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President U Win Myint gives policy guidance to Daw Kay Thi Soe, Myanmar Ambassador to Czech Republic



President U Win Myint gives policy guidance to newly appointed Myanmar Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Daw Kay Thi Soe, at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRESIDENT U Win Myint of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar gave policy guidance to Daw Kay Thi Soe, appointed as Myanmar Ambassador to the Czech

Republic, in his office at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. — MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)

Low pressure area persists over Bay of Bengal

THE Low Pressure Area formed in the Bay of Bengal persists, according to the observations at 6:30 pm yesterday. The low pressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal now lies over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining West Bengal Coast. Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 22nd June, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin and Chin states, fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region and Rakhine State, scattered in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady regions, Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states and isolated in the remaining regions and States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi leaves for Thailand to attend ASEAN Summit



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Thailand General Prawit Wongsuwan and officials at Don Mueang International Airport in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

ATTHE invitation of General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.), Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, left for Bangkok, Thailand by special flight from Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon to attend the 34th ASEAN Summit.

The State Counsellor and party were seen off by Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung and wife, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar