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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VI, No. 194, 1st Waxing of Tazaungmon 1381 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Monday, 28 October 2019

Farmers in Phruso learn tea leave techniques



PHOTO: U MOE THU (PHRUSO IPRD)

OVER 80 ethnic farmers in Phruso have learnt about tea leave production processes at the Hoyar-Biyar border development camp in Phruso yesterday. They were taught the processes from the stage of plucking to drying tea leaves during the training conducted by the Township Agricultural Department. **SEE PAGE-3**

Tatmadaw rescues 14 abductees from AA group

TATMADAW transport and armed helicopters managed to rescue 14 persons in hours after some people were abducted by AA armed group, according to the report of the Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

The AA armed group abducted Tatmadaw personnel, police officers, service personnel, and civilians onboard Shwenadi Watercraft en route from Sittway to Buthidaung near Yemyat village on 26 October.

Security forces were immediately conveyed by the transport helicopters for rescue operation to the nearest place of abduction. The AA armed group tried to shoot down the helicopter, but just hit its body and the pilot to injure. An armed helicopter then supported in carrying the security forces, the report said.

Tatmadaw's armed helicopter fired warning shots as it was also hit by the weapons of AA armed group. After some hours of rescue operation, 14 persons could flee from the AA armed group. The released abductees said warning shots of Tatmadaw (Air) and ground operation of security forces helped them to run away from AA armed group, and the Tatmadaw columns are still trying for the release of remaining abductees.—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar Rice Federation delegations to visit China, Philippines, African countries to promote rice export

DELEGATIONS from the Myanmar Rice Federation will visit China, the Philippines, and African to promote Myanmar rice in the export markets, according to a press statement issued by the

federation on Wednesday.

The MRF's Management Committee and the Central Executive held a joint meeting on 22 October and discussed matters related to the basic price of

paddy, the formation of regional committees of the MRF, plan for the international marketing trip, and paddy exports.

In a bid to coordinate all the stakeholders in the supply chain

including producing, milling and trading sectors, the MRF stated it will form regional committees in Yangon, Ayeyawady, and Bago regions by the end of this year,

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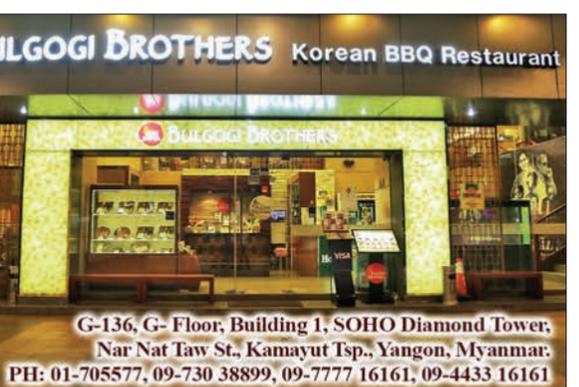




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Fourth Anniversary of NCA to be broadcast live

THE fourth anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) is to be held at the Myanmar International Convention Center II in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 October 2019.

The anniversary of the NCA will be broadcast live by Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV), National Races Channel (NRC), Myanmar International TV (MITV), Myawaddy (MWD) Television, MNTV, Skynet Up to Date, Channel 9, Myanma Radio, MIR (Radio), President's Office Facebook Page, Myanmar State Counsellor's Office Facebook Page, MOI Web Portal Myanmar Facebook Page, MRTV Facebook Page and Myanmar Digital News Facebook, starting from 1:45pm. — MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung and other ASEAN ministers pose for a group photo at the 19th ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministers Meeting and Related Meetings in Vientiane. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung attends ASEAN ministers meeting on telecoms, IT

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications U Than Sin Maung attended the 19th ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministers Meeting and Related Meetings (TELMIN) in Vientiane, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, on 24 and 25 October.

At the meetings, the ministers discussed cross-pillar coordination in digital ecosystem, development of digital economy, digital transformation, smart city, digital innovation, capacity building programs in ICTs, and

establishment of the Coordinating Committee on Cybersecurity which shall comprise of representatives from relevant sectoral bodies to strengthen coordination efforts on cybersecurity policy in ASEAN.

They also exchanged views on ICT developments and changing technologies in ASEAN, reviewed the completion of works in 2019, approved the future plans, discussed cooperation with dialogue partners China, Japan and Korea, and agreed on future plans between the In-

ternational Telecommunication Union (ITU).

The prizes were given to the award-winners for ASEAN ICT Award 2019 and the Vientiane Declaration on Smart Connectivity for ASEAN Digital Transformation was adopted.

Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung, together with other ASEAN ministers, also called on Deputy Prime Minister Mr Sonexay Siphandone, and attended the 5 G Trial Launching ceremony.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

ဧကန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီးအစိုးရအဖွဲ့၏ စီမံကွပ်ကဲမှုဖြင့် ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့်ပြည်သူ့ဆက်သွယ်ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာနမှ အခြေခံပညာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာနနှင့် ပုသိမ်တိုင်းစီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုဌာနကော်မတီတို့ ပူးပေါင်းစီမံကွပ်ကဲသော

ကလေးစာပေပွဲတော်
စာအုပ်စာပေပွဲနှင့် စာအုပ်ငွေရှင်းပွဲ
(ချောင်းသာမြို့)

၂၀၁၉ ခုနှစ်၊ နိုဝင်ဘာလ (၁၂)ရက်၊ (သောကြာ၊ စနေ)နေ့၊ နံနက် ၉ နာရီမှ ညနေ ၅ နာရီအထိ
မည်သူမဆို ဝါဝင်ဆင်နွှဲနိုင်ပါသည်။

အခြေခံပညာအထက်တန်းကျောင်း၊ ချောင်းသာမြို့။

Leaders, representatives of EAOs arrive in Nay Pyi Taw to attend NCA anniversary



The leaders and representatives of Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) arrive in Nay Pyi Taw to attend the fourth anniversary of Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE leaders and representatives of Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) arrived in Nay Pyi Taw to attend the fourth anniversary of Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

The leaders and representatives of EAOs arrived in Nay Pyi Taw were the Pao National Lib-

eration Organization (PNLO)'s Patron Khun Okka and representatives, the Karen National Union (KNU)'s Chairman Saw Mutu Sae Poe and representatives, the Lahu Democratic Union (LDU)'s Chairman Kyar Khun Sar and members, the New Mon State Party (NMSPP)'s Vice Chair-

man Nai Han Thar and representatives.

Similarly, the Arakan Liberation Army (ALP)'s Vice Chairman Khaing Soe Naing Aung and representatives, the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA)'s Chairman Saw Moe Shay and representatives, the Chin Nation-

al Front (CNF)'s Vice Chairman Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong and representatives, the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army-Peace Council (KNU/KNLA-PC)'s Secretary Dr Naw Kapaw Htoo and representatives, the All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSD-

F)'s Chairman U Than Ge and representatives also arrived in Nay Pyi Taw to attend the NCA anniversary. The leaders and representatives of EAOs were welcomed by officials at the M Gallery Hotel where they were accommodated.—MNA *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*



MOE, YUEco jointly conduct business, public administration master's degree programmes

THE Ministry of Education's headquarters and the Yangon University of Economics jointly conduct the two-year programmes for master's degree of business administration and public administration.

The Executive Master of Business Administration and the Executive Master of Public Administration are aimed for senior officers from state departments, INGOs, NGOs and private firms to get knowledge about public management and public policies for their works.

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi delivered a speech at the opening ceremony of these programmes held at the meeting hall of Higher Education Department in Nay Pyi Taw.

He said that management is an important subject in both public and private sectors to meet with the developing economic system.

The programmes will include, in addition to the lectures, individual assignments, presentations, group works, group assignments and group presentations which can build up individual skills, and improve unity among the colleagues, cooperation, sharing duties, accountability and responsibilities.

Rector of YUEco Dr Tin Win made a welcoming speech before former students of EMPA programme extended greeting and a fresher student expressed thanks for the programmes.

The EMPA programme will be attended by 47 students, and



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi delivers the speech at the opening ceremony of Executive Master of Business Administration and the Executive Master of Public Administration programmes in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO:MNA

the 49 enrolled for EMBA. The opening ceremony of these programmes were also attended by

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun, Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Tin Tun, Dep-

uty Mayor of Nay Pyi Taw U Ye Min Oo and officials.—MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)

Govt discusses resettlement programme for displaced civilians in Rakhine

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye held a coordination meeting at the building of Rakhine State government yesterday to provide humanitarian aid to the civilians who fled their homes due to armed conflicts in Rakhine State and the resettlement of internally displaced persons from the Maungtau violence in 2017.

