

NATIONAL

Vice President U Myint Swe inspects development works in Myeik

PAGE-5

NATIONAL

Vice President U Henry Van Thio attends statistics central committee meeting

PAGE-5

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President U Win Myint presents the honorary award to U Aung Ko Win, Chairman of Kanbawza Bank at the ceremony to honour top taxpayers in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

President U Win Myint honors highest taxpayers for 2017-2018 tax year

Taxpayers from local companies and private foreign businesses honored

A ceremony to present honorary awards and certificates to the highest taxpayers for the 2017-2018 tax year was held at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. President U Win Myint conferred the awards on individuals with outstanding payments for income tax, commercial tax, and specific goods tax.

The importance of paying taxes

At the ceremony, the President said that it was clearly written in Section 389

of the 2008 Constitution that 'every citizen has the duty to pay taxes to be levied according to the law'. He said stability and development of a nation does not necessarily rely on its natural resources, but on the taxpayers, who reflect our civic responsibility and economic development. This ceremony was held to promote a culture of dutifully paying tax among the people, said the President.

SEE PAGE-3



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meeting with 1st Grade students learning in the classroom in B.E.H.S (1) Pabedan Township, Yangon Region yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor observes classrooms in B.E.H.S (1) Pabedan

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, accompanied by Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Min Thu and officials, flew from Nay Pyi Taw to Yangon yesterday afternoon. They were welcomed by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, the Yangon Region cabinet, and department officials at the Yangon International Airport.

The State Counsellor and entourage visited B.E.H.S (1) Pabedan in Pabedan Township at 2:40pm and observed students studying in the classroom.

Firstly, the Yangon Region Chief Minister, Yangon Region ministers, department officials, Headmistress, teachers and students greeted the State Counsellor and entourage.

Next, the State Counsellor observed KG students in the classroom and encouraged their artwork and paper toy creations. The State Counsellor also observed the classrooms of the 1st, 8th, 9th, and 10th grades and cordially asked the students about their current education situation and future aspirations.

SEE PAGE-4

INSIDE TODAY

PARLIAMENT

Second-day meeting of 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 11th session convenes

PAGE-2

NATIONAL

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint leaves for Philippines

PAGE-7

NATIONAL

Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin attends Change-Challenges to Opportunities Forum

PAGE-10

NATIONAL

Small police outpost stationed close to BP 41 was attacked from about 200 meters inside Bangladesh territory

PAGE-6



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Second-day meeting of 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 11th session convenes

By Aung Ye Thwin,
Aye Aye Thant

THE second-day meeting of the 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 11th regular session was convened yesterday at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

Q & A session

During the Hluttaw session, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced that the Trademark Copyright Bill and the Industrial Designs Copyright Bill, considered as approved by the Hluttaw, would be put to record.

Substitutions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Joint Bill Committee members

Then Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker obtained the approval of the Hluttaw after the nominations for new members for the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Joint Bill Committee were submitted to the Hluttaw.

Amyotha Hluttaw representative Daw Cin Ngail May of Chin State constituency 7 was confirmed as a new member of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Joint Bill Committee instead of Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Thein Lwin of Kachin State constituency 10 and Amyotha Hluttaw representative Daw Hla Htay @ Daw Ohn Kyi of Mandalay Region constituency 4 in place of



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw holds session in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Soe Moe of Ayeyawady Region constituency 1.

Substitutions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Joint Public Accounts Committee members

Next, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker sought the approval from the MPs for the nomination list for new members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Joint Public Accounts Committee.

Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Myo Win of Mon State constituency 8 was appointed as member of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Joint Public Accounts Committee in place of of Amyo-

tha Hluttaw representative U Mang Law Maung of Chin State constituency 8.

Work report of the National Education Policy Commission

National Education Policy Commission Chairman Dr. Myo Kywe presented the work report of the National Education Policy Commission for the past six months at the Hluttaw. Then Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced that interested Hluttaw representatives should register their names to discuss the report.

Myanma Gemstone Bill

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Joint Bill Committee member U

Zaw Win read the findings report of the committee and remarks of the Myanmar Gemstone Bill sent back from the President with remarks. Following this, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced that interested Hluttaw representatives should enroll their names to discuss the report.

Bill Amending the Myanmar Accountancy Council Law

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Joint Bill Committee member Daw Nwe Nwe Aung clarified on the findings report of the amending bill of the Myanmar Accountancy Council Law that

was sent back from the President with remarks. Afterwards, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced that interested Hluttaw representatives should enroll their names to discuss the bill.

Myanmar Traditional Medicine Council Bill

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker obtained a paragraph-by-paragraph decision and approval of the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Council Bill sent back from the President with remarks.

Medium-term debt management strategy report

Hluttaw representatives discussed the medium-term debt management strategy report 2018, sent by the Union Government, together with a findings report (1/2019) of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Joint Public Accounts Committee. Regarding this report, Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency, U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency, U Bo Gyi of Chauk constituency, U Kan Myint of Thayet constituency, U Than Soe @ Than Soe (Economic) of Yangon Region constituency 4 and U Maung Maung Ohn of Ayeyawady Region constituency 5 took part in the discussion.

The next meeting of the 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 11th regular session will be held on 29 January.—■ (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker attends opening ceremony of capacity building course

AN opening ceremony of capacity building course on Parliamentary Diplomacy and International Relations for Hluttaw representatives and Hluttaw Office Personnel was held at Learning Center, Zabuthiri Hluttaw Building, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the ceremony, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Joint Coordination Committee on Hluttaw Development (JCC) Chairman U Tun Tun Hein said the course is conducted to develop the capacity and expertise of Hluttaw representatives and Hluttaw Office personnel in attending regional and international meetings on parliaments and in dealing with local and international organisations and non-government organisations (NGOs). The aim is for Hluttaw representatives to understand the country's stands, policies and

diplomatic protocols and have qualified Hluttaw Office personnel who can support their works.

At the course Hluttaw representatives and experts from committees and commissions who had experience in international meetings, experts from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and international relation experts from partner organisations will give lectures on sector wise subjects covering international relations history, basic of bilateral relation, relationship between domestic politics and international politics, particulars of international organisations like AIPA and IPU, facts about ASEAN, international conventions and covenant. The course is attended by 66 trainees who are Hluttaw representatives and Hluttaw Office personnel.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein addresses the opening ceremony of capacity building course in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

President U Win Myint honors highest taxpayers for 2017-2018 tax year



President U Win Myint addresses the ceremony to present the President's Honourary Award for to the highest taxpayers for the 2017-2018 tax year at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-1

He said the nation had drawn economic policies to bring about citizen-centered inclusive and sustainable development. Separate policies have been drawn to allow every citizen the freedom to pursue their business of interest, which will aid in developing the private sector, and to increase foreign investment, said the President. He said this also included copyright and rule of law.

The policies include laws, rules and regulations for protecting the rights and property of the people, while establishing a fair and beneficial tax system that would increase national revenue. He said tax was levied not just for government spending but also to establish a fair and equitable budget system and to regulate cash flow by setting suitable policies.

The President said the national budget was one of the most important components for establishing a developed nation. He said maintaining national stability, security, and rule of law all required money. He said the government had plans to improve the tax system and to promote a taxpaying culture.

Taxpayers are a source of national strength

The President said a tax system required honesty, authenticity, transparency, and accountability. He said they were amending outdated tax laws and irrelevant protocol, and to promote the spirit and skillset of the tax staff. He said the taxpaying citizen's contribution in implementing these changes would remain as a historical milestone.

The President said the ceremony was held to honor

the responsible entrepreneurs and businesspersons who have contributed to national development. He said the Union government was working to improve the socioeconomic livelihood of the people, for decentralization, and to bring about public-driven development in order to establish a democratic federal union. There would be challenges and hardships along the way, but the tax payments from businesses provide considerable support in national expenditure, said the President.

He said the Union government was working carefully to use taxpayers' money for bringing benefits to the public and to avoid wastages. He said the Union government extended its deepest gratitude to the businesspeople at the ceremony and to all the taxpayers across

the country.

The President wished for continued success to the tax-paying businesspeople and citizens, and to continue paying the required taxes to bring about personal and national benefits.

Highest taxpayers honored

The President then conferred the presidential award and honorary certificate to U Aung Ko Win, Chairman of Kanbawza Bank Ltd., for paying the highest amount of income tax from 2011-2012 tax year to 2017-2018 tax year for seven consecutive years.

Highest income tax payers from local companies

The President also conferred honorary awards and certificates to the other highest income tax payers for 2017-2018 tax year.

They include KBZ Bank's Deputy CEO Daw Nang Lang

Kham, Myawaddy Bank's Managing Director U Yu Lwin, Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited's Head of General Administration U Min Zaw, Shwe Taung Development Co.'s CEO U Aung Zaw Naing, International Beverages Trading Company Ltd.'s Executive to Chairman Daw Mya Pwint Phyu, Ayeyarwady Bank Ltd.'s Chairman U Zaw Zaw, Myanma Grape and Beverages Company Ltd.'s Managing Director U Aung Moe Kyaw, Co-operative Bank Chairman U Khin Maung Aye, Myawaddy Trading Ltd.'s Managing Director U Khin Maung Soe, and Myanma Awba Group Co. Ltd.'s Head of Corporate Affairs and Special Projects U Aung Swe.

