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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Friday, 2 November 2018



President U Win Myint greets representatives of ASEAN countries who attended 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime and related meetings. **PHOTO: MNA**

## President U Win Myint receives representatives from ASEAN, Ministers from China, Japan, ROK

U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received representatives from ASEAN countries attending the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime and related meetings at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw at 2pm yesterday.

During the meeting, President U Win Myint expressed his delight, saying that the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime was a success, since cooperation between the countries in the ASEAN region is important and supporting dialogues between ASEAN partners is also important, as transnational crimes are very serious, and was discussed in the ASEAN leaders meetings, noting that terrorism is also

threatening the security and stability of the region.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Ministers Rear Admiral Myint Nwe, Maj-Gen Than Htut and other officials were present at the meeting.

The delegates from ASEAN countries included Minister for Defence of Brunei Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Retired) Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Halbi bin Haji Md Yussof, Secretary of State Gen. Meach Sophana from Cambodia, Police General Prof. H. Muhammad Tito Karnavian from Indonesia, Vice Minister for Public Security of Lao Police Major General Somvang Thammasith, **SEE PAGE-2**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visits Popa Taung Kalat to inspect the long-term development and greening works on Mt. Popa yesterday. **PHOTO: KO THAR BYAW**

## State Counsellor inspects Mt. Popa long term development, greening works

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi paid homage to the Pyitaw Aye Pagoda on Popa Taung Kalat, and inspected the long term development and greening works on Mt. Popa yesterday morning.

The State Counsellor accompanied by Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, Ministry of President's Office Deputy Minister U Min Thu, regional ministers and officials, arrived at Popa Taung Kalat at 7 am to pay homage at the Pyitaw Aye Pagoda with flowers, water and an oil lamps.

Afterwards, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and party visited other pagodas on Popa Taung Kalat, where they observed the area's development and the status of the greening work on Mt. Popa, while the Chief Minister and officials provided

explanations.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and party then went to Popa Taung Kalat Aung Dhammayone, where Myanmar Geosciences Society secretary U Than Tun explained about the organization of the society, their aims, geological survey findings, field visits conducted in cooperation with various organizations, the status of developing Khakaborazi, Indawgyi, Twin Taung (Monywa), Mt. Popa, Pindaya, Inle Lake and Mt. Zwegabin as "Mother Earth Sites", and discussed the future plans of the society.

Next, Myanmar Geosciences Society Vice President U Sone Han and member U Cho Oo explained about **SEE PAGE-3**

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## President U Win Myint receives representatives from ASEAN, Ministers from China, Japan, ROK

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Secretary General Dato' Alwi Bin Hj Ibrahim from Ministry of Home Affairs of Malaysia, Undersecretary General Bernardo C. Florece, Jr. (Retd.) from the Department of Home Affairs of Philippines, Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Singapore Amrin Amin, Deputy Minister of Interior Sutee Markboon from Thailand, Deputy Minister of Public



President U Win Myint receives representatives from ASEAN countries attending the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Security of Viet Nam Senior Lieutenant General Le Quy Vuong, Deputy Minister of

Public Security of China Du Hang Wei, Matsumoto Mitsuhiro from Japan National Police

Agency, Vice Minister of Justice of Republic of Korea Kim O-su and Secretary General of

ASEAN Lim Jock Hoi. —MNA (Translated by Myat Thandar Aung) ■

## Hluttaw meetings' organizing central committee, work committees hold coordination meeting



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat delivers the speech at the coordination meeting of the central committee at the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE coordination meeting (4/2018) of the central committee and work committees in charge of organizing Hluttaw meetings was held at the Hluttaw Building Zabuthiri Hall yesterday.

At the meeting, U T Khun Myat, patron of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, said that the Hluttaw meetings are to be resumed on November 12, noting that the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw has already sent invitations to Hluttaw representatives to attend regular sessions of the Hluttaw, no earlier than 10 days and no later than 11 days. The incoming Hluttaw meetings will be prioritized for the process of discussion and approval of bills,

as well as Hluttaw procedures. Moreover, an announcement regarding the duration of the Hluttaw will be published, and reorganization of organizing of the Hluttaw meetings' central committee and work committees are to be made, in line with present conditions. Also, open discussions are welcomed regarding the difficulties of the work.

Also, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than said that Hluttaw meetings had been successfully held, with the help of Union Ministries, and they can successfully hold Hluttaw meetings, such as the previous Hluttaws, if the central committee and working committees can coordinate the relevant

work requirements.

Then Union ministers, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries and officials from respective committees clarified the conditions of the sector-wise work committees. Following this, the Hluttaw Speaker made his remarks about the proposals and concluded the meeting. Also present at the meeting were Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung, alias U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Amyotha Hluttaw, Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe, deputy ministers, work committee secretaries and officials from Hluttaw offices. —MNA (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung) ■

## Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein receives AVP East Asia Director

PYITHU Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Joint Coordination Committee on Hluttaw Development Chairman U Tun Tun Hein received Australian Volunteers Program (AVP) East Asia Director David Sharman Selvidge at the Nay Pyi Taw Hluttaw Building, in the Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy

Speaker's Office, yesterday morning.

During the meeting, matters relating to AVP providing effective help for development works and increasing cooperation with the Joint Coordination Committee on Hluttaw Development were discussed and views exchanged. —MNA ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein meets with Australian Volunteers Program East Asia Director David Sharman Selvidge in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

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## Anti-corruption

- \* The Union Government has established a four-year (2018-2021) strategic plan for anti-corruption reforms and initiatives to reduce the erosion of state funds and bring bribery and corruption under control.
- \* The government's plans are now in place to implement the strategic plan for anti-corruption and bribery. At the same time, in order to protect individual rights and the basic rights of citizens, the protection of human rights is being implemented as a matter of great importance.

(Excerpt from the report on the current work of the Union government, delivered at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 19 September 2018)

## State Counsellor inspects Mt. Popa long term ...

FROM PAGE-1

Popa Taung Kalat, the reason for landslides, works conducted to prevent landslides in the future, as well as preventive and maintenance works still be done. The State Counsellor urged the group to think in terms of the future when conducting preventive and maintenance work, after asking questions.

This was followed by Forest Department Director General Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw offering more information about development work on Mt. Popa, establishment of the Mt. Popa garden, the existing bio-diversity, arrangements made to the proposed UNESCO Global Geoparks, the location of ground water outlets in the



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for the documentary photo with members of the Mt. Popa Lovers Association and staff of the Sagawa Garden Hotel during her visit to inspect the long term development of Mt. Popa in Mandalay Region. **PHOTO: KO THA BYAW**

garden, the status of conducting maintenance works and research projects, the status of establishing nature-based travel businesses, as well as the difficulties being faced during

the ongoing development of the area.

Later, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her party, led by the Myanmar Geosciences Society Vice President, met with

groups led by Mt. Popa Lovers Association chairman U Toe at the Sagawa Garden Hotel and discussed matters relating to sustained existence of Mt. Popa and the greening of the Popa

region. After this meeting, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and party left NyaungU by special plane, returning to Nay Pyi Taw in the afternoon. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min) ■

## 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (10<sup>th</sup> ASED) was held, under the theme “Promoting lifelong learning for ASEAN region through conducting qualified education and training classes”, on 31 October at the Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi acted as Chair at the meeting.

The participants took part in the discussion regarding the education sectors in the ASEAN nations, SHARE EU Project of the ASEAN Education Sector for youths, scholarship privileges, risks and benefits of a fourth industrial revolution for the ASEAN regions, technology, professions, education, training courses,



Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi attends 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

founding of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) project in ASEAN, and Regional Cooperation Programme to improve the Quality

and Labour Market Orientation of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (RECOT-VET). Other topics included the ASEAN Declaration on Strength-

ening Education for out-of-school Children and Youths, measures on equality in education in the ASEAN region, emergence of a framework of equality for basic education in ASEAN countries, increasing educational productivity for out-of-school children, dissemination of knowledge, and improving literacy and arithmetic. The participants also discussed the founding of a people-centered ASEAN community, ensuring they would build safe and secure schools for students, the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM), peace and human rights education in the ASEAN region, the formation of ASEAN awareness in high school education in ASEAN member

countries, the founding of the first ASEAN-Russia Executive Committee and ASEAN-China Educational process.

During the meeting, SEAMEO, RIHED, the Asian University Network (AUN), ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net), ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQUN), ASEAN Qualification Reference Framework Committee (AQRFC) and the results of the ASEAN Foundation (AF) were recorded. The 11 ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (11<sup>th</sup> ASED) will be held in the Philippines in 2020.— MNA (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

# National Land Use Council holds 2<sup>nd</sup> coordination meeting



Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers the speech at the 2<sup>nd</sup> coordination meeting of the National Land Use Council in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

NATIONAL Land Use Council Chairman Vice President U Henry Van Thio addressed the second coordination meeting of the National Land Use Council held at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. The meeting was held to implement the aims, guidelines and basic principles in the national land use policy. This was the second meeting of the National Land Use Council, that has been formed to carry out laws related to land use policies.