In his opening remark, the

Union Minister called for stronger efforts on the government's projects in Rakhine State and providing effective assistance to them.

Myanmar government formed the Central Committee for the Implementation of Peace and Development in Rakhine State in 2016, with four working sub-committees. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is responsible for

resettlement and socioeconomic development committee.

The Union Minister said that humanitarian assistance to civilians at temporary shelters must be systematic to ensure good results for them. He also advised to implement the national-level strategy adopted by the relevant state departments, international organizations and international experts for the resettlement of IDPs and the

closure of temporary camps.

The Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) is implementing development programmes with the cooperation of the public and private sectors, partner countries, local and international organizations and UN agencies, while neighbouring countries and ASEAN members are also providing assistance in this issue.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye also asked the officials who are implementing the projects in Rakhine State to discuss their facing challenges and present their recommendations to address difficulties.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu explained the situations at the temporary camps, education and health services for them, and resettlement plans for IDPs from 2017 Maungtau violence.

Rakhine government's Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Min Than, as the Chairman of Management Committee for Shelters from Armed Conflicts in the State, discussed

security, accommodations, education, health services, possible closures of IDP camps, travel permits for national verification card holders and citizenship registration for them.

U Aung Kyaw Zan, the Minister for Electricity, Industry, Roads and Transport of Rakhine State, explained resettlement programme for IDPs from 2017 violence, plans for resettlement of returnees who were accepted under the UEHRD programme, and temporary building designs for them.

Deputy Minister U Soe Aung also discussed resettlement programme for Rakhine State, and shared experiences on arrangements for civilians who fled from armed conflicts in Kachin and Shan states.

U Toe Aung, the member of UEHRD, also held talks on their ongoing implementations and the future plans.

Officials from relevant departments explained the works on citizenship scrutinizing, resettlement, education and health services for the civilians fled from armed conflicts.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye addresses the coordination meeting on resettlement programme on displaced civilians in Rakhin State yesterday. PHOTO:MNA

Farmers in Phruso learn tea leave techniques

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The majority of tea leaves are grown in northern and southern Shan State.

According to the Myanmar Tea Producers Association, My-

anmar will export some 10 tons of green and dry tea leaves to Germany, and export 17 to 20 tons of organic raw tea leaves to the United States every year.

The local market is a stronghold for both green and dry tea

leaves. Foreign consumers have been enthusiastic about the taste of Myanmar tea leaves.

Tea leaves are separated into various categories, based upon taste and quality for local markets, while organic tea

leaves are aimed at foreign buyers.

The price for Myanmar tea leaves range from US\$6 to \$10 per kilogram, based on the quality.

As 90 per cent of the compo-

nents in tea leaves provide benefits for health, exporters must guarantee its quality along the supply chain from raw to finished products.—U Moe Thu (Phruso IPRD)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin delivers Statement at 18th Summit of Non-Aligned Movement held in Baku

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin participated at the 18th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 25 to 26 October 2019 and delivered a statement in the debate of the Summit on 26 October 2019 calling for the need for all member states to safeguard and abide by the founding principles, ideals and purposes of the Movement to achieve peace and development, justice and equality for all countries. He also apprised the Meeting of the developments in democratic transition in his country and Myanmar's position on the issue of Rakhine State.

At the Summit, Azerbaijan took over the Chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement from the Bolivian Republic of Venezuela and assumed the Chairmanship of the Movement for the term 2019-2022. The Summit was attended by the Heads of State and Government and high-level officials from 72 Member States of the Movement, representatives from 20 observer states and organizations, and 20 countries and 31 international organizations as special guests.

In his statement made by the Union Minister at the second session of the NAM Summit held on 26-10-2019 under the theme "Upholding the Bandung Principles to ensure concerted and adequate response to the challenges of contemporary world", the Union Minister stated that the Non-Aligned Movement, representing two-third of the UN members and more than half of the humanity, has the great potential to play a more effective and important role in responding to the numerous challenges facing the world today. One of its major achievements was its political and moral drive to the decolonisation process that led to the emergence of many independent countries present at the meeting. The founding fathers had envisaged a peaceful and prosperous world and a just and equitable order where states can determine independently their own destinies. Myanmar, the then Burma, was among the five countries that co-sponsored the Bandung Conference. Suc-



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin attends the 18th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in Baku, Azerbaijan from 25 to 26 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

cessive governments in Myanmar had consistently pursued the non-alignment as a key component of their Foreign Policy. Thanks to its positive neutrality and non-aligned foreign policy, Myanmar had been able to enjoy close and friendly relations with all countries including major powers in the post independence period. Being a founding member of the Movement, Myanmar reaffirms today its unwavering faith in the fundamental principles of the Movement, particularly respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations; refraining from interference in the internal affairs of another country; settlement of disputes by peaceful means; and refraining from acts of aggression or threats or the use of force against any country. The world has undergone profound changes since NAM was founded.

He added that the members of the movement are still struggling with complex challenges in this uncertain world which include injustice of the world order, impacts of climate change, poverty, rise of protectionism, violent extremism, terrorism, unilateral economic sanctions and monopolisation of the world media by the rich and powerful. It is crucial more than ever that all member states stand united together to safeguard and abide by

the founding principles, ideals and purposes of our Movement to achieve peace and development, justice and equality for all countries the world over.

With regard to the developments in Myanmar, the Union Minister explained that Myanmar has started to enjoy greater freedom and democratic rights since the emergence of a democratically elected civilian government just over three and a half years ago. Since taking office, the civilian Government has set national priorities, which include national reconciliation and peace, democratisation and development as well as seeking a long lasting solution for the complex issue of communal tensions in Rakhine State. Within just 3-year transition, significant improvements have been made in many areas including health, education, socio-economic sectors, infrastructure development and most visibly, prevalence of greater freedom and democratic rights in the country. According to the World Bank forecast, Myanmar's economy will grow 6.6 percent next year becoming one of the fastest growing economies in the Southeast Asia. Tourist arrival has risen 25 percent thanks to visa liberalisation measures. As Myanmar opens its economy, Myanmar is among the World Bank's top 20 countries

for most improved ease of doing business attributing to its initiatives that enhanced its business environment. But, the nascent democratic transition of Myanmar is still yet incomplete, struggling with numerous challenges including amending the undemocratic Constitution, continued ethnic armed conflicts and old and new complex issues in Rakhine State. Regardless of the challenges, the Government has also been steadfast in pursuing the world's most complicated peace process involving numerous Ethnic Armed Organisations to foster a lasting peace in the country through the holding of 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference.

With regard to the issue of Rakhine State, Union Minister stressed that it is just one of those many challenges in our nascent transition. This problem should thus be viewed from a broader perspective of Myanmar's complex and incomplete democratic transition. Rakhine problem is not a religious issue as widely mischaracterized.

It is, in fact, a political and economic issue involving lack of development and irregular migration across the porous border since colonial time. We should not therefore overlook the involvement of elements of terrorism in creating this humanitarian problem and the

sufferings of both communities including the local ethnic minorities. Myanmar has stated over and over again its readiness to take back all those who have been verified as residents of Myanmar. The main obstacle for repatriation is the killings and threats by ARSA on the displaced persons advocating for or willing to return. Myanmar needs its neighbour Bangladesh's cooperation to address this issue. ARSA terror groups do not want repatriation but international pressure on Myanmar to advance their political agenda. Despite those threats, some 350 displaced people from Cox's Bazar have voluntarily returned on their own arrangement.

They have resumed their lives in Rakhine State in conditions of safety and dignity without any security concern. On its part, Myanmar is creating a conducive environment for the returnees in cooperation not only with the relevant UN agencies, but also with its ASEAN friends, as well as, its traditional development partners in the region and beyond. Myanmar stands ready to resolve the issue with the cooperation of Bangladesh based on the agreed bilateral arrangements with a good neighbourly spirit. Myanmar wishes to express its appreciation to those NAM member states and other partners who have lent their constructive support to Myanmar in its efforts to bring peace, democracy and development to Myanmar.

The Summit adopted the Final Document, Baku Declaration and Declaration on Palestine. The Summit was preceded by Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting on 21 and 22 October and Preparatory Ministerial Meeting on 23 and 24 October 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The Union Minister also made a statement at the first session of the Preparatory Ministerial Meeting held on 23-10-2019.

While in Baku, the Union Minister held bilateral meeting with H.E. Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India and matters pertaining to improving bilateral cooperation were discussed, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

Wilmar Myanmar opens edible oil, flour mills factories in Thilawa

WILMAR Myanmar officially opened its first edible oil plant with a capacity of 460 metric tons per day, and flour mill with a capacity of 530 metric tons per day at the Thilawa Port terminal. Simultaneously, they held a groundbreaking ceremony for construction of the rice mill, which is expected to produce 1,200 tons of rice per day, according to the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

Wilmar Myanmar's famous brand Meizan products, including edible oils, flour and sugar, are widely available in the market. Wilmar Myanmar will continue introducing quality consumer products.

At the ceremony, U Han Tun, regional minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Energy; U Win Khant, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Communications; U Aung Naing Oo, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Investment



William Myanmar opens the Wilmar Myanmar Edible Oils Limited factory with a capacity of 460 metric tons per day, and Wilmar Myanmar Flour Mills Limited with a capacity of 530 metric tons of flour per day at the Thilawa Port terminal. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG**

and Foreign Economic Relations; and Mr Kuok Khoon Hong, CEO of Win International Limited,

delivered remarks. Over 400 local and foreign guests were present at the event.

As Myanmar has significant economic potentials in Asia, Wilmar came to invest in the

country. They will provide an integrated agribusiness model that encompasses the entire value chain of the agricultural commodity business, from cultivation, processing, merchandising to manufacturing a wide range of agricultural products, according to Wilmar Myanmar.

The Myanmar Investment Commission has permitted Singapore-listed Wilmar International to form a local joint venture - Wilmar Myanmar Ltd - to produce, sell and distribute rice and rice-related products, including rice, rice flour, rice bran, rice bran oil and rice husks, at Thilawa port in Yangon. Wilmar International Limited is a multinational corporation which has over 500 manufacturing plants and an extensive distribution network covering China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar and some 50 other countries.—U Tin Maung/ Myint Maung

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar Rice Federation delegations to visit China, Philippines, African countries to promote exports

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and later on in Sagaing Region and Rakhine State. It formed two district-level committees last week covering Maubin, Nyaungdon, Pantanaw, Danuphyu, Mawlamyinekyun, Pyabon, Dedaye, Kyaiklat and Bogale townships in Ayeyawady Region.

At the meeting, the MRF urged rice millers and traders to buy paddy at the floor rate of K500,000 per 100 baskets, if the market price falls below the set basic price.

Traders seeking to export paddy to China and Bangladesh through the border gates must examine contracts carefully and seek export licenses through the respective ministries, the MRF officials said.

The volume of rice and broken rice exported over eleven-and-a-half months since October in the previous fiscal year was estimated at over 2.29 million metric tons, worth \$691 million, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Myanmar currently ships rice to 65 foreign markets. China, which accounts for over 33 per cent of the total rice exports, is the main buyer of Myanmar rice, followed by the Philippines and Cameroon. Côte d'Ivoire is the fourth-largest buyer and Madagascar the fifth-largest buyer of Myanmar rice. The European Union countries account for over 20.88 per cent of rice exports, while 25.4 per cent of Myanmar's rice goes to African countries.

Myanmar exports broken rice mostly to Belgium, followed by Indonesia, the Netherlands, China, and the UK. It is placed in 41 export markets.

Earlier, border trade was relatively high compared to sea trade in terms of rice exports. During the last fiscal year, border trade accounted for just 27 per cent of the total rice export, while maritime trade constituted 72.58 per cent.

Between 1 October, 2018 and 20 September, 2019, rice exports through the border gates helped the country earn an es-

timated \$187 million, whereas maritime trade generated an income of \$503.85 million, data from the Commerce Ministry showed.

Myanmar primarily exports rice to China through the border gates. However, trade in agricultural products was halted on account of China clamping down on illegal trade. As a result, stocks of rice piled up at the Muse border gate in Q1 of this year, bringing down the price of rice in the export market.

Additionally, the prices of low-quality rice varieties Ngasein and Aemahta were lower compared to the corresponding period of the previous year, according to the local market.

At present, rice is being exported to China through a government-to-government (G2G) agreement and a barter system, in exchange for Chinese goods. Myanmar shipped 3.6 million tons of rice in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, an all-time record in rice exports.—GNLM (Translated by EMM)

Myanmar LBVD's negotiation with China for legal cattle export underway

MYANMAR'S Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department has been negotiating with Chinese authorities to develop a legal trade channel for cattle exports, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Although cattle exports are legal in Myanmar, it is still not allowed by China, said Dr Kyaw Htin, vice president of the Myanmar Livestock Federation.

"They are ensuring that cattle to be traded must be free from foot and mouth disease. The discussion between China and Myanmar has begun," said Dr Kyaw Htin.

The export of cattle is officially permitted from Myanmar. Therefore, Myanmar's government is planning to enter into a Government to Government pact with China so that Myanmar's traders do not suffer from illegal trade in China.

In a bid to encourage legal trade routes, increase income and create more jobs for local residents, livestock trade was allowed in Myanmar in late 2017, along with decentralized cattle exports from the respective region and state governments. But, the power was transferred from regional governments to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation, as

they faced certain difficulties in the movement of cattle, according to an announcement from the Ministry on 22 May.

Cattle in Myanmar are mainly exported to China through the Muse border gate, as well as to Thailand.

Normally, a large cow is valued at over K1.6-2.3 million, but the suspension of trade has led to Chinese traders resorting to manipulating prices by offering a lower price of some K1 million in early 2019.

Between the 2017-2018FY and 28 March in the current FY, over 464,000 cattle were permitted for export, and more than 400,000 cattle have been exported, according to trade figures.

At present, cattle that are older than five years old are being exported, along with the required vaccination certificates, health certificates, and farming registration certificates. According to the 2018 cattle census, there are 11.5 million cattle in the country.

Authorities have issued cattle export licenses to more than 300 companies in the Magway region. There are some 5,000 companies holding cattle export licenses across the country.—GNLM (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye meets with Rakhine Coordination Committee, UN agencies

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye held a meeting with the Rakhine Coordination Committee and UN agencies at the meeting hall of the state government yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was also attended by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Member of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) U Toe Aung, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung and cabinet members of the State government.

At the meeting, the Union Minister said works for peace, stability and development in Rakhine State are aimed for the whole areas of the state. He also added cooperation of civil societies and international organizations are important for the Union government, the State government, local officers and

local communities.

The Union Minister said the Rakhine Coordination Committee is helping in the works of UN agencies and international organizations, and that the assistances are to be constructive and supportive of peace, stability and development. He also called for full cooperation, especially in challenging situations.

Rakhine State's Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Min Than, as the Chairman of Rakhine Coordination Committee, said that UN agencies have access to most of the areas, except some areas for security reason, to provide aid and healthcare services for the displaced civilians from armed conflicts.

The Minister also asked for effective humanitarian assistance for them.

Member of UEHRD U Toe Aung suggested resettlement



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and other dignitaries and members of the UN agencies pose for a group photo yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

programmes should be implemented in cooperation with UN agencies and NGOs, and he expressed thanks for the works of the Rakhine State government.

Then, officials from UN Representative Office, UNHCR, UNDP, Red Cross Movement

(MRCS, ICRC and IFRC) and UNOCHA explained their works with the Union government, their projects in Rakhine State, providing food and healthcare services.

The Union Minister then confirmed collaboration with UN

agencies, and expressed thanks for their coordination with the government in the assistance of other countries and for the best cooperation of Red Cross Movement.—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Library law, development, challenges discussed

OFFICIALS from MoI and the literary sector organized a workshop to review the Public Library Law at UMFCCI, Yangon, yesterday.

The workshop was attended by Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, Yangon Region Minister for Rakhine Ethnic Social Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung, Kayin Ethnic Social Affairs Minister Daw Naw Pan Thinzar Myo, officials from the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD), Myanmar Library Association (MLA), Myanmar Library Foundation (MLF), Myanmar Publishers and Distributors Association (MPDA), Save the Library, MBAPF, and organizations related to library matters.

The Deputy Minister first de-

livered an address. He said the state and regional governments have the authority to supervise library matters, as pertained in Schedule Two of the Constitution. He said this allows each state and region to enact library-related laws for their own jurisdiction. He said they have drafted nine laws so far and upon careful analysis some laws are found to be either excessive, contradicting with existing laws or already included in other existing laws thus making them unnecessary.

The Deputy Minister said the fourth industrial revolution has gained momentum in the past 10 years and the benefits of digital technology has never been more pronounced now, especially as Myanmar's economic system



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun delivers the speech at the workshop to review the Public Library Law at UMFCCI, Yangon, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

changes.