Highest commercial tax payers from local companies

The President then conferred honorary awards and certificates to the highest commercial tax payers for 2017-2018 tax year.

They include Denko Trading Co. Director U Wunna Khaing, City Mart Holdings Company Ltd.'s CEO Daw Win Win Tint, International Beverages Trading Company Ltd.'s Joint-Chairman U Aung Moe Kyaw, PT Power Trading Co. Ltd.'s Managing Director U Win Swe, Asia Energy Co. Ltd.'s Managing Director U Thet Wai, Shwe Byain Phyu Co. Ltd.'s Managing Director U Thein Win Zaw, Kyaw San Co. Ltd.'s Director U Zaw Zarni Kyaw, Ayeyar Hinthar Holdings Company Ltd.'s Chairman U Zaw Win Shein, Outfitter Company Ltd.'s Director U Maung Kyay, Benha Trading Company Ltd.'s Managing Director U Kyaw Aung.



President U Win Myint poses for the documentary photo with all the foreign honorary award recipients for the top income tax payers for the 2017-2018 tax year at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

SEE PAGE-4

State Counsellor observes classrooms in B.E.H.S (1) Pabedan

FROM PAGE-1

She instructed the officials and students to favour meaningful learning over rote learning, to try harder in subjects they are weak in, acquire English proficiency, take part in physical activities to develop both physically and mentally at the same pace, and to strive for tertiary education and vocational training in the future.

The State Counsellor then visited the school library and examined the bookshelves filled with books from different genres. She instructed the Headmistress and teachers to keep the books organized and to cooperate with library science professionals to systematically maintain the library.

Afterwards, she met with the parents, the Headmistress, and teachers from the parent-teacher association, asked them about the school's requirements, and provided appropriate suggestions.

B.E.H.S (1) Pabedan was established on 23 February 1886 and was formerly known as the St. Mary's Diocesan School for Girls. It was changed into B.E.H.S (1) on 1 April 1969. It is an all-girls high school with 273 female students attending currently. The school's matriculation exam pass rate was 20 per cent in 2015-2016 academic year, 42.42 per cent in 2016-2017, and 29.03 per cent in 2017-2018.

—MNA

(Translated by
Zaw Htet Oo)



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi greets Grade-VIII school children in the classroom in B.E.H.S (1) Pabedan, Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi looks at colour paintings drawn by KG students in their classroom in B.E.H.S (1) Pabedan, Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi inspects school library in B.E.H.S (1) Pabedan, Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

President U Win Myint honors highest taxpayers for 2017-2018 tax year

FROM PAGE-3

Highest specific goods tax payers from local companies

Next, the President conferred honorary awards and certificates to the highest specific goods tax payers for 2017-2018 tax year.

They include Dagon Beverage Co. Ltd.'s Administrative Director U Hla Min Thu, Royal Club Beverages Co. Ltd.'s Director U Zaw Win, Lin Let Win Gems and Jewelry Co. Ltd.'s Managing Director U Tun Kyi, Yadanar Taung Tan Gemstone Co. Ltd.'s Managing Director U Thet Naing, Yaung Ni Distillery's Factory Head U Kyaw Min Lwin, SMM Shwe Myanmar Beverages Co. Ltd.'s

Administrative Director U Tin Shwe, Wai Aung Kabar Gemstone Co. Ltd.'s Director Daw Nway Nway Hlaing, Globe Tobacco Co. Ltd.'s Director U Aung Kyaw Oo, Kan Pwint Oo Gemstone Co.'s Director Daw Mhway Khayay, and Phyo Thiha Kyaw Gemstone Co. Ltd.'s Director U Sein Win. Highest income tax payers from private foreign companies

The President conferred honorary awards and certificates to the highest income tax payers from private foreign companies for 2017-2018 tax year.

They include Mottama Gas Transportation Co. Ltd.'s General Manager MR. Romaric Roignan, Telenor Myanmar Ltd.'s CEO

Mr. Sharad Mehrota, Taninthayi Pipeline Company LLC's Head of Finance Uqba Jamshaid Iftikhar, Myanmar Brewery Ltd.'s Managing Director Mr. Hideki Mitsuhashi, and KDDI Summit Global Myanmar Co. Ltd.'s CFO Mr. Junji Nakayama.

Highest commercial tax payers from foreign companies

The President conferred honorary awards and certificates to the highest commercial tax payers from private foreign companies for 2017-2018 tax year.

They include Telenor Myanmar Ltd.'s CFO Ms. Caroline Yin Yin Htay, Ooredoo Myanmar Ltd.'s CEO Mr. Vilran Sinha, Myanmar Brewery Ltd.'s Deputy

Managing Director U Soe Kyaw Thu, Shwe Li (1) Hydropower Co. Ltd.'s Factory Head U Zaw Win Tun, and Virginia Tobacco Co. Ltd.'s Chairman U Myint Oo. Highest specific goods tax payers from foreign companies

The President conferred honorary awards and certificates to the highest specific goods tax payers from private foreign companies for 2017-2018 tax year.

They include Myanmar Brewery Ltd.'s Corporate Communication Manager U Moe Zaw Oo, Virginia Tobacco Co. Ltd.'s Chairman U Myint Oo, Myanmar Distillery Co. Ltd.'s Co-Chairman U Aung Moe Kyaw, Heineken Myanmar Ltd.'s Finance Director

Mr. Shankar Romalingam, and Myanmar Carlsberg Co. Ltd.'s Corporate Communication & CSR Manager Daw Han Su Tin. Closing formalities

As the ceremony drew to a close, the President took a documentary photo with all the honorary award recipients, and then hosted a formal tea reception.

Also attending the ceremony and reception were Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, U Thant Sin Maung, U Win Khaing, Dr. Than Myint, U Soe Win, and U Han Zaw, CBM Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, deputy ministers U Aung Hla Tun and U Hla Kyaw, and other officials. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Vice President U Myint Swe inspects development works in Myeik

VICE President U Myint Swe inspected livestock breeding works, dockyard, woodworking factory, fish and prawn cold storage, rubber factory and Thamote-Lut Lut Bridge construction project in Taninthayi Region, Myeik town yesterday.

He was accompanied by Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr. Ye Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win and departmental officials. They arrived in Myeik by air yesterday morning and were welcomed at the airport by Taninthayi Region Chief Minister Dr. Lei Lei Maw, region ministers and officials.

The Vice President and party went to Kyunsu Township, Kattalu Village by Yay Nan Thu Zar vessel and inspected the salt water shrimp breeding works conducted by Pyae Phyo Tun International Co., Ltd. where Department of Fisheries Director General U Khin Maung Maw explained about salt water shrimp breeding works with modern methods, production, market situation and future work processes.

After raising some questions the Vice President urged the officials concerned to achieve



Vice President U Myint Swe inspects livestock breeding works from the viewpoint in Myeik, Taninthayi Region yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

success in this pilot project. As success is achieved there'll be more work opportunities. The Vice President also spoke of the need to prevent losses by following bio-security and the need to follow rules and regulations.

Next, the Vice President and party inspected the systematic breeding of salt water shrimp and went on to Pahtet Island and inspected the dockyard, soft shell crab breeding works, woodworking factory, fish and prawn cold storage facilities operated by Pyae Phyo Tun International Co., Ltd. Director General U Khin Maung Maw, company manager U Thant Sin

and company director Daw Myat Thiri Khaing explained about the status of soft shell crab breeding, dockyard and woodworking factory respectively.

The Vice President reminded officials of the Pyae Phyo Tun International Co., Ltd. to conduct their works on Pahtet Island without causing environmental damages. He also advised them to take responsibility for socio-environment development of local villages while conducting the company works.

In the afternoon, the Vice President and party went to Myeik Township, Pin O Village Tract, Nga Inn Village rubber

crumb factory. Pho La Min Rubber Industry Work Co., Ltd. Chairman U Pho Sein explained about the factory, rubber production, market situation and future works in the factory briefing hall.

The Vice President urged the company officials to strive towards producing quality rubbers in order to penetrate into international market and then inspected the factory.

Later, the Vice President and party went to Thamote-Lut Lut Bridge construction project constructed by Special Bridge Construction Group 4 and at the project briefing hall Depart-

ment of Bridge Chief Engineer U Thein Myint Mon explained about implementation of bridge construction works in the Region and Director (Civil) U Kyaw Myo Tun explained about Thamote-Lut Lut Bridge particulars, completed works and future works to complete the work within the designated time. The Vice President commented on conducting the Thamote-Lut Lut Bridge construction works according to five point quality management system and to complete the work in the designated time according to set norms and standards.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Min)

Vice President U Henry Van Thio attends statistics central committee meeting

VICE PRESIDENT U Henry Van Thio, Chairman of the Central Committee for Accurate and High Quality Statistics, addressed the committee's meeting at the Ministry of Planning and Finance yesterday morning.

In his address to the meeting the Vice President said the committee was upgraded and reformed in 2018 and was seen to have completed the National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS) Action Plan. All were urged to maintain the momentum of progress in 2019. This was the second meeting of the newly upgraded and reformed committee.

The Statistics Law enacted in early 2018 had been in effect since 22 January 2019. Ten statistic sector wise work groups were formed to implement NSDS.

Relevant work groups were learnt to keep NSDS Action Plan as a Living Document and implementing it. Cooperation among



Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers the speech at the committee meeting of Statistics Central Committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

cluster departments were also learnt to have strengthened.

Relevant Union Ministers and state/region planning and finance ministers were urged to guide relevant statistics work groups on allocation of resources required for accuracy of statistics and formation of statistics

units.

It was an honor to see Myanmar Statistics Forum 2018 held for the first time as a platform for improving relations between publishers and users of statistical information, to provide statistical information and for cooperation among stakehold-

ers. Action Plans for cooperation among stakeholders were established at the forum.

The practice and habit of Data Culture and Statistical Literacy must spread not only to departments but also to private businesses and the people. Myanmar Statistics Forum should

be held once a year as a platform to raise Statistics Literacy and cooperation among Stakeholders.

The Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) was approved just as countries of the world were implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Statistics that reflects the present moment was required in drawing the MSDP. A National Indication Framework would be designated and measured in implementing the MSDP. Data and statistics were required to be recorded at each stage of the work process in order to monitor the implementation of the plan. Cooperation among relevant ministerial departments was important for the establishment of the national index framework, acquisition of data, calculation and measurement matters.

SEE PAGE-6

Vice President U Henry Van Thio attends statistics central committee meeting

FROM PAGE-5

As implementation of the Statistics Law there must be consistent, accurate and timely ground statistics for development of the country. In this regard participation of all Stakeholders was needed; also there was a need to expand statistics cooperation mechanism between ministerial departments, central level and state/region governments.

Committee members and work groups were urged to participate enthusiastically in the Central Committee for Accurate and High Quality Statistics meeting and provide detailed discussion and suggestions.

According to the saying "Better Data, Better Statistics, Better Life" only with quality national statistics system can there be information to create development policies, projects and economic environment for policy makers, planners, private

businesses and socio-economic researchers.

Government departments, development partners, private sector, civil society organizations, and media representatives were urged to cooperate under the leadership of Central Committee for Accurate and High Quality Statistics to obtain good outcome and for statistics system development to raise the socio-economic lives of the people, said the Vice President.

Next, Central Committee Vice Chairman Union Minister U Soe Win explained about implementing statistics work processes, publishing of quality statistics and strengthening statistics coverage.

Afterwards, Central Committee secretary Central Statistical Organization (CSO) Director General Dr. Wah Wah Maung explained about central committee meetings held, decisions made

at central committee meeting 1/2018, works conducted on enacting Statistics Law, surveys conducted, capacity building works and publications made by CSO.

Central Committee members Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, U Thant Sin Maung, U Win Khaing, Dr. Than Myint, U Han Zaw, Dr. Win Myat Aye, Central Bank of Myanmar Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun, state/region ministers and officials then conducted sector wise discussions on accurate and quality statistics followed by heads of statistical work groups explaining about sector wise works, status of collecting animal census and collection of mid-year census.

Chairman of the Central Committee for Accurate and High Quality Statistics Vice President U Henry Van Thio

commented on the discussions and explanations and delivered a closing remark. He said accurate and quality statistics were the image of the country. Therefore, for the country to have a good image the country's statistics must be accurate and of high quality. He urged for the successful implementation of Data Base Centre on statistics. Projects were drawn with statistics in establishing a country. As such having accurate statistics was important for the country and all were to work together on it. Having an accurate and quality statistics was something that couldn't be done in a short time as it is was long term work. First was to have accurate and quality statistics and second was to push toward using it practically. All were urged to cooperate and participate in the preparation for mid-year census and agriculture census. A true socio-economic

situation would be reflected only with accurate statistics. Only then could policies be changed as required and allocation, monitoring and assessment of projects and budget could be made, said the Vice President.

The following officials attended the event: Central Committee Vice Chairman Union Minister U Soe Win, committee members Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, U Thant Sin Maung, U Win Khaing, Dr. Than Myint, U Han Zaw, Dr. Win Myat Aye, Central Bank of Myanmar Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun, state/region ministers, Central Bank of Myanmar Deputy Governor U Soe Thein, Permanent Secretaries, Directors General, members of work groups implementing National Strategy for Development of Statistics and officials—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Small police outpost stationed close to BP 41 was attacked from about 200 meters inside Bangladesh territory

A small police outpost stationed close to BP 41 was attacked at 7:44 am from about 200 meters inside the Bangladesh territory. Four bombs were launched by the grenade launchers and some 200 shots were fired at the police post, which is taking security for those who are upgrading the border fence. Two policeman and one fence worker were injured.

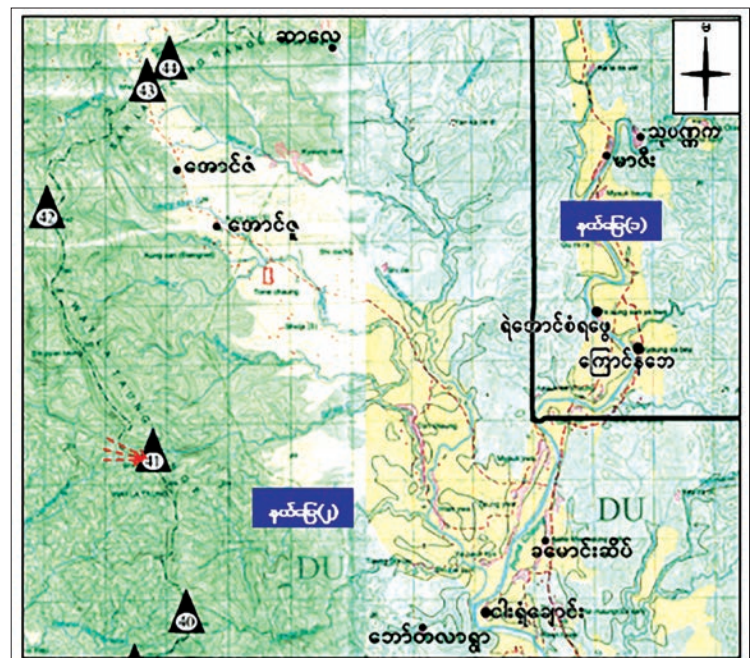
It is learnt that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Union of Myanmar had invited the Ambassador of Bangladesh and informed him of incident in order that Bangladesh, as a friendly neighbour which has a zero tolerance policy on terrorism to prevent its territory from being used to attack Myanmar.—MNA



The attack on the police post leaves two policemen and one fence worker injured.



BP 41 was destroyed by the attack yesterday.



The map showing the point at the border where the attack happened yesterday.



The border fence which is being upgraded by workers when they are attacked.

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint leaves for Philippines

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint and party left Yangon by air yesterday evening for Manila, Philippines to attend the memorandum of understanding signing ceremony of Myanmar-Philippines information sector cooperation and to meet with officials from Philippines news agency, television and radio from 24 to 27 January.

The delegation led by Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by ministry officials.—MNA ■ (Translated



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and his delegation members seen at Yangon International Airport before departing for the Philippines. PHOTO: MNA

Chief Minister urges YCDC to start one-stop service for Yangonites

YANGON Region Chief Minister urged the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) to start a one-stop service for the convenience of people living in the city. The Asia Foundation, a nonprofit international development organization, and Yangon-based Nyan Thit Lin Reference Library (Renaissance Institute) conducted a workshop on implementation of good practices by the municipal committee. The workshop began on 23 January at the Chatrium Hotel.

“The municipal authorities need to deliver excellent

service to the people of Yangon. They also need to provide one-stop service for the utmost convenience of Yangonites,” said the chief minister.

“Currently, we are making utmost efforts for the development of Yangon Region. The Municipal election will be conducted very soon, in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations. Members of political parties may also compete in the election,” he said. “We are making arrangements for people who belong to political parties to be able to compete in the election. We will conduct the election

according to the municipal rules,” he added.

The workshop is being conducted with the aim of sharing opinions on the fair collection of municipal tax, using technology for the development of municipal areas, and providing public relations training for making tax payments convenient.

The workshop, which ends on 25 January, is being attended by municipal ministers from 14 states and regions, and directors and Township municipal committee members.—GNLM ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

Ministry of Information holds coordination meeting on e-Government

A second coordination meeting to increase the momentum of implementing Ministry of Information's e-Government works was conducted at the meeting

hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun discussed about minis-

try's departments working collectively to systematically raise the momentum of implementing Ministry of Information e-Government works, publishing of news and information accurately and in a timely manner, cyber security and holding of courses.

Following this, officials from Myanma Radio and Televisions, Information and Public Relations Department, Printing and Publishing Department and News and Periodicals Enterprise discussed, suggested, reviewed and explained about department wise works.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun attends the 2nd coordination meeting on e-Government in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin receives ROK Vice FM

U KYAW TIN, Union Minister for International Cooperation received Mr. Lee Taeho, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea on 24th January 2019 at 3:00 pm at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on the matters pertaining to the enhancement of bilateral relations and economic cooperation, to increase provision of assistance from the Republic of Korea to

Myanmar government's efforts on all-round development and rural area development sector of Myanmar through Samuel Undong Project, matters related to successful holding of ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations and the first Mekong-Korea Summit in 2019 and ROK's support to overcome challenges faced by Myanmar during its transitional period.—MNA ■



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin meets with ROK Vice Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Lee Taeho on 24 January. PHOTO: MNA

Traffic death toll in 2018 reaches 5,184

A total of 17,451 road accidents across the country left 5,184 dead and 26,741 injured in 2018, according to the Myanmar Traffic Police Force.

Yangon reported 2,684 accidents, with 599 deaths and 3,164 people injured; in Mandalay, 2,243 accidents left 744 dead and 3,409 injured; in Ayeeyawady, 2,033 accidents left 419 dead and 3,446 injured; in Magway, 1,610 accidents left 367 dead and 2,799 injured; in Sagaing, 1,539 accidents left 481 dead and 2,606 injured; in Shan, 1,184 accidents left 529 dead and 1,680 injured; in Mon, 875 accidents left 346 dead and 1,468 injured; in Taninthayi, 585 accidents left 209 dead and 957 injured; in Rakhine, 429 accidents left 170 dead and 629 injured; in Kachin, 427 accidents left 196 dead and 561 injured; in Kayin, 374 accidents left 153 dead and 605 injured; in Nay Pyi Taw, 342 accidents left 227 dead and 385 injured; in Chin, 106 accidents left 47 dead and 146 injured; in Kayah, 88 accidents

left 47 dead and 122 injured.

A total of 474 traffic accidents on the Yangon-Mandalay expressway led to the loss of 104 lives in 2018. A total of 877 people were injured in the accidents.

Reckless driving, over-speeding, defective vehicles, and inclement weather were identified as the main causes of accidents on the country's roads, according to the Myanmar highway police.

Myanmar has an average of 48 traffic accidents every day, killing 14 people and injuring 73.

In 2017, there were 18,171 traffic accidents nationwide, which left 5,250 people dead and 29,144 injured.

To reduce road accidents, the traffic police are conducting regular awareness talks and distributing pamphlets. The traffic police have filed charges against suspected reckless drivers under sections 279, 337, 338 and 304 (A) of the Penal Code.—GNLM

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Unity is the essence of peace

THE people of Myanmar have been witnessing armed conflicts for nearly 70 years and can no longer wait for peace. Long drawn conflicts have harmed communal peace even in areas they have not directly touched. Armed conflicts have brought nothing but misery to our people. It is regrettable to see people living in insecurity.

Peace cannot be built only for an individual, an organization, or an ethnic group, but has to encompass the whole Union. Peace is necessary for the security and safety of our brethren who have been residing in the country through thick and thin. Rule of law is sine qua non for peace.

To achieve peace, we must work hard with a strong desire, strong spirit, relentless effort, and the wisdom to distinguish right from wrong. Only this can help prevent our country from being deprived of democracy and human rights, curb violence and exploitation, and stop us from becoming a Union where people are not happy.

Peace cannot be built only for an individual, an organization, or an ethnic group, but has to encompass the whole Union. Peace is necessary for the security and safety of our brethren who have been residing in the country through thick and thin.

term 'Panglong' — a very simple, short name — is pleasing and exciting for all people who care about the Union. Panglong is recognized not as a ceremony, but as a valuable part of our history.

History never ends, it is constantly being written. The history of Panglong began with the leaders of our struggle for independence. It is now our duty to ensure the conference ends successfully.

Today, Myanmar is on the road to democracy and the government is carrying out rehabilitation and establishing the rule of law. We believe that the country will reach its goal of a federal democratic union with the combined strength of all ethnic people who believe in democracy, human rights, and equality.

The enchanting Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda, the incomparable Golden Rock

By U Win Sein

ANY country can put forward their ancient outstanding cultural or natural sites for listing as the World Heritage Sites with UNESCO. Such sites must contain outstanding value and must meet at least one out of the ten selection criteria lay down by the Selection Committee of UNESCO. The Selection criteria are :-

- [1] to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius.
- [2] to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on development in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town planning or landscape design.
- [3] to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared.
- [4] to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technology ensembles or landscape which illustrate a significant stage in human history.
- [5] to be an outstanding example of traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture. Or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change.
- [6] to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living tradition. With ideas, or with belief, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance [The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria];
- [7] to contain superlative nature phenomena or area of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
- [8] to be outstanding example representing major stages of Earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;
- [9] to be outstanding example representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystem and communities of plants and animals;
- [10] to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation



PHOTO: Phoe Khwar

of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

As Myanmar is still in its infancy state on her international tourism business, so she has had a faraway distance left behind in the back in order to catch up her neighboring countries like China, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam who have already developed themselves with sustainable tourism, comprising cultural tourism and preservation of historical heritages. Myanmar has offered many kinds of tourism services namely; Marine tourism, ecotourism, community tourism and trekking trips to the snow-capped mountains in the far North of Myanmar. Like many countries in the world, crying demand for travels and tours businesses together with the ability to generate high level of employment to prove the importance as a tool for economic development and jobs creation. For Myanmar to visualize a total tourism receipts from USD-534 million in 2012 to USD 10.18 million in 2020 and by such projected time the tourism industry could have create 1.49 million jobs.

With the inscription of the three ancient Pyu cities of Beikthano, Sriksetra and Hanlin names have been listed as the World Heritage Sites with UNESCO, the pagodas

In fact, no team of geologists has ever visited Kyaikhtiyo to find out how the boulder, with an 18-foot tall pagoda on top, manages to perch precariously above the cliff of the main mountain.

and temples crowded ancient great city of Bagan, the Shwe Dagon Pagoda of Yangon, the spelled bound and enchanted Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda in Mon State, are still left behind to be listed as the World Heritage Sites by the Selection Committee of UNESCO, but on account of some difficulties in the intricate procedure of selection, the recognition would soon be materialized on the substantial facts, Myanmar [Burma] has after a drastic changes in her political, economic and social attitudes in all spheres in the whole country. With the media sector doubling its efforts to make known to all corners of the world that Myanmar has been free and invites the outside world to come and aid and make investment in Myanmar without fear at all.

To see Myanmar for real, is to come and visit Myanmar around October the start of the tourism season for Myanmar. To begin with, is the visit to the spelled bound and enchanted Kyaikhti-

yo Pagoda [Golden Rock]. The Pagoda has offered an awesome and enchanted feeling to foreign tourists when they have visited the Rock. The Golden Rock has been found during the life-time of Buddha over 2600 years and it has also defying the Law of Gravitation, precariously perching over a cliff of the main mountain of 1100 meters above the sea level. The Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda has disseminated a message of Buddhist religious consciousness to all that have visited the holy place which has enshrined with a strand of the Buddha's hair. Thus Buddhist devotees have a deep desire to go on pilgrimage to the Pagoda. News of some foreign geologist visitor; in fits and starts utter casually that it was perhaps a volcanic accidental phenomenon occurrence which contributed to the peculiar rock formation there in time immemorial had the properties of magnetic force that holding the boulder rock just in a slanting position in adhe-

sion to the mountain.

In fact, no team of geologists has ever visited Kyaikhtiyo to find out how the boulder, with an 18-foot tall pagoda on top, manages to perch precariously above the cliff of the main mountain. Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda is the most revered and celebrated pagoda in Myanmar. It is indeed recognized as one of the wonders of South East Asia, befitting to be called as one of the Great Wonders of the World. As legend says that the hair from Lord Buddha was given to a hermit who treasured the sacred hair that was kept in his hair knot, until he had found a boulder resembling his own head on which he had built a pagoda to enshrine the hair.

It is a miracle that this boulder has remained in its precarious position for centuries despite several earthquakes took place in the vicinity. Buddhist devotees have attributed to the influence of the power of the hair relic enshrined in the pagoda, had made the miracle boulder rock hovering in the air with awesomeness. Sometime, certain peculiar matter cannot be explained by modern technology or science, like the inexplicable question of what is Nature? There may be many ways to explain. For instance; the precise period of the four seasonal months taken place in accordance with a fixed period since time immemorial and that on which month, which kinds of flowers

in blossom; or in space, planets are moving around a star by the solar system in a perfect systematic order regularly on and on as if an invisible hand has been taken care to direct all these happenings in the whole Universe in a systematic manner. As time goes by, many philosophers might have interpreted this invisible hand idea as equivalent to be called as Nature. Once, the inventor of atomic bomb theory, Dr. Albert Einstein was being asked the question of "Do you believe in God?" It was replied by Einstein "Yes, I do, everything happening in this Universe is manipulated by someone whom I may Him as Nature or others may call Him as God "So from the assumption of the peculiarity of that Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda precariously perched on a strand of Lord Buddha's hair enshrined in it, balancing on the boulder rock that defying gravity as it was perpetually appeared to be on the verge of rolling down the mountain would be a miracle with inspiration enough for any person to turn to Buddhism for good.

At the peak of the pilgrimage season during November to March, the Golden Rock gleams in different shades from dawn to dusk [the sight at dawn and at sunset are unique], pilgrims' chants reverberate in the precincts of the shrine, lighting of candles, meditation and offering to Lord Buddha continued throughout the night. Men crossed over bridge across an abyss to affix golden leaves on the sides of the Golden Rock [women are not allowed to cross the bridge, as this is a Myanmar cultural tradition] Pilgrims from all regions of Myanmar and foreign tourists also visit the Pagoda.

Even disabled persons who are staunch devotees, walking up the track on crutches. Old people who cannot climb are carried on stretches by porters to the Pagoda to offer prayers to Buddha. The Full Moon day Tabaung in March is a special occasion for pilgrims to the shrine. On this day, the platform of the pagoda is lighted with ninety thousand candles, as reverential offering to Lord Buddha. Injection of interest and enthusiasm on foreign tourists by making known widely to the outside world about Myanmar, that it worth the money they would spend to take a trip to Myanmar thus enhance our country to receive more tourism revenue for our Government's coffers.

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of Service Organizations transferred and confirmed

1. THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) Dr. Wah Wah Maung Director-General Central Statistics Organization Ministry of Planning and Finance	Director-General Pension Department Ministry of Planning and Finance
(2) U San Myint Director-General National Archive Department Ministry of Planning and Finance	Director-General Central Statistics Organization Ministry of Planning and Finance
(3) U Khin Maung Win Director-General Pension Department Ministry of Planning and Finance	Director-General National Archive Department Ministry of Planning and Finance

2. THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of U Aung Myint, Managing Director, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE) under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy upon expiry of the one-year probationary period.

72nd Anniversary (2019) Union Day National Objectives

1. All ethnic nationals to work with collective strength for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national unity, perpetuation of national sovereignty; and to work for preservation and protection of the above.
2. To strive for the emergence of a Constitution that is in alignment and harmony with the Democratic Federal Union.
3. To strive for the success of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panlong and thence till the success of the internal peace process.
4. All union nationals to cooperate and work in "Unity and Harmony" for rule of law and for the people to be secure and free from danger.
5. All union citizens to be able to enjoy good education and adequate health care protection.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30 hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over the Equatorial Indian Ocean and adjoining South Bay of Bengal still persists. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 25 January, 2019: Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin and Chin States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.
STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin attends Change-Challenges to Opportunities Forum

UNION Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin attended the Change-Challenges to Opportunities Forum held at Myanmar ICT Park Conference Hall, Yangon yesterday afternoon by Myanmar Ethnic Entrepreneurs' Association (MEEA). The forum was held to honor the Myanmar Ethnic Culture Fest organized by MEEA from 25 to 30 January.

At the event the Union Minister said now is the time when unity of ethnic nationals and peace can be achieved only through the ethnic national brothers and sisters working hand in hand together. According to the title of the forum, successfully overcoming changes and challenges and obtaining opportunities and prospects requires having aims and goals in addition to having knowledge and expertise. As more knowledge and expertise can be obtained from forums like this, holding such forums will develop the people's thoughts. The change desired by the people is not achieved simply by changing the Union government and state/region governments. If all the public servants under the Union and state/region governments didn't change, a democracy system couldn't be achieved. If the bad habits from the old system that the people didn't like are not changed the people's desire of a democracy system that protects the people wouldn't be achieved. If the people didn't have knowledge and expertise, they wouldn't know



Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin and attendees pose for a documentary photo at the Change-Challenges to Opportunities Forum in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

whether the change is beneficial or protect the people. Only by conducting this sort of forum can the people know. The President had said that the Union wouldn't be developed if the states and regions which are branches of the union weren't developed. Ethnic business persons ought to work with foreign businesses in addition to conducting exhibitions and small and medium enterprises for the development of their region. Only then will ethnic national youths gain knowledge and have increasing job opportunities. If they went abroad to work, they wouldn't be able to think about the development of our country and that is why job opportunities are required to be created. Peace is very important to create job opportunities. Through conducting

forum like this and discussion, knowledge and expertise will increase allowing for the implementation of union peace, said the Union Minister.

Next, Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet and MEEA central executive member Nai Pe Hlaing delivered speeches and took commemorative group photo.

Following this, topics on Change-Challenges to Opportunities Forum were discussed by Voice Weekly Journal CEO U Zeya Thu, Institute for Strategy and Policy Myanmar Executive Director U Min Zin, DICA Director General U Aung Naing Oo, MCRB Director Mrs. Vicky Bowman, MIT Founder and CEO Dr. U Tun Thura Thet and Yatanarpon Teleport Chief Operating Office Dr. Nandy Lynn. Later in the evening a dinner in honor of Myanmar

Ethnic Culture Fest was hosted by MEEA at Kyaikkasan Ground, Yangon.

The dinner was attended by Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, region ministers, ethnic affairs ministers from state/region governments, officials from MEEA and invited guests. At the dinner Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin delivered an opening speech while Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Theing and MEEA patron Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet delivered speeches. Afterwards donors who donated cash to successfully conduct the Myanmar Ethnic Culture Fest were honored with certificates of honors. —MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)

Seven acres of opium fields destroyed in Ngaphe Township

A local anti-drug squad destroyed about seven acres of opium poppy fields in the hilly areas of Ngaphe Township, Minbu District, Magway Region, on 23 January.

This was the second time the authorities searched for and destroyed poppy fields in Naung Village.

A combined team led by Police Major Win Maung of Ngaphe Township and comprising township police, members of the Myanmar armed forces, and de-

partmental staff destroyed three acres of three-foot tall opium poppy plants cultivated in a valley located four miles southwest of the village.

The team then discovered about 2.5 acres of opium crops in another valley five furlongs from the first plantation, and roughly 1.5 acres of poppy fields in a valley two furlongs to the west of the first plantation, and destroyed them.—Ma Yu (Ngaphe) ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)



Authorities destroy the opium field in Ngaphe Township. **PHOTO: MA YU (NGAPHE)**

Union Minister calls for cooperation in research on traditional medicine among BIMSTEC member countries

UNION MINISTER for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe addressed the opening ceremony of the second meeting of BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, calling on BIMSTEC member countries for cooperating in research on traditional medicine.

He urged the participants of the meeting to make the best use of experiences and knowledge gained at the meeting as the meeting brought the opportunities to the member countries to share knowledge on traditional medicine.

The Union Minister also urged the BIMSTEC member countries share experiences each other through practicing registration for traditional medicine.

icines and upgrade the research system.

He also said that the meeting will be focusing on the traditional medicinal cooperation between the BIMSTEC member countries along with preserving the species of the medicine and need to take copy rights for them.

To share knowledge and the result of the research, it will need to hold state level and international level conferences, meeting and educational talks more, he said.

The Union Minister expressed his thanks for compilation of the quality papers and book on traditional medicine and to be used in the meetine.

He pledged that his ministry would develop the traditional



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe addresses the 2nd Meeting of BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine.

PHOTO: MNA

medicine world.

Next, Mr. Kunzang N. Tshering, Director at the BIMSTEC Secretariat delivered the

speech.

A total of 40 representatives from BIMSTEC member countries, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lan-

ka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Thailand are attending the meeting.—MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Local, foreign investments permitted by MIC in November and December 2018

Myanmar Investment Commission is permitting local and foreign investments, according to Myanmar Investment Law.

Myanmar Investment Commission had permitted in November 2018 total foreign investment, including increased investment, valued at US\$428.408 million, and in December 2018 total foreign investment, including increased investment, valued at US\$333.728 million.

Foreign investments permitted during November and December of 2018 are as follows:

Sr.	Sector	November		December	
		No. of investments	Capital US\$ million	No. of investments	Capital US\$ million
1	Transportation and communications sector	1	171.790	1	243.433*
2	Industrial sector	16	86.497*	28	89.495*
3	Hotel and tourism sector	1	4.370*	-	-
4	Animal husbandry and fishery sector	2	16.379*	-	-
5	Other service sector	4	138.951	-	0.800*
6	Agricultural sector	2	10.421	-	-
Total		26	428.408	29	333.728

*Increase in the investment was included in the investment amount.

Myanmar Investment Commission had permitted in November 2018 a total Myanmar national investment totals K224432.440 million and in December 2018 a total Myanmar national investment totals K258919.330 million.

Myanmar national investments permitted during November and December 2018 are as follow.

Sr.	Sector	November		December	
		No. of investments	Capital Kyat million	No. of investments	Capital Kyat million
1	Housing and building construction sector	1	2107.531	-	-
2	Industrial sector	6	171831.068	7	11225.090*
3	Hotel and tourism sector	2	800.000	3	5350.000
4	Mining sector	3	16096.395	-	-

5	Animal husbandry and fishery sector	-	-	3	200200.000
6	Electricity sector	1	5900.000	1	10752.000
7	Other sector	5	27697.446	-	31392.240*
Total		18	224432.440	14	258919.330

*Increase in the investment was included in the investment amount.

Increased number of jobs created by foreign investment during November and December of 2018 are as follow.

Sr.	Sector	No. of jobs created for local workers	
		In November 2018	In December 2018
1	Agricultural sector	644	-
2	Animal husbandry and fishery sector	139	-
3	Industrial sector	10072	27640*
4	Transport and communication sector	225	502*
5	Hotel and tourism sector	12	-
6	Oil and Natural gas sector	-	-
7	Other service sector	186	-
Total		11278	28142

* Increase in the job was included in the job amount.

Increased number of jobs created by Myanmar national investments during November and December 2018 are as follow.

Sr.	Sector	No. of jobs created for local workers	
		In November 2018	In December 2018
1	Electricity sector	46	55
2	Mining sector	545	-
3	Industrial sector	1160	742
4	Hotel and tourism sector	31	197
5	Animal husbandry and fishery sector	-	2445
6	Housing and building construction sector	10	-
7	Other service sector	382	-
Total		2174	3439

Yangon Region gold body seeks Mining Dept license for mobile trading platform



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association has sought a license for gold trading through its mobile application from the Department of Mines, under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, said U Myo Myint, the chair of the association.

“Traders will have to deposit money into a bank account. We want gold trading through the mobile app to be legal as the platform will be used for formal payments. It will take some time to get the license,” said U Myo Myint.

The association applied to the Department of Mines for its online trading platform in late 2018.

“We have sought a license for online gold trading. The Department of Mines passed our request and forwarded it to the office of the Attorney General. It has not been cleared yet,” said U Myo Myint.

The software for the trading platform was developed to promote gold trading. The YGEA mobile app will be officially

launched at an event on 26 January.

The mobile trading app aims to ease trading for members of gold entrepreneurs associations, forecast the most probable moves in the market, provide profit-and-loss statements, and adopt systematic trading, in line with international criteria.

The mobile trading platform will be made available only to members who put in the deposit set by the association. Mobile trading using deposits is more secure. The mobile platform will help improve efficiency by discounting new information and driving the market into equilibrium much quicker, according to the Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

“The mobile trading platform has been created to allow both local and foreign investors to trade in gold. Therefore, we have also applied for a money changer license from the Central Bank of Myanmar to set up a legal

payment channel for the flow of foreign income,” according to the association.

“When foreigners purchase gold through the mobile app, they will pay in dollars. We want that earning in white money. We can hold foreign currency only if we have a money changer license. That license is only to hold foreign currency, yet not to conduct foreign

exchange operations,” said U Myo Myint.

At present, the online trading platform through the app is being used by members of the Yangon and Mandalay gold entrepreneurs bodies. The Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association has 700 members, while the Mandalay association has about 300 members.

(Translated by
Ei Myat Mon)

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New Yangon development project to be showcased at Invest Myanmar Summit 2019

THE Invest Myanmar Summit 2019, which will be held on 28 and 29 January, will showcase one of the most prominent projects — the development of New Yangon City — by the New Yangon Development Company Limited (NYDC).

The NYDC is 100-per cent owned by the Yangon Regional Government. Its vision is to make Yangon Myanmar's "Productive City, Livable City", and create an estimated 2 million jobs.

At the upcoming summit, a team from the NYDC will brief investors on four key areas, namely, public transport, municipal waste, the Convention Center, and telecommunications, according to the NYDC.

The NYDC held a workshop on Phase 1 of new Yangon City's master plan in late 2018. At the workshop, AECOM Singapore explained the first phase (draft) of the master plan, including strategic flood risk assessment, and

traffic and transport planning. The second phase (draft) of the master plan will come out soon. After the master plan is finalized, the NYDC will call for suggestions.

This year, more than 120 regional and private investment opportunities, worth over US\$3 billion, will be showcased at the summit, offering investors direct insights into investing in Myanmar.

The summit seeks to explore potential business

opportunities in Myanmar for local and foreign investors. Held in collaboration with the government and the country's private sector, the summit aims to attract greater foreign investment to Myanmar.

The National Project Bank for strategic projects, in line with the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, will be launched at the summit.

"The summit will act as a platform for businesses to meet with potential

partners and for investors to gain access to national, regional, and private sector business projects," said U Wai Phy, the chairperson of the Invest Myanmar Summit.

The two-day summit will see participation from ministries, regional governments from the country's nine states and regions, and professional organizations. Investors from Australia, China, China's Hong Kong, India, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Thai-

land, the UK, the United States, and the European Union are expected to attend the summit.

The summit is targeting the manufacturing, garments, electricity and energy, tourism, education, food processing and fisheries, healthcare, infrastructure, and property sectors as they can have a great impact on job creation and livelihood enhancement. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Exports exceed \$4 bln in Q1

MYANMAR'S exports between 1 October and 11 January in the 2018-2019 fiscal year touched a high of over US\$4 billion, a rise of nearly \$284 million compared with the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

During the same period in the previous financial year, exports were registered at \$3.7 billion. Of the seven export groups, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and finished industrial goods showed an increase in exports from the previous fiscal year, while shipments of minerals, forest products, and other goods declined.

Export values were registered at \$868 million for agro products, \$196 million for livestock, \$251 million for fishery products, \$300.9 million for minerals, \$50.58 million for forest



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

products, \$2.18 billion for manufactured goods, and \$211.35 million for other goods.

The country's export sector relies more on agriculture and manufacturing. Export earnings from the CMP (cut-make-pack) garment businesses are rising, while reliance on natural resources such as natural gas and jade is lessening.

Myanmar exports goods through the sea

and border trade gates. The country's maritime exports increased by \$363.75 million compared with the corresponding period of the previous FY to touch \$2.468 billion, while border exports fell by \$79 million to \$1.59 billion in the October-January period.

The Ministry of Commerce is focusing on promoting exports to reduce the trade deficit. Since 2011, the Ministry of Commerce

has adhered to its reform policy. A series of reforms have also been introduced to liberalize and open the market for policy development to make the environment more viable for trade, said the Permanent Secretary at the Myanmar Global Investment Forum 2018 held on 12 September at MICCII in Nay Pyi Taw. — Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Dated 25 January 2019

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SAN GIORGIO VOY. NO. (905N/906S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SAN GIORGIO VOY. NO. (905N/906S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-01-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V CHERRY VESTA VOY. NO. (006N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CHERRY VESTA VOY. NO. (006N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-01-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Invitation for Request for Quotation (RFQ)

Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC) now invites eligible consulting firm to submit the Financial and Technical proposals for "the Setup, Development, Implementation and Operation of a ".mm" ccTLD Registry for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar" as part of the Telecom Sector Reform Project supported by the World Bank's Loan. The deadline for submission of RFQ is February 22nd, 2019 by 13:00 PM (Myanmar Standard Time).

Attention:

Director General
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Transport and Communications
Posts and Telecommunications Department
Building No.2
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Telephone Number: +95 67 3407626
Email Address: resource@ptd.gov.mm

The detailed information and requirements can be seen in the Request for Quotation (RFQ) and it can be downloaded at PTD Website: <https://www.ptd.gov.mm>.

‘Stalinist Truman Show’ claims it will change art forever

PARIS (France) — It is billed as a human “safari”, the most controversial and potentially game-changing Russian cultural export since the Ballets Russes left the West shocked and awed 110 years ago.

What began as a biopic of Lev “Dau” Landau, a father of the Soviet atomic bomb and charismatic advocate of free love, has morphed into one of the strangest and most mind-boggling artistic projects ever undertaken.

The world will get its first taste of “Dau” on Thursday, when its “gripping, claustrophobic” and sometimes violent universe starts unfurling 24 hours a day for 24 days in two central Paris theatres and the city’s Pompidou modern art museum.

Dubbed the “Stalinist Truman Show”, Russian director Ilya Khrzhanovsky persuaded 400 people to live and work for nearly three years under the same totalitarian Soviet rules that Landau and his disciplines laboured under.

The replica scientific institute he had built for them was not far from the one the Nobel



A mannequin sits on a couch inside the Theatre du Chatelet, where “Dau” — one of the strangest and most mind-boggling artistic projects ever undertaken — will begin unfurling on Thursday. **PHOTO: AFP**

prize-winning physicist ran in the city of Kharkiv in eastern Ukraine.

Volunteers — who ranged from university professors to beggars, engineers and prostitutes — agreed to be filmed periodically as they were subjected to scientific and philosophical experiments.

Sixteen babies were born in

the hothouse sexual atmosphere.

Its cost somewhere north of 70 million euros (\$80 million), sources told AFP.

Stars and shamans

Drawn by its compelling mix of sex, science and spirituality, a cluster of major international stars have also thrown themselves into “Dau”.

Serbian performance artist Marina Abramovic, British musician Brian Eno and Massive Attack’s Robert Del Naja — who many believe to be street artist Banksy — will perform in Paris amid the continuous roll of screenings, immersive experiences and intimate encounters with Siberian shamans, imams, psychologists and leading sci-

entists.

“No one has yet found the word to explain ‘Dau,’” its executive producer Martine d’Anglejan-Chatillon told AFP.

However, the Canadian said it could change the way we see art.

After experiencing “Dau”, “going to see a film, play or an exhibition will no longer be enough,” she insisted.

But its backers admit some of the 700 hours of this “encyclopaedia of human nature and relationships” make disturbing viewing.

Visitors will have to hand over their mobile phones and answer an intimate psychometric test before they can buy a timed or unlimited passport to enter the universe.

The producers said rape, abuse or trauma victims will be locked out of rooms with imagery that might trigger them.

Star Greek conductor Teodor Currentzis, who plays Landau in the films, will also appear in the gutted interiors of the Paris theatres, both of which are undergoing major refurbishment work. —AFP ■

Real-life topics becoming a hit in China’s movie market

BEIJING — The year 2018 will be remembered in the history of Chinese cinema because “most of the successful films were based on real-life stories, or explored social issues,” said a report by China Daily Wednesday quoting a scholar.

Zuo Heng, deputy director of the cinematic culture research department at the China Film Archive, said this marked a revitalization of cinematic realism.

The report suggests China’s movie market has eyed a new approach while real-life stories and social issues attract audiences.

Last year, domestic feature films accounted for 62 percent of the nation’s box-office revenue, the highest since the Chinese film industry started to take off in the early 2000s.

While Hollywood is dominated by movies about superheroes, China has seen a shift in tastes. Realistic themes have started to attract vast audiences who were previously more interested in action blockbusters

and domestic comedies.

“Operation Red Sea” and “Dying to Survive,” top and third, respectively, on last year’s box-office charts, were both based on true stories.

“Operation Red Sea” was inspired by the People’s Liberation Army Navy’s evacuation of nearly 580 Chinese nationals from Yemen in early 2015.

Jiang Yong, a film industry analyst in Beijing, said “Operation Red Sea” reinforced investors’ confidence that a realistic contemporary film could also be a commercial success.

Social dramas reflecting changes in China or examining the lives of ordinary people have also won acclaim and success.

“Dying to Survive” was based on the true story of Lu Yong, a leukemia patient who illegally bought unlicensed cancer drugs overseas for himself and many other patients.

It touched Chinese audiences and triggered public recognition for struggling families who cannot afford life-saving medication. — Xinhua ■

Tac-o look at me now — queues as US fast food chain makes Thai debut

BANGKOK (Thailand) — Queues stretched around the block Thursday as Thailand’s first ever Taco Bell opened its doors to fast-food fanatics sporting taco-shaped hats and punters keen to discover the corn-based snack.

Popular among American college students as a cheap, binge eat, the “Mexican-inspired” chain is dipping its toe into Bangkok’s oversaturated fast-food market with its first branch — eager to cook up a more flavoursome menu to suit Thai palates.

Expectations were high among the hundreds queueing, some ready to taste their first ever taco in a kingdom whose own food is lauded as among the best — and spiciest — in the world. “I think it may taste better than Thai food,” said Sasithorn-Boonprakorb.

“My boss also asked me to buy some for him.”

Others were not quite sure what to expect.

“I don’t know what it will taste like,” speculated Chaiyapong Amornsrising, 57. “I just

walked by and saw people queue up so I became curious.”

But for many social media-savvy Thais, the eye-catching giant taco mascots and purple signage proved irresistible as a chance to snap selfies.

Thailand is famous for its street eats, but the chain hopes to gobble up market share in a country which is also increasingly obsessed with Western fast food.

“You will find the flavours and spices are ramped up,” Anshu Tuli, regional managing director of Taco Bell, told AFP.



Fast food fans wait in line outside the first Taco Bell restaurant to open in Thailand. **PHOTO: AFP**

The plan is for 40 outlets in the country over the next three years as part of a broader global expansion plan relying heavily on Asia-Pacific.

Taco Bell recently opened in Sri Lanka and Australia and India is the fastest growing market outside of the US, Tuli said.

Taco Bell loyalist and US exchange student John Cameron, 21, was the first in line and said he had been there since the previous night. “I’m happy to be the first,” he said, donning a foam taco hat. —AFP ■

Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin rocket makes 10th flight test

WASHINGTON (United States)— With an eye to launching the first tourists to space by year's end, Blue Origin, the rocket company owned by Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, blasted off the 10th test flight of its New Shepard rocket on Wednesday. The rocket, carrying no people on board but eight science experiments for NASA, soared skyward from a launchpad in west Texas at 1508 GMT against a clear blue sky. A few minutes into the flight, the capsule separated as planned from the booster and reached its peak height of 66 miles (106 kilometers).

"That is exactly what we were targeting," said Ariane Cornell, an astronaut for Blue Origin and commentator on the company's live webcast of the launch. The frontier of space is interna-

tionally agreed to be 62 miles (100 kilometers) above Earth, known as the Karman Line.

Eight minutes after blast off, the rocket booster fired its engines and made a controlled, upright landing back on Earth, marking the fourth flight for this particular rocket, and the 10th flight test for New Shepard overall. "That, everybody, is a reusable rocket," said Cornell. Moments later, the capsule floated to Earth, aided by a trio of parachutes, and touched down in a cloud of dust. The entire mission lasted 10 minutes, 15 seconds. "Looks to have been a wholly successful flight today," wrote Blue Origin on Twitter.

More test flights lie ahead, but the first flights with passengers on board could start by late 2019. "We are aiming for the end of this year," Cornell said.



This handout photo shows Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket on a launch pad on 28 April 2018. PHOTO: AFP

"We are not in a rush. We want to take our time and do this right." The passenger capsule is "roomy," Cornell said, with six seats and six "big gorgeous windows." The price per ticket has not yet been announced.

The New Shepard rocket first reached space last year, achieving a height of 66 miles in April 2018.

Virgin Galactic, headed by British billionaire Richard Branson, is also working on a vessel of its own to carry tourists to space.

On 13 December, 2018, Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo, VSS Unity, flew higher than it ever had before, surpassing what the US Air Force considers the boundary of space (50 miles),

and marking the first manned flight to space from US soil since 2011. The spaceship made it to a peak height of 51.4 miles (82.7 kilometers). The brief flight—with two pilots on board — was a key milestone for the Virgin Galactic, which is striving to send tourists to space at a cost of \$250,000 per seat.—AFP ■

China clones gene-edited monkeys

SHANGHAI (Xinhua)—China has cloned five monkeys from a gene-edited macaque with circadian rhythm disorders, the first time multiple monkeys have been cloned from a gene-edited monkey for biomedical research. Scientists made the announcement Thursday, with two articles published in National Science Review, a top Chinese journal in English. The cloned monkeys were born in Shanghai at Institute of Neuroscience of Chinese Academy of Sciences. Researchers said that the advance means that a population of customized gene-edited monkey models with uniform genetic background will be available for biomedical research. Disorders of circadian rhythm are associated with many human diseases, including sleep disorders, depression, diabetic mellitus, cancer and neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease.

Previously, mice and flies were widely used for the research of such diseases, but these animal models differ greatly from human beings in terms of activity routines, brain structure and metabolic rate. The cloned monkeys, closer to human in physiology, make better models for research on disease pathogenesis and potential therapeutic treatments.

In order to create an ideal donor monkey, researchers knocked



Photo taken on 26 November 2018 shows the five cloned monkeys with circadian rhythm disorders. China has cloned five monkeys from a gene-edited macaque with circadian rhythm disorders, the first time multiple monkeys have been cloned from a gene-edited monkey for biomedical research. Scientists made the announcement Thursday, with two articles published in National Science Review, a top Chinese journal in English. The cloned monkeys were born in Shanghai at Institute of Neuroscience of Chinese Academy of Sciences. PHOTO: XINHUA

out BMAL1, a core circadian regulatory transcription factor, using gene editing at the embryo stage.

They selected one of the gene-edited monkeys with the most severe disease phenotypes as the donor. The fibroblasts of the donor were then used to clone five monkeys by somatic cell nuclear transfer, the same method used to generate Zhong Zhong and Hua Hua, the first cloned monkeys born in China at the end of 2017.

Different from Zhong Zhong and Hua Hua, generated by using fibroblasts from an aborted fetus, the new clones were made using a gene-edited young adult male monkey. "It shows that besides using fetus, batch cloning of gene-edited male monkeys with diseases is also feasible,"

said Qiang Sun of the institute. Sun said the research program was reviewed and supervised by the institute's ethic committee in accordance with international ethical standards of animal research. He said that the research signified the maturing of China's somatic cell cloning.

Muming Poo, the director of the institute, said that the research team would focus on cloning monkey models with different brain diseases in the future. Besides being used to study human brain diseases, the models will be used to test medicine effectiveness, which can help reduce the number of animal models used in experiments and lower the cost of medicine development, he said.—Xinhua ■

China's first baby born from transplanted womb

XI'AN —A woman who successfully received a womb donated from her mother after a uterus transplant in November 2015 gave birth to a healthy baby boy in northwest China's Shaanxi Province on Sunday.

Weighing 2 kg and measuring 48 cm long, the baby is China's first and the world's 14th baby born from a transplanted womb, doctors with the Xijing Hospital in Xi'an, capital of the province, said Wednesday. Yang Hua, 26, the new mother, was born without a uterus but has her own ovaries.

When the mother-daughter womb transplant, China's first human womb transplant, was done in 2015, Yang was 22 and her mother was 43. Doctors at the Xijing Hospital extracted eggs from Yang. With the help of assisted reproductive technology, they froze 14 embryos in August 2015. The frozen embryo was successfully implanted in Yang's womb on 13 June, 2018. Yang became pregnant after two weeks.

To ensure the health of Yang and her baby during the pregnancy, the experts from the obstetrics and gynecology department and the urology department of Xijing Hospital made a series of individual immune anti-rejection medication plans and conducted regular ultra-

sound, plasma concentration and hormone level monitoring. "The full-term fetus can bring pressure to the transplanted womb, which increases risks during labor," said Chen Biliang, director of the obstetrics and gynecology department of Xijing Hospital. Therefore, Chen and his team decided to conduct a cesarean section during the 33th week of Yang's pregnancy. Uterus transplants are not new. In the 1960s, Britain and the United States began to experiment with uterus transplants on animals. In 2000, the world's first human womb transplant took place on a 26-year-old woman in Saudi Arabia. The transplanted uterus failed after three months and had to be removed.

In 2011, doctors successfully performed a uterus transplant on a woman in Turkey. Two years later, nine women in Sweden successfully received transplanted wombs donated by relatives. Chen said uterus transplants still remained a medical challenge.

The uterus, with plenty of tenuous blood vessels, grows in the depths of a woman's pelvic cavity. Therefore, a string of problems including cutting, the structure of the blood vessels during the transplant and strong rejection reactions may occur, according to Chen.—Xinhua ■

‘Ney is worried’: Neymar suffers fresh metatarsal injury in PSG win

PARIS (France)—Paris Saint-Germain talisman Neymar has suffered a fresh injury to his right metatarsal, the club said Thursday, marring the holders’ advance to the last 16 of the French Cup with a 2-0 win over Strasbourg. A fractured metatarsal curtailed the Brazilian’s last season, and the recurrence comes just three weeks ahead of the first leg of PSG’s crunch Champions League clash against Manchester United. The severity of the new injury is not yet known, although Neymar was able to walk off the field unsupported.

“Initial tests carried out revealed a painful reactivation of the injury to the fifth metatarsal,” a club statement said Thursday. “The treatment will depend on progress over the coming days,” it said, adding all medical options would be considered. Neymar initially tried to continue playing. But he covered his eyes—in tears, according to witnesses—as he was forced off to be replaced by Moussa Diaby just after the hour mark.

His early departure was a worrying moment for PSG, with the world’s most expensive player having missed the final three months of last season after breaking the same bone.

Each season PSG, which dominates France’s domestic league, is judged according to its Champions League results. PSG coach Thomas Tuchel after the game said: “The doctor is worried, ‘Ney’ is worried, because it is the same foot, the same place.” “It was a situation where he was fouled three times, one after the other. The referee didn’t give anything. He twisted his foot.”

The PSG coach was also unhappy with suggestions from the Strasbourg players and coach that Neymar had provoked the injury by winding up his opponents. “It’s Neymar’s style, but don’t come and complain when you get kicked,” Strasbourg’s Anthony Goncalves told broadcaster Eurosport. “He is a great player, I respect him. He can enjoy himself but don’t come blubbing afterwards.”

‘Deeply affected’

Edinson Cavani and Angel di Maria got the goals on a bitterly cold night at the Parc des Princes.

Tuchel had left out the ill Kylian Mbappe for this game, with Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting handed a rare start in place of the superstar France forward.

The Cameroon international set up Cavani for the fourth-minute opener, before Di Maria—who had earlier hit the post—finished into the roof of the net 10 minutes from time as PSG stay on track to win the French Cup for the fifth season running.

Before kick-off, fans applauded and chanted the name of Emiliano Sala, the former Nantes striker who is feared dead after the plane he was travelling in disappeared over the Channel Islands on Monday as he was on his way to join his new club Cardiff City.

Nantes’ own Cup tie away at third-tier Entente Sannois Saint-Gratien has been postponed until Sunday, with their players still in shock over Sala’s disappearance.

Elsewhere, Caen ended the run of plucky sixth-tier amateurs Viry-Chatillon in a 6-0 rout, with Yacine Bammou setting the Ligue 1 club on their way.—AFP ■



Neymar leaves the pitch with an apparent foot injury in PSG’s win over Strasbourg in the French Cup. **PHOTO: AFP**

Southern Myanmar Keeper Pyae Phyo Aung to skip match against Sagaing United

PYAE Phyo Aung, former national football team goalie and the current goalkeeper of Southern Myanmar F.C., will skip his team’s MPT Myanmar National League 2019 match against Sagaing United on 26 January on account of an injury, according to a source with the MNL website.

Pyae Phyo Aung injured the middle finger of his left hand during an earlier match against Zwegapin United, which Southern Myanmar lost by a narrow 3-2 margin.

The loss was partly on account of the keeper’s injury, as he is the main goalie for Southern Myanmar.

Pyae Phyo Aung will rest for at least 10 days as he has been injured, said a source with the Myanmar National League.

Southern Myanmar will



Southern Myanmar FC’s goalkeeper Pyae Phyo Aung seen after getting injured at an earlier match against Zwegapin United. **PHOTO: MNA**

play an away match with Sagaing United, and is likely to find an easy victory difficult to claim. In their last two meetings in the previous season of the MNL, Southern Myanmar F.C. won one match against Sagaing United, while the second match ended in a draw.

Southern Myanmar F.C. is

currently placed fourth on the Myanmar National League’s scoring table, earning three points from two matches with one win and one draw.

Sagaing United is standing in the tenth place, earning one point from two matches with one draw and one loss.—Lynn

Thit (Tgi) ■

League II of MNL begins today; eight teams in fray

League II of the MPT Myanmar National League, organized under the supervision of the MNL, will start on 25 January (today) with matches scheduled to be played at the Padonmar Stadium and the Sa Lin Stadium in Yangon.

Eight local youth football teams are competing in the tournament—Myawady F.C., ISPE F.C.,

Royal Thanlyin F.C., Mawyawady F.C., Kachin United, Silver Star F.C., University F.C., and Chin United F.C.

The matches scheduled for today promise to be thrilling with Myawady F.C. taking on the ISPE team at the Padonmar Stadium, and Royal Thanlyin F.C. going up against Mawyawady F.C. at Sa Lin Stadium.

On 26 January, Kachin United F.C. will come up against Silver Star F.C. at Padonmar Stadium, and University F.C. will play against Kachin United F.C. at Sa Lin Stadium.

All the matches will be streamed live on MNL’s Facebook feed, said a source with the national league.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Australia take upper hand at tea in first Sri Lanka Test

BRISBANE (Australia)—Australia had the upper hand at tea on the opening day of the day-night Test at the Gabba as Sri Lanka crawled to 54 for three at the first break.

After Sri Lankan captain Dinesh Chandimal won the toss and elected to bat on a hot and humid Brisbane afternoon, the visitors were forced to battle hard against the Australian attack. Kusal Mendis was on 14 at the break alongside Roshan Mendis, who was yet to score. Sri Lanka’s openers had weathered the early storm from

the Australian pace attack, although Lahiru Thirimanne, playing his first Test since 2017, looked uncomfortable at times.

At 17 for no wicket, umpire Richard Illingworth adjudged him lbw to Mitchell Starc, but the Sri Lankans reviewed the decision and ball-tracking showed the delivery missing leg stump, denying Starc his 200th Test wicket.

The Sri Lankans moved the score along before Thirimanne on 12 tried to drive Pat Cummins, only to edge a comfortable

catch to Marnus Labuschagne at third slip.

Debutant Jhye Richardson opened the bowling with Starc and was impressive in his first spell in Test cricket, hitting the pads of the Sri Lankan openers numerous times. He was finally rewarded with the wicket of Chandimal, well caught by a diving Joe Burns at second slip to leave the visitors at 31 for two.

Mendis replaced his skipper at the crease and he and Dimuth Karunaratne fought hard to try and rebuild the visitors’ innings.—AFP ■