money and damage to property owned by the State.

The Anti-Corruption Commission has declared that it is committed to fighting various forms of abuse and misuse of power or authority, in the course of its work, which have resulted in loss of public funds and damage to property, values, and development of the State. Their effects can be damaging to morale and to working relationships.

We must keep in mind that our democracy is still young and corruption can undermine democratic institutions, and weak institutions are less effective in controlling corruption.

A healthy democracy is linked with a successful end to corruption. Corruption is much more likely to flourish where democratic foundations are weak.

We need to do more to strengthen checks and balances and protect citizens' rights.

To cultivate a strong political will to rid our society of this impunity, we all must understand the difference between private and public interest.

If someone abuses his or her power or authority or uses public funds or state-owned property for personal gain, he or she will be punished, and all such acts can be considered corruption whether the act of bribery is exposed as such or not. How successfully the Anti-Corruption Commission fights corruption with the use of legal weapons will depend on whether it can take effective action against those involved.

So far, the Anti-Corruption Commission has brought 172 cases to court. Taking lessons from the different cases of corruption, civil servants at different levels can promote their values by themselves and democratic values as well, and this can help establish a society free from corruption for our future generations.

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# Academic Research is Crucial for National Development

By Professor Dr Myo Kywal (AUSA)



The Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary in Sagaing Region has been declared as the newest ASEAN Heritage Park. Researchers survey the habits of endangered tigers in the areas of Nanphilin and Nanyanyin of Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary. PHOTO: NYITOO

**T**HE 19th Research Paper Reading Session of Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science was held on 3 October 2019. Out of 1,044 research papers, the University of Yangon contributed 188 papers with the highest number at the event. Under the category of subjects, 197 papers were concerned with physics, 175 with Myanmar language and 166 with chemistry, however, one with tourism, two with information and technology, 19 with economics and nine with marine science.

As Myanmar is a developing country, it is suggested that the Research and Development (R&D) works at universities and colleges need to emphasize first priority areas and applied research which are directly related with the development of the country.

Only then, the country would enjoy a 'win-win' situation in which teachers and post-graduate students of master and doctorate degrees produce their research papers which are very useful for the development of the country.

Example 1: Electricity supply in Myanmar is very low, compared with neighbouring countries. The Ministry of

Electricity and energy, private sectors and academic institutions of electrical engineering, physics, mathematics, geology, forestry, agriculture, computer science, economy and social science should find ways to produce more electricity from hydro-power, coal-fired power,

As Myanmar is a developing country, it is suggested that the Research and Development (R&D) works at universities and colleges need to emphasize first priority areas and applied research which are directly related with the development of the country.

diesel, wind power, solar power and nuclear power.

In addition, experts from various subjects need to do research to be able to generate more electricity in appropriate areas after studying how the neighbouring countries established coal-fired power stations with the fewest impacts on health.

Example 2: Education and training programmes for drug-addicted students and chil-

dren are helpful for the country. For total eradication of narcotic drugs, these programmes should be implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, civil service personnel from Basic Education Department and

departments of universities such as forestry, environmental conservation, agriculture, geology, climatic studies, physics, mathematics, social science and education need to carry out research to alleviate such natural disasters.

The National Education Commission is doing research to balance the ratio of university graduates and employments. University ranking to rate global universities is bases on comparison of their teaching, research, publications and employments.

Therefore, it is recommended that Myanmar universities should work together in research to be able to stand as prestigious academic institutions.

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Table 1. Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2020

Rank	Name Country/Region	No. of FTE Students	No. of students per staff	International Students	Female:Male Ratio
1	University of Oxford United Kingdom	20,664	11.2	41%	46 : 54
2	California Institute of Technology United States	2,240	6.4	30%	34 : 66
3	University of Cambridge United Kingdom	18,978	10.9	37%	47 : 53
4	Stanford University United States Explore	16,135	7.3	23%	43 : 57
5	Massachusetts Institute of Technology United States	11,247	8.6	34%	39 : 61
6	Princeton University United States	7,983	8.1	25%	45 : 55
7	Harvard University United States	20,823	9.2	24%	49 : 51
8	Yale University United States	12,402	5.4	20%	50 : 50
9	University of Chicago United States Explore	13,833	5.7	28%	46 : 54
10	Imperial College London United Kingdom	16,760	11.7	56%	38 : 62

Table 2 . QS University Ranking in 2020

Rank	University	Location
1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	United States
2	Stanford University	United States
3	Harvard University	United States
4	University of Oxford	United Kingdom
5	California University of Technology (Caltech)	United States
6	ETH Zurich-Swiss Federal Institute of Technology	Switzerland
7	University of Cambridge	United Kingdom
8	University of College London, UCL	United Kingdom
9	Imperial College London	United Kingdom
10	University of Chicago	United States