He said the number of readers for printed media has decreased and those for social media has increased and this is something to put into consideration. He said social media has the advantage of influencing a wide range of people and thus, it is important to consider the role of a digital online library.

The workshop discussed the three topics of (i) public library development and the role of the public library law, (ii) challenges faced by public libraries, and (iii) reviews and suggestions on the

public library law. The Deputy Minister said drafting a law will take more than one attempt and it must reflect the practicality of the changing times.

The workshop then commenced with the first topic discussed by MBAPF Executive Director Dr Thant Thaw Kaung, IPRD Deputy Director-General U Aye Kywe, Save the Library's U Maung Maung Soe and MPDA Vice Chairman U Myint Tun.

The second topic was discussed by MLA Vice Chairman (1) Daw Myat San Nyein, MLF Executive member U Maung

Maung Oo (Hein Latt), U Kyi Win from Lawka Amon, IPRD Director U Kaw Sint, and Tagaung Youth Development Center's Executive member of Thati Library U San Naing Oo. The third topic was discussed by MLA Chairperson Daw A Win, MoI's legal advisor U Maung Maung (a) U Kyi Shun, IPRD Director U Kyaw Zin Soe, Lecturer U Zaw Aung of the Yangon University's Library and Research Department, and U Maung Zaw (Thabyay) from Child Education and Health Assistance Group.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



The workshop to review the Public Library Law is being convened in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION WEEK

28-31
OCT

- FACE PAINTING EVENT
- MAGIC SHOW & CHILDREN ACTIVITIES
- TRICK OR TREAT STREET EVENT



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Nicotine in disguise

SMOKING, betel quid chewing and tobacco consumption are die-hard habits. The main agent that makes it hard to relinquish those habits is nicotine. In fact, most smokers, betel quid chewers or tobacco consumers are addicted to nicotine.

Nicotine is harmful to the nervous system and muscle cells. It can cause strokes due to the blockage of blood vessels in the brain. People absorb nicotine through smoking cigarettes, cheroots, pipes or cigars. And there is also another way, which is smokeless tobacco, and it includes tobacco chewing. Users put tobacco leaves into their mouths and suck on them, instead of smoking them.

Many studies have shown a convincing link between betel nut use and cancer of the mouth and esophagus. Betel nuts can cause stiffness in the mouth and eventually the loss of jaw movements. Regular chewing of betel quid can also cause gum irritation and tooth decay. The use of betel quid alone has many health hazards, and when this product is combined with tobacco, the user's risk of early illness and death is significantly increased. Additionally, smoking causes some seven out of every 10 cases of lung cancer (70%). It also causes cancer in many other parts of the body, including the mouth, throat, voice box (larynx), oesophagus, bladder, bowel, cervix, kidney, liver, stomach

and pancreas. Myanmar enacted a law to eliminate the habit of smoking and betel quid chewing in 2006. Under the law, warning messages have appeared on the packaging of cigarettes and other tobacco products.

As the fight against tobacco use has turned into a global campaign, big tobacco companies began to apply alternative means to find new markets, and mainly preyed on young people. They introduced the Electronic cigarette (e-cigarette), claiming that they are less harmful. But E-cigarettes may lead to the initiation of nicotine use in adult and youth non-smokers, re-initiation of nicotine dependence in ex-smokers or increased severity of nicotine dependence in dual-users of cigarettes and e-cigarettes.

Electronic cigarettes can resemble traditional tobacco cigarettes (cig-a-likes), cigars or pipes, or even everyday items like pens or USB memory sticks. Regardless of their design and appearance, these devices are generally hazardous to health, as they are not free from nicotine. In fact, they are nicotine in disguise.

Quality Assurance of Education and Training

By Lokethar

THE Myanmar Education Law was enacted by the Hluttaw in 2014. However, amendments to the Law were made in 2015. The MEL as amended, is an overarching law covering all education and training activities, whether private, public or joint venture. It has provisions for the formation by the Government with the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, of a National Education Policy Commission. The MEL also has provisions for the formation by the National Education Policy Commission, of a "National Education Standard and Quality Assurance Committee" which is empowered with ensuring quality assurance of education and training.

A Quality Assurance System encompasses several functions including Institutional accreditation, setting "Learning Outcomes" or "Competency Standards" relating to the program content (at different levels) of the education and training system and ensuring quality of assessment (external and /or internal) leading to the awarding of a "Qualification" and so on.

Myanmar Education System it seems had lacked a well functioning Quality Assurance System in the past. Of course there was Quality Assurance by the education and training institutions concerned. However, there was no National level body responsible for quality assurance. It seems that QA was left largely to the Institutions in almost all the modes



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for a documentary photo together with senior officials at the 2019 Conference on Implementing Development of Universities at MICC II in Nay Pyi Taw on 16 October, 2019. PHOTO: MNA

of education. Now, under the new MEL, the Quality Assurance of Education whether provided by the private or public sector will be overseen by the relevant Committee formed under the Myanmar Education Law as mentioned above.

"Qualifications" is taken to mean the formal recognition awarded for passing or completing a particular program of study/ learning by which the attainment of the prescribed learning outcomes and competences has been achieved. Qualifications include Certificates, Diplomas of different

levels and Degrees of different levels. Qualifications may also be acquired through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process which assesses experiential and self-learning acquired outside the "Formal" education system.

As for the RPL process the Employment and Skills Development Law of 2013, enables the organization of the National Skills Standards Body (at present the NSSA), which sets Occupational Competency Standards for the various "Skilled Occupations". An "Assessment and Certification Committee" formed by the NSSA

The ASEAN has developed an ASEAN Qualification Reference Framework which the Member States can refer to in drawing up their National Qualification Frameworks.

is responsible for ensuring quality assurance of the RPL process, conducted by the assessment providers accredited by the NSSA. Competency recognition Certificates at 4 levels of skilled workers are awarded to those who, after the assessment process, are declared "Competent" at the level concerned.

The amended MEL recognizes equivalence of Qualifications, particularly in relation to the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Sector. Given that undertaking of Education by the private sector is recognized in the MEL, there will arise a need for establishing equivalence of all qualifications awarded at all levels by the public and private sector education institutions. This calls for the establishment as well as a National Qualification Framework linked to the Quality Assurance System.

A "National Qualification Framework" (NQF) may roughly be compared to a "bookshelf" with several shelves (but with no "cap-

ping" shelf). The NQF "bookshelf" comprises of levels of qualification assigned to each of the shelves starting from bottom upwards with, for example, "certificates" of levels 1 to 4 for the first 4 shelves; "Diploma" or equivalent qualification at level 5 i.e the fifth shelf; a "Bachelor" Degree or equivalent qualification at level 6 i.e; the sixth shelf. The next higher 7th shelf would be assigned to a "Master" degree or equivalent qualification, the 8th shelf to a "Doctoral" degree or an equivalent qualification. Perhaps it's a oversimplification of a rather complex matter but the intention was to make the average layman understand it. Qualifications earned through Recognition of Prior Learning would be assigned to the relevant "shelf" of the NQF "bookshelf".

Determining "Equivalence" of qualifications for any level, (say "diplomas" awarded by several private and public institutions), requires describing in general terms, the learning outcomes and competences to be acquired for

the level of "Qualification" awarded. These are termed "Descriptors" and it requires expertise and experience to express them in language which is generic and acceptable to all stakeholders involved in providing education. Acceptable "Descriptors" for each level will be the building blocks for the establishment of the whole NQF. NQFs are useful not only for comparison of Qualifications within the country, but also for comparison of Qualifications among countries in the region for inter-regional portability of the "Qualification". The ASEAN has developed an ASEAN Qualification Reference Framework which the Member States can refer to in drawing up their National Qualification Frameworks. Once the NQF is established, then all qualifications awarded, whether by private or public institutions as well as qualifications obtained through Recognition of Prior Learning can be assigned to the relevant self of the NQF "bookshelf". It will facilitate the comparison of Qualifications within and between levels vis-a-vis the labour market and hence facilitate the choice by employers of "the right person for the right place". It will also facilitate the portability of qualifications, (perhaps in combination with Mutual Recognition Arrangements) for specific groups of occupations with the other Member States of ASEAN.