The first meeting was held on 6 April 2018, when decisions were made to effectively implement the work of the National Land Use Council by forming land use committees in states, regions and the Union Territory (Nay Pyi Taw); drawing up a national land law; forming supporting work committees, such as the committee to ensure land management laws are in line with one another; a committee to draw up and implement Myanmar's national land map system, and a committee to draw up and coordinate land use projects. Other recommendations were to form a national advisory group on land use management and relevant ministries, state/region government members and the Nay Pyi Taw Council to propose numbers of committee members and representing organizations, duties and responsibilities.

"In this second meeting, it was determined that relevant ministerial departments, state/region governments and the Nay Pyi Taw Council are to submit and explain their proposals, in accordance with the decisions made at the first meeting," said Vice President U Henry Van Thio.

Similarly, the first meeting decided on holding a workshop to

set up the future priority work of the National Land Use Council. As per that decision, a forum on National Land Use Policy was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw from 2 to 3 October 2018, where strategies and work processes to effectively implement the duties and works of National Land Use Council were discussed and coordinated, the national land law drawn up based on the national land use policy, and a discussion took place regarding the management of land resources.

"Based on the outcome of the forum, National Land Use Council's duties and responsibilities, which are in line with the national land use policy, are to be firmly implemented to establish a systematic and appropriate land management system in Myanmar, and to draw up a national land law," said U Henry Van Thio.

About 70 per cent of the population of Myanmar resides in rural areas and depends upon agriculture and livestock breeding. An agriculture development strategy was drawn up for Myanmar's agriculture sector development, and the aim of the strategy is to raise the living standard of small plot farmers in rural areas through a high yield weather resistant agriculture sector in Myanmar that is sufficient in food and nutrition, and can compete in the world market by 2030, he added.

Therefore, the management of farmland, as well as vacant, fallow and virgin land, needs to be improved, noting that small plot farmers and landless farmers have farm land use and rights and is a priority, with an agriculture policy and agriculture development strategy that seeks to conduct the main work processes

strategically.

For the main work processes to be conducted effectively, it is required to form one of the National Land Use Council's support committee agriculture development work committees, said the Vice President.

Four priority work processes will be conducted for the effective implementation of National Land Use Council's duties and responsibilities, which will establish a proper land administration and management system to implement the aim, guidelines and basic principles of the National Land Use Policy.

The four work processes to form land use committees for regions, states and the Union Territory (Nay Pyi Taw), as well as form a national advisory group on land use and management, form supporting work committees, as well as strengthen the organization of a national land use council, drawing up a national land law, land management laws to be in accord with one another, drawing up and designating national land use projects and land use zones, and establishing a land information management system.

When carrying out these work processes, it is to be in accord with the aims, guidelines and basic principles of National Land Use Policy. During the day's meeting, relevant ministries, state/region government members and the Nay Pyi Taw Council submitted works conducted on decisions made at the first meeting, and discuss future work processes. For the successful implementation of the National Land Use Council's works and duties, members are to strive to perform their sector wise, region wise and assigned works, said the Vice President.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Office of the President  
Order No. 81/2018  
5<sup>th</sup> Waning of Thadingyut 1380 ME  
(29 October 2018)

## Reorganization of UEHRD (Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine) Committee

1. The Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine Committee which has been established by Order No. 86/2017 dated 17 October 2017 by the Office of the President, has been reorganized with the following persons.

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| (a) Daw Aung San Suu Kyi<br>State Counsellor   | Chairperson       |
| (b) Dr. Win Myat Aye<br>Union Minister for Social Welfare,<br>Relief and Resettlement        | Vice-Chairman (1) |
| (c) U Khin Maung Tin<br>Deputy Minister<br>Ministry of the Office of the State<br>Counsellor | Vice-Chairman (2) |
| (d) U Kyaw Lin<br>Deputy Minister<br>Ministry of Construction                                | Member            |
| (e) Dr. Aung Tun Thet<br>Chief Coordinator UEHRD   | Member            |
| (f) U Toe Oung<br>Advisor to the UEHRD Chairperson   | Member            |
| (g) U Kyaw Myaing<br>Information and Communications<br>Director UEHRD                        | Member            |
| (h) U Soe Aung<br>Deputy Minister<br>Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and<br>Resettlement  | Secretary         |
| (i) U Zaw Than Thin<br>Permanent Secretary<br>Office of the Union Government                 | Joint Secretary   |

2. Duties of the UEHRD Committee are as follows:

- To carry out the effective provision of humanitarian aid.
- To coordinate the resettlement and rehabilitation efforts.
- To carry out regional development and work towards cessation of conflicts and durable peace.
- As the tasks would be carried out using cash assistance funded not only by the State but also by local and foreign donors, the committee must arrange for its financial accounts to be audited not only by the Union Auditor-General but also by an international audit firm.

3. The Chairperson may form a group of consultants as needed.

4. The Secretary is to establish the Committee Office and carry out administrative matters with the knowledge and approval of the Chairperson.

5. The administrative affairs of the committee are to be jointly carried out by the Office of the President and the Office of the State Counsellor.

(sd/-) Win Myint  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar



# Myanmar to speed up repatriation of returnees from Bangladesh



Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe and Dr. Win Myat Aye attend the coordination meeting at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

U KYAW Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, attended coordination meeting 6/2018 of the Rakhine State Repatriation and Resettlement of Returnees Committee, held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday.

The Union Minister urged those attending the meeting to cooperate to ensure increased repatriation in the near future.

Also, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, in his capacity as Chairman of the Repatriation and Resettlement of Returnees Committee, said repatriation and resettlement are important responsibilities that the committee undertakes. He noted that cooperation is

also important, since the social issue has continued for years and is related to state politics and security.

He added that affairs in Rakhine State are being handled by the Central Committee on Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development in Rakhine State, chaired by the State Counsellor, the UEHRD, the Committee for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State, and the Working Committee for Repatriation and Resettlement of Returnees, with a similar committee to be formed, as necessary.

The Union Minister also called for the systematic implementation of decisions made during the first to fifth coordination meeting of the committee.

Next, Committee Vice-Chair 2 U Khin Maung Tin, who

is also Deputy Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, discussed preparations for the repatriation process and the need to submit punctual reports about unusual occurrences.

Afterwards, Chairman of the Working Committee for Repatriating Returnees Deputy Minister U Soe Aung discussed the status of the Hla Poe Kaung Transit Centre and the resettled villages, including providing for education, healthcare and livelihoods. He also urged cooperation from all relevant departments.

The meeting continued with the attending committee members and secretaries submitting discussions for ongoing tasks, requirements and future plans, while union ministers responded to the discussions.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

# Union Minister receives Head of Indonesian National Police in Nay Pyi Taw

U THAUNG Tun, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government received Head of the Indonesian National Police, Police General Prof. Dr. Tito Karnavian and delegation, on the sidelines of the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday at 10 a.m. at the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on Myanmar-Indonesia bi-lateral relations and cooperation on counter-terrorism matters. **MNA**



Union Minister U Thaung Tun meets with Police General Prof. Dr. Tito Karnavian, head of the Indonesian National Police, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Complaints can be made

1. If a citizen's Constitutional rights, rights prescribed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, rights prescribed in human rights related international conventions to which Myanmar has agreed on are violated, complaint can be made to Chairman, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC), No. 27 Pyay Road, Hline Township, Yangon by registered mail by the violated person or persons themselves or on behalf of the violated person or group of persons. Following are to be included in the complaint.

- (a) Name, address and contact address (if available contact phone, mobile phone, fax and email are to be shown).
- (b) Full particulars about the violation, information, evidence are to be attached to the complaint
- (c) Self-testimonial about the complaint being true
- (d) Copy of the national registration identification card of the complainant

2. When reviewing the complaint, if required MNHRC may interview the complainant.

3. In addition to this the complainant will be protected from reprisal in accordance with Commission Law section 38.—MNHRC ■

## One more political party applies for registration

REGISTRATION of political parties are being scrutinized by the Union Election Commission (UEC), Arakan Front Party (AFP) came to UEC to register itself as a political party on 31 October 2018, it is learnt.—MNA ■

## Public Announcement for remonstrance

ARAKAN Front Party (AFP) headquartered at No. Ya Ba-1, Shwe Ban Road, Oho Tan Ward in Sittway, Rakhine State, submitted an application for registration as a political party in accord with the Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 31-10-2018. In their application they mention that they will use the name, the flag and the emblem as described hereunder.

In accord with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules, it is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party's name, flag and emblem may submit a complaint along with the supporting evidence within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement.—Union Election Commission ■



Flag



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## Myanmar, Bangladesh agree to commence repatriation of first batch of verified displaced persons by mid November at the Joint Working Group Meeting

MYANMAR delegation led by U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar visited Dhaka, Bangladesh from 29 to 31 October 2018 to attend the Third Meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) between Myanmar and Bangladesh on the Repatriation of Verified Displaced Persons. The delegation includes representatives from various Ministries and Rakhine State government.