မကွေးတိုင်းဒေသကြီးအစိုးရအဖွဲ့၏ စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုဖြင့် ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ဖွဲ့စည်းပုံအခြေခံဥပဒေကြမ်းရေးရာ ဝန်ကြီးဌာနမှ ထုတ်ဝေသည့် မဂ္ဂဇင်းဖြစ်ပြီး ပြည်သူ့ဆိုင်ရာနှင့် ပညာရေးဝန်ထမ်းတို့ ပူးပေါင်းစီမံကွပ်ကဲသည်။  
**မဂ္ဂဇင်း: မကွေးတိုင်း**  
စာအုပ်စာပေဖြည့် နှင့် စာအုပ်စာပေရေးသားမှု  
(ချောင်းသာမြို့)  
၂၀၁၉ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင်လ (၁၂)ရက် (သောကြာ) ဝေ့နေ့၊ နံနက် ၉ နာရီမှ ညနေ ၅ နာရီအထိ  
မညီသူမတို့ ပါဝင်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါသည်။  
အခြေခံပညာအထက်တန်းကျောင်း၊ ချောင်းသာမြို့။

**Myanmar Daily Weather Report**  
(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2019)  
**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Eastcentral Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.  
**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2019:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region, scattered in Yangon Region, (Southern and Eastern)Shan and Chin States and isolated in remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).  
**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.  
**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Continuation of likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Southern Shan State.  
**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2019:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).  
**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2019:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).  
**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2019:** Partly cloudy.  
**WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Regions.

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

# Writer Moe Moe (Inya) commemorated with literary festival

THE 75<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of renowned writer Moe Moe (Inya) was celebrated with the Myanmar Literature and Arts Festival at Yangon's historic Central Press building in Botahtaung Township yesterday.

The event was formally opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony by Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, Yangon Region Hluttaw representative U Tint Lwin, MoI Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, U Myo Nyunt (Sarpay Lawka), and Daw Than Myint Aung, the chairperson of the committee for organizing the event.

State Counsellor's digital address

Next, a video from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was played. She first expressed gratitude for having the opportunity to speak at the commemoration for Moe Moe (Inya) and the festival. She said she will not be speaking as a literary scholar or critic but as an admirer of the writer's work.

She said reading allows people to see the old world in new perspectives and to find new worlds as well. She said reading the famous writer's books allowed her a fresh insight into the type of community she lived in. She said this allowed her to construct many worlds of thought and is a respectable skill of the writer to spark this thinking in the reader.

The State Counsellor said this is because a nation has to go through different time periods and historians cannot document history alone. She said the thoughts and words of artists are sometimes more effective in painting a picture of a time era. They are able to see, think and notice things they haven't before. She said this was one of the reasons she respects Moe Moe (Inya) as reading her books let gain a more comprehensive understanding of Myanmar. Her books give insight into the spirit of the public and the feeling of the citizens.

The State Counsellor said she also noticed the writer often portrays the strengthened will when revealing the challenges and issues of the time period. She believes this firm will is important and supportive for every citizen because every nation and society will inevitably have to pass through a period of difficulty. She said the support given



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and officials pose for a documentary photo at the opening ceremony of the Myanmar Literary and Arts Festival in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: YE HTUT**



Prominent authors take part in talks on Moe Moe (Inya) at the Myanmar Literary and Arts Festival in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: YE HTUT**

by experts, artists, professionals and great writers during those sort of times is invaluable.

The State Counsellor said the esteemed would have been 75 today and at an age where she is still prime for writing. She wonders how the writer would portray modern Myanmar and its democratic transition. As she wonders what sort of perspectives, portrayals and ideologies writer Moe Moe (Inya) could have given were she still alive, the State Counsellor said she feels her passing was a great loss for the nation.

However, she said the writer's books are quite comprehensive and thus while she was unable to live a long life it cannot be called unfulfilling as she

wrote numerous quality books. The State Counsellor said she once wrote a book about a senior member of the National League for Democracy. She said a valuable human being does not have an early or late death as they have completed what they needed to do if they pass away too early and have the strength to continue their duties if they pass away later in life. Thus, even though writer Moe Moe (Inya) did not live a life as long as we wanted, she was able to use her skills to the fullest and contribute wholly to her society, her nation, to the arts and literature and for that she is well respected.

The State Counsellor said the Myanmar Literature and Arts Festival is lively and writer

Moe Moe (Inya)'s work is an art form in itself. She said this is why choosing her birth anniversary for the festival is well-suited. She urged attendees to reflect on the work of the great writer, value them, and hope for the continued art and literary development of future generations.

Deputy Minister's remarks

Next, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun delivered an address. He first thanked the organizers of the festival and expressed delight for the Ministry of Information to have been able to contribute as well. He said he is a strong supporter of Moe Moe (Inya)'s writings. He said the gifts of literature bestowed

by literary experts for his generation that went through numerous challenges is invaluable. He wondered how the great writer would pen this society during the democratic transition if she were still alive. He wished for the writer's literature to proliferate indefinitely and spread to all corners of the globe.

This was followed by separate addresses from Daw Than Myint Aung and Ko Zaw Myo Nyunt, who spoke on behalf of Moe Moe (Inya)'s family.

Next, esteemed female writers Kyu Kyu Thin, San San Nwe (Tharyawady), Ma Sandar and Ma Hnin Phway began the roundtable discussion on literary life of Moe Moe (Inya).

Following this, artist Pe Nyunt Wai gave a talk on 'Expressing Moe Moe (Inya) through painting and writer Natmauk Ani Cho conducted the paper reading session.

The event was attended by Yangon Region Minister for Rakhine Ethnic Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung, officials from the regional cabinet, Hluttaw representatives, MoI officials, members of the organizing committee, experts and officials from the literary world, and lovers of literature.

Background on writer

Moe Moe (Inya) was born in DaikU in 1944. While attending Yangon University in 1964, she began writing poems under her pseudonym from Inya Dorm. She wrote her first novel, 'Pyauk-thaw-lann-hmar san-tawar' in 1972 and received the National Literature Award for it in 1974. She also received short novel awards in 1980, 1982 and 1986 for the novel and short novel collections. Her books have been translated into English, Russian, Japanese and Chinese. She worked as the editor of Sabel Phyu Magazine from 1989 to her death in 1990.

The Myanmar Literary and Arts Festival will continue to 27 October and open from 9 am to 6 pm. The festival includes photo displays of famous writers through successive time periods, an exhibition on moveable type printing, discussions between writers and their readers, art exhibitions, practical painting, cartoon displays, caricature drawing, performances from literary artists, SME booths, bookstalls, and free food and drinks. — Ommar Sandi

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## N Korea asks S Korea to dismantle facilities at Mt Kumgang resort



Kim has condemned the resort buildings and ordered their demolition, according to North Korean state media. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

SEOUL — North Korea asked South Korea on Friday to remove all its resort facilities at scenic Mt. Kumgang in the North so that it could build new international tourism district there instead, a South Korean government spokesman said.

Unification Ministry spokesman Lee Sang Min told reporters that North Korea, in an official letter, sought the removal of the facilities on an agreed date and to discuss practical matters with the South in writing.

“(The government) will thoroughly review the conditions and the environment while taking the

meaning of Mt. Kumgang tourism business into account,” he said.

The letter came two days after North Korea’s state media reported that leader Kim Jong Un ordered removal of the South Korean-built hotels, restaurants and other facilities at the vacant resort, located near the border.

The once-popular joint tour program, which was funded and operated by South Korea’s Hyundai Asan Co., started in 1998 and was considered a symbol of collaboration between the two Koreas. Its operation has been suspended since July 2008 after a 53-year-old South Korean house-

wife strayed outside the tourism zone while strolling along a beach one morning and was shot dead by a North Korean soldier.

In 2010, North Korea froze all South Korean assets at Mt. Kumgang, reportedly valued at hundreds of millions of dollars, and declared it a special zone for international tours.

The Unification Ministry has been working with various organizations including Hyundai Asan to resume the tours as ties between North and South Korea have improved following a series of summits between their leaders.— Kyodo News ■

## China slams Pence’s speech, amid US-China trade truce

BEIJING — China on Friday expressed “strong indignation and resolute opposition” to a speech by US Vice President Mike Pence that criticized China on a wide range of issues including curtailing the rights of Hong Kong residents.

“He deliberately distorted China’s social system, human rights and religious conditions and criticized China’s domestic and foreign policies without any reason,” Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a regular press briefing, calling Pence’s speech “full of arrogance, hypocrisy, political bias and lies.”

Pence criticized Beijing on such issues as its actions to “curtail” the rights of Hong Kong residents amid protest movements, its military assertiveness in the East and South China seas, and its failure to take sufficient steps to address the bilateral trade standoff in a speech at a Washington think tank on Thursday.

By outlining China’s achievements including its development into becoming the world’s second largest economy, Hua emphasized that “China’s path is completely correct and it has the heartfelt support of the people.”

While cautioning US politicians against interfering in China’s internal affairs, Hua also accused Pence of attempting to



File photo shows Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

“divert the attention of the American public by slandering other countries” citing problems of gun violence, economic inequality and racial discrimination in the United States. “At present, China-U.S. relations are at a critical stage,” Hua warned.

The two sides are currently working to formalize a “phase one” trade agreement by US President Donald Trump earlier this month, possibly during a meeting between the heads of state on the sidelines of a regional economic meeting to be held in Chile mid-November.

Under the deal, Washington agreed to suspend a tariff hike on Chinese goods that was planned in October in exchange for Beijing’s offering to make large agricultural purchases and apparent willingness to engage on intellectual property issues.— Kyodo News ■

## Indonesian report on Lion Air crash faults Boeing, airline

JAKARTA — Indonesian accident investigators on Friday issued their final report on last year’s deadly crash of a Lion Air jet, saying both design flaws and maintenance issues contributed to the accident.

The report by the National Transportation Safety Committee was particularly critical of Boeing Co.’s design of the 737 MAX 8’s anti-stall system known as MCAS.

“The investigation considered that the design and certification of this feature was inadequate,” a press release by the committee said.

The system’s reliance on one sensor made it “vulnerable to erroneous input from that sensor,” it said, adding that the investigation could not determine that the installation test of the

sensor in the accident plane was performed properly.

In addition, an absence of guidance from Boeing on MCAS

made it “more difficult” for crews to respond to problems with the system, it said.

On 29 October last year, Lion

Air Flight JT610 crashed into the sea 13 minutes after taking off from Jakarta’s international airport, killing all 189 people

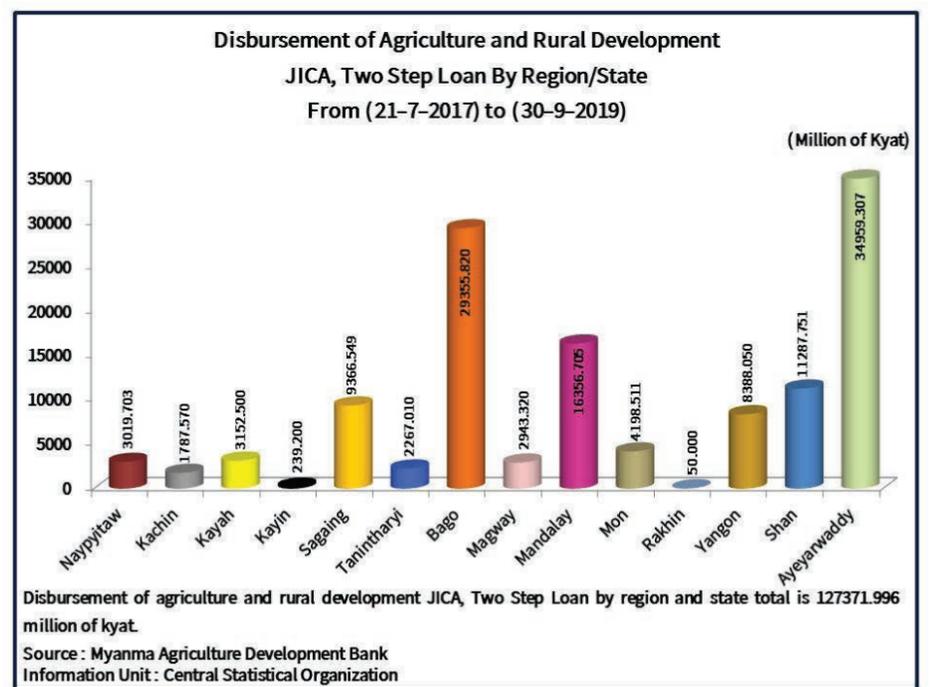
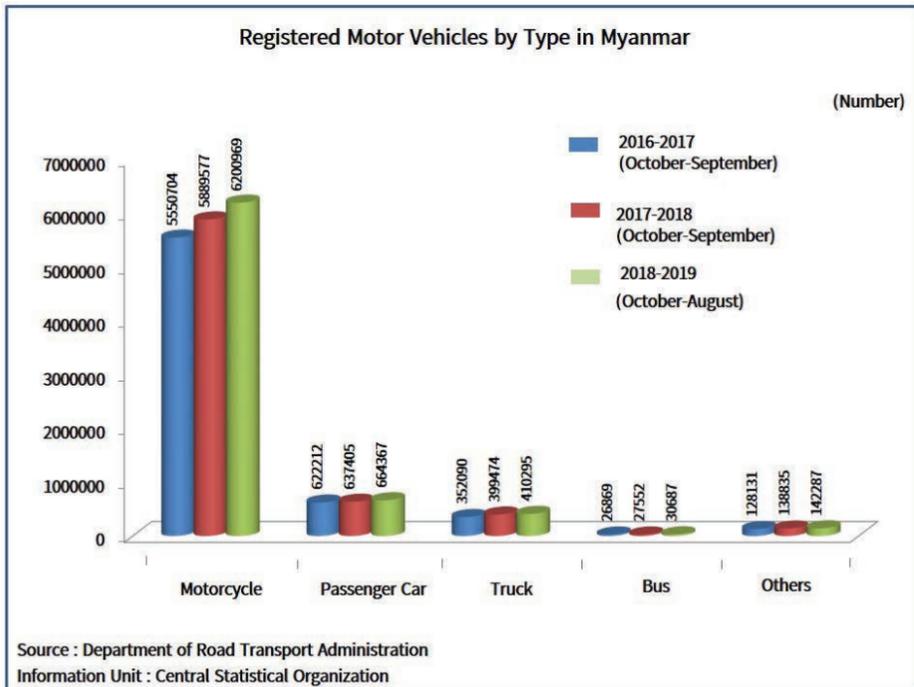
on board. The plane, which was bound for Pangkalpinang, had been put into service only two months earlier.

It is believed that incorrect sensor readings saying the aircraft was angled too steeply repeatedly caused MCAS to angle the nose of the plane downwards. The pilots tried repeatedly, and unsuccessfully, to counter the mechanism manually.

Another 737 MAX 8 series aircraft operated by Ethiopian Airlines crashed in March this year, killing all 157 people on board. Airlines around the world have since grounded their own Boeing 737 Max planes following the two deadly crashes, with Boeing suspending deliveries and reducing production of the plane, affecting its bottom line.— Kyodo News ■



Photo taken 29 October 2018, shows a Lion Air passenger jet of the Boeing 737 MAX 8 series at Jakarta Airport. The same type of aircraft belonging to the airline crashed into the Java Sea off Jakarta the same day with 189 passengers and crew on board. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**



# Moscow, Damascus deploy forces to Syria-Turkey border

**QAMISHLI (Syria)** — Damascus and Moscow deployed extra forces Friday to Syria's border with Turkey, even as Washington partially reversed a drawback to boost its own military presence near key Syrian oil fields.

The United States earlier this month announced a pull-out from Kurdish-held areas in northeast Syria, allowing Damascus, Ankara and Moscow to carve up the Kurds' now-defunct autonomous region.

Turkey and its Syrian proxies on October 9 launched a cross-border attack against Kurdish-held areas, grabbing a 120-kilometre-long (70-mile) swathe of Syrian land along the frontier.

The deadly incursion killed hundreds and caused 300,000 people to flee their homes in the latest humanitarian disaster in Syria's brutal eight-year war.

This week, Turkey and Russia struck a deal in Sochi for more Kurdish forces to withdraw from the frontier on both sides of that Turkish-held area under the supervision of Russian and Syrian forces.

Before dawn Friday, an AFP stringer saw a convoy of hundreds of regime troops arriving in the border town of Kobane.

Dozens of soldiers sat atop a truck touting guns and waving Syria's two-star flag as they made their way into town to a cacophony of honking horns, he said. "One, one, one, the Syrian people are one," they shouted.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor relying on sources inside Syria, said 180 vehicles had arrived in Kobane.

Moscow, for its part, said 300 Russian military police had arrived in Syria to help ensure

Kurdish forces withdraw to a line 30 kilometres (18 miles) from the border in line with Tuesday's agreement.

### Russian patrols

Near the town of Qamishli, and AFP correspondent saw armoured cars flying Russian flags head westwards from a regime-held base on a third day of patrols.

Under the Sochi deal, Kurdish forces have until late Tuesday to withdraw from border areas at either end of the Turkish-held area, before joint Turkish-Russian start patrols in a 10-kilometre (six-mile) strip there.

Ankara eventually wants to set up a so-called "safe zone" on Syrian soil along the entire length of its 440-kilometre border, including to resettle some of the 3.6 million Syrian refugees currently in Turkey.—AFP ■



Boris Johnson is struggling to call an election he hopes will give him a majority to pass the divorce deal he struck with EU leaders.

**PHOTO: AFP**

# EU keeps Britain guessing on length of Brexit lifeline

**LONDON** — EU members delayed a decision Friday on how long to postpone next week's Brexit deadline, giving British Prime Minister Boris Johnson space to push for an early general election.

Senior diplomats told AFP they would reconvene on Monday or Tuesday next week, thus perhaps fewer than 72 hours before Britain is set to break away from the bloc. Johnson is struggling to call an election he hopes will give him a majority to pass the divorce deal he struck with EU leaders last week.

But the British opposition wants to know whether Europe will agree to delay departure before agreeing to a snap poll — and 31 October remains the official deadline. After what EU negotiator Michel Barnier said were "excellent discussions", European Commission spokeswoman Mina Andreeva said work among member states "will continue in coming days".

Two diplomats told AFP the ambassadors set an informal

deadline of late Monday or early Tuesday to decide — just two days before the current Brexit deadline.

Senior European diplomats who attended the meeting confirmed the 27 non-British members had agreed in principle that some kind of delay is in order.

They also agreed that their capitals could decide on its length by written procedure, rather than by holding a leaders' crisis summit in Brussels next week.

### 31 January 'easiest'

But, with France pushing for a shorter delay to keep the pressure on Westminster, and Germany and Ireland backing a three-month pause until 31 January, the decision is not done.

"Depending on how things evolve in the UK, we've given ourselves until the start of next week," a senior diplomat said. "It's clear that if a decision is taken in the UK on whether or not to hold an election — the date of the election will weigh on the consultations," he said.—AFP ■



Syrian regime troops arrive in the northern border town of Kobane. **PHOTO: AFP**

# India's under-pressure telecom firms hit with \$13 bn bill

NEW DELHI — India's beleaguered telecom companies were dealt a blow on Friday after being told to pay a whopping \$13-billion bill, though boosting Asia's richest tycoon Mukesh Ambani who has shaken up the sector with his low-cost deals.

After a two-decade legal wrangle, the Supreme Court ruled on Thursday that telecom firms had to pay a combined 920 billion rupees (\$13.0 billion) in past spectrum and licensing fees. British giant Vodafone's loss-making and indebted joint venture with local firm Idea was the biggest loser, being told to cough up \$4 billion, Bloomberg News reported.

Vodafone's Mumbai-listed shares slumped more than 16 percent when the markets opened, before recovering slightly.

Vodafone Idea and

Bharti Airtel, another major operator which was told to pay \$3 billion, expressed their "extreme disappointment" in the decision, saying it will exacerbate the sector's financial woes.

The row centred on how licence and other fees paid by the firms should be calculated. The companies had argued they should be based on income from only their telecoms business, but the court said they must be based on the amount earned from all business dealings such as from handset sales and other income.

"This decision has come at a time when the sector is facing severe financial stress and may further weaken the viability of the sector as a whole," Airtel said in a statement.

Vodafone Idea said: "We urgently request that the government engage on



Reliance Jio is expected to be the big winner from the court's ruling. PHOTO AFP

this matter in order to find ways to mitigate the financial stress for the industry."

However, Reliance Jio, the mobile operator backed by Ambani and which turned the sector on its head in 2016 with free calls and ultra-cheap data, escaped with a relatively light \$1.8 billion tab. Many players have exited the sector in recent years or have gone bankrupt trying to compete with Jio.—AFP ■

# Fall of Berlin Wall transformed fortunes of Saxony wine

DRESDEN — Klaus Zimmerling was bored with his mechanical engineering job when the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall gave him the impetus to turn his life around.

"At first I didn't believe it," he said of the momentous event 30 years ago that led to German reunification a year later.

"Then I slowly realised that things would change and it was the occasion to start something new."

Ditching his job in Dresden, he retrained as a winegrower and invested in a parcel of land perched on the heights of the city.

Today, the 60-year-old is the proud owner of

a vineyard that produces vintages which have been served in Michelin star restaurants like Noma in Denmark.

Not just Zimmerling's business but the entire winemaking industry in Saxony has seen a rebirth since German reunification. While the end of the communist East largely spelled the collapse of the region's industries, smallhold vineyards sprang up as state-owned farming cooperatives that once produced food for the masses were dissolved, split up and sold off to private owners. Zimmerling counted among those who pounced on one of these parcels.—AFP ■

# Bribery retrial opens for Samsung scion

SEOUL — The heir to the Samsung empire appeared in court Friday for a retrial over a sprawling corruption scandal that threatens to disrupt management at the world's biggest smartphone and memory chip maker.

Lee Jae-yong is vice-chairman of Samsung Electronics — where profits have been falling for months — and was jailed for five years in 2017 for bribery, embezzlement and other offences in connection with the scandal that brought down South Korean president Park Geun-hye.

The 51-year-old was released a year later after an appeals court dismissed most of his bribery convictions and gave him a suspended sentence, but that decision

was set aside by the Supreme Court in August, which ordered a retrial.

Accompanied by his lawyers, Lee walked stony-faced into the Seoul High Court for the new proceedings, telling reporters: "I'm sorry for causing many people concern. "I apologise," he added, bowing as protestors shouted nearby.

In a court hearing that lasted less than an hour, he spoke only to confirm his name, address, date of birth and job title. The case centres on millions of dollars the Samsung group paid Park's secret confidante Choi Soon-sil, allegedly for government favours such as ensuring a smooth transition for Lee to succeed his ailing father.—AFP ■

Sleep in Jesus  
**Naw Thida Moh @ Gillian Thida Moh**  
Age (60) years  
Prestige International Language and Business Centre

Granddaughter of (Saw Po Tu-Naw Daisy) and (Rev. Saw Aung Moe-Naw Sarah), residing at No. 13.C, Zion Hill St., Nanthagon ward, Insein beloved daughter of Saw Gilkey Moh-Naw Molly Moh, sister of Saw Rommel Moh-Naw Moo Eh Htoo, Saw Gilson Moh-Naw Barbara Moh, Saw Aung Soe Moh-Naw Alice Nu Htwar Yin, Saw Zar Ni Moh-(Naw Lay Lay Thein), Saw Gilkey Moh, Jr. Naw Lyn Lyn Ju, beloved auntie of Saw Rommd Moh, Jr. Naw Sanday Moh, Saw Mark Aung Moh, Saw Max Tu Moh, Naw Sandra Moh, Naw Sarah Moh, Saw Gilson Moh, Jr. Naw Cindy Rebe Moh, Saw Daniel Gilkey Moh, Saw Glenn Jonathan Moh, Naw Judalin Moh, Saw Rain Joseph Moh, Naw Gabriel Joshua Moh, Naw Julia Rose Moh, Saw Shaun Nathan Moh, peacefully went home to be with the Lord on Oct 25, 2019 (Friday) at 9:20 AM. The funeral service will be held on Oct 27, 2019 (Sunday) at 2:00 PM, Ko Tha Phyu Memorial Hall, Karen Baptist Christian Theological Seminary, Insein, after which the cortege will leave for Yeway Christian cemetery for entombment.

**CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE**  
M.V MAERSK WIESBADEN VOY.NO. (943N)  
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK WIESBADEN VOY.NO. (943N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-10-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/T.M.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.  
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.  
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**  
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**  
**AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)**  
**PTE LTD**  
Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE**  
M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY.NO. (053N/S)  
Consignees of cargo carried on M.VALS SUZURAN VOY.NO. (053N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-10-2019 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.  
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**  
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**  
**AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES**  
Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE**  
M.V MADRID TRADER VOY.NO. (941S)  
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MADRID TRADER VOY.NO. (941S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-10-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/T.M.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.  
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.  
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.  
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**  
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**  
**AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)**  
**PTE LTD**  
Phone No: 2301185

# Kyaikpun

## four-faced pagoda

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

**T**HE precinct of four-faced pagoda can be seen on left side of Yangon-Mandalay Highway. The ancient pagoda built by King Dhammazedi (1472-1492 AD) with four Buddha images in positions of back to back structures is renowned as Kyaikpun Pagoda.

The pagoda is located in Oktha Myothit extended ward, 47 miles and four furlongs distance from Yangon and two miles and six furlongs southwest of Bago.

### Kyaikpun of four Buddha images

In Mon language, Kyaik means Buddha and Pun, four. The whole word of Kyaikpun means four Buddhas. Kyaikpun Pagoda was built with the Buddha image in the east dedicating to Kakusanda Buddha, in the west to Kassapa Buddha, in the south to Konagamana Buddha and in the north to Gotama Buddha.

The outer wall of pagoda's precinct is 1,050 feet long each on each side and the inner wall, 525 feet long on each face. A saying stated a total of 10,000 persons took seven months in building the walls. The original brick walls can be seen till today.

King Dhammazedi assigned Counsellor Thamein Thekkadewa as head for building four Buddha images and ordered him to select the land plot in Thalekontan in the west of Hanthawady-Bago. After choosing the land plot, the king who led the troops left Hanthawady Royal Palace and then stationed at the place in the straight forwards of the mound where the pagoda will be built. Then, the king himself managed all tasks of construction.

The king ordered sculptors and masons to make more than 100 Buddha images and then selected four favorite images among them. In line with the models as selected, four Buddha images with 40 elbows each in height and an 80-elbow pagoda were built. It was reported that the images were



Four-faced buddha Statutes.

PHOTOS: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)

built with teak timber pieces at the shoulders, arms, jaws and ears.

Four feet long and eight inches breadth quadrangular laterite pieces were vertically inserted into the back-drops of the images in two feet space each for strengthening of structures. Moreover, a large prayer hall was also built in the precinct of the pagoda.

### Record stone inscription

The stone inscription on construction of the pagoda in Mon language was posted 50 feet to the brick structure at the southeast corner of the precinct.

The stone inscription men-

tions construction of four Buddha images and the pagoda for worship of the people and the large prayer hall. The reliquary was built on 1<sup>st</sup> waning of Tabodwe, 837 Myanmar era. The posts of the prayer hall were erected on 12<sup>th</sup> waxing of late Tagu.

A red signboard kept in the stone inscription chamber mentions Kyaikpun Pagoda's stone inscription, saying that "King Dhammazedi of Hanthawady built four Buddha images of Kyaikpun Pagoda on 1<sup>st</sup> waning of Tabodwe, 837 Myanmar era. The stone inscription was erected at the southeast corner of the pagoda. The stone inscription was described in

the annual report of the Archaeology Branch in 1915, and it was included on the appendix list (19) of Myanmar stone inscription list book in English published in 1921, and it had been mentioned in the Part I of Volume 4 of Myanmar stone inscriptions book published in English."

Preparations were made with hanging pieces of white textile in the prayer hall erected with diamond shaped fence to build the pagoda. The reliquary in the centre of the brick pivot was also decorated with beauties, surrounded with goglets and oil lamps in rows. The throne was lit with candle lights.

A total of 273 statues of objects—two Agga Savaka images, 80 Savaka images, 13 Etadagga recipient members of the Sangha, 11 Etadagga recipient male disciples, 10 Etadagga recipient female disciples, the mother statue of the Lord Buddha, the father statue of the Lord Buddha, the statue of celestial king, the Brahma statue, statues of four Lokapala celestial beings, the statue of Beikthanoe, the statue of Paramesuara, the statue of Samira, statues of 59 venerable Buddhist monks and statues of nuns—were enshrined at the



Kyaikpun Min monastery.

pagoda.

Construction of four Buddha images and the prayer hall completed on 14<sup>th</sup> waxing of Kason, 838 Myanmar era. On the full moon day of Kason, King Dhammazedī offered alms to 400 members of the Sangha who consecrated the pagoda. The ceremony to mark successful completion of the pagoda construction was held on a grand scale and more than servants were donated for the pagoda.

**Kyaikpun in impacts of earthquake**

Myanmar kings renovated Kyaikpun Pagoda in successive eras. Toungoo King Tabinshwehti gilt four Buddha images in

904 Myanmar era. King Bayintnaung donated 527 viss of silver for renovation of collapsed and damaged pagodas across the nation, 13 viss of which was spent on gilding the prayer hall built by King Dhammazedī.

The pagoda on the top of pivot from Kyaikpun Pagoda collapsed in earthquake which jolted in Thadingyut of 926 Myanmar era. The earthquake caused damage to concrete layer of the images. King Bayintnaung sent Counsellor Baya Thingyan to the pagoda for renovation. As the renovation tasks completed in 929 Myanmar era, King Bayintnaung himself hoisted the umbrella atop the pagoda.

An earthquake which hit in

era. The prayer hall of the pagoda was burnt by foreigners in 962 Myanmar era, causing cracks at the Buddha image. So, the Abbot of Neikban Kalaing ordination hall monastery led disciples in renovating the pagoda and hoisting the new umbrella atop the pagoda in 963 Myanmar era.

On 6<sup>th</sup> waxing of Tabaung, 1151 Myanmar era, the pagoda collapsed in one more earthquake again. The servants rebuilt the new pagoda.

In 1121 Myanmar era, King Alaungmintayagyi together with the first queen, sons and daughters, arrived in Bago and made cash donations for renovation of the monastery. Due to assignment of the king,

to the pagoda from the bell shaped structure. Four Buddha images were damaged at heads, shoulders and arms. Staff members of Land Records Department from Bago and four well-wishers renovated the pagoda in original works in 1283 Myanmar era. Four well-wishers renovated four Buddha images. The pagoda suffered from impacts of another earthquake in 1292 Myanmar era and it was repaired by donors.

The Buddha Pujaniya festival of Kyaikpun four-faced pagoda was organized by the farmland officer of Bago region in 1264 Myanmar era. Up to now, the Buddha Pujaniya festival has been held annually

precinct. Large posts of the ordination hall as well as old laterite Buddha images can be seen till today. Visitors can see pieces of broken ancient laterite statues around the ordination hall.

Although historic Kyaikpun four-faced pagoda had suffered damage for many times due to impacts of earthquakes and destruction of foreigners, well-wisher people renovated it in successive eras. As a result, the pagoda is crowded with pilgrims till today.

*Translated by Than Tun Aung*

*Reference: Historical observatories around Hanthawady-Bago (Maung Yin Hling-Pyinma*



Stone inscription shed.



Stone inscription.



PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)



Buddhist ordination hall.



Ancient brick walls.



Tawthalin of 952 Myanmar era caused falling of the umbrella on the ground. King Nanda, son of King Bayintnaung, hoisted new umbrella atop the pagoda in Waso of 953 Myanmar

Head of Zaingganai Village U Shwe Bee repaired the Buddha images which faced cracks of concrete layers.

An earthquake in 1250 Myanmar era caused collapse

on full moon day of Kason.

Neikban Kalaing ordination hall repaired by King Alaungmintayagyi can be seen on the east side of the road to the Buddha images in the

*Myaing) History of Kyaikkalunpun Pagoda in Bago (Maung Cetana) History of 58 pagodas in Peku (U Thet Tin)*



## AFF Futsal Championship 2019: Myanmar, Viet Nam vie for third place



Myanmar's Pyae Phyo Maung kicks the ball past the Indonesian keeper and into the goal during yesterday's semifinal match of the AFF Futsal Championship 2019 at the Phu Tho Stadium in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam.

PHOTO:MFF

AFTER facing a narrow 3-4 loss to Indonesia in the semifinal of the AFF Futsal Championship 2019 at the Phu Tho Stadium in Ho Chi Minh City yesterday, the Myanmar national futsal team will fight host Viet Nam for the third place on 27 October at the same venue.

Team Myanmar put in their best effort in yesterday's semifinal match against Indonesia as they had hoped to enter the final.

Goals for team Myanmar were scored by Nyein Min Soe, Naing Ye Kyaw, and Pyae Phyo Maung. Myanmar's narrow loss was the result of some hesitation on part of strikers in front of the Indonesian goalkeeper, while trying to convert goal chances.

After the match, the head coach of the Myanmar national

futsal team, U Htay Myint, said: "All my boys did their best and gained super chances in the semifinal. But, they could not convert all their chances into goals and therefore, we lost. Nevertheless, we still have a chance to qualify for the 2020 AFC Futsal Championship, if we win the third place match against the Viet Nam team. We will do our best to go to the Asian level competition."

In another semifinal match yesterday, defending champion Thailand beat host Viet Nam 2-0, so Thailand and Indonesia will now fight for the championship position on 27 October.

The final and third place matches will be held at different times on the same day at the Phu Tho Indoor Stadium in Ho Chi Minh City.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

## Man City look to Spurs to slow Liverpool Premier League charge

LONDON — Manchester City have the chance to exert some short-term pressure on runaway Premier League leaders Liverpool this weekend as Manchester United look to end their away day blues.

Jurgen Klopp's side saw their long winning streak ended by a hungry United in a draw at Old Trafford last week but still have a comfortable six-point lead over second-placed City.

Guardiola's defending champions can cut that gap to just three points, at least temporarily, if they beat Aston Villa at home on Saturday, while Liverpool have a trickier-looking tie against Spurs the following day.

Frank Lampard's young Chelsea side travel to Burnley on the back of a six-match winning run in all competitions while third-placed Leicester visit Southampton on Friday.

Manchester United will be desperate to put more distance between themselves and the relegation zone but travel to Norwich without an away win in the Premier League since February.

AFP Sport picks out some of the talking points ahead of the weekend's matches.

### Fortress Anfield

Liverpool go into their home match against Tottenham after falling one game short of matching Manchester City's record 18-match winning run in the Premier League.

The European champions, on a 44-match unbeaten run at home in the league, have forgotten how to lose at Anfield but will be facing a Spurs team buoyed by a 5-0 victory at home to Red Star Belgrade in midweek.

Erik Lamela, who scored against Red Star on his 200th appearance for Spurs, said the size of the victory had given the struggling team an injection of confidence.

"Our confidence is better after winning the game 5-0," said the Argentine. "We need to take this game, keep going, try to get better and better and now focus on Liverpool."

Spurs are seeking revenge for defeat in last season's Champions League final, but the odds are stacked against them.

Tottenham have won just once in 15 matches against Liverpool and have not won away in the Premier League since January.—AFP ■

## Myanmar U-19 leave for Thailand to compete in AFC Championship

THE Myanmar U-19 national women's football team left for Thailand from the Yangon International Airport yesterday afternoon to compete in the ASEAN Football Confederation (AFC) U-19 Women's Championship 2019, which will be held in Chonburi, Thailand.

Team Myanmar were seen off by officials from the Myanmar Football Federation, led by secretary-general U Ko Ko Thein.

At the airport, U Ko Ko Thein spoke words of encour-

agement to the footballers, and asked the team's administrators and members of the coaching team to concentrate on each and every match to get a victory.

The tourney will be held from 27 November to 9 November.

Team Myanmar is being led by head coach Daw Thet Thet Win. The team trained in Yangon along with the head coach this month ahead of the championship.

Myanmar has been placed

in Group B of the tournament and faces tough competition from world-class team Japan, Asian powerhouse South Korea, and China, and Myanmar is likely to struggle at the group stage.

Myanmar will play against Japan on 28 October, China on 31 October, and South Korea on 3 November.

Team Myanmar matches will take place at the Institute of Physical Education (IPE) Chonburi Stadium in Thailand.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



The Myanmar U-19 women's team and their administrators were seen off at the Yangon International Airport yesterday by officials from the Myanmar Football Federation. PHOTO:MFF