National Skills Standards Body (at present the NSSA) sets Occupational Competency Standards for the various "Skilled Occupations". Skilled workers and technicians conduct training at the Construction Ministry's Central Training School (Thuwunna), Yangon. PHOTO: MNA



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 27th October, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and a few cloud to partly cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 28th October, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, scattered in Taninthayi Region and isolated in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Shan, Chin, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Shan, Chin and Kayah States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28th October, 2019: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 28th October, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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ACTING CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSZaw Min
Zaw Htet Oo
Aung Khin**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**Nyein Nyein Ei,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar
Kyaw Zeya**COMPUTER TEAM**Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Hnin Pwint,
Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin,
Thein Htwe, Nyi Lin Thu**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax - (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnlmdaily@gmail.com
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YBS card payment system to be launched by year-end

By Nyein Nyein

A card payment system will be installed on YBS lines by the end of this year, said U Hla Aung, the joint secretary of the Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

"We are endeavoring to install the card payment system on buses as a preliminary measure in October, November, and December. Once the machines arrive in the city, we will start a trial run. After discussions, the YRTA and Asia Starmar Transport Company

will implement the test runs in the coming months this year," said U Hla Aung.

More than 1,500 buses will get e-ticketing machines in the initial stage, he said.

The e-ticketing machines will be installed on 500 buses from the Yangon Urban Public Transport Company, 500 buses from the Yangon Bus Public Company, 300 buses from the Bandoola Company, and 80 buses from the Shwe Taung Tan Company.

"The concerned companies have been notified about

the bus number for test runs. They are taking the necessary measures to install the system on buses. They are prepping to install the machines upon their arrival," said U Hla Aung.

During a Yangon Region government meeting (20/2018), held on 17 May, 2018, Asia Starmar Transport Intelligent Co. Ltd was selected as the tender winner for implementing the YBS payment service project.

"The company is currently finalizing payment techniques, and it is working on necessary

measures to launch the system. We will provide an update on the status of the project soon," said U Hla Aung.

To improve transport facilities in Yangon, the Yangon Bus Service system (YBS) was launched on 16 January, 2017, during the incumbent government's term. At present, over 100 bus lines are operating 4,600 buses on about 133 routes, along with the Airport Shuttle. The number of daily commuters has been estimated at 1.8 million. (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Police confiscates illegal drugs in six townships

POLICE seized illegal drugs including stimulant tablets and heroins in six townships on 26 October, according to Myanmar Police Force.

The anti-narcotic squad no.3 from Mohnyin Township arrested Mg Tun in possession of 1,200 stimulant tablets and 0.011 Kg heroins after the motorcycle driven by him was being searched near Mawhan Village on the Mawhan-Nanachi road in Mohnyin Township.

Similarly, police confiscated 1,400 stimulant tablets from the house rented by Isan at Taung Kock Village in Hpakhant Township. Additionally, the police seized 5,600 stimulants from the house of Ar Shwe in Kaung San Village in the same township.

The anti-narcotic squad no.35 from Myeik Township also seized 14.07 kg of speciosa powder from the house of Htay Nge (a) Shin Nge in Ma Eai Village, Kyunsu Township.

Similarly, the anti-narcotic squad no.18 from Mandalay confiscated 6,000 stimulant tablets and a mobile phone from Nyi Nyi

Aung (a) Myat Hman while they searched him near 62nd Street and Setmu Street in Nga Ward, Pyigyitagon Township.

Police from Hsiseng Township also stopped and searched the motorcycle driven by Myat Ko and Thet Wai on board near Hnalwe Village Banyin-Katkokku road in Hsiseng Township, and seized 3,800 stimulant tablets and a mobile phone from them.

The anti-narcotic squad no.24 from Lashio also seized K 145.125 million worth of 3,600 litres of Toluene, 300 litres of 1 Phenyl 2 Propanone, 975 kilos of caffeine and 77 paper boxes each contains six 44-diaper-pack from the suspected six-wheeled Canter car stopped near the Sin Rupa petrol filling station on Muse-Lashio road in Nenttun Village, Lashio Township.

The cases were filed at the related police stations in accordance with the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.—GNLM

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Cyclists take part in the Yangon mass cycling event yesterday.
PHOTO: MYO MIN THEIN (MAYANGON)

Over 600 cyclists join Yangon mass cycling event

WITH a view to promoting health-enhancing physical activity, the Yangon mass cycling gathering was held at 6 a.m. yesterday at Kandawgyi Park in Yangon.

More than 600 professionals and amateur cyclists joined the event. It kicked off in front of Karaweik Hall, followed by participants cycling two rounds

of the Kandawgyi Park. "The cycling event is held to improve health and help bodies fit. It also aims to reduce air pollution," said U Cho, chairman of Yangon regional sub-committee for cycling. The cycling is also to be held in Thanlyin in the last Sunday of November. — Myo Min Thein (Mayangon) (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Illegal drugs confiscated seen by the vehicle on 26 October.
PHOTO: MNA

Literary lovers gather last day of Moe Moe (Inya) commemoration festival



Author Than Myint Aye talks literary aesthetics. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT



Book-lovers buying books at the book stalls of the Myanmar Literary and Arts Festival in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

THE third and final day of the Myanmar Literary and Arts Festival was held at the historic Central Press building of Botahtaung Township, Yangon, yesterday. The festival also commemorated the 75th birth anniversary of renowned female writer and former Sabel Phyu Magazine editor Moe Moe (Inya).

A review competition on the writer's novels was held at the meeting hall, with writers Kyu Kyu Tin, Ma Sandar, Ma Hnin Phwe, San San Nwe (Tharyawady), and Juu acted as judges.

Next, writer Yar Thet Pan (Toungoo Dorm) read a paper on Moe Moe (Inya)'s literature,

and in the afternoon, writer Than Myint Aung talked on the interplay between aesthetic and life while nine-time Moe Moe (Inya) Literary Award winter Maung Khine Aung (Sittway) talked on his feelings from reading her literature.

Writer Than Myint Aung was quoted saying every per-

son's life is intertwined with aesthetics and the happiness, sadness and sorrow gained in life are all aesthetics.

Ma Ei Ei Swe from Hlaing Township attended all three days of the festival and her impression was: "I have always loved literature since I was young. Since I live far from the city I don't have a lot of chances to attend festivals like these. But I made up my mind to attend this one and I'm absolutely delighted to have seen famous writers with my own eyes."

Teacher Hnin Wai Nyein explained that the novel competition gave out K500,000 for the 1st prize, K300,000 for 2nd, K200,000 for 3rd, and K70,000 as six consolation prizes. She said all the competitors were on the same skill level and will be receiving books by writer Moe Moe along with their prizes. She said there were 337 candidates competing with each other.

Writer Thakin (Zalun Myay) won third prize with 'Eain-tan-nyan-nghat' and said: "All the festivals organized for Moe Moe (Inya) have always been grand and I've never expected to receive an award related to her. It's brought tears to my eyes. I want to encourage young people to write if it's their passion. The rationality between a person who reads and one who doesn't is different. That's why you should read a lot."

First place for the novel review competition went to Khant Kyaw Htin Hlaing (Loikaw) for 'Thar-kaung-myar', second place to Htan for 'Kabar-mee-laung-nay-ti'.

Lastly, writer Juu and Mya Kyar Ngone Group entertained the audience with musical performances.— Mya Sandi

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

NEWS In BRIEF

Most Chinese bankers consider monetary policy "moderate:" survey

BEIJING—Chinese bankers reported rising sentiment on the country's monetary policy, a new survey from the central bank showed.

The monetary policy sentiment index stood at 54.5 percent in the third quarter, up 2.9 percentage points year on year, according to a survey report on bankers released by the People's Bank of China.

About 83 percent of surveyed bankers in roughly 3,200 banking institutions considered the current monetary policy as moderate, said the report. The banking industry's business climate improved compared with the same period last year, while the banking profitability index stood at 66.7 percent, the report showed.

According to the report, the overall loan demand index of the banking sector came in at 65.9 percent, down 0.4 points from the previous quarter.—Xinhua ■

World Bank chief gives tips to boost India's economic growth

NEW DELHI — A modernized land management, streamlined courts, and regulated shadow banking system would hugely benefit Indian economy, visiting World Bank president David Malpass has said in New Delhi after meeting the country's top leadership.

According to him on Saturday, India had made "strong progress" in reducing extreme poverty and implementing market-oriented reforms over the past three decades.

This is Malpass' first visit to this south Asian country after assuming the world institution's top post in April.—Xinhua ■

Kashmir row sparks Malaysia, India palm oil tensions

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia's mammoth palm oil sector faces a new threat after Indian traders were asked to halt purchases amid a diplomatic row over Kashmir, piling further pressure on the industry as Europe also plans cutbacks. The Southeast Asian nation is the second-biggest producer after Indonesia of the oil, used in everything from

food to cosmetics, in a sector long vilified by environmentalists who blame it for fuelling deforestation. With Western companies reducing use of the commodity as green groups ratchet up pressure, the top two growers have increasingly come to rely on demand from India, the world's biggest buyer of edible oils, and China. But a speech by Malay-

sian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad at the United Nations General Assembly last month, in which he said New Delhi had "invaded and occupied" Kashmir, has sparked a backlash in India that could badly hit the sector.

There has been sympathy in mostly Muslim Malaysia for Kashmiris after the Hindu nationalist government in New

Delhi revoked the Muslim-majority region's autonomy in August, and imposed a lockdown to quell unrest. Kashmir has been split between India and Pakistan since 1947, and has sparked wars and numerous skirmishes between the two countries. An armed rebellion against Indian rule has raged in the valley since 1989.—AFP ■

Afghan election results delayed again

KABUL—Preliminary results from Afghanistan's presidential elections have been delayed for nearly a month, officials announced Sunday, a lengthy postponement likely to stoke political uncertainty and allegations of fraud.

Afghans went to the polls for a first-round vote on September 28, and initial results were supposed to have been released October 19.

But more than a week after saying the Independent Election Commission would miss that deadline, commission chairwoman Hawa Alam Nuristani said the results now would not be released until November 14.

"We have already apologised for missing the date, but this doesn't mean failure," Nuristani told reporters.

"This (election) is a fate-determining issue in the country and we cannot accept sacrificing transparency for speed."



Afghanistan's presidential election in September saw a record low turnout. PHOTO: AFP

Election officials cited several technical issues slowing the counting of ballots, including an attempt from unknown quarters to hack the central system of Dermalog, the German company that provided biometric machines de-

signed to prevent duplicate votes.

In one bizarre incident, two police officers who were purportedly escaping chilly temperatures slept inside the main election data centre, which is supposed to be sealed, prompting howls of

outrage from the team of key candidate Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah.

This year's election is considered a two-horse race between him and President Ashraf Ghani. —AFP ■

Pakistani court grants bail to ex-PM Nawaz Sharif on health issues: lawyers

ISLAMABAD—A court in Pakistan on Saturday granted interim bail to the country's former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif over health problems, lawyers and Sharif's party said. Sharif, the three-time prime minister, is presently serving a seven-year jail term over corruption charges related to owning steel mill abroad. He was shifted to hospital

on Monday after his health deteriorated in jail in Lahore, the capital of Punjab province.

The court granted the bail until Tuesday and the judges will take up another application that seeks cancellation of Sharif's conviction.

Sharif's lawyer Zafarullah told reporters that the court has granted interim bail to Nawaz Sharif and the court will again hear

another application for permanent bail.

Spokesperson for Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Maryam Aurangzeb confirmed the verdict. Commenting on the verdict, Aurangzeb welcomed the decision and said that treatment of Nawaz Sharif continued and that he is improving now.—Xinhua ■

Protesters clash with police in Hong Kong tourist hotspot

HONG KONG—Clashes erupted Sunday between Hong Kong police and pro-democracy dem-

onstrators who gathered at a park in the Kowloon peninsula to protest against alleged police

brutality.

A heavy presence of riot police blocked roads near Salis-

bury Garden in the tourist hotspot of Tsim Sha Tsui, reducing turnout in the illegal rally.

The police fired rounds of teargas, beanbag rounds and rubber bullets at the crowd after pepper spray failed to disperse some hard-core protesters who threw umbrellas and other debris at a handful of officers.

Most of the black-clad masked protesters spread out to other areas in Kowloon and continued blocking roads as they moved along the main route Nathan Road.

It was the first major rally to descend into violence since the government on Wednesday formally withdrew a controversial extradition bill that sparked the unrest in early June.

"(The bill's withdrawal) is too late now. Police brutality has run rampant. How could police escape justice while protesters were being suppressed?" said recent high school graduate Mike, 18.—Kyodo ■



Hong Kong police fire teargas and rubber bullets at hundreds of protesters rallying in the tourist hotspot of Tsim Sha Tsui in the Kowloon peninsula on Oct. 27, 2019 as a fresh round of anti-government protest entered its 21st weeks. PHOTO: KYODO

NEWS In BRIEF

Bored and broke, Vietnam migrants risk lives for riches in Europe

HANOI—Young, aspirational and poor Vietnamese are risking their lives to travel to Europe, taking on large debts to join well-worn trafficking routes in the hope of a better future thousands of miles from their rural homes.

The dangers of illegal crossings into Europe were laid bare this week when 31 men and eight women were found dead in a refrigerated truck in Britain. British police initially said the victims were Chinese, but it is now feared most were from Vietnam.

Many Vietnamese migrants come from just a handful of central provinces, where smugglers prey on disaffected youth lured by the prospect of overseas work. Bored by village life and fed up with a lack of opportunity, the allure of overseas riches is enough to tempt many to embark on the risky trips.—AFP ■

Sri Lanka raises funds for children orphaned in Easter attacks

COLOMBO—Sri Lanka's Attorney General's Department on Saturday evening held an event in capital Colombo to raise funds for children affected by the Easter Sunday attacks in April, which claimed 250 lives.

Speaking at the event, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said that all those involved in the attacks had been killed or apprehended and the government was drafting new legislations against extremists and terrorists.

He said terrorism had affected the entire region and called for more coordinated efforts to tackle the issue.

Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Cheng Xueyuan, speaking at the event, commended the department for bridging for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). China was among sources of the fund.—Xinhua ■

News In Brief

Iraq students join protests as pressure on government swells

BAGHDAD—Iraqi students joined anti-government protests in Baghdad on Sunday, ramping up the street pressure on Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi who also faced a surprise sit-in from parliament's largest bloc.

The capital and country's south have been rocked by a second wave of demonstrations since Thursday, with protesters digging in despite tear gas, curfews and violence that has left over 60 dead.

On Sunday morning, students could be seen joining demonstrations in the capital, with activists saying about a dozen schools and universities had decided to shut their doors and take part in protests en masse. —AFP ■

Lebanon protesters to form nationwide human chain

BEIRUT—Tens of thousands of Lebanese protesters were to attempt a human chain running across the entire country Sunday to symbolise newfound national unity.

Demonstrators planned to join hands from Tripoli to Tyre, a 170-kilometre (105-mile) chain running through the main protest hub in Beirut, as part of an unprecedented cross-sectarian mobilisation.

Tension has mounted in recent days between security forces and protesters, who are blocking roads and bringing the country to a standstill to press their demands for a complete overhaul of the political system. —AFP ■

Algeria registers 22 candidates for presidential vote



Protester in Algiers holds up sign that reads, 'My voice is sacred just like my dignity and my freedom'. PHOTO: AFP

ALGIERS—Algeria's election authority has registered 22 candidates for a December presidential election, including two former prime ministers under former president Abdelaziz Bouteflika, the official APS agency reported Sunday.

Former premiers Ali Benflis and Abdelmadjid

Tebboune had submitted their candidacies for the December 12 vote before the deadline for nominations passed Saturday.

Both are considered front-runners in an election which however is opposed by the mass protest movement that alongside the army forced Bouteflika to resign in April.

Activists are demanding sweeping reforms before any vote takes place, and say Bouteflika-era figures still in power must not use the presidential poll as an opportunity to appoint his successor.

Polls originally planned for July 4 were postponed due to a lack of viable candidates. Ob-

servers are predicting a weak turnout in December.

Benflis, 75, served as premier under Bouteflika from 2000 to 2003.

After his dismissal, Benflis ran as Bouteflika's main opponent in 2004 and 2014, coming a distant second both times as the president was re-elected with over 80 percent of the vote.

Tebboune, 73, was a senior civil servant before serving as a minister from the 1990s.

After Bouteflika assumed the presidency in 1999, Tebboune was minister of communication, obtaining further portfolios in 2002.

Bouteflika appointed him prime minister in May 2017 before sacking him less than three months later against a backdrop of factional fighting in government. —AFP ■

Saudi takes command of coalition troops in Yemen's Aden

RIYADH—Saudi Arabia took command of anti-rebel troops in Yemen's Aden, Saudi state media said Sunday, after the government and southern separatist forces struck a power-sharing deal following August clashes in the city.

"Coalition forces have been repositioned in Aden to become under the kingdom's command and re-

deployed to conform with requirements of current operations," the Saudi-led pro-government coalition said in a statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency.