The Third JWG Meeting was held at the State Guest House of Bangladesh on 30 October 2018. The Meeting was co-chaired by U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh.

At the Meeting, both sides exchanged views and reviewed the repatriation process, including conducive environment, safety, security and confidence building for the prospective returnees, preparation for resettlement, verification process, dissemination of information among the returnees on information about National Verification Card (NVC), involvement of the United Nations Agencies, INGOs and international partners in the processes of repatriation, resettle-



High-level officials from Myanmar and Bangladesh convene at the third meeting for repatriating verified displaced persons held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 29 to 31 October. **PHOTO: MNA**

ment and reintegration.

At the meeting, both sides agreed to commence the repatriation of first batch by middle of November 2018. Both sides also discussed the situation of displaced persons staying on Myanmar territory close to the international boundary line between boundary pillar 34 and 35.

The Myanmar side informed the Meeting on its concerted efforts and preparations for the repatriation and resettlement process, including the UEHRD's ongoing activities, village plans, construction of villages, livelihood opportunities, education

and healthcare services for the returnees, verification process, and the issuance of the National Verification Card (NVC).

Myanmar side also briefed on the rapid need assessment by UNDP and UNHCR to village tracts in northern Rakhine State in September and October 2018 to support Myanmar Government's efforts to improve the livelihood of all affected populations, build trust and promote social cohesion among all communities.

The Myanmar side reaffirmed its readiness to receive the verified displaced persons

from Bangladesh in accordance with the bilateral agreements reached between the two countries for the repatriation of verified displaced persons from Bangladesh.

Myanmar side stressed that mutual understanding and constructive cooperation based on the principles of objectivity, mutual respect and bilateral agreements will bring about positive outcome in the repatriation process.

Myanmar side sought cooperation of the Bangladesh side to take actions against ARSA terrorists including those ver-

ified as terrorists from the list of 8032 persons provided by Bangladesh.

On 31 October 2018, Myanmar members of JWG, accompanied by Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque and Bangladesh members of JWG, paid a field visit to Kutupalong Camp in Cox's Bazar. Myanmar delegation met with the representatives of displaced persons and explained in detail on Myanmar Government's efforts in the repatriation process, including safety and security for the prospective returnees, UEHRD's activities for resettlement, rebuilding villages, livelihood opportunities, education and healthcare services for the returnees, issuance of the National Verification Card (NVC), and the benefits of holding NVC cards. Myanmar delegation also visited the Balukhali Camp in Ukha, Cox's Bazaar.

The Myanmar delegation also met with the representatives of Hindu people who expressed their desire to return to Myanmar.

The Fourth Joint Working Group meeting will be held in Myanmar and the dates and venue will be communicated through the diplomatic channel according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. —MNA ■

## 100 Myanmar Classic Books Series expected to come out in December

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint held a coordination meeting with officials on publishing the three volumes of 100 Myanmar classic book series, seeking advice from the participants about publishing the series in a timely manner, as well as about setting the price for the books.

The series, arranged by the Sarpay Beikman of the Printing and Publishing Department, is a compilation of literature from the time of the Bagan era to successive eras, and is expected to be available in December.

The publishing of the books is also aimed at conserving rare and well-written literature, and to cultivate the reading habits of the youths of Myanmar.

Speaking at the coordination meeting on publishing the series, he also urged the participants to make suggestions about publishing another series of short stories, poem and plays.

At the meeting, Director



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint and Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun examine the workflow of The Global New Light of Myanmar at the daily's editorial department in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

General of the Printing and Publishing Department U Aung Myo Myint suggested changing the prices for the three 100 Myanmar

classic book series, since the number of pages exceeded the earlier expectations.

The participants of the

meeting took part in the discussion and the meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the Union Minister.

In the afternoon, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint and Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun visited The Global New Light of Myanmar Daily newspaper office on Nga Htet Gyi Pagoda Road.

At the meeting with officials of the daily newspaper, the Union Minister called for revitalizing the editorial team, and publishing more articles and interviews in the newspaper.

Following the meeting, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint visited the newsroom and urged members of the editorial team to improve the quality of the newspaper.

The Union Minister and Deputy Minister met with staff and officials from the Global New Light of Myanmar, observed the workflow of the newsroom and urged the writing of colorful articles and interviews, while focusing on promoting the available human resource.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin) ■

# Combining traditional methods, modern technology called key to success in boosting coffee production

COFFEE is a major global market and can heavily influence the increase of exported goods. Myanmar's natural environment is suitable for growing internationally certified coffee, and some seek the expansion of plantations to simultaneously increase foreign revenue and decrease trade deficits by gradually replacing imported coffee.

Viet Nam generates about US\$ 3 billion in coffee exports annually, while Myanmar, in contrast, imports US\$ 100 million worth of coffee each year.

With the development of the Myanma Coffee Sector, Myanmar coffee growers and entrepreneurs expect to earn more foreign revenues.

With the emergence of coffee organizations, locally-grown coffee has found the global market and the prospects for Myanmar coffee is bright.

Compared to coffee growing countries in South-East Asia, such as Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam, Myanmar's coffee sector has lagged behind due to its weakness in techniques, a lack of exchange of news and information, and a shortage of experience in growing the coffee crop.

The coffee quality specification used throughout the world, a Cupping Score of 80 and above, was considered a special grade coffee, and coffee produced in Pyin Oo Lwin, Ywangan and Thandaung had a score of between 84 and 90, while coffee produced in Chin State was of special quality, reaching a score of 96.

To date, Chin State has more than 560 acres of coffee plantations. Annually, there will be an increase of 220 acres, reaching a total of 1,220 acres by 2021. Farmers in Chin State are being urged to take advantage of this golden opportunity for producing high-quality coffee. This will increase the income of these farmers, as well as increase the value of the state's export products. The land situation in Chin State remains in its natural state to this day, and local farmers should use this opportunity to produce chemical-free organic crops.

Nationwide, plans call for increasing the coffee growing acreage to 200,000 during the period between 2018 to 2030, with 600,00 tonnes of high-quality coffee to be produced by 2030.

With the emergence of coffee organizations, locally-grown coffee has found the global market and the prospects for Myanmar coffee is bright.

To boost coffee production, there is a need to distribute high-quality seeds, conduct trainings for cultivators and workshops on coffee planting, develop plans for opening laboratories, sign the GAP to acquire 16 plant breeds, cooperate with private and international organizations to elevate the quality of coffee and, in turn, raise prices, and lastly, to hold coffee forums.

We believe that if we combine our traditional methods and modern technologies in producing coffee, we will surely achieve great success.

# Taking great pride in the Ananda Chandra Stone Inscriptions

By Man Thit Nyein (Archaeology)

ANCIENT men were in the habit of writing on stone slabs, obelisks and stone walls about their ways of life—culture, art and traditions—not to disappear completely. These styles of writing are known as records in writing or stone inscriptions. By studying these stone inscriptions, their primitive beliefs, art and culture and social backgrounds be guessed to help a lot to the history of a country.

A stone inscription can be found in the town of Mrauk-U, formerly known as Myohaung, the Rakhine State, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; it is about five miles northeast of the capital Sittwe. Mrauk-U was founded by King Min Saw Mon in 1430 AD and it served as the capital for 49 successive kings of the Mrauk-U kingdom. Waithali (Vesali) is about five miles away from Mrauk-U.

In the analysis of the aerial photos, the two cities of Waithali old city and Grand Palace Compound can be seen conspicuously. The king of the Waithali city was Ananda Chandra who ruled the Rakhine Kingdom at the beginning of the 8<sup>th</sup> Century. He inscribed about his great-grand fathers and recorded Pali verses a lot about himself in writing.

