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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 240, 5<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Nattaw 1380 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Wednesday, 12 December 2018



President U Win Myint receives President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind and First Lady accorded ceremonial welcome

**P**RESIDENT U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho welcomed visiting President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind and First Lady Smt. Savita @Kovind with an Honour Guard at the Presidential Palace at 10 am in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind and First Lady Smt. Kovind arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to pay an official goodwill visit at the invitation of President U Win Myint.

At the ceremony, President U Win Myint and the visiting Indian President Shri Ram Nath Kovind received the salute of the Honour Guard, inspected the Honour Guard after which the delegations of both sides were introduced to each other.

Following the ceremony, the Indian

President signed in the visitor's book.

Afterwards, the two presidents had their documentary photos taken and held talks at the Envoys Hall of the Presidential Palace.

At the meeting, they discussed promoting bilateral trade and investment, Myanmar's beans and pulses export to India, providing assistance in agriculture and livestock breeding sectors in Myanmar, development of information technology sector, extensive use of solar power, cooperation in renewable energy, safety and security of people living in border areas and the rule of law there, helping each other with the spirit of good neighbourliness in the regional international arenas,

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meeting with President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## State Counsellor meets with President of India

**S**TATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with the President of the Republic of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind and his delegation in the Envoys Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday at 11:15 a.m.

At the meeting matters relating to increasing the historically long bilateral relations and cooperation; India's continuing support and assistance to Myanmar's democracy transition and peace process; increasing trade and continuing cooperation in developing basic infrastructure for peace, stability and development along the border regions of the two countries; increasing bilateral cooperation in education, health, agriculture and economic matters; opening of a temporary liaison office in Nay Pyi Taw in order to move the Embassy of India to Nay Pyi Taw; India's continued cooperation with Myanmar

in Myanmar's efforts toward receiving returnees back to Rakhine State and rule of law works, were cordially discussed and views exchanged. In addition to this, the President of India expressed his appreciation to Myanmar for granting visa on arrival to Indian citizens arriving in Myanmar via air starting from 1 December 2018 as it would increase contacts and relations between the citizens of the two countries and develop tourism.

Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, U Min Thu, Dr. Than Myint, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, U Thang Tun, U Han Zaw, and U Kyaw Tin and Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung and officials were with the State Counsellor in the meeting while the delegation led by the President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind was accompanied by Indian Ambassador Mr. Vikram Misri. — MNA ■

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## Second Pyithu Hluttaw's tenth regular session holds 12<sup>th</sup>-day meeting

By Aye Aye Thant,  
Lu Maw (MNA)

THE 12th-day meeting of the tenth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday where questions were raised and answered, receipt of a bill announced, reports of Pyithu Hluttaw committees read, discussed and decided upon, a motion discussed and decided upon.

### Questions asterisk marked and answers

Dr. U Aye Kyu of Labutta constituency first raised a question on whether there is a plan to construct a library in honor of Sayagyi Maung Htin in Labutta Town. In his reply to the question Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun said a total of 434 Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) offices were opened all over the country and all those office has a library while it assisted in opening of self-help libraries. From fiscal year 2009-



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

2010 to fiscal year 2015-2016 K 1,735 million was supported for 1,535 rural libraries but starting from fiscal year 2016-2017 IPRD no longer requested budget for establishing rural libraries. On the other hand from 2011 to 2016 Myanmar Libraries Foundation has been striving toward the development of self-help libraries and had provided K 347.192 million to construct and renovate 568 rural libraries. It had constructed libraries in the villages of birth of Sayagyi Thakin Kodaw Hmaing and Hmawbi Saya Thein,

In addition to this, other states and regions were also establishing rural self-help libraries with State/Region Hluttaw fund and/or State/Region Government development fund.

As such, construction of Sayagyi Maung Htin library ought to be conducted with the respective State/Region Hluttaw fund and donors contribution together with the assistance and support of NGOs likes Myanmar Libraries Foundation. Ayeyawady Region Government had also responded that it would submit the matter

to the Union level explained the Deputy Minister.

U Win Win of Minbu constituency on the other hand raised a question on when repair, renovation and upgrade of Minbu District sports ground in Minbu and Saku Myoma sports ground will be conducted. Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe replied that the Saku Myoma sports ground land will first be transferred under the name of the ministry and once this is done construction works will be started by including the Union budget in the Region fund.

Questions raised by Dr. U Tin Aung of Kyaukse constituency, U Than Aung of Ngaputaw constituency, U Wom Hla of Nanyun constituency, U Ba Shein of Kyaukpyu constituency, U Tun Tun Naing of Kani constituency and U Tun Tun of Pwintbyu constituency were also answered by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun and Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin.

**Receipt of Invention Copy-**

### right Bill

After the question and answer session Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the receipt of Invention Copyright Bill approved and sent with amendment by Amyotha Hluttaw.

Bill Committee member U Aung Sein explained about the bill and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to table an amendment bill to register their names.

### Reports of Pyithu Hluttaw committees read, discussed and decided

Next, reports of Pyithu Hluttaw committees were read, discussed and decided. First, Pyithu Hluttaw Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Rural Development Committee report was read by committee member Dr. Than Aung Soe. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the report to enroll their names.

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## Second Amyotha Hluttaw's tenth regular session holds its 12<sup>th</sup> day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin

THE tenth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 12th-day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the session, asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, two reports were read out and a bill was tabled.

During the Q&A session, U Naing Ko Ko of Kachin State constituency 12 asked the Union Government if it plans to form a Third Party made up of technocrats and engineers in townships after calling off the Committee for Quality Control of High Rise Building Construction Projects that were formed many townships across the country.

Deputy Minister for construction U Kyaw Lin replied that currently the Ministry of Construction had already drawn up the draft of the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) Law and which was submitted to the Office of the Union Attorney General while carrying out to submit it with amendments to the Union Attorney-General. After getting approval from there, we would send it to the Union Government, thereby to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The Ministry



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

of Construction would abolish the Committee for Quality Control of High Rise Building Construction Projects after the CIDB law had been approved together with the formation of Inspection Teams.

Daw San San Myint of Bago Region constituency 4 asked the Union Legal supporting Group if it could render free legal services to the accused charged with civil suit. Union Legal Supporting Group Chairman U Nyan Win replied that in accordance with the prescription of Section 2 of the ULSL, the ULSL entails the accused, custody, arrest, prosecuting, penalty and imprisonment. Legal supporting groups from states/regions level across the

country have been formed, with the aim of rendering free services for people who face criminal charges and cannot afford the cost of legal representation, and added that according to the official resolution of the prescribed laws, the Union Legal supporting Group has no authority to provide legal services to those who are charged with civil suit.

U Zaw Min Lat alias U Ko Lat of Shan State Constituency 1 asked the Union Government if it plans to construct a museum containing a mini cinema hall, an exhibition, an assembly hall and recreation center, aiming to exhibit pictures, photographs, documentary films of historical

background of the Panglong pillar and its agreement.

Regarding this query, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun replied that there was no plan at the moment to construct a museum.

U Win Maung of Magway Region constituency 6 asked the Union Government if it plans to implement the restoration of the Wetthe Lake that had existed since the times of Myanmar Kings.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied that as for the Magway Region government plans are under way to ask for regional development funds starting from 2019-2020 fiscal years. Moreover the restoration works would be dependent upon the financial allotment of the Magway region government. The Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management would carry out the restoration works of the Wetthe Lake.

Similarly, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied to queries raised by U Khin Win of Magway Region Constituency 2 and U Hla Oo of Sagaing Region constituency 4.

Next Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Daw Hla Htay alias Daw Ohn Kyi read out and clarified a report on the Literature and Copyright Bill with amendments by the Pyithu Hluttaw. Afterwards, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than obtained the decision of the Hluttaw.

Dr. Pyae Phyo of Ayeyawady Region constituency 7 tabled a motion to discuss the different points at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced that the different points would be submitted at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Following this, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min submitted a Cultural Heritage Conservation bill to the Hluttaw. Then Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Aung Kyi Nyunt read out the reports of the bill. Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced that the Hluttaw representatives interested in discussing the bill should register their names. The Second Amyotha Hluttaw's tenth regular session will hold its thirteenth-day meeting on 12 December. ■  
(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



## President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind and First Lady accorded ...



President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind and President U Win Myint inspect the Guard of Honour at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.  
**PHOTO: MNA**

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implementing the Kaladan multi-modal project, current assistance from India for the displaced people in Rakhine

State and for renovation of earthquake-hit pagodas in Bagan, promoting and strengthening the friendship and cooperation between the peoples of the two countries and issuing arrival

visa to travellers from India. Also present at the meeting together with President U Win Myint were Union ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Sein Win, U Kyaw Tint Swe, Dr.

Than Myint, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, U Thaung Tun, U Han Zaw and U Kyaw Tin and Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung while the delegation of the Indian President was accompanied by

Ambassador of India to Myanmar Mr. Vikram Misri. After the meeting, the two Presidents attended a ceremony to sign Memoranda of Understanding between Myanmar and India.

At the ceremony, in the presence of both Presidents, a programme on cooperation in science and technology between the Indian government and Myanmar government from 2018 to 2021 was signed by Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and Indian Ambassador Mr. Vikram Misri, MOU between the Office of the Union Chief Justice of Myanmar and the National Judicial Academy of India for conducting training for Myanmar judges and judiciary officers was signed by Permanent Secretary U Ko Ko Naing from the Office of the Union Chief Justice and the Indian Ambassador Mr. Vikram Misri.

Afterward, the Indian Ambassador handed over 50 pre-fabricated houses, out of 250, on behalf of the Government of India for the displaced people in Rakhine State to Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.—MNA ■

## First Lady of India Smt. Savita Kovind tours Nay Pyi Taw



First Lady of India Smt. Savita Kovind visits Myanmar Gems Museum in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

FIRST Lady of India Smt. Savita Kovind and officials visited the jewellery galleries and gems market at the Myanmar Gems Museum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning where Myanmar Gems Enterprise Man-

aging Director U Aung Nyunt Thein and officials provided necessary explanations.

The First Lady and party also visited Uppatasanti Pagoda where pagoda board of trustee members explained about

the pagoda. Afterwards the First Lady and party offered flowers and water to the Buddha statues in the cave of the Uppatasanti Pagoda.—MNA ■

(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

## Coord meeting held to implement Myanmar-India MoU on Rakhine State Development

A coordination meeting to implement points agreed in the MoU on Rakhine State Development between the governments of Myanmar and India was held at the meeting hall of Office No. 23 in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung said the meeting was held to provide again details about the 22 proposals to be implemented, to follow the tender regulations when conducting the program, and coordination conducted with relevant ministries and the Rakh-

ine state government to provide the land required. Next Rakhine State Electric Power, Industry and Transportation Minister U Aung Kyaw Zan explained and discussed about works in the MoU proposal that the Rakhine state government will have to lead and conduct as well as administer the works to be implemented. Afterwards, invited officials from relevant departments discussed about matters to coordinate in implementing the works.—MNA

(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)



**PHOTO: MNA**



# President U Win Myint, First Lady host dinner in honour of President of India, First Lady

**P**RESIDENT U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho hosted a State Banquet in honour of President of the Republic of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind and First Lady Smt. Kovind at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was also attended by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Vice President U Henry Van Thio and wife Dr. Shwe Hlwan, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers and officials.

At the dinner, President U Win Myint and President Shri Ram Nath Kovind exchanged greetings.

Speaking at the dinner, President U Win Myint said reviewing our bilateral ties, I am truly encouraged by the growing relations between our two countries in various sectors. Our struggles for independence, historical and cultural affinity have brought our two friendly countries closer.

He continued to say that the two countries have witnessed the signing of Memoranda of Understanding which will further enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries, adding that the historic visit of the President of India has elevated the existing Myanmar-India friendly relations to a higher level.

"I am confident that sowing seeds of cooperation in various

We highly appreciate that India attaches priority to its relations with Myanmar in its foreign relations based on the 'Act East Policy' and the 'Neighbourhood First Policy'.

President U Win Myint

sectors will bear fruits of mutual prosperity, development and better connectivity, thereby further consolidating the existing bilateral friendly relations between our two countries," said President U Win Myint.

"It is pertinent to mention that, at present, Myanmar-India bilateral relationship is at



President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind extends greetings at the banquet hosted by President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

its apex, due to the consistent joint efforts of the successive leaders and founding fathers of both countries throughout our history," he added.

"It was a great pleasure to have had the opportunity to discuss with Your Excellency during our meeting earlier today in a cordial and candid atmosphere," added President U Win Myint.

"We have exchanged views to further enhance our bilateral cooperation, especially in the fields of trade, investment, tourism, human resource development, transport and culture to the benefit of our two peoples," said the President.

"We highly appreciate that India attaches priority to its relations with Myanmar in its foreign relations based on the 'Act East Policy' and the 'Neighbourhood First Policy'," said President U Win Myint.

"Myanmar's strategic proximity to India and its geographical location serving as a land-bridge between India and ASEAN will complement with India's 'Act East Policy'," he added.

President U Win Myint continued to say that the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence are one of the cornerstones of Myanmar's foreign policy. As both countries share a common aspiration for peace, stability and prosperity of the region and beyond, Myanmar would continue to work together with India for prosperity, peace and stability in the region.

He also mentioned that Myanmar holds in high esteem the late Mahatma Gandhi, India's

founding father especially for his non-violent struggle for independence and peace.

"Myanmar, therefore, appreciates the initiatives taken by the Government of India for organizing the worldwide celebrations

"In India, we are aware of the challenges Myanmar faces in taking forward the peace process, national reconciliation and economic recovery. I want to say to you that the Government and people of India stand by you,"

President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind

of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi," he said.

"Sharing a common aspiration for peace, I would like to assure Your Excellency that Myanmar stands ready to continue to work together with India and to support each other at the regional and international fora in the interests of our two peoples," he added.

I also wish to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to India for its support extended to Myanmar at the regional and international arena.

We have witnessed, with much delight, that our bilateral relations is thriving with great momentum and it is worthwhile here to quote a saying "A friend in need is a friend indeed". It rings true to our bilateral ties.

I sincerely believe that we both will keep this momentum and further strengthen our friendly ties for the betterment of our peoples.

May I now invite you to join me in a toast: to the good health, happiness and further success in the future endeavours of His Excellency President Ram Nath Kovind and the First Lady; to the continued progress and prosper-

much in adversity.

"The propagation of vipassana in the modern era, a meditation technique developed and practiced by Lord Buddha himself, owes so much to the pioneering work of Satya Narayan Goenka, who received his initial lessons from Sayagyi U Ba Khin. And of course, we fondly remember Daw Tint Tint, or Usha Narayanan, the daughter of Myanmar, who became the First Lady of India," said Shri Ram Nath Kovind.

He continued to say that discussions yesterday convinced him that the ties between the two countries could only get closer and more intense from there, saying that both sides were working tirelessly to enhance the intensity of bilateral engagement through increased connectivity, capacity-building and growing commercial and cultural exchanges.

"In India, we are aware of the challenges Myanmar faces in taking forward the peace process, national reconciliation and economic recovery. I want to say to you that the Government and people of India stand by you," said the President of India.

"We are in full support of your peace process and in preserving the unity and territorial integrity of Myanmar—all of which are fundamentally in our own interests as well. For without that, India cannot succeed in its effort to bring development, prosperity and connectivity to our citizens in the Northeast, which borders Myanmar," said the Indian President.

ity of India and her people; to the long-lasting friendship between the peoples of Myanmar and India; and to the personal well-being of all distinguished guests present here tonight.

Afterwards, the President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind said the two countries were bound together by shared waters, forests and hills, by culture, cuisine, language and history.

"Our people have much to cherish and celebrate, of our special ties and our friendship. The vibrant Indian-origin community, who have made Myanmar their home, are an organic link between us. Our anti-colonial struggles and our shared aspirations bring us together as well," said President Shri Ram Nath Kovind. We gave home to each other when force and fate defeated us. King Thibaw spent his days in Ratnagiri and Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar in Yangon. We have, indeed, been friends in prosperity and as



# KBZ Bank launches digital wallet KBZPay

KBZ Bank, Myanmar's largest privately-owned bank, has launched a digital wallet called KBZPay. The mobile phone app will allow users to make cashless transactions, store, send or receive money, and withdraw cash through authorised agents.

The digital wallet is now available for download across the country.

The bank is conducting on-ground activations in Yangon and cities across the country to promote the app and encourage people to sign up for it.

Through the app, the bank aims to offer a safer, simpler, and more convenient way to transact money. With KBZPay, the bank hopes to bring millions of people in Myanmar into the digital economy, which will make 100% financial inclusion a reality and ultimately help improve lives.

KBZPay aims to reduce existing challenges posed by a predominantly cash-based society.

Users will be able to top up their mobile wallets, withdraw cash through authorised agents and at KBZ Bank branches, make cashless remittances, and pay bills. They will be able to check their wallet balance any time. The app will also resolve the issue of small notes by enabling exact-value transactions of any amount. It also aims to protect risk of theft and fraud, and secure money transfers so that no third-party can take out cash without permission.

The bank hopes the wallet will help businesses and customers save time by reducing counting and managing cash. The app will allow users to see the details of all transactions, including dates, times, and names, to ensure greater transparency and address disputes involving transactions.

The KBZ Bank introduced KBZPay three months ago and has been testing the app and

inviting customer feedback on the service.

At a recent "KBZPay Day" public event held on 30 November at Myanmar Plaza, KBZ Bank introduced KBZPay to thousands of people and invited sign-ups. A lucky draw was also organized at the event, in collaboration with partners Huawei and Myanmar Airways International (MAI).

"Myanmar is one of the only countries where 90% of the population owns a mobile phone but not a bank account. With KBZPay, we aim to put the power of financial management into the palms of people across Myanmar, through their mobile phones. During our market research, 80% of the respondents said they face challenges because of not having enough small notes in hand and the impact of rounding up or down, rather than being able to make exact transactions," said Mike



KBZ Bank staff members and customers seen at the launching ceremony of a digital wallet called KBZPay. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

DeNoma, Chief Executive Officer, KBZ Bank.

MPT, Telenor, Ooredoo, and MyTel subscribers can register for the KBZPay app on their smartphones free-of-charge. Users do not need a bank account to sign up for the app. The app can be downloaded and install from the Google Play Store, the Apple App Store, and [www.kbzpay.com](http://www.kbzpay.com).

To access the full suite of KBZPay services, such as "cash in" and "cash out", customers need to visit the nearest KBZ Bank branch or agent to verify

their NRC and complete the digital onboarding process.

Members of the KBZ Bank employee teams can upgrade users from Level 1 to Level 2, anywhere, any time. KBZ Bank customers also have the option of linking their account with the KBZPay app to top up their mobile wallets.

Those interested in becoming KBZPay authorised agents or partners can contact the KBZ Bank team at +95 99 6996 3211 or [query.kbzpay@kbzbank.com](mailto:query.kbzpay@kbzbank.com). —GNLM ■

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A man in a dark blue suit and tie is pointing his right index finger towards a large digital screen. The screen displays various financial charts, including bar graphs, pie charts, and line graphs, along with a small inset photo of a woman. The background is a dark green with glowing digital lines and icons, including a padlock, a brain, and a stack of coins. The Hitachi logo and tagline "Inspire the Next" are in the top right corner.



THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Printed 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.

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A photo shows a piece of farm land for seedling nursery. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

## Contract farming launched in four districts of Sagaing

FOUR districts in the Sagaing Region — Sagaing, Shwebo, Monywa, and Yinmabin — are permitting contract farming for production of crops and seeds, said U Than Zaw Oo, the Secretary of the Sagaing Region Investment Committee.

"In order to cultivate perennial crops and establish large plantations, investors can rent land by entering into long-term contracts with local farmers. Currently, watermelon and muskmelon are being cultivated to be put on the markets in Shwebo, Monywa, and Sagaing districts," said U Than Zaw Oo.

"Land in the Shwebo and Monywa districts is being made available for rent to bring it under cultivation in a systematic manner.

In addition to cultivation, pest control, harvesting, drying, and storing will also be conducted with the use of modern farming methods," he said.

"Therefore, investments can be made in the implementation of agricultural activities with the use of modern agricultural implements, he added.

"Moreover, investments can also be made in the production of inputs, the importation of

crops, and insurance necessary for the agriculture sector," he continued.

"To enable investors to conduct agriculture and livestock farming, the Sagaing Region government will make arrangements to make available over 3 million acres of fallow and virgin land in Katha, Khamti, Kalay, Tamu, and Mawlaik districts and Naga Self-Administered Zone," said U Soe Oo, the Sagaing Region's Minister for Planning and Finance. — Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■

*(Translated by Hay Mar)*

## Forest debris to be removed from Chindwin riverbed in 2019

REMOVAL of forest debris will be conducted along the Chindwin riverbed beginning in January, 2019, according to the Sagaing Region's Department of Water Resources and Improvement of Rivers Systems (DWIR).

In the rainy season, trees and branches from the forest fell down to the river bed. To ensure the safety of vessels cruising the river, this debris would need to be removed, with the use of the vessel from the department.

"The debris will be removed in the first month of 2019. Currently, the vessel is being inspected. The project will start from Monywa," said U Tin Aung Soe, the Assistant Director of the Sagaing Region's DWIR.

The debris removal will be carried out between Monywa and Mawlaik in January, and between Mawlaik and Homalin in February. A total of 55 tons of debris will be removed, said U Tin Aung Soe. — Win Oo (Zayyartine) ■

*(Translated by Hay Mar)*

## Third Kalaw Trail Run 2018 held in Kalaw Township

TO promote tourism in Kalaw Township, the third Kalaw Trail Run 2018 was organized on Sunday, with the Kalaw Heritage Hotel of Kalaw Town as the starting point.

The competition included a 12-km long-distance running and a 21.1-km mini half-marathon.

A total of 351 people including 198 tourists and 153 locals participated in the event.

Among them, 71 tourists and 46 locals participated in the mini marathon, while 127 tourists and 107 locals took part in the long-distance running.

At the opening ceremony, Kalaw Township MP Daw Pyone Kay Thi Naing delivered the welcoming remarks.

The mini marathon started at 7 am and the long-distance running began at 7:15 am, with

Shan State Tourism Department Director U Htin Aung Naing presents medal to the winner at the third Kalaw Trail Run 2018 in Kalaw Township. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Daw Pyone Kay Thi Naing and Shan State Hotel and Tourism Department Director U Htin Aung Naing firing off the starter's guns. A total of 24 prizes were awarded at the competition.

The mini marathon started from Kalaw Heritage Hotel and proceeded along the church, the monastery, Hlut Pyin village, Shwe Taw Kyin, Taunggyi Shay village, Myinmahtet village, Mhinlong

mountain foot, and the Clock Tower, and ended at the hotel.

The long-distance running started from the Kalaw Heritage Hotel and proceeded along the monastery, the cold water lake, the Hnee pagoda, and Shwe U Min road, and ended at the hotel.

Along the marathon routes, officials from the Kalaw Township Public Health Department, the Myanmar Emergency Medical Service, Tourist Police, MHA, MTGA, and Ride Behind Kalaw provided healthcare and safety to the participants.

The first edition of the amateur race took place in December 2016, with 70 local and foreign participants. The second edition in December 2017 saw 300 participants. —GNLM ■

*(Translated by Hay Mar)*



## President U Win Myint, First Lady host dinner in honour of President of India, First Lady

FROM PAGE-4

“Therefore, Excellencies, because our destinies are inter-twined and inter-linked, our friendship is driven not by short term goals, but by a larger and lasting quest for mutual peace, progress and prosperity.

And our partnership with Myanmar is at that important intersection between friendship, neighbourhood and shared core interests,” said the President of India.

Afterwards, they enjoyed the dinner together with the

invited guests.

During the dinner, artistes of the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture entertained the guests with dances.

After the performance, President U Win Myint and First lady, and the President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind and First Lady, presented bouquets to the artistes and posed for documentary photos.

Afterwards, President U Win Myint presented a photo album of the visit to the President of India.—MNA ■



President U Win Myint presents photo album to President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind at dinner in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

## MoI holds coord meeting on conducting “All who can read should read” campaign

A SECOND coordination meeting of the Leading Committee to conduct “All who can read should read” campaign was held yesterday afternoon at Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw.

Committee Chairman Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint delivered an opening remark at the meeting. Afterward, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, Work Committee Chairman discussed about the campaign.

Next, Work Committee Secretary and Information and Public Relations Department Direc-

tor General U Ye Naing explained about the aim, venue, reading events and prize presentation, exhibits displayed, arrangement for book sales, status of setting up committees and sub-committees.

Later, representatives from Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Myanmar Radio and Television, Printing and Publishing Department, National Archives Department, Myanmar Library Association, Forever Group Co. Ltd, Shwe Thanlwin Media, Myanmar Libraries Foundation and



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint delivers the speech at the second coordination meeting for holding “All who can read should read” campaign in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar Affairs Study Group discussed on sector wise works conducted and status of participation. Meeting attendees joined the discussion and provided sug-

gestions. The meeting came to a close with concluding remarks by the Union Minister. “All who can read should read” campaign is planned to be held in Nay Pyi Taw

Myanmar International Convention Center-II (MICC-II) from 20 to 21 December 2018 it is learnt. — MNA ■ (Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

## Second Pyithu Hluttaw’s tenth regular session holds 12<sup>th</sup> day meeting

FROM PAGE-2

Second, U Myint Oo of Thanatpin constituency discussed about Pyithu Hluttaw Transport, Communication and Construction Committee report. Committee Chairman U Tin Maung Win responded to the discussion.

Committee member Daw Yin Min Hlaing tabled a motion for the Hluttaw to accept the report and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw’s acceptance after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw.

Finally U Myint Kyi of Katha constituency discussed the

Pyithu Hluttaw Investment and Industrial Development Committee report and Committee Chairman U Win Zaw Thein provided explanations in response to the discussion by U Myint Kyi.

Committee Chairman U Win Zaw Thein then table a motion for the Hluttaw to accept the report and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw’s acceptance after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw.

**Motion urging government to conduct construction works using modern technologies approved**

As a final conduct of the Hluttaw for the day, Hluttaw representatives discussed a motion by Daw Yin Min Hlaing of Gangaw constituency urging the Union Government to conduct construction works through modern pre-cast and other appropriate technologies.

Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Maj. Sein Tun, U Myo Naing of Chanayethazan constituency, U Zarni Min of Shwegu constituency, Dr. Daw Thet Thet Khaing of Dagon constituency, U Naing Naing Win of Tamu constituency and U Tha Aung of Myothit constituency

discussed the motion.

In discussing the motion Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin said the ministry has been consistently researching precast technology with Japan, Korea and Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) and is working together on precast and pre-stress technologies.

The precast technologies that the Hluttaw representatives discussed were very useful technology and the ministry had been using it starting from 1962 and plan to expand the usage of it in the future.

The ministry will also pro-

vide technical support to other ministries who wish to utilize the technology. As such the ministry supports the motion and explained for the Hluttaw to approve it.

As Daw Yin Min Hlaing wished for the motion to be approved Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then obtained the decision of the Hluttaw and announced the approval of the motion.

The 13th-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw’s tenth regular session will be held today. ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)



# Eradicating corruption will improve living standards

**P**RESIDENT U Win Myint recently announced that he has given permission for the setting up of Corruption Prevention Units (CPUs) within government departments as part of his administration's dynamic anti-graft efforts. The President issued the statement during the International Anti-Corruption Day commemoration in Yangon last week. There is a massive disparity in the distribution of wealth in Myanmar. The people of Myanmar have seen a wide range of injustices and unfairness due to the presence of corruption in many sectors, including politics, business, and judiciary.

As President U Win Myint said in his speech, our Union Government has been "working strenuously to combat corruption as a national duty; we are also working for the emergence of a clean government with good governance; for more transparency, responsibility, and accountability; to prevent the wastage or loss of public funds; to protect public interest; to raise the knowledge level and character of the people; to take effective action against corruption; and for the emergence of a society free from corruption".

In 2013, the Anti-Corruption Act was enacted and in accordance with this law, the Anti-Corruption Commission was established in 2014. Since then the task of combatting corruption has been carried out as a national duty. During the tenure of the incumbent Government, the Anti-Corruption Act was amended to meet international standards. This was done with the aim of bringing forth a clean government with a system of good governance.

This Commission has been given additional duties and powers to combat corruption and protect against corruption with full force and momentum. At the same time, it has been permitted to conduct investigations, take action, and initiate legal proceedings.

It was the people's wish that once the civilian government took oath, it would transform the demoralized civil society into a society free from corruption and degradation. This was the simple, honest wish of the people.

Now is the time to eradicate corruption from society. We may not be able to immediately cleanse the deep-rooted influences of corruption from the country, but we can proceed with adherence to the law and with clear convictions to remove the major cases of corruption and bribery, and succeed.

## "In line with the current social security system, fifteen types of benefits are being provided to workers"...

U Maung Maung Aye, Director-General of SWB

### Roundtable Discussions on ways and means for the economic development of the nation

By Khin Yadanar  
PHOTO MAY OO MOE

**M**RTV aired a live program on talks under the theme "On the Reform Program in connection with social security benefits", in which U Maung Maung Aye, Director-General of the Social Security Board; Daw Than Nu, Director of the SWB; U Win Naing, Representative of the Employers; Daw Phyto Sandar Soe, Representative of the Workers; and ILO National Project Coordinator Dr. Thein Than Htay have participated in the discussions.

**Moderator:** Kindly explain the functioning, implementation and current status of social security projects in Myanmar.

**Director-General:** Social security programs are implementing in various ways and means around (160) countries across the globe. In Myanmar, the social security projects have started since (60) years ago, and that we consider the social security tasks as human rights. Aims, objectives and goals are being adopted at the UNGA held in 2015.

In the objective 1.3, all the participating nations have agreed and adopted to reduce extreme poverty and prevention at the national level, and to place the social protection floors in appropriate ways and means. Our country is also implementing the adopted agenda. From this roundtable discussion, it is my pleasure to talk about the ongoing social security system and benefits and other welfare programs.

In 1947, headed by Bogoyoke Aung San, the Rehabilitation Conference was held at the Sorrento Villa on Pyay Road in Yangon. The conference was aimed at providing social safety, health and benefits of the workers in conjunction with the provision of social security. It was the start of the social security project.

After Independence, Myanmar became a member of ILO. At that time, we did not enacted any social security act, and that the ILO had provided assistance in drafting the law. The Social Security Act was being drafted in 1952 and enacted in 1954, which came into

force on 1 January 1956.

The 1954 Social Security Act has provided two social security systems and seven security benefits. After (54) years of implementation and application, the time has come to make certain reform and amendments, and thus on 31 August 2012, the new Social Security Law (2012) is adopted at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as law number 15/2012.

It came into force on 1 April 2014 with six security systems, and currently it is functioning with three security systems. The ILO is providing suggestions and advice, and that we are complying accordingly. In line with the current security system, fifteen types of benefits are being Provided to workers.

**Coordinator:** Please explain the Social Security System and Benefits.

**Director:** The 2012 Social Security Law is enacted to cover the whole nationals. There are five objectives such as that of uplifting the health of the workers the main productive force of the nation; that of fulfilling social security requirement of the workers; that of the cooperation between the employers and the workers; that of the fulfillment of health necessity. These are the first requirement.

The second requirement is to pay attention to the depending family members in registering with their own consent for the benefits, covering the farmers and other fellow citizens.

The third advantage is to provide benefits to the workers along with the family members that are in accordance with the modern times.

The fourth benefit is to be implemented with the aim and objective in providing security to those people with disability, superannuation retirement, old age pensioner, jobless people, housing projects, with the funds to be reimbursed to them from their own contributions.

The last benefits in the list are to provide funds under social security projects when the workers are sick, taking maternity leave and child birth, demise, sustained injury during working hour, and getting medical treatment with aging. Another factor is about offering



accommodation and housing ownership through the large projects.

**Moderator:** Kindly explain the arrangement health care services to the social security employees.

**Director:** Under the Social Security Law, the current security system has six categories. Health security category and social security category under implementation, however, the family welfare security category has been temporarily set-aside at the moment.

Another benefit on the obligation is to provide health care to the depending family members that need to compile and collect data and information. Injury sustained at the worksite is entitled to receive security benefit.

In the funding of the social security system, the employer has the responsibility to contribute two per cent, while the employee has to pay two per cent for the health security and social security. Regarding the injury compensation fund, the employee is not required to contribute fund, but the employer has to contribute one per cent for the injury fund. Therefore, each and every employee has to contribute five per cent of the salary towards the social security funds.

There are many benefits and entitlements available just after the first registration. During one month registration, medical treatment is entitled for (26) weeks for ordinary case; and (52) weeks if necessary and required. Treatment for dialysis of kidney is offered to employees in addition to patients with chronic diseases.

In the case of the death reim-

bursement of an employee during a certain period who have not paid yet on his or her due share out of the salary in (10) days registration period, the unexpected demise compensation is honored on humanitarian grounds.

The employee who sustained injury at the worksite is provided with (70) per cent of the salary for one year period on temporary disability interlude, and that total and permanent physical disability is also considered compensation of (70) per cent of the salary. The lump sum compensation is calculated from (30) times to (80) times depending on the nature of case.

These are the stipulations intended for the employees who failed to make payment on their schedule proportion during the registration period.

During the registration period of six months, the employee is honored with six months sick benefits despite his or her payment were made only for four months with the amount of (60) per cent calculated on the salary.

When the registration period of the employee has attained for (12) months, the maternity leave is entitled. It is granted six weeks before birth, and (8) weeks after birth, with a total of (14) weeks. The entitlement is (50) per cent of salary for single birth; (75) per cent of salary for twin birth; and (100) per cent of salary for triple birth.

These monetary benefits are provided by the social security office to the employee after birth, and the health care is being taken care by the hospital.

For the miscarriage case, six

weeks leave is granted with (70) per cent of salary. When adoption is made for less than one year baby, eight weeks leave is granted with (70) per cent of salary. The infant is allowed to take health care for one year.

Male employee is also entitled certain benefits under this law. Despite the wife is not social security member, if the husband is social security member, he is entitled (15) days infant care leave with (70) per cent of the salary.

When the female social security member is entitled (50) per cent for one baby, the male is entitled (25) per cent. More entitlement is granted for twin birth. These entitlements are granted beginning 1 April 2014.

**Coordinator:** Are the employees required to explore the social security benefits? Whether the employer or the social security office is sharing automatically live be care about the benefits.

**Director:** Currently, we are carrying out awareness raising program. We are making educational and awareness talks to the employees. We explained the workers how to draw benefits and that the responsible persons at the offices visited the worksites and provide talks. We also provide through the media. We disseminate through the pamphlets, handouts and calendars.

Those who retired in the gap between the old and new social security laws, they have not contributed their share; however, they are honored with health care. This is extraordinary in our country because such entitlement is not seen

in the social security plans of many countries.

They are allowed to take medical treatment for seven times in one month at the clinics. Moreover, after certain period (50) per cent of the medical bill is being provided by the social security board.

**Coordinator:** Kindly explain the social security system, the benefits, the cost of medicines, and the travelling allowances.

**Director:** A total of (15) types of benefits are provided through the percentage explained earlier. The Social Security Law is under implementation for four and half years. There are over (600,000) cases among the (15) sorts of benefit cases involving K (26,000) million provided to the social security employees.

Regarding the sustained injury, there are (325) cases covering K (1600) million being approved for the workers.

In the primary health care, medical treatment is allowed at the clinic. The employees can take treatment at the large clinic signed with the social security board. The treatment could be received at the outpatient departments. Physicians, specialists and medical officers of township level are cooperating for providing health care awareness talks. The social security talks are provided in addition to medical treatment, which amounted to K (760,000) million during one year period. Medical expense and refund of travelling allowance are allowed up to K (4,600) million.

**Director-General:** We have three owned hospital to provide medical treatment. They are Yangon Workers Hospital; Mandalay Hospital and Htantabin Hospital in conjunction with (96) own clinics and (55) larger departmental clinics. We have signed contract with four outside clinics. One traditional medical clinic has been established in Yangon. We have three diagnosis-related facilities with PPS system. The MMU is meant for the employees who are working far from the medical facilities, and therefore, Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) service is providing for them.

(To be continued)  
Translated by UMT (Ahlone)

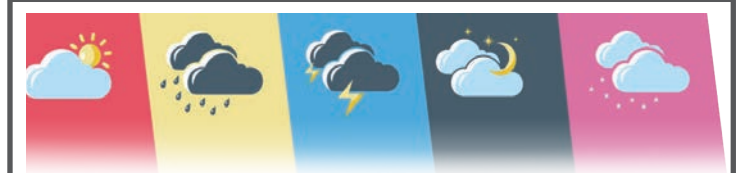
### Appointment of Ambassador agreed

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Ms. Jainaba Jagne as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Gambia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in New Delhi.