The move comes after the United Arab Emirates, which is part of the Saudi-led coalition against northern-based Huthi rebels but has also trained southern separatists, hand-

ed key positions to Saudi forces earlier this month, according to a security official. The UAE-backed Security Belt force in August seized control of Aden, which had served as the beleaguered government's base since it was ousted from the capital Sanaa by the Huthi rebels in 2014.

The Security Belt is dominated by supporters

of the separatist Southern Transitional Council (STC), which seeks an independent southern Yemen. But Yemen's internationally recognised government and the STC, both of whom have good relations with Riyadh, struck a power-sharing deal to end the conflict that erupted earlier this year; sources from both sides said on Friday. —AFP ■

IS head Baghdadi believed dead after US strike in Syria: reports

DAMASCUS—Jihadist supremo Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the world's most

wanted man, was believed Sunday to have been killed in a US special operation in

northwest Syria.

The elusive chief of the Islamic State group was thought to be dead after a US military raid in the Idlib region, US media reported early Sunday. The White House announced President Donald Trump would make a "major statement" Sunday at 9:00 am (1300 GMT), without providing details. Turkey said it had coordinated with the United States before the operation. A war monitor said US helicopters dropped forces in an area of Idlib province

where "groups linked to the Islamic State group" were present.

The helicopters targeted a home and a car outside the village of Bari-sha in Idlib province, said the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which relies on a vast network of sources inside Syria for its information. The operation killed nine people including an IS senior leader called Abu Yamaan as well as a child and two women, it said. —AFP ■



Islamic State group chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi appears for the first time in five years in a propaganda video released by the group in April 2019. PHOTO: AFP

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports for the supply of Medical Equipments in the (2019-2020) Budget year.

Tender documents are available during office hours at the Procurement and Supplying Division, Department of Medical Services, Office No (4), Ministry of Health and Sports Commencing from (29.10.2019).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office, not later than (28-11-2019), 12:00 Noon, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraph/telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information please contact the Phone No.067-3411510, 067-3411544, Procurement and Supply Division Office, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports.

Procurement and Supply Division
Ministry of Health and Sports

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY.NO. (654 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY.NO. (654 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-10-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

Going to Shein Ma Kar

SHEIN Ma Kar in Myanmar language was spelt differently in the past and the present. However it was written or spelt, people are sure to associate the word with a small town (or a big village), wild life conservation area and a forest retreat (monastery). Shein Ma Kar situated in Sagaing Region Wetlet Township is a place of interest for local and foreign visitor alike due to its historical link to the Pyu.

How to go there

Shein Ma Kar is about two and half hour drive from Mandalay and can be reached via Sagaing after going on to Wetlet. I came down from Shwebo in the north and the drive was more

during the raining season too. And the surrounding was more pleasant and beautiful during the raining season than the hot summer time. There'll be more greenery.

Places to visit

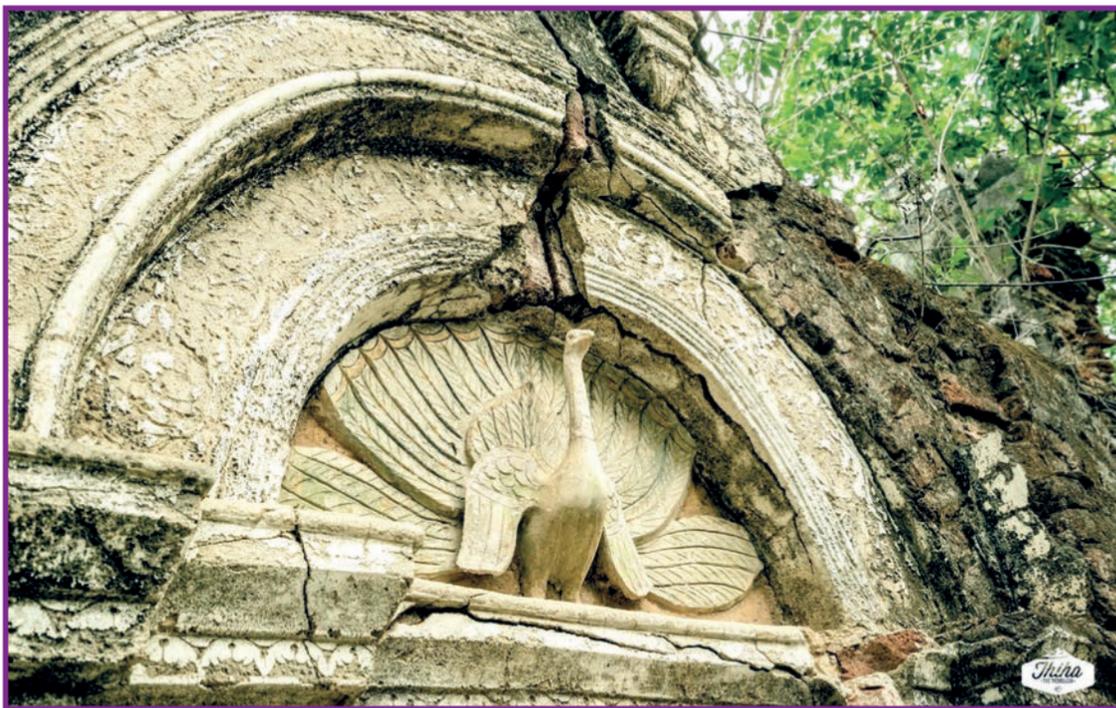
There isn't much to visit and some may say it was not worth the trouble going there for such few places only. That may be why some draw up a trip schedule to Shein Ma Kar with trips to ancient city Han Lin, pilgrimage to Sagaing pagodas and a visit to Shwe Bo. But as with many other places, it had its own beauty and attractions.

A big village Shein Ma Kar

Shein Ma Kar is a big vil-



The brick monastery donated by King Mindon (1853-1878). **PHOTO: THIHA**



Myanmar concrete art work. **PHOTO: THIHA**

than an hour drive. The two-way road was an awkward one and half lane wide with some portion being very good while some portion in an extremely bad shape. The best car for this road is an off road 4x4 cars but motorcycle is also good enough. But if you are going there by a motorcycle, make sure you wear a helmet, be alert looking where you were going as well as checking the rear view mirror frequently.

A good time to visit

The best is to travel during the day time. As the region had little rain only, it is fine to come

lage. It can also be designated as a small town. The main road through the big village or small town is noticeably busy even though the time I went there was not during the peak travel season. You'll see the usual village scenes of a Bamar village even though some parts were more like a town than a village. It can be said as a traditional Bamar style village or small town with some modern influence. There were about a thousand household in Shein Ma Kar.

Wild life conservation area and a forest retreat with

many antiquities

The wild life conservation area and the forest retreat monastery was the main attraction to the place. Even though the wild life conservation area was aimed for conserving deer, I didn't see any animal, not to mention deer, for the simple reason of being just at the outskirts of the wild life conservation area. I only saw a dog, an ordinary dog found in any villages, towns and cities, loitering around the monastery.

The wild life conservation area was reported to be 334 acres wide and had deer, wild dogs (not the usual domesticated dog spe-

cie found in villages, towns and cities), small wild cat species, fowls and birds.

The brick-lined pathway to the forest retreat monastery was a bit of an attraction with greeneries overhanging above it. It was a short path but due to the enjoyable and pleasant walk through it, it seems shorter as time and distance went by quickly. Once past the short pathway, you'll be in the monastery com-

pound. There'll be an old monastery known as a forest retreat monastery that was constructed with the donation of King Mindon in ME 1224 (AD 1862). It was in a quite dilapidated condition and not much maintenance seems to be conducted. But old Myanmar architectural forms in concrete are still around in abundance and this was invaluable. There's also a covered walkway or a rest area that was constructed with King



Wooden gong. **PHOTO: THIHA**



The brick-lined path



The Chinthe (the guardian Lions) are seen at the entrance of pagoda. **PHOTO: THIHA**

Mindon's donation. The monastery itself had retained and kept old utensils used by King Mindon himself.