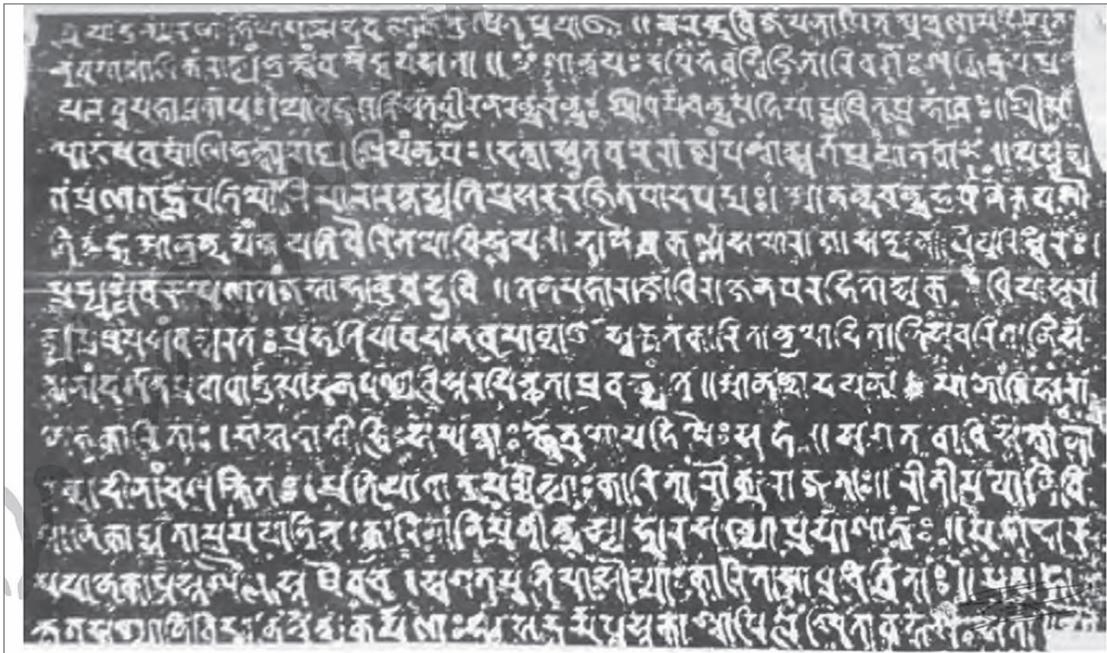
### Valuable facts

This chronicle can be found in an obelisk on the compound of Shite-thaung Temple, Mrauk-U Town, the Rakhine State. On the eastern face of the obelisk, stone inscriptions are believed to have recorded in the 6<sup>th</sup> century and those in the northern face in the 10<sup>th</sup> century.

Stone inscriptions about his great-great grandfathers also included about himself. The Ananda Chandra Stone Inscriptions were recorded in Sanskrit by using Brahmi scripts. The handwritings were neat and tidy; the Pali verses were of high standards.

### Editing the drafts of the inscriptions

The grandfather of King Ananda Chandra was Wazagadhi who claimed to be a direct descendant of the Nats (celestial beings); the descriptions, were recorded in the stone inscriptions. The intentions were meant to let the subjects know



the goodwill of these kings; to bring about knowledge and wisdom and to share the merits from the first year to the ninth year of their kingship. Every Brahmi sentence in the inscriptions is followed by a sentence written in prose.

Dr. Sarker remarked that inscriptions on great-grand fathers were recorded in India earlier than those of Ananda Chandra Stone Inscriptions, but ruling period of each king was not included. Such Stone Inscriptions which included the name of the king and his ruling period, the Ananda Chandra Inscription is one of the earliest ones. The Inscriptions recorded in 65 Pali verses included the Rakhine successive kings and their ruling periods. This type of monolith, unique in its kind, is nowhere found in entire Myanmar.

Those who tried to read the Stone Inscriptions included Hirananda Sushtri who wrote some remarks on pages 146-8 about this Inscription in the 1925-26 annual report of the Archaeology Department of India; Dr PN Chakrawati, a high-ranking executive officer on stone inscription read some fifty lines at the bottom in 1930s. An Englishman, Dr. E.H Johnston read from A to Z of the Inscriptions, revealing a long lists of kings. He was a professor on oriental studies at the Oxford University.

Ancient men were in the habit of writing on stone slabs, obelisks and stone walls about their ways of life—culture, art and traditions—not to disappear completely. These styles of writing are known as records in writing or stone inscriptions.

His death in 1942 left the drafts of his translations.

Professor Sir Richard Burns was called by authorities to look for the translations. Sir Richard Burns edited the drafts with the help of Professor G.H Luce and published Some Sanskrit Inscriptions of Arakan.

Several writers appeared to have sent articles on the Ananda Chandra Inscriptions: Saya Mon Bokay in the Culture Journal on Shite-thaung Temple to the Sanskrit Obelisk; Sayagyi Minthuwin in the Dhanayawadi Magazine of 1951-52 on Ananda Chandra, the 8<sup>th</sup> century Rakhine king. U Aung Tha Oo wrote in the Rakhine Cultural Journal of 1966 about the Ananda Chandra Inscriptions in the Waithali Kingdom. U Myint Swe, Pali Professor of Mandalay Arts and Science University read an es-

say on the Stone Inscriptions in 1968. As recently as 11 November, 2017 at the Rakhine Dammayon, Maung Pru(Krwe Tay Kyun) discussed the year the Stone Inscriptions were recorded and other subsequent facts of the Inscriptions.

### Comprehensive and Exact Readings on the Inscriptions

Dr. Johnston read the inscriptions comprehensively and exactly. As the Inscriptions were written in Sanskrit language, one should be skilled in that language. A line of prose is included; the rest are Pali verses. How these versed were composed, one should be highly skilled in Sanskrit for the complete understanding about the composition. Dr. Johnston was a skilled scholar who won praise from U San Tha Aung in his

book on the Waithali King of 8th century Ananda Chandra dynasty.

For Dr. Johnston tried to read the Inscriptions from carbon papers and photos sent by the Yangon University and without having a personal look at the Inscriptions.

Pali verses were put in between alternate sentences after putting Myanmar punctuation marks. First sentence was unable to read from the first photo film. Three Pali verses were believed to have vanished with three sentences. Again Pali verses of numbers 4,9,13,14,16 and 17 were not fully comprehended. A total of 65 verses were included; a clear prose was in between nos. 45 and 46. After composing 62 Pali verses, three verses were added without punctuation.

Dr. Johnston's analysis reveals Pali verses: 32,42,44, and 62 were of Wathantilaka types; there were 28 words between Myanmar mini-punctuation marks. Verses nos. 40,61,63,64 and 65 were of Uppazati type with inclusion of 22 words in between. Number 52 and 59 were the mixture of Eindrawuntha and Wungatha types with inclusion of 24 words. The rest verses included 16 words. Even though 16 dynasties were mentioned, 13 dynasties were recorded. In addition, U San Tha Aung translated in 1975 the Ananda Chan-

dra Stone Inscriptions written in Brahmi scripts into Myanmar Language. Nowadays, a school textbook on the Inscriptions by Maung Pru(Krwe Tay Kyun) was prescribed and published by Ayana Literature Association (Yangon).

### Four-sided obelisk

The Ananda Chandra Obelisk from Waithali Myohaung was moved to the Shite-thaung Temple by King Min Bur Gree(1531-1551) in AD 1536 to put up there. The Obelisk has four faces: ancient northern Indian scripts were used on East, West and North sides from 600 AD to 1000 AD with intermittent period of 200 years; three types of Brahmi scripts were inscribed on each side and the Obelisk happens to be a very rare one in its own kind. A eulogy to King Ananda Chandra was recorded as well as other eulogies for other Rakhine successive kings.

That is why the Ananda Chandra Stone Inscriptions play a vital role in the history of the Rakhine and are invaluable for its people. The monolith, unique in entire Myanmar has deeply embedded in the Rakhine society. The 8<sup>th</sup> general meeting of Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific(MOWCAP) which was held in Gwangju of the Republic of Korea from 29 May through 1 June; together with the Inscriptions and a film named "Myaganang" made in 1934 were submitted at the meeting and recognized by MOWCAP. Besides, the Inscriptions will be submitted for world heritage lists.

Ancient men inscribed on stone slabs and walls as a sign of remembrance about their culture, literature and traditions. Therefore, stone inscriptions throughout Myanmar must be carefully preserved. At the same time, it is an auspicious news for the Rakhine State and its people as the Ananda Chandra Stone Inscriptions were submitted to be included in the lists of MOWCAP and world heritage lists.

References: King Ananda Chandra: 8<sup>th</sup> century Waithali (Vesali) King By U San Tha Aung Myanmar Encyclopaedia Vol.2 Translated by Arakan Sein

Advertisement for 'maw:thaw:pyi:kon' (မာလ:စာပေပျံ့နှံ့) featuring a logo with a sun and a person reading, and text in Burmese.

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Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hrs MST, including details on weather conditions, rainfall, and forecasts for various regions like Taninthayi, Yangon, and Mandalay.

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# 10 great hornbills set free in Magway Region village

TEN great hornbill birds were released back to their reserve on 31 October, after being cared for by the Forestry Department. The hornbills were initially caught near milepost 53 on the Minbu-An Lan Highway, west of Goatgyi Village in Ngaphe Township, Minbu District, Magway Region.

"There are many protected hornbills in the Natyaykan Mountain area. The birds we just released had been caught by a merchant from Magway Township. The collaboration was between the regional Forestry Department and A Lin Dan Group of young people from the mountainous region, made up of residents working to preserve the hornbill species," said Ko Yan Naung Tun, an Asho Chin ethnic.