Ms. Jainaba Jagne received her BSc (Hons) in Applied Computing from Middlesex University in 2000 and MA Research Methods in Education from Durham University in 2012. From 2005-2006, she served as Lecturer in Applications of Computing at the Middlesex University, UK. From 2010-2017, she became the youngest and first ever female Director of Research at the Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology in Gambia. From 2017, Ms. Jainaba Jagne was appointed as the Gambia Ambassador to the Republic of India.—MNA

### U Kyaw Zeya concurrently accredited as Ambassador of Myanmar to the Principality of Andorra

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Kyaw Zeya, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the French Republic, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Principality of Andorra.—MNA



### Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued on Tuesday 11 December 2018)

**SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST:** During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers has been scattered in Taninthayi Region, isolated in Bago and Yangon regions, (Southern and Eastern)Shan, Chin and Rakhine states, weather has been generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw, Kachin and Northern Shan states and partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states. Night temperature were (2°C) above December average temperatures in Sagaing Region, Chin and Rakhine states, (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady regions, Southern Shan State, (5°C) above December averages in Eastern Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states and about December average temperature in the remaining regions and states. The significant night temperatures were (4°C) each in Putao and Haka, (7°C) in Machanbaw, (8°C) each in Heho, Tiddim and Ramthlo. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Sittway (0.47) inch, Manaung (0.32) inch and Taungup and Kawthoung (0.08) inch each.

**BAY INFERENCE:** According to the observations at (13:30)hrs MST today, the low pressure area over South Bay of Bengal and adjoining Equatorial India Ocean still persists. It may further intensify into a depression during next (24) hours. Weather is cloudy over the South Bay and a few cloud to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF 12 December 2018:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing Region and scattered in the remaining regions and states. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.



Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Office of the President

Press Release No. 27/2018

3<sup>rd</sup> Waxing of Nattaw, 1380 ME  
(10 December 2018)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 8 December 2018 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

No	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal action taken
1	Information received of Pwa Gyi from Inndaing Village, Kyunhla Tsp, Sagaing Region, selling illegal drugs.	On 6-12-2018, police searched Pwa Gyi's house in Inndaing Village, Kyunhla Tsp. Police discovered Pwa Gyi, 47, together with heroin, one home-made gun and lead balls. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (Thaphanseik) MaYa(Pa) 8/2018 under Section 16-C/22-B of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of Win Naing Tun from Ingyin Myaing Ward, Phaungpyin Tsp, Sagaing Region, selling illegal drugs.	On 7-12-2018, police searched Win Naing Tun's house in Ingyin Myaing Ward, Phaungpyin Tsp. Police discovered Win Naing Tun, 26, and his younger brother, Lwin Moe Tun, 21, together with heroin. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Phaungpyin) MaYa(Pa) 103/2018 under Section 16-C/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of Win Hlaing from Oakpho Ward, Mawlaik Tsp, Sagaing Region, selling illegal drugs.	On 8-12-2018, police searched Win Hlaing's farmhouse in Oakpho Ward, Mawlaik Tsp. Police discovered his wife, Ma El Moe, 45, and continuously searched around the farmhouse then police found four suspects. While investigating them, two men ran away and the remaining two men Htun Maung, 51, and Aung Ko Win, 30, together with heroin. A case has been opened against two suspects with MaMaSa (Mawlaik) MaYa(Pa) 26/2018 under Section 16-C/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of Soe Thu living in Area (10), (11) Ward, Toungoo Tsp, Bago Region, selling illegal drugs.	On 3-12-2018, police searched Soe Thu's house in in Area (10), (11) Ward, Toungoo Tsp. Police discovered Soe Thu, 30, Kyaw Naing (a) Yan Naing Soe, 30, living in the same ward and Aung Moe (a) Aung Naing Htet, 28, from Ywartha Village and Ye Lin Naing, 20, from Kyunetawhone Village, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with NaMaSa-2(Toungoo) MaYa(Pa) 16/2018 under Section 19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of selling illegal drugs on the hill in Group (10), Ward 4, Kutkai Tsp, Shan State (North).	So far 27 cases have been opened as of last weeks, 24 men and 3 women have been arrested, together with heroin and stimulant tablets. On 3-12-2018, further investigation led to patrol in Ward 4, Kutkai Tsp and police stopped a motorcycle driven by Lauklu, 35, from Lwekhan Village then police arrested him together with '88/1' psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Kutkai) MaYa (Pa) 136/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of selling illegal drugs in Phayarphyu Ward, Taunggyi Tsp, Shan State (South).	So far two cases have been opened as of last weeks, two men have been arrested, together with stimulant tablets. On 5-12-2018, further investigation led to search Tun Aye (a) Arwu's house at No. (446), Area (2), Phayarphyu Ward, Taunggyi Tsp and police discovered his wife, Moe Moe Aung(a)Tone Pay Chain, 38, together with heroin. A case has been opened with NaMaSa (Taunggyi) MaYa (Pa) 74/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

7	Information received of Ma Cho and Ma Phoo from Zaytan Ward, Pindaya Tsp, Shan State (South), selling illegal drugs.	On 7-12-2018, police searched Ma Cho(a) Cho Cho Lwin's house in Zaytan Ward, Pindaya Tsp. Police discovered her younger sister, Ma Phoo(a) Ma Nan Nu Nu Htwe, 35, and Zaw Nge(a)Zaw Lin Aung, 39, from Hawkone Ward, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against four suspects with MaMaSa (Pindaya) MaYa(Pa) 6/2018 under Section 16-C/19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8	Information received of Phyo Wai Oo from Ponphan Village, Hsipaw Tsp, Shan State (North), selling illegal drugs by car.	On 7-12-2018, police searched at "Shal" restaurant where Phyo Wai Oo(a)Ei Pu lives then police didn't discover him but founded his mother, Daw Nyo Nyo Sein, 56, and Tun Wa, 31, together with WY psychotropic tablets and heroin. A case has been opened against two suspects with MaMaSa (Hsipaw) MaYa(Pa) 43/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
9	Information received of Nyunt Wai from Kunchaung Village, Mabein Tsp, Shan State (North), selling illegal drugs.	On 8-12-2018, police searched Nyunt Wai's house in Kunchaung Village, Mabein Tsp. Police discovered Nyunt Wai, 38, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Mabein) MaYa(Pa) 120/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far 427 cases have been opened as of 8-12-2018, and 556 men and 107 women have been arrested with seizures of 5,594.37 g of heroin, 25.01 g of ICE, 38,569.74 g of opium, 329.6 g of low-quality opium, 12,263.28 g of opium powder, 7,273.99 g of speciosa, 198,514 stimulant tablets, 3701.03 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 227.4 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 1.65 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 13 firearms, 194 different bullets, and 1 grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the ministry will report on further exposed cases.
4. In addition to the investigations and arrests conducted on drug related complaints mentioned above, the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force have also carried out separate investigations on drug complaints, search and arrests at border gates, and searches of vehicles acting upon given information.  
During the previous week, multiple arrests were made in the border regions and joint-surveillance gates. On the road of Tarmakhan-Nangsam, Hongpar Village, Phakant Tsp, Kachin State, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man and one woman were arrested with 1,740 stimulant tablets, 140 g of heroin and one motorcycle. At Seinlone Checkpoint, Momauk Tsp, one Mark-II was stopped for investigation then one man and two women were arrested with 79,800 stimulant tablets, 940 g of heroin and one car. On the road of Mantha-Hanhtet, near Many Village, Mansi Tsp, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man was arrested with 3,900 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. In Netseik Village, Ponnagyun Tsp, Rakhine State, one woman was arrested with 120 stimulant tablets. 585,000 stimulant tablets were found in a house where no one lives in Kyatyoepeyin Village, Area (5), region (2), Maunglaw Tsp. At (6) miles checkpoint, a Nissan UD car was stopped for investigation then three men and one woman were arrested with 1,940,250 stimulant tablets in the noodle cartons and one car. On the road of Panlone (1), Manwein Ward, Muse Tsp, Shan State, a Mark-II was stopped for investigation then one man was arrested with 6,000 g of opium and one car. On the Nantpaw Bridge, one Fuso 22 wheels car and Scania 22 wheels car were stopped for investigation then two men were arrested with 12,000 liter of Ethyl ether, 7,200 liters of Hydrochloric acid 4,800,000 g of Aluminum Sulfate, 150 liters of Acetic Acid, 9,440 liters of Sodium Hydroxide, 4,000,000 g of Phenyl Acetic Acid, 500,000 g of Brown Charcoal and two cars. On the road of Mandalay-Muse, near 80/4 milepost, Nawnghkio Tsp, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then two men were arrested with 3,975 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. In Lwesitone (Lower) Village, Tachilek Tsp, one man was arrested with 1,360 stimulant tablets and 5 g of ICE. In Yan Aung Myay Ward, on the Bogyoke road, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man and one woman were arrested with 2,000 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle.



In Lweparyin 1 Village, Monghsat Tsp, on the road of Monghsat-Tachilek, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man was arrested with 2,000 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. At Tarshan Bridge Checkpoint, Mongpan Tsp, a Mark-II car was stopped for investigation then two men were arrested with 30,000 stimulant tablets and one car. At Takaw Bridge Checkpoint, Kunhing Tsp, a Nissan 12 wheel truck was stopped for investigation then the suspect drove away and police arrested him, together with 30,000 g of ICE and one car. One motorcycle was also stopped for investigation then one man was arrested with 50,000 stimulant tablets, 10 g of ICE and one motorcycle. On the road of monestary in Pankautwow Village, Loilem Tsp, Isuzu 12 wheels truck was stopped for investigation then two men were arrested with 169,804 g of heroin and 200,000 g of brown heroin powder in corn bags, and one car. On the road of Taunggyi-Mongpyin, near Zale Village, Taunggyi Tsp, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man was arrested with 2,000 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. In Sakhanthit Village, Kyunsu Tsp, Taninthayi Region, one man was arrested with 60,000 g of speciosa powder. At (16) miles checkpoint, Patheingyi Tsp, Mandalay Region, two men and one woman from Muse-Yangon Express, were arrested with 29,900 stimulant tablets. In Danyinkone Ward, Insein Tsp, Yangon Region, one man was arrested with 2,800 stimulant tablets. There has been one seizure of ammunitions. In No (3)

Ward, Kyunsu Tsp, Taninthayi Region, one man was arrested with 50 g of speciosa powder and 10 bullets.

There have been 193 cases being opened between 2-12-2018 and 8-12-2018, and 249 men and 22 women have been arrested. Seizures were made of 171,995.38 g of heroin, 200,000 g of brown heroin powder, 30,019.51 g of ICE, 6,069.33 g of opium, 7 g of low-quality opium, 60,755.66 g of speciosa powder, 506.23 g of speciosa, two speciosa plants, 2,743,916 stimulant tablets, 267.9 g of marijuana, 244 g of opium blocks, 12,000 liter of Ethyl ether, 7,200 liters of Hydrochloric acid 4,800,000 g of Aluminum Sulfate, 150 liters of Acetic Acid, 9,440 liters of Sodium Hydroxide, 4,000,000 g of Phenyl Acetic Acid, 500,000 g of Brown Charcoal and 10 different types of bullets.

5. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

Contacts

Auto telephone No. – 067-590200

Fax Phone No. – 067-590233

Email Address – [antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm](mailto:antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm)

## Dr. Win Myat Aye separately receives UN envoy, Rakhine committee member, diplomat

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye separately received United Nations Secretary General (UNSG) Special Envoy on Myanmar, member of the Advisory body to the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State, Ambassador of Canada to Myanmar and World Bank Group Urban Development and Disaster Risk Management Practice Manager yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

In the meeting with UNSG Special Envoy on Myanmar Christine Schraner Burgener matters relating to the status of meeting between Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations

on Rakhine State, UN organisations and partner organisations; priority works of naturalization, freedom of movement and closing of IDP camps; work status on receiving returnees; co-operation with AHA Centre (ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance) on receiving returnees; future work status; social stability and balance between the two communities; requirement of spreading news to displaced persons in Bangladesh, Cox Bazar region about works conducted by Myanmar government for voluntary, dignified and safe return of the displaced persons; and requirements of the IDP camps in Rakhine State, Kachin State and Shan

(North) State were openly and cordially discussed.

During the meeting with Mr. Roelf Meyer, former member of the Advisory body to the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State, matters relating to talk circles conducted in Maungtau Township for social stability and balance between the two communities; findings from women forums; participation of all age groups in women forum; main points submitted on education, health, travel and trust building in women forum; removing language difficulty as well as other obstacles in conducting National Verification Process to obtain freedom of movement were discussed. In the meeting

with Canada Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Ms. Karen MacArthur matters relating to latest status of projects conducted in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states; review and assessment of technical support and assistance provided by Canada Government in the three new projects of Health Empowerment, Women's Voice and Leadership and natural disaster management and risk mitigation; connecting with Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction (MAPDRR) in conducting risk mitigation works; latest status of work on receiving returnees to Rakhine State; drawing up of a national level strategy on closing IPD camps in Rakhine and other states;



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye shakes hands with UNSG Special Envoy on Myanmar Christine Schraner Burgener.

**PHOTO: MNA**

and cooperation with UN organisations as well as experts were discussed.

Later in the meeting with Mr. Abhas Jha, Practice Manager, World Bank Group Urban Development and Disaster Risk Management matters relating to flood rehabilitation Emergency Recovery Credit

(ERC) project implemented in 2015 with World Bank loans, progress and difficulties under Immediate Response Mechanism project, acquiring of Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option (Cat DDO) loan were coordinated and discussed it is learnt. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

## Myanmar Legislative Drafting, National AML/CFT Strategy Workshop held in Nay Pyi Taw

Myanmar Legislative Drafting and National Anti-Money Laundering-AML and Combating the Financing of Terrorism-CFT Strategy Workshop was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The workshop was jointly conducted by the Bureau of Financial Investigation and International Monetary Fund (IMF) at the Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the workshop, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs and Anti-money Laundering central

committee member Major-General Aung Thu spoke about progress in anti-money laundering and combating financing of terrorism in Myanmar and stressed the need to work for strengthening the legal frameworks, taking effective measures on legislative drafting for fighting money laundering and financing to terrorism.

On behalf of International Monetary Fund (IMF), Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML / CFT) expert Ms.

Francisca Fernando clarified the purpose of holding the workshop, assistance programmes to improve AML/CFT systems and co-operative schemes for setting up a grand strategy.

Also present at the workshop were Joint-secretary of the Central Committee for Anti-money Laundering Police Brig-Gen Kyaw Win Thein, the Anti-Corruption Commission, representatives from the Union Attorney-General, Internal Revenue Department, Financial Regulatory Department,

high-ranking police officials of the Myanmar Police Force, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Myanmar Bar Council of the Supreme Court, Myanmar Real Estate Service Association, the Myanmar Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICAP) attended the conference. A total of 45 representatives participated in the workshop that will be held until 14 December. — MNA (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung) ■

## Fishing boat sinks in Ngapali; five killed

A fishing boat sank after it sprang a leak off the Ngapali coast in Rakhine State on 9 December, leading to the death of five fishermen on board. The boat was carrying 10 fishermen.

The boat sank around noon while it was anchored near islands about 20 nautical miles from Manaung. Troops from the

Danyawady Naval Base rushed to the spot and managed to rescue five fishermen. Divers also recovered five bodies from the wreckage of the fishing boat. U Aung Myo of Jattaw Ward in Ngapali has been identified as the owner of the boat, which measured 65ft in length and 12ft in width. — Nay Myo Aung ■



## Thai junta lifts ban on political campaigning ahead of 2019 elections

BANGKOK (Thailand) — Thailand's junta has lifted a ban on political campaigning ahead of 2019 elections, an order published by the *Royal Gazette* said on Tuesday, more than four years after it was introduced following the kingdom's latest coup.

One of the military's first acts after seizing power in May 2014 was to outlaw political activity of all kinds as it headed off opposition in a country notorious for its rowdy — and often deadly — street politics.

But the ban was officially lifted on Tuesday, with a return to polls slated for 24 February.

"Political parties should be able to campaign to present their policies," an order in palace mouthpiece the *Royal Gazette* said.

The junta "has decided to amend or abolish the laws" which could inhibit campaigns before elections.

Restrictions began to be eased in September, allowing political parties to recruit new members and elect leaders. But

campaigns and street rallies remained banned.

Tuesday's order opens the way raises the prospect of a return to street rallies that have defined much of the turbulent last decade of Thai politics.

But police will need to be informed of any political gatherings.

The election date has repeatedly slipped, allowing the junta to carve out its own political party and woo defectors from its rivals including Pheu Thai, Thailand's biggest party which it

dumped from office with its coup.

The party is loyal to Yingluck Shinawatra, premier until shortly before the coup, and her older brother the billionaire Thaksin.

The siblings both live in self-exile to avoid jail over convictions in Thailand.

Parties loyal to the Shinawatra clan have won every Thai general election since 2001.

But this time the junta has moved decisively to ensure Shinawatra-aligned parties can not win big at polls, critics say, driving through a new charter

which dilutes the influence of big political parties and introduces a fully appointed upper house.

Junta leader Prayut Chan-O-Cha has repeatedly insisted that he has no interest in politics.

But he has spent the last few months criss-crossing the country offering economic handouts and building alliances with local politicians.

In recent months, the gruff former general has been showcasing a softer side through public appearances and photo opportunities.—AFP ■

## Huawei exec seeks Canada bail, proposes electronic monitoring

VANCOUVER, (Canada) — A top executive of Chinese telecom giant Huawei sought release from Canadian detention on Monday, offering to submit to strict electronic monitoring, as Beijing escalates its protests over her arrest on a US warrant.

Meng Wanzhou, Huawei's chief financial officer, faces US fraud charges related to alleged sanctions-breaking dealings with Iran, and has been awaiting a Canadian court's bail decision — which after two days of hearings was put off until Tuesday.

She was detained in Vancouver on 1 December while changing planes during a trip from Hong Kong to Mexico, for possible extradition.

Her arrest has infuriated Beijing, rocking stock markets and raising tensions amid a truce in the US-China trade war.

Beijing's latest outcry over the case also led to the suspen-



Ada Yu(l) of Vancouver and a man who wished to remain unidentified, hold a sign in favour of the release of Huawei Technologies Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou outside her bail hearing at British Columbia Superior Courts following her 1 December arrest in Canada for extradition to the US in Vancouver, British Columbia on 10 December, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

sion of a planned Canadian forestry trade mission to China this

week. Meng has agreed to surrender her passports and submit

to electronic monitoring if she is released, pending the outcome

of the extradition case.

"Given her unique profile as the face of a Chinese corporate national champion, if she were to flee or breach her order in any way in these very unique circumstances, it does not overstate to say she would embarrass China itself," Meng's lawyer David Martin told the court. He had a tracking bracelet on hand in case she was immediately released. In a 55-page sworn affidavit, Meng said she has been treated in hospital for hypertension since her arrest. "I continue to feel unwell and I am worried about my health deteriorating while I am incarcerated," the affidavit read.

Meng said she'd suffered numerous health problems, including surgery for thyroid cancer in 2011. "I wish to remain in Vancouver to contest my extradition and I will contest the allegations at trial in the US if I am ultimately surrendered," she said.—AFP ■

## Viet Nam arrests ship firm execs for 'embezzling \$4.5m'

HANOI (Viet Nam) — Two executives from a near-bankrupt state-run shipbuilding company have been arrested in Viet Nam on accusations of embezzling \$4.5 million in collusion with a scandal-plagued bank, as the one-party state broadens its unprecedented corruption crackdown.

The once high-rolling big-wigs are the latest ex-officials ensnared in a tangled web of corruption cases linking several state-run firms to banks accused of mismanagement and graft.

Dozens of bankers, businessmen and former officials

have been jailed as part of the anti-graft campaign waged by a conservative leadership in charge since 2016.

Truong Van Tuyen, the former director of Vinashin — a once-massive firm saved by the state from collapsing under heavy debt in 2010 — and current deputy director Pham Thanh Son were arrested Monday, the ministry of public security said in a statement.

They were being investigated for "abusing position and power to appropriate assets", it added. The pair is accused of illegally approving deposits

into Ocean Bank, a private bank embroiled in its own corruption scandal that has seen dozens convicted. Tuyen and Son allegedly pocketed \$4.5 million along with a former Vinashin chief accountant who is already behind bars.

The disgraced shipbuilding firm was once a crown jewel among communist Viet Nam's 500 or so state-run enterprises.

But a series of missteps involving investments in the real estate and energy sectors ultimately hobbled the huge firm with heavy debts, nearly collapsing it in 2010. —AFP ■

## Ex-Malaysian PM Najib to face charge for tampering 1MDB report

KUALA LUMPUR — Former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak will face fresh charges for tampering an audit report related to state investment fund 1MDB, Malaysia's anti-corruption body said on Tuesday.

In a statement, the Malaysian Anti-corruption Commission said it had received clearance from the country's Attorney-General to charge Najib and former 1MDB (1Malaysia Development Bhd) chief executive officer Arul Kanda at a Kuala Lumpur court on Wednesday.

Najib is expected to be charged with abuse of power for ordering that the 1MDB report

be amended while Arul will be charged with abetting the offence, a senior official close to the investigation told Xinhua.

Arul joined 1MDB in 2015 with the task to turn around the debt-laden state fund but was sacked in June following the change of government after the May 9 general elections.

Prior to his appointment, the 41-year-old had served as an investment banker in Britain and the Middle East, having held several top positions in the banking industry. Najib himself currently faces 38 charges related to the investigation into 1MDB. He has denied all charges.—Xinhua ■



## Pacific nations resist US push to lift tuna quota



The Pacific accounts for almost 60 per cent of the global tuna catch, worth about \$6.0 billion annually. **PHOTO: AFP**

HONOLULU (United States) — Pacific island nations have vowed to oppose US efforts to increase its catch limit in the world's largest tuna fishery, saying the proposal does nothing to improve sustainable fishing.

The United States is expected to try to increase its quota for bigeye tuna at a meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) taking place in Honolulu this week.

The meeting brings together 26 nations to determine fishing policy in the Pacific, which accounts for almost 60 per cent of the global tuna catch, worth about \$6.0 billion annually.

It is mostly made up of small island nations but also includes so-called "distant-water nations" that come from as far afield as Europe, China,

the United States, South Korea, Japan and Taiwan to fish Pacific tuna.

Island nations regularly accuse them of being reluctant to curb the lucrative industry in the interests of long-term conservation.

President Donald Trump's administration will push this year to catch

more bigeye — one of the most sought after species of tuna for sashimi — as a reward for complying with the commission's monitoring rules.

All fishing fleets are supposed to carry independent fisheries observers on at least five per cent of their boats as means of

ensuring quotas are not exceeded and to collect accurate data.

However, most nations aside from the United States ignore the monitoring requirement.

Ludwig Kumoru, chief executive of a Pacific island grouping called the Parties to the Nauru Agreement, said the US bigeye quota should not be lifted simply because it was following the rules.

"Good reporting should not be used as a condition to increase catch," he said on Monday.

"We should instead concentrate on bringing conservation measures that actually support sustainable fishing."

The head of the Pacific Islands Forum's fisheries agency FFA, Manu Tupou-Roosen, said her aim was to "maintain the strength of the tropical tuna measure (protections) and not to weaken the existing provisions".—AFP■

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For **GONGNIU GROUP CO., LTD.**  
BY ITS ATTORNEY  
ACTIP IP LIMITED  
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.  
Phone: 372416  
Dated: 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2018

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- | Sr No | Tender No                 | Description   |
|-------|---------------------------|---|
| 1.    | 12(T)7/MR (ML) Kyat/18-19 | Procurement for Assembling and Manufacturing of (5) Nos of Microprocessor Controlled 1200 HP Complete Knocked-Down Diesel Electric Locomotives                                    |
| 2.    | 12(T)8/MR (ML) Euro/18-19 | Procurement of 5 Sets of Diesel Engine & Main Alternator Sets with Foundation Frame and Related Necessary Parts for Microprocessor Controlled 1200 HP Diesel Electric Locomotives |
- Closing Date & Time - 22.1.2019 (Tuesday) (14:30) Hrs
2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 14.12.2018 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Corner of 51th Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291985, 291994

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

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

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

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

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# 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games in Nay Pyi Taw



Wushu athletes Ma Ni Ni Aye and Nang Cherry Kham poses for a photo with gold medals.  
**PHOTO: SOE NYUNT**



Volleyball players in action at the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games in Nay Pyi Taw.  
**PHOTO: MNA**



An athlete in action during a Chinlone game at the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games yesterday. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT**



Ma Sandi Oo waving swords in Women Wushu competition at the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games in Nay Pyi Taw.  
**PHOTO: MNA**



Wushu athlete Ning Tan wins gold medal at the Wushu Sanshou competition. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT**



Ma Aye Thitsar Myint (left) and Malaysian athlete Tan Cheong Min celebrate after winning medals in Women Nandao and Nangun event at the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Two players compete at Wushu Sanshou event at the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



An official presents medals to the winners at the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Indonesia and Singapore women badminton players in action at the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Ma Myat Noe Eain, female athlete waving swords at the Women Wushu competition. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT**



## Russia tests new telemetry system during manned Soyuz MS-11

MOSCOW — The Astra-06 apparatus developed by specialists of Russian Space Systems (RSS) was used for the first time as additional telemetric equipment aboard the manned Soyuz MS-11 spacecraft launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome on 3 December, the company's press office reported on Monday.

"During the spacecraft's flight, the Astra was undergoing flight tests, measuring quickly changing parameters. After the tests are over and its performance characteristics are confirmed, the new system is expected to be used aboard promising spaceships," the press office said in a statement.

The Astra system is maximally adapted for the telemetric

image (telemetric data package) requirements while its modular configuration gives the system extra flexibility for mounting it on existing and future launch vehicles. The system's universal nature stems from the technology of its assembly from modules, the statement says.

"The Astra's design allows installing it aboard carrier rockets and other space vehicles.

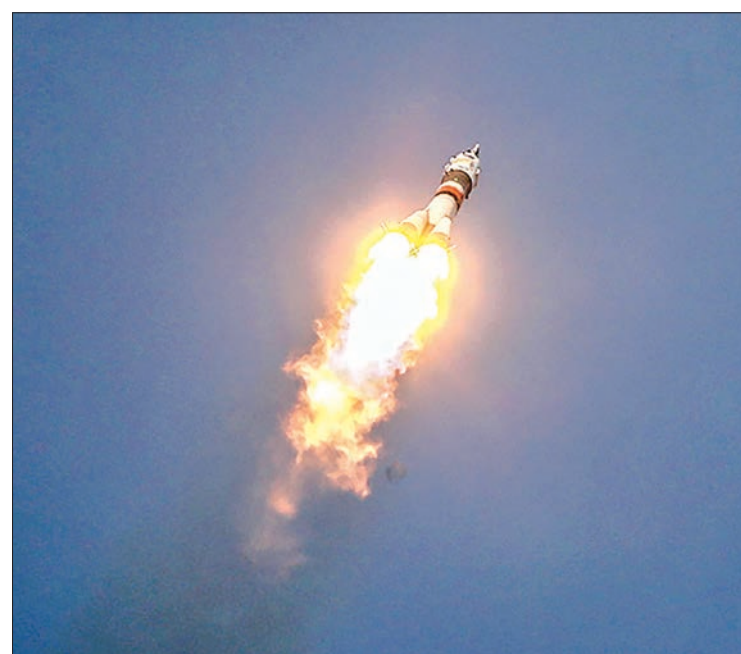
This unification will help the Russian space industry switch over to the serial production of telemetry systems, which will raise their reliability and reduce their cost price," Chief Designer for Measurements at the Research and Production Association of Measuring Equipment Yevgeny Borodin was quoted by

the press office of Russian Space Systems as saying.

Compared to previous-generation telemetric systems, the Astra integrates the specially devised mathematical segment and the computing apparatus that process part of the data even before that are transmitted to Earth. The data are compressed and the spectral analysis is conducted aboard a spacecraft, which considerably reduces the load on communications lines.

The Astra earlier passed tests during its operation aboard a carrier rocket.

The system successfully performed during the launch of the Soyuz-2.1b carrier rocket from the Vostochny spaceport on 28 November, 2017 and aboard



This unification due to the Astra-06 apparatus' use will help the Russian space industry switch over to the serial production of telemetry systems, the manufacturer says. **PHOTO: TASS**

the Progress MS-10 resupply ship on 16 November, 2018.