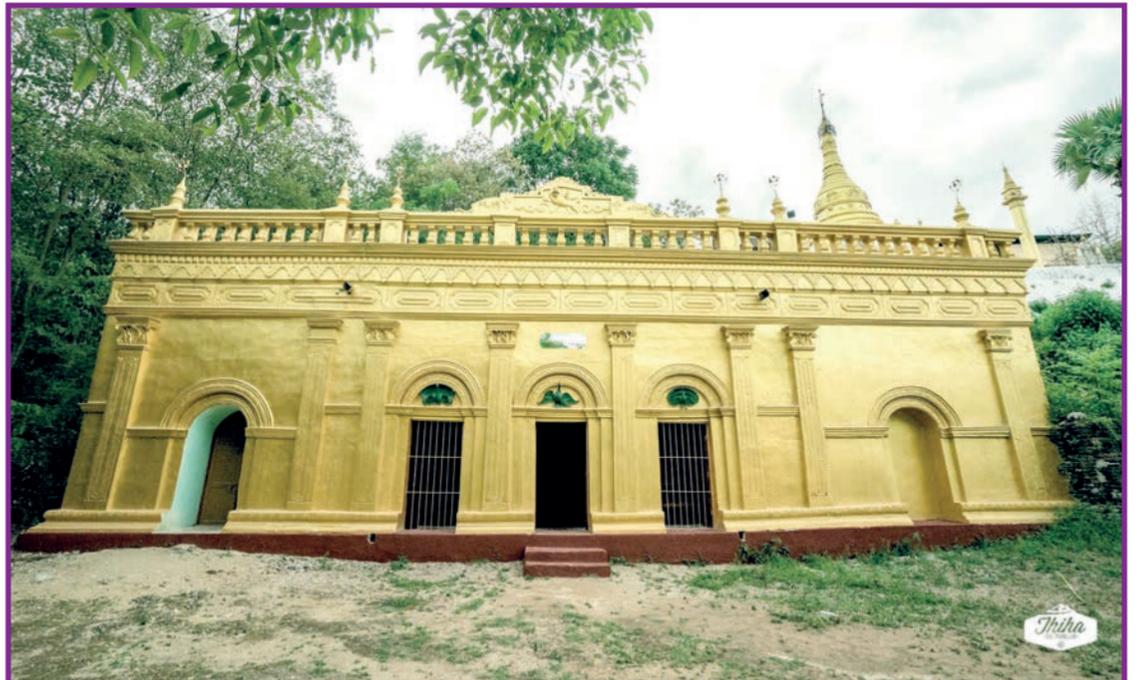
Once past the old monastery, you'll reach a small pagoda and a stairway that went down to Ayeyawady River. Go down the stairway to enjoy the beautiful sight of the river. Midway down the stairway, you'll see cave like meditation places.

Villages along the way back

to Shwebo from Shein Ma Kar also had many old and ancient pagodas. The one that I found most interesting was at Inn Be Gyi Village.

The greeneries observed along the way to Shein Ma Kar, the beauty of Ayeyawady River and Konbaung era monastery are things that will remain etched in my memory forever. May all have a happy and safe trip.

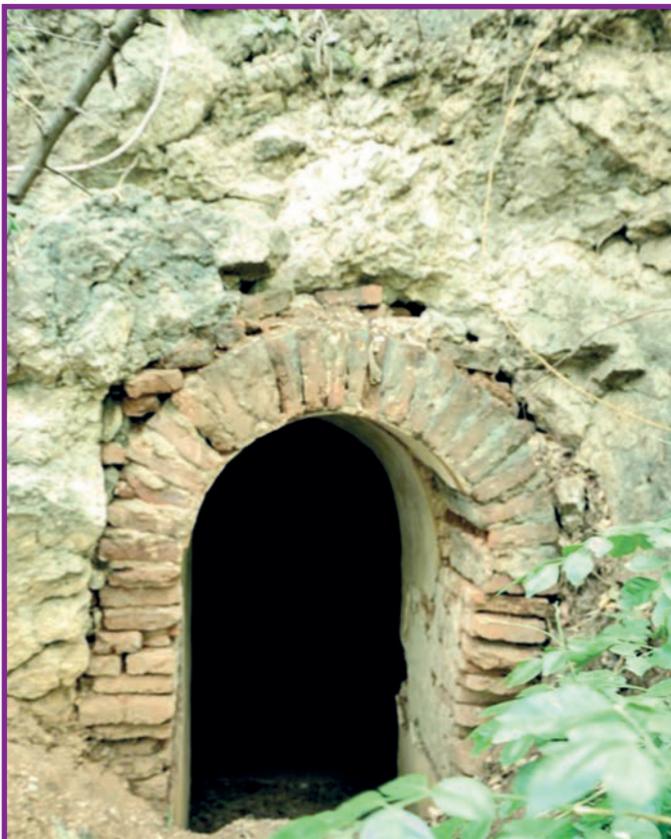
Translated by Handytips



Ancient religious building. **PHOTO: THIHA**



Way to forest retreat monastery. **PHOTO: THIHA**



Meditation Cave. **PHOTO: THIHA**



Trash bins made with plastic bottles. **PHOTO: THIHA**

AFC U-19 Women's Championship 2019: Myanmar to play Japan today

THE Myanmar U-19 women's football team will play against Japan U-19 women's team today at the Institute of Physical Education (IPE) Campus Stadium in Chonburi, Thailand, as the opening match of Group B of the AFC U-19 Women's Championship 2019.

The press conference for the Group B matches of the championship was held yesterday afternoon at the Oakwood Hotel in Chonburi, Thailand. The conference was attended by head coaches of respective teams in Group B, including Myanmar U-19 women team head coach Daw Thet Thet Win. Speaking about the upcoming match against Myanmar and Japan, Daw Thet Thet Win said at the press conference that she congratulates her team for qualifying to play at the Asian level championship.

"I am overwhelmed, as team

Myanmar is falling together with football powerhouses, and I feel proud for my team. Though we are facing one of the highest FIFA ranked teams, we won't be worried about that fact. We will play respectfully by having our best concentration and show our best," Daw Thet Thet Win said.

Also, head coach of the U-19 women team of Japan, Futoshi Ikeda, said that they came here having two ambitions. The first is to secure the next FIFA World Cup qualification, while the second is to defend their championship title. The Japanese team will try for every full point in each match. As the opening match against Myanmar will be difficult, Japan has prepared well, the head coach of Japan added.

The Myanmar and Japan match will start at 3:30 pm, Myanmar Standard Time today.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Myanmar head coach Daw Thet Thet Win (R) shakes hands with Japanese head coach Futoshi Ikeda (L) during yesterday's press conference for the Group B of the AFC U-19 Women's Championship 2019 in Chonburi. PHOTO: MFF

AFF Futsal Championship 2019: Myanmar misses third place with loss to Viet Nam

MYANMAR suffered a 3-7 loss to host Viet Nam in the third place match of the AFF Futsal Championship 2019 at Phu Tho Indoor Stadium in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam yesterday.

Due to the loss for third place in the tourney, Myanmar failed to qualify for the 2020 AFC Futsal Championship, which will be held in Turkmenistan.

Though Myanmar made a quick play, Vietnam soon had the advantage of being led by Tran Thai Huy, after a corner combination situation with Ton That Phi at the six minute mark.

Just a few minutes later, Thai Huy scored another goal, with a cool finish after winning the ball in the penalty area to double the gap.

But Myanmar made the following goal over the mistakes of Viet Nam's defense at 9 minutes, as the goal was scored by Myanmar's Naing Ye Kyaw.

Next, Kyaw Soe Moe scored for Myanmar and the match was tied at 2-2.

After 2-2, the match heated up. Again, Viet Nam scored the third goal by Nhan Gia Hung at 27 minutes and the fourth goal by penalty was scored by Tran Van Vu at 32 minutes.

Myanmar tried to equalize and Naing Ye Kyaw scored the third goal for Myanmar at 33 minutes.

After 3-4, Myanmar used a power play to equalize their goal, but team Myanmar made defensive errors and Viet Nam had more chances to score the continuous goals.

The goals of Viet Nam's Pham Duc Hoa, Tran Van Vu and Nguyen Minh Tri in the final minutes of the match resulted in the final score of 3-7, as Myanmar failed to reach third place.

Winning the final 7-3, the Viet Nam team won the bronze



The Myanmar player (white) attempts to pass through the Viet Nam massive defense during the third place match of the AFF Futsal championship in Ho Chi Minh yesterday. PHOTO: MFF

medal of the AFF futsal Championship 2019 and a place to attend

the final round of the 2020 Asian Futsal, scheduled for the end of

February next year in Turkmenistan.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Thayawady District Education Officer's Trophy cane ball competition held in Zigon

Thayawady District Education Officer's Trophy U-16 cane ball (Chinlone) competition was held in Zigon Township, Bago Region, on 24 October.

The competition included under sixteen-U16 young

athletes from basic education schools in the district.

The competition was attended by district and township level government officials, as well as officials from the Myanmar Traditional Chinlone federation, fans

and invited guests.

There were eight youth teams competing, and the tournament was sponsored by U Hla Htay (Htay Family). — Moe Tint Swe

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)