Present when the birds were released were Director U Myint Thein Khine and Assistant Director U Thein Naing Kyaw from Magway Region Forestry



Forestry Departmental officials and locals release great hornbill birds in Ngaphe Township, Minbu District, Magway Region. **PHOTO: THAN NAING OO (NGAPHE)**

Department; Assistant Director U Khin Maung Soe from the District Forestry Department; Police Captain Aung Ko Naing from the regional Police Force,

along with police officers; Deputy Administrator of Ngaphe Township U Tin Win; Head of Township Forestry Department U Moe Arkar Kyaw; and 75 lo-

cal residents. The officials also discussed forestry conservation with the local residents. —Than Naing Oo (Ngaphe) (Translated by Myat Thandar Aung) ■

# Yaba, drugs related items seized in Tachilek

A COMBINED team of officers and staff members seized 75 Yaba tablets and drug-related items from a Myanmar citizen and four Thai citizens at Wan Kyauk Lone Village,

Tachilek Town, Shan State (East) on 31 October.

According to the investigation, the team searched the house of Sai Than at Wan Kyauk Lone Village and

found 75 Yaba tablets.

Four Thai citizens, identified as Sawitree A Aee, Jutharat Junjaila, Thump Sai Suphan and Jetsada Inphuk, were arrested, along

with the host. Police have filed charges against them under section 19(A) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Lin Lat (MYU) (Translated by Hay Mar) ■

# Drugs seized on ship in Buthidaung

ACTING on a tip, anti-narcotics police from Buthidaung Township seized 975,000 Yaba pills weighing 975 kilograms from a cargo ship identified as the Aung Kyaw Moe on 1 November.

According to the investigation, police searched the cargo ship, which is berthed at a jetty in Meikyahtar Seik ward, and found 975,000 Yaba pills weighing 975 kilograms and valued at Ks 1.9 billion. The pills were mixed with ice and fish inside containers.



Police seized stimulant tablets in Buthidaung Township. **PHOTO: TOWNSHIP (IPRD)**

The ship's cargo clerk, U Kyaw Tin, 60, from Sittway Town, admitted that the U Aung Kyaw Tun (sittway) loaded those

The police have filed charg-

es against the suspects, under sections 19-A /21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Township (IPRD) (Translated by Hay Mar) ■

# Highspeed vehicle overturned in Myittha Tsp, 33 injured

A car overturned at mile post 44-45 on the Myingyan-Mandalay highway near Htet Htein Village, Myittha Township, Mandalay Region according to the information department of Myanmar Police Force.

The car, driven by Aung Zaw Moe, 42, skidded and overturned as it travelled at high speed. Thirty-three people were injured as a result. A case has been opened against Aung Zaw Moe at the Yitkan Police Station with Vehicle (Pa) 18/2018 under section 338/337 of the Penal Code.—GNLM (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin) ■

# State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Religious Affairs Minister attend 5<sup>th</sup> World Buddhist Forum

THE 5th World Buddhist Forum opened in Putian, southeast China's Fujian Province, on 29 October.

The Myanmar delegation led by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sandima Bhivamsa, Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko attended the forum along with government organizational representatives, esteemed guests and Buddhist associations from

55 other countries.

Most Ven. Master Yan Jue, the Vice-Chair of the Buddhist Association of China, led the blessing ceremony and Mr. Yan Quan from the Central Secretariat of the Communist Party of China delivered the opening speech.

Next, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko read a message of appreciation from the President of Myanmar and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sandima Bhivamsa and Sitagu Sayadaw Dr. Ashin

Nyanissara participated in discussions.

In the evening, Deputy Minister Mr. Wang Zuoan from the State Religious Affairs Department held a meeting with government representatives from the Mekong Region countries of China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Viet Nam and Cambodia.

At the meeting, the attendees discussed the formation of a central Buddhist association overseeing six countries in the Lancang-Mekong area and the

Union Minister said Myanmar will actively cooperate in the formation of the association. He said the association will ensure the proliferation of Buddhism and regional assistance for social affairs and natural disaster if it is formed, to which the Mekong Region representatives expressed agreement.

On 30 October, the delegation led by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sandima Bhivamsa and the delegation led by the Union Minister arrived at Kaiyuan

monastery in Quanzhou and paid obeisance to Head Abbot Tou Yun before touring the monastery's compound. Kaiyuan monastery was built in AD 686, during the Tang dynasty 1,300 years ago.

Afterwards, the Myanmar delegations attended the closing ceremony of the 5<sup>th</sup> World Buddhist Forum and departed from China on 31 October. They landed in Yangon in the evening of the same day. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo) ■

## Gov't, Tatmadaw, EAOs, political parties discuss dialogue framework

### Results will be sent to UPDJC

A meeting for reviewing the framework for political dialogue and guidelines to proceed was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) on Shwe Li Street in Yangon yesterday.

The meeting will continue for three days, from 1 to 3 November, and those attending include members from government and Tatmadaw groups, ethnic armed organizations who have signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), and political parties.

Representing the government and Tatmadaw at the meeting was Peace Commission member U Aung Soe, representing the NCA signatories' group was Dr. Salai Hlyan Hmone Sar Khaung, and representing the political parties' group was U Myint Soe, all of whom delivered opening speeches.

In his speech, U Aung Soe said the meeting will consider methods of negotiation for amending the framework and discussing ways to improve it to ensure greater success.

He expressed his hope that all three groups present at the day's meeting will be able to formulate the best guidelines for the UPDJC (Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee), secretaries, working committees and national-level political discussions for the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Union Peace Conference - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong.



The political dialogue framework meeting will be held for three days at the NRPC in Yangon. **PHOTO: POE HTAUNG**

Dr. Salai Hlyan Hmone Sar Khaung said in his speech that the current meeting is not one of policy making but, rather, one of technology, he said.

He noted that all agreements and viewpoints concerning the framework and guideline will have the final decision made by the UPDJC. He said if the UPDJC is unable to make a final decision, then the Joint Implementation Coordination Committee will be continued, and added that the EAOs are prepared for this scenario.

He pointed out that it is in everyone's interest for the non-signatories to the NCA to eventually be included in the overall peace process. He requested a holistic approach in the framework discussion for inclusion of the NCA non-signatories and for the door to remain open for them.

U Myint Soe said government, Hluttaw and Tatmad-

aw groups, EAOs and political parties are determinedly cooperating for achieving union peace. He said the political dialogue framework has numerous weaknesses in some aspects and they are actively reviewing them.

The three-day meeting will review the political dialogue framework and the guidelines for the UPDJC, UPDJC-S, working committees for political dialogue, the national-level administrative committee for political dialogue, the actual national political dialogue and its regulations.

When asked about the three-day review meeting, UPDJC Secretary U Hla Maung Shwe said they are openly discussing about previous matters related to the UPDJC meeting held in the second week of July and the high-level summit held in October. —Ye Khaung Nyunt (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo) ■

## Record of discussion signed for Dawei SEZ two-lane highway

THE Department of Highways and the Neighboring Countries Economic Development Cooperation Agency (NEDA) signed the Record of Discussion (ROD) in a ceremony yesterday for conducting a survey and detailed design project for the two-lane highway linking Dawei Special Economic Zone in Myanmar with Thailand.

The signing ceremony was held in Office No. 11 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw spoke at the ceremony and said the signing of the ROD will bring in technological assistance for building the highway. He said the project will be undertaken with loans provided by NEDA.

Dawei SEZ is among three economic zones in Myanmar and will garner socio-economic development for Taninthayi Region, said the Union Minister. He said Dawei SEZ will allow

easier transportation of fishery products from Taninthayi Region to Thailand and other countries, in addition to developing tourism. He concluded his speech by saying relevant ministerial departments will cooperate with the NEDA to swiftly implement the effective, beneficial project.

Next, NEDA President Mr. Perames Vudthitornetiraks addressed the ceremony and said the project is mutually beneficial and equally important for both Myanmar and Thailand. He expressed his hope for the project to be quickly implemented successfully and then thanked organizations from both countries involved in the project.

Afterwards, Director-General U Ohn Lwin from the Department of Highways and the NEDA President officially signed the ROD. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo) ■



Director-General U Ohn Lwin from the Department of Highways and NEDA President Mr. Vudthitornetiraks sign the Record of Discussion in the presence of Union Minister U Han Zaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

# 12<sup>th</sup> AMMTC concludes, approves action plan on fighting terrorism



Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe attends the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

The 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime met the press following the conclusion of the meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting approved the outcome of the 22<sup>nd</sup> DG-ICM and related meeting where citizens of ASEAN member countries in a third country are to be assisted by ASEAN special groups in that third country, said Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe.

According to the statement released at the ceremony, the ASEAN work project (2018-2025) to prevent and eradicate emergence of terrorism and extremists, that was first drawn up in 2012, was approved.

The 13<sup>th</sup> AMMTC in 2019 is approved to be host-

ed by Thailand.

The result of the 18<sup>th</sup> SOMTC and related meeting held in Malaysia on September 2018 decided that the 19<sup>th</sup> SOMTC will be held in Myanmar and will discuss and work toward establishment of effective prevention programs against terrorism, human trafficking, cyber-crime, arms smuggling, poaching and trading of wild animals.