The new telemetric system was also expected to operate during the launch of the manned

Soyuz MS-10 spacecraft on 11 October but it was not activated due to the incident with the faulty Soyuz-FG carrier rocket. —Tass ■

## Japanese scientist Honjo receives Nobel Prize at ceremony

STOCKHOLM — Japanese scientist Tasuku Honjo received the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine at a ceremony on Monday in Stockholm for his discovery of a protein on im-

mune cells that paved the way for a new approach to cancer treatment.

The 76-year-old Kyoto native, clad in traditional Japanese clothing to remember the roots

of his research, accepted the medal and diploma from Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf at the ceremony, which he attended with his wife Shigeko.

"Honestly, I am rejoicing," Honjo said after the ceremony.

The distinguished professor and deputy director general of the Kyoto University Institute for Advanced Study shared the prize with James Allison, a professor at the University of Texas, who studied a known protein that works as a brake on the immune system.

Honjo is the 27<sup>th</sup> Japan-born winner of a Nobel Prize. Yoshinori Osumi was the last such recipient of the physiology or medicine prize, in 2016.

The discovery of the protein called PD-1 by Honjo and his team in 1992 has led to the development of Opdivo, a drug that triggers the immune system to attack cancer cells.

Before the ceremony took place at the Stockholm Concert Hall, Denis Mukwege, a Congolese gynecologist, and Nadia Murad, a Yazidi human rights activist and victim of war crimes from Iraq, were conferred this year's Nobel Peace Prize in the Norwegian capital Oslo for their work to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict. —Kyodo News ■



Tasuku Honjo (c, front row) receives the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine at a ceremony in Stockholm on 10 December, 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

## Scientists discover tea plants can send chemical "Mayday" during pest attacks: study

BEIJING — Chinese researchers have found that tea plants can send a chemical "Mayday" signal during pest attacks and the signal can be received by neighboring plants so they can fortify their defences.

Previous studies found that the compound cis-3-Hexen-1-ol, also known as leaf alcohol, is produced by most plants and acts as an attractant to many predatory insects.

However, scientists are not sure how leaf alcohol is absorbed and stored by neighbouring plants. Researchers from the State Key Laboratory of Tea Plant Biology and Utilization at the Anhui Agricultural University found during in-vitro experiments that tea plants can absorb the airborne leaf alcohol emitted by neighboring plants and store the

"signal" by converting leaf alcohol to glycoside.

Glycoside can suppress growth of pests and the accumulation of glycoside in plants is likely to activate the defense system for future pest attacks.

After genetic analysis, researchers identified genes encoding the enzymes responsible for the process of converting leaf alcohol to glycoside.

The findings have been published in the international journal titled Plant, Cell and Environment. Song Chuankui, communications author of the research paper, said that the research provides a theoretical basis for pest control in tea plantations. Leaf alcohol may be sprayed on tea plants to help them defend themselves against pests. —Xinhua ■

## Cardiovascular disease blamed for 40 pct of Czech deceased in 2017

PRAGUE — About 40 per cent of Czech deceased in 2017, or 49,000 out of total of 111,000 deaths, were caused by cardiovascular disease, said a report released by the Institute for Health Information and Statistics (UZIS) on Monday.

The report said compared with 2016, the share of men who

died of heart and blood vessels defects slightly decreased in 2017, while the share of women rose. In the 1990s, 57 per cent of women and 53 per cent of men died of cardiovascular disease. The shares have been gradually declining since and reaching 43 per cent of women and 40 per cent of men in 2017. —Xinhua ■



## Winners and losers as buoyant Bayern head to Ajax for showdown

BERLIN (Germany) — Resurgent Bayern Munich head to Ajax for Wednesday's Champions League group showdown with clear winners and losers among the star-studded squad after Niko Kovac's decision to end rotation.

"We want to keep going," said Leon Goretzka, now a firm fixture in central midfield alongside Joshua Kimmich with Bayern having won their last three games after Saturday's 3-0 league home win over Nuremberg.

"Now we travel to Amsterdam and want to finish first in the group - that's important for us."

Bayern need just a point at Ajax's Johan Cruyff Arena to win Group E with the Bavarian giants currently top of the table, two points ahead of their Dutch rivals, and both teams already into the last 16.

A 5-1 thrashing of Benfica at the Allianz Arena a fortnight ago, with Robert Lewandowski and Arjen Robben both scoring twice, signified an end to the poor results of October and November which also saw Bayern slide down the Bundesliga table.

Bayern have now clawed their way back up to third in the league and coach Kovac has taken a gamble by ditching rotation, risking ruffled egos with stars left on the bench.

"The rhythm is there, the boys are in the flow — that's why we don't want to change anything," explained Kovac.

His decision has significant winners and losers.

World Cup winners — Germany defender Mats Hummels, and Spain midfielder Javi Martinez — languished on the bench against Nuremberg alongside Euro 2016 winner Renato Sanch-



Bayern Munich's Leon Goretzka has profited from coach Niko Kovac's decision to abandon a rotation policy with three recent wins in the build-up to Wednesday's Champions League showdown at Ajax.

PHOTO: AFP

es. Martinez and Sanches find their path blocked by Kimmich and Goretzka, both 23, who each hit the woodwork against Nuremberg. "Both have a very good understanding of football and read the game well," said Kovac, at the helm at Bayern since July.

"They get on well off the pitch and are in the national team together. 'It's an axis that's really fun right now — not only for those two, but the whole team in the last three games.'"

However, Hummels looked like he was having anything but 'fun', storming through the mixed zone after Saturday's win without a word as Jerome Boateng and Niklas Suele are now established as Kovac's centre-backs.

Disgruntled stars watching from Bayern's bench has caused problems for Kovac's predecessors and Robben's imminent return from a thigh injury threatens

Serge Gnabry's place on the right wing.

Thiago Alcantara, a second-half replacement on Saturday who is returning to fitness after a knee injury, threatens to break up Kimmich and Goretzka's partnership in central midfield.

However, Kovac's decision has reaped dividends in attack with striker Robert Lewandowski scoring four goals in his last three games, supported by Thomas Mueller who is revelling in the attacking midfield role.

"At the start (of the season), we rotated as the coach tried to find the right team," said director of sport Hasan Salihamidzic.

"Perhaps it was too much and some players didn't know where they fitted in.

"In the last few games, Niko hasn't done that and the team looks good."—AFP ■

## Silva has last laugh as Everton escape against former club Watford

LIVERPOOL (United Kingdom) — Marco Silva had the last laugh against his former club Watford as Everton defender Lucas Digne's last-gasp free-kick rescued a dramatic 2-2 draw at Goodison Park on Monday.

Everton manager Silva was facing Watford for the first time since his acrimonious departure from Vicarage Road in January.

The 41-year-old was sacked by Watford after less than a year in charge, with the club's owners blaming Everton's interest in the Portuguese coach for distracting him from his job.

Convinced he treated them disrespectfully by showing interest in Everton, the Watford fans who travelled to Goodison Park waved inflatable snakes and directed abusive chants at Silva.

With just seconds to go, it seemed Silva would be bitten by his old employers.

Everton's Richarlison, signed from Watford by Silva, put the hosts ahead in the first half.

Seamus Coleman's own goal drew Watford level after the break and Abdoulaye

Doucoure's header put them in front before Everton midfielder Gylfi Sigurdsson had a penalty saved by Ben Foster.

But Digne came to Silva's rescue in the sixth minute of stoppage-time to deny Watford the revenge they so badly wanted.

Insisting he didn't care about silencing the Watford taunts, Silva said: "Of course not. I didn't see anything. It's not important to me. What I can control is my players.

"It's a difficult match to talk about. We lost our focus completely for their goals."

Eventually hired by Everton in May, Silva summed up the difficult nature of his Watford exit last week when he made it clear he was unsentimental about facing his old club.

Watford are still waiting for the Premier League to settle their complaint against Everton for the alleged illegal approach for Silva.

And the Silva feud threatened to spill onto the pitch after Watford captain Troy Deeney last week said he would "smash" Richarlison for leaving the Hornets. —AFP ■

## Barcelona express worry about La Liga match in USA

BARCELONA (Spain) — Barcelona have withdrawn their wish to play a first ever La Liga game in the United States until all parties agree with the idea, the club announced on Monday.

The Catalans are set to face Girona in Miami on January 29 but the Spanish football federation (RFEF), Spain's professional footballers' association as well as FIFA president Gianni Infantino

have voiced their concerns.

"The FC Barcelona Board of Directors have agreed to withdraw their disposal to play their game against Girona FC in Miami, after noting a lack of consensus over this proposal," a statement on their website read.

"Barcelona were and remain willing to play a La Liga game in Miami, and accepted that income from the game

would be shared amongst all Primera Division and Segunda Division clubs," it added.

The two clubs had signed a formal request from the league sent to the Spanish football federation to allow the fixture at the Hard Rock Stadium, which would be the maiden game as part of a 15-year project to play more Spanish league games in the USA.—AFP ■

19th ASEAN University Games 2018						
10th - 19th DECEMBER, 2018, MYANMAR						
Date / Time- 11.12.2018 (12:00)						
Rank	NOC	SEA Nations	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	INA	 Indonesia	8	4	6	18
2	MYA	 Myanmar	8	4	5	17
3	MAS	 Malaysia	6	8	5	19
4	THA	 Thailand	5	6	7	18
5	LAO	 Laos	2	4		6
6	SGP	 Singapore	2		1	3
7	BRU	 Brunei				
8	CAM	 Cambodia				
9	PHI	 Philippines				
10	TLS	 Timor Leste				
11	VIE	 Vietnam				
Total			31	26	24	81