In correlation to the ASEAN work project (2018-2025), a decision was reached to explain and discuss year wise and country wise implementing projects in 19<sup>th</sup> SOMTC.

On 1 November, the 9<sup>th</sup> AMMTC+3 was continued and was attended by ministerial levels of the ten ASEAN member countries, ASEAN Secre-

tary General and dialogue partners China, Japan and Korea. The meeting approved three matters and made decisions on one matter.

In eradicating transnational crime, ASEAN member countries and dialogue partner China, Japan and Korea's cooperation against terrorism, cyber-crime and human trafficking will continue implementing the work processes that were approved of earlier.

An approval was made to submit Korea's cyber capacity raising proposal for 2019 to the ASEAN Secretariat and to gain the comment of the member countries.

Thailand was approved to host the 10<sup>th</sup> AMMTC+3 in 2019.

It was decided that

the 2019 work programs of dialogue partner China, Japan and Korea are to be distributed to member countries through the ASEAN Secretary General office and comments of the member countries are to be sent in a timely manner.

Requirements to prevent and eradicate transnational crimes that are occurring in ASEAN region and associate countries, challenges and work methods and arrangements were first discussed at the working group level, and then submitted to SOMTC (Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime), an alternating country host, the SOMTC yearly and discussion outcomes of SOMTC and work projects were submitted to AMMTC. — MNA (Translated by Zaw Min) ■

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## Myanma Port Authority "Notice of High Tide"

Exceptionally high spring from 20.15 feet to 20.30 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of November 7<sup>th</sup> to November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (1823 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.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.

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# Flippin' hard: Myanmar's sea turtles fight against the odds

THAMEEHLA ISLAND (Myanmar) — Peril plagues the lives of Myanmar's baby turtles: if crabs don't get them before they scramble from beach to sea, then poachers or fishing trawlers might finish them off instead.

Myanmar's waters boast five of the world's seven sea turtle species, including the critically endangered hawksbill, the endangered green turtle and the olive ridley, leatherback and loggerhead turtles — all listed as vulnerable.

"If we don't conserve the turtles properly, they will all disappear in the near future," head ranger Phone Maw tells AFP on Thameehla island in the Ayeyarwaddy Delta.

The 56-year-old has devoted most of the last two decades to the creatures, scouring the island's 1.5-mile (2.5-kilometre) long

coastline three times a night for nesting females.

The reptiles, which can grow to more than a metre in length and weigh as much as a large piano, lay around 100 eggs in a hole dug with their hind flippers before covering the clutch with sand and returning to the water.

Poachers are the first danger, even at this conservation site dedicated to the marine reptiles. Turtle eggs can sell for a dollar each, around 10 times the price of a chicken egg.

## Crab gauntlet

So Phone Maw and his colleagues dig up the newly laid eggs and rebury them in a protected area until they hatch 50 to 60 days later. Putting them back at the right depth is crucial.

Sea turtles have temperature-dependent sex determination — warmer



This picture taken on 19 October, 2018 shows rangers standing near a green turtle heading back to the sea after laying eggs at a beach on Thameehla Island. PHOTO: AFP

temperatures produce more females while cooler temperatures result in more males.

Once hatched, the rangers release the baby turtles onto the beach and into the sea, where myriad predators await.

AFP watched as an

army of red crabs scuttled to drag away some hatchlings while more fortunate siblings floundered to the frothy waters, the first hurdle of their existence complete. But trawler nets are the biggest culprit in the turtles' dwindling population, entangling the crea-

tures which must surface to breathe.

Illegal dynamite fishing and sand dredging are also lethal and the effect of marine pollution has been devastating.

Southeast Asia's waters are choked with plastic and more than half of

the eight million tonnes dumped into the world's oceans each year comes from just five countries: China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Viet Nam and Thailand.

In June, a dead green turtle washed up on a Thai beach, its stomach jammed with plastic shreds, rubber bands and other debris.

Days before, an autopsy of a pilot whale revealed 80 plastic bags inside.

This week a WWF report warned that unbridled human consumption had destroyed much wildlife worldwide, wiping out 60 percent of all fish, birds, amphibians, mammals and reptiles in the last half century. Just two out of every 1,000 turtle hatchlings used to survive until adulthood, Phone Maw says. "Now it's even lower because of all the pollution," he adds sadly.—AFP ■

# EU countries back single-use plastics ban

BRUSSELS — EU countries on Wednesday backed the outlawing of certain single-use plastics, bringing the bloc a step closer to an outright ban on the products which account for huge quantities of waste in the world's oceans.

The approval by the 28 member states follows an overwhelming vote in the European Parliament last week to ban single-use plastic items such as straws, cutlery, cotton buds and balloon sticks.

Work will begin next

week to draft detailed legislation with a view to agreeing a text in December and having it enter into law in 2021.

The European Council, which groups the member states, supported ending the use of plastic products for which there are sustainable alternatives and wants to go further in apportioning responsibility for clearing up waste.

While the European Commission, the bloc's executive arm, has suggested that clean-up costs

should be paid by plastic producers, the council wants to see companies which import and sell the products pay a share as well.

The council also called for national targets to cut the consumption of single-use plastics where there is currently no environmentally-friendly alternative.

The commission has said single-use plastics account for some 70 percent of the waste in the oceans and beaches, and research last week ap-

peared to show for the first time the widespread presence of plastics in the human food chain.—AFP ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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The following pesticides, registered in Pesticide Registration Board, from foreign manufacturer IMP Biotech Sdn Bhd Co., will be imported, distributed and sold after changing from original distributor 7 Star Agro Power Co. Ltd to MM Import Export Co., Ltd.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No
1	IMP-Bifenthrin Technical	Bifenthrin 950g/kg TG	Provisional	2018-4073
2	Bifensta	Bifenthrin 100g/l EC	Provisional	2018-4096
3	IMP-Propoxur Technical	Propoxur Technical 980g/kg TG	Provisional	2018-4074
4	Masgone	Propoxur 200g/l EC	Provisional	2018-4097

Therefore, if somebody would like to object for that changing distributor's name, it is announced that he/she can object to Co-secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein Town Ship, Yangon within two weeks.

Address – 7 Star Agro Power Co. Ltd . Room 204, Bld.1007, Kantharyar Junction, Thudamar Road, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon. Tel: 43135884

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY  
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE  
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)  
(23/ 2018)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(a)	IFB-034(18-19)	Three Phase Separator for Production 1000 PSI (1) Set	US\$
(b)	DMP/L-132(18-19)	Spares of N-815 Swivel Main Bearing (1) Set	Ks
(c)	DMP/L-133(18-19)	Skid Mounted Water Transfer Pump with Motor (700 igpm x 700 ft head), 185 KW (2) Sets	Ks
(d)	DMP/L-134(18-19)	Skid Mounted Water Transfer Pump with Engine (200 igpm x 300 psi), (73-97) KW (1) Set	Ks
(e)	DMP/L-135(18-19)	Skid Mounted Crude Transfer Pump with Engine (100 igpm x 300 psi), 75 KW (3) Sets	Ks
(f)	DMP/L-136(18-19)	900 Series Well Head Equipment (2) Sets	Ks
(g)	DMP/L-137(18-19)	600 Series Well Head Equipment (4) Sets	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy Website Portal ([www.moee.gov.mm](http://www.moee.gov.mm)) as from **1 November 2018**. Tender forms will not be sold.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **14:00 pm on 26 November 2018**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time- 26-11-2018, 14:00 pm  
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise  
Ph . +95 67 - 411206

## Pregnant Meghan the star as Pacific royal tour ends



Britain's Prince Harry (R) looks on as his wife Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, is hugged by student Luke Vincent of Buninyong Public School following the couple's arrival at Dubbo Regional Airport in Dubbo on 17 October 2018.

PHOTO: AFP

ROTORUA (New Zealand) — Prince Harry and pregnant wife Meghan visited the New Zealand resort town of Rotorua Wednesday to wrap up a lengthy Pacific tour which has confirmed the star appeal of Britain's newest royal.

Meghan, displaying what Harry affectionately refers to as “our little bump”, has drawn adoring crowds in Australia, Fiji, Tonga and New Zealand on her first international tour since the couple married in May.

The American-born former actress and her husband attended 76 engagements over 16 days in the former British colonies, with Meghan sometimes changing designer outfits four

times in a single day.

While they observed the inevitable formalities with prime ministers and other dignitaries, members of the public who met the touring royals said they came across as down-to-earth and personable.

Meghan did not stand on ceremony, happily participating in a “welly-wanging” (gumboot throwing) competition, halting their royal entourage several times to give shy toddlers a cuddle and bringing her homemade banana bread to afternoon tea in outback Dubbo.

“They were very nice, chatty and relaxed,” was a typical assessment, offered by teenager Milan Chapman after she met them in New Zealand's

South Island.

The tour opened with the bombshell announcement that Meghan was expecting the couple's first baby early next year, sparking fears she would be vulnerable to Zika virus in Fiji and Tonga.

But the World Health Organization reported there had been no cases this year on the islands of the mosquito-borne virus, which can cause deformities in unborn babies, and the leg of the trip went ahead unchanged.

Meghan proved so popular in Fiji that her minders whisked her away from an engagement at a Suva market, fearing it was becoming overcrowded.—AFP ■

## Japan's 'usho' keep alive the ancient art of cormorant fishing

GIFU (Japan)—In the pitch black night, fires burn alongside a river in Japan's Gifu as a handful of men prepare for a ritual that dates back over 1,300 years: fishing with cormorants.

Dressed in traditional clothes, they look like they come from another time. They wield their cormorants, tied together with strings, like puppeteers.

Their profession, known as “ukai,” was once common in waterside villages and towns throughout Japan and other parts of the world. But it has been on the gradual decline for centuries, and now lives on in Japan as a tourist attraction and a carefully protected part of the country's national heritage.

At 46, Shuji Sugiyama is the youngest of the “usho” in Gifu, in western Japan. And he is one of just nine people to hold an imperial licence for the practice.

He sits quietly on a rock by

8,000 yen (\$71) a month.

### Major tourist draw

The method is hardly a commercial enterprise, and the usho rely on subsidies from local authorities that have turned the profession into a tourist draw and hope to one day see ukai make the UNESCO World Heritage list. “Cormorant fishing is the biggest tourist draw we have in Gifu city,” local tourism division chief Kazuhiro Tada told AFP. “More than 100,000 people a year come to see it, and their numbers are growing.”

Sugiyama inherited the job from his father, fishing alongside him until he obtained official usho status in 2002.

Five generations of his family have practised the unusual fishing technique, which once existed in Europe and elsewhere but now continues mostly in Japan and China. The



In this photo taken on 11 October 2018, cormorant master Shuji Sugiyama poses for a portrait in Gifu. PHOTO: AFP

the inky water of the Nagara River, apparently undisturbed by the chatter of his fellow fishermen. “It's because we live together, the man and the cormorants, that ukai fishing is possible,” he told AFP. “For example, I could never fish with another master's cormorants,” he added, feeling the throats of his birds as he prepares for the night's expedition. Centuries ago, the profession flourished, but by the time the palace began issuing imperial licences to usho in 1890, the art was already on the decline.

Now there are only a few dozen usho throughout Japan, and just nine of them hold imperial licences, turning over eight catches a year to the palace and receiving a symbolic salary of

job requires a tolerance for unusual hours—fishing takes place after sundown, with the usho using flaming lamps hung on their boats to attract fish below the surface. And while the fishing season only runs from May until October, each fisherman's cormorants require daily care all year round.

New birds arrive each autumn, after being captured during their migration across Ibaraki province north of Tokyo, and must be trained—a process that takes around three years.

“I usually take about 10 birds fishing, and I integrate the new ones with the group so they will imitate the older ones and learn how to fish,” Sugiyama said.—AFP ■

## Hollywood Film Festival goes global in “two-way street”

LOS ANGELES —The Hollywood Film Festival (HFF) wrapped up its annual events Tuesday night after a week of screenings, symposia, activities and a ‘Welcome to Hollywood’ reception for its top ten Jury-Winning filmmakers.

It culminated with its U.S.-China Television and Film Innovation Summit, focusing on opportunities of co-production and innovation between the U.S. and China, which was co-hosted by the U.S.-based International Cultural Collaborative.

Under new management, the HFF is ambitiously rebranding itself as the gateway to Hollywood for talented filmmakers from all over the world. Brad Parks, the HFF's Chairman, told Xinhua, “Our mission is to build an inspiring, inclusive, and international legacy for Hollywood.”

He added, “We're committed to helping industry leaders, artists and audiences help Hollywood better identify, celebrate and promote the very best

of today's most inspiring films and tomorrow's exceptional emerging artists.”

Toward that end, HFF introduced the Hollywood Global Grand Jury Competition, chaired by film director-producer, Julia Pierrepont III. And HFF partnered with the leading film organizations in 50 countries and regions around the globe to invite the very best submissions from each country.

Said Parks, “It's a two-way street. Hollywood needs better films and the world's top emerging artists need access to Hollywood. That's where we come in.”

As the only film festival in the world that actively assists its winners to gain access to and navigate the high stakes, corridors of power of the Hollywood insider after the festival is over, HFF is committed to helping their emerging artists to avoid the common pitfalls that can stall or derail a promising career before it gets started.—Xinhua ■

# Older dads' kids run higher health risks at birth: study

PARIS (France)—Newborns of fathers 45 and older are more likely to be underweight or wind up in intensive care, researchers reported Thursday, adding to the list of problems associated with older dads.

For fathers 55 and up, infants tended to score worse in a standardised test used to assess the baby's health immediately after birth.

Even more startling—and harder to explain—was a heightened risk for women carrying the child of a man 55 and older of diabetes arising during pregnancy, according to a study published in the medical journal *BMJ*.

All these conclusions, the researchers cautioned, are based on an analysis of medical records rather than a controlled experiment, which means no firm con-

clusions about cause-and-effect can be drawn.

The overall risk of such outcomes also remained low, they added. But the findings held true even after other factors that might skew the results—age of the mother, maternal smoking, level of education—were taken into account, they said.

“A significant number of these negative birth outcomes were estimated to be prevented if older fathers had elected to have children before the age of 45,” the scientists concluded.

“The risk associated with advanced paternal age should be included in discussions regarding family planning and reproductive counselling.”

The average age of fatherhood has been steadily rising in wealthy nations, as has the per-

centage of fathers above 45 or 55.

In the United States, the number of births to men 40 and older has almost doubled to nine percent over the last 40 years. For men over 50, the percentage has gone up from 0.5 to nearly one.

## 20 grammes lighter

Similar trends are found in western Europe. In England, for example, fathers over 35 accounted for 40 percent of all births in 2003, compared with 25 percent in 1993.

To date, most research on the link between the age of parents and health outcomes in children has focused on older mothers.

But recent studies suggest that being a father later in life may also be associated with higher risks in offspring of autism, genetic abnormalities and mental



Newborns of fathers aged 55 and over tend to score worse in standardised health tests. PHOTO: AFP

problems. One possible culprit is thought to be changes with age in male reproductive cells that affects the way genes are expressed, rather than the genes themselves.

To better understand the possible impact of advanced-age fatherhood on infants and mothers, researchers led by Michael Eisenberg of Stanford University combed through data on more than 40.5 million births in the United States from 2007 to 2016.

Children born of fathers 45 or older were on average 20 grammes lighter, and had a 14 percent higher risk of low birth weight—less than 2.5 kilos (5.5 pounds)—than infants born to younger dads.

These children were also 14 percent more likely to be admitted to a neonatal intensive care unit, and had 18 percent higher odds of experiencing a seizure compared with infants of fathers aged 25 to 34.—AFP ■

# Breakthrough treatment helps paralysed patients walk

TOKYO (Japan)—A breakthrough treatment involving electrical stimulation of the spine has enabled paralysed patients to walk again, apparently reactivating nerve connections and providing hope for people even years after accidents.

A team including neurosurgeons and engineers used targeted electrical pulses to achieve the results, triggering individual muscles in a sequence, the way the brain would. The pulses are produced by an implant placed over the spine in careful alignment with areas that control the muscles in the lower body. And so far, the results are promising. “This clinical trial has given me hope,” said Gert-Jan Oskam, 35, who was told he would never walk again after a traffic accident in 2011.

After five months of treatment, he can now walk short distances even without the help of electrical stimulation. It's the culmination of “more than a decade of careful research,” Gregoire Courtine, a neuroscientist at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology who helped lead the research, told AFP.

Previous trials have used so-called continuous electrical stimulation of the spine, which worked well in rats, but produced less impressive results in humans.

After several months of train-

ing with the targeted pulses however, “our three participants were able to activate their previously paralysed muscles without electrical stimulation,” said Courtine.

“The result was completely unexpected,” he added, in a video released with the publication of the research in the journal *Nature* Thursday. “They could even take a few steps overground without any support, hands-free. For me seeing this recovery was amazing.”

## Reconnecting nerve pathways

Footage from the study shows clearly the way the targeted stimulation differs from the continuous pulses. With the targeted stimula-

tion, a patient walks in an almost ordinary fashion, his feet rolling down and up as he steps. The continuous stimulation, by contrast, produces jerkier movement, with his feet dragging and unbalancing him. And the targeted pulsing, combined with a programme of extensive physiotherapy, was apparently able to reactivate nerve connections that became dormant when patients were injured.

David Mzee, 28, suffered full paralysis of his left leg after an accident in 2010, but after the five-month programme, he can walk for up to two hours with a walker using electrical stimulation, or take steps over shorter distances by himself.—AFP ■

**Paralysis treatment breakthrough**  
Patients regain control of previously paralysed leg muscles with the aid of electrical stimulation of the spine

**Implant and training**

- 1 **Surgical implant**  
Array of electrodes are implanted on the spinal cord. Electrical pulses target specific muscles
- 2 **Wireless sensors** at feet detect initial movement
- 3 **Based on data** from foot sensors, additional pulses are triggered
- 4 **At the same time**, patient thinks about the movement, sends message along residual, but dormant nerves
- 5 **Walking movement** takes place

**STIMO (STimulation Movement Overground) study**, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne and the Lausanne University Hospital. Published Nov 1: *Nature* and *Nature Neuroscience*.

**Mobility regained**

- 6 **After some weeks** of training nerve pathways that were previously dormant can be re-established
- 7 **Patient regains** some muscle use without the aid of electrical pulse

Three patients who were paralysed are now able to walk with the aid of crutches or a walker

Source: *Nature* and *Nature Neuroscience*, Courtine, Bloch

Paralysis treatment breakthrough. PHOTO: AFP

# Galaxy ‘mega-merger’ 10 bn years ago forged Milky Way

PARIS—The Milky Way's signature halo is mostly stellar rubble from a cosmic collision 10 billion years ago with another galaxy a quarter of its size, scientists stunned by their own discovery reported Wednesday.

The slow-motion crash with Gaia-Enceladus — named after the giant of Greek mythology born of Earth and Sky — not only provided the halo's raw material, equivalent to 600 million Suns, it also filled out our galaxy's distinctive disk, they reported in the journal *Nature*. “We have basically unravelled the formation of the Milky Way,” lead author Amina Helmi, an astronomer at the University of Groningen's Kapteyn Astronomical Institute, told AFP.

“The merger led to what we now call the halo of our galaxy, and — because it was so massive — to the puffing up of the disk that was already present at the time.”

“We didn't expect to find that most halo stars have a shared origin,” she added. Large galaxies get that way by absorbing lesser ones. But astronomers have long argued as to whether the Milky Way bulked up on a diet of baby star clusters, or by merging with a single Big One. Until this year, theories from either camp were supported mostly by thin reeds of speculative inference.

But that all changed with a

massive data dump in April from the Gaia satellite mission.

Put into orbit by the European Space Agency in 2013, Gaia has produced an unprecedented 3-D mapping of 1.7 billion stars, including more than a billion — one percent of the total — in the Milky Way. Repeated measurements by the satellite make it possible to calculate precise distances, and the velocities with which each star is streaking through the Universe.

## Crashing galaxies on rewind

Looking for traces of galactic mergers with the Milky Way's halo, the researchers found to their surprise that most of its stars were from the same immediate family. “The chemical signature was clearly different from the ‘native’ Milky Way stars,” Helmi said. “And they are a fairly homogeneous group, which indicates they share a common origin.” Adding in measurements across the light spectrum, the researchers were able to reconstruct in three dimensions the precise motions of the invading stars over time.

“Playing these videos backwards allows astronomers to study how our galaxy was assembled, and how it has evolved,” noted Kim Venn, an astronomer at the University of Victoria in Canada, commenting on the study.—AFP ■

## First-ever criterium bike race to be held in Mandalay

JOINTLY-organized by MSP CAT, Myanmar Cycling Federation and Ministry of Health and Sports, first-ever invitational criterium bike will be held in Mandalay Region on 11 November.

The race will cover Men's U-23, Men's Junior U-19, Open and Masters Categories.

Six participants each from Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, India and Myanmar will participate in the Men's U-23 and Men's Junior U-19 Categories. Some 100 local cyclists are

to participate in the Open U-40 and Masters U-40 and above Categories.

"We are thrilled to host the first Criterium Bike Race in Myanmar. This event will be another noteworthy milestone for MCF as we look to continue enhancing the vibrancy of the local cycling scene. Our goal is to create a high-level event that will introduce the criterium cycling competition format, engage the community and ultimately promote cycling to more peo-

ple," said U Khin Maung Win, President of Myanmar Cycling Federation.

Cash prizes will be awarded to first three winners of each race category. The first prize for Men's U-23 and Men's Junior U-19 is US\$ 2,000, the second US\$1000 and the third US\$ 500. The first prize for Open is Ks 500,000, the second Ks 300,000 and the third Ks 200,000. The first prize for Masters is Ks 300,000, the second Ks 200,000 and the third Ks 100,000. —Htut Htut



Cyclists are in a road race in Myanmar. PHOTO: MCF

## Advance tickets for Myanmar-Cambodia match of Suzuki Cup to be available on 7 November

MYANMAR Football Federation (MFF) will sell advance tickets for the match of Myanmar and Cambodia of AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 starting on 7 November.

The match between Myanmar and Cambodia will be held at Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay at 6 pm on 12 November. The MFF will start selling advance tickets at Bahtoo Sports Ground and Mandalay Football Academy in Mandalay from 7 to 11 November. A grandstand ticket costs at K 5,000 and an ordinary ticket at K 3,000. Myanmar is in the Group-A together with Viet Nam, Malaysia, Cambodia and Laos. Myanmar will play home matches against Cambodia and Vietnam and away matches against Laos and Malaysia. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■



AFF Suzuki Cup 2018 to be awarded by Suzuki Motor Corporation stands on the pitch. PHOTO: affsuzukicup.com

## Myanmar Futsal to play debut against Indonesia in AFF Futsal Championship 2018 on 5 November

MYANMAR Futsal squad is going to play its debut against Indonesia in AFF Futsal Championship 2018 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 5 November. Indonesia will host AFF Futsal Championship 2018 from 5 to 11 November.

AFF Futsal Championship 2018 has been divided into two groups. Myanmar is in the Group-A together with host Indonesia, Malaysia and Cambodia. The Group-B is comprised of Thailand, Viet Nam, Brunei and Timor Leste. Myanmar will play against host Viet Nam on 5 November; Cambodia on November 6 and Malaysia on 7 November. Semifinal events will be held on November 9 and the final on 11 November. As part of preparation for participating in the AFF Futsal Championship, Myanmar went on a friendly tour to China, took part in Jimo International Friendly Futsal Cup at Zhonglain Lohas Park Sports Center in Qingdao from 16 to 19 October and secured the third-place prize. —Htut Htut (Twantay) ■

## Myanmar Lethwei event to be held in Japan this month

An EVENT featuring Myanmar Lethwei named "Lethwei in Japan 10 INORI" will be held in Tokyo, Japan, on 14 November according to the Myanmar Lethwei World Championship.

There will be six main bouts, with featuring Myanmar Lethwei fighters versus Japanese and other foreign martial artists using the fighting style of Myanmar traditional lethwei, including various clinching techniques.

All the fights will be bare-knuckled, without gloves, with only tape and gauze allowed on the hands of the fighters.

In the 73kg bout, Kohei

Tokeshi (Japan) will fight against Soe Htet Oo (Myanmar).

In the 65kg bout, Tun Lwin Moe Myanmar will fight with Kayne Conlan (New Zealand).

In the 63kg bout, Shyuhei Higashi (Japan) will fight against Kyar Ba Hein Myanmar).

In the 62kg bout, Shyunichi Shimizu Japan will fight against Makoto a.k.a BASTA (Japan).

In the 100kg bout, Tenshyoyama (Japan) will fight with Yuto Nakajima Japan).

In the other 100kg bout, YABU (Japan) will fight against Wu Dong Xing (Taiwan).—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## Last-minute funding deal, Calgary vote keep alive Canada's Winter Olympics bid

OTTAWA (Canada)—Calgary voted Wednesday to keep alive Canada's bid for the 2026 Winter Olympics, after a last-minute funding deal was struck between Ottawa and the province of Alberta. The next hurdle is a plebiscite on 13 November.

After more than eight hours of often acrimonious debate, city councillors voted 8-7 in favor of a recommendation from the city's Olympic committee to end their pursuit of hosting duties over a lack of cash from the central and provincial governments.

But it was not enough (10 were needed) to kill the bid.

Overnight Tuesday a deal between federal and provincial officials resulted in a proposal to fund most of the public costs, and effectively reduce Calgary's share of the burden.

The agreement—which would see the original Can\$3 bil-

lion (US\$2.3 billion) public portion of the Games budget reduced by 10 percent and, along with it, each party's share of the costs -- has been validated by federal Sports Minister Kirsty Duncan and Alberta Premier Rachel Notley.

Hundreds of supporters of Canada's bid, including former

Olympians—most wearing Canada's red and white colors—flooded into the Calgary city council chamber for the crucial vote.

Outside, they waved placards that read "Go Olympics" and "Don't Luge this Calgary," at times breaking into chants of the national anthem. — AFP ■



In this file photo taken on 13 February 1988 fans cheer and wave flags as the Canadian delegation (lower right) parades during the opening ceremony of the XV<sup>th</sup> Winter Olympic Games 13 February 1988 in Calgary. PHOTO: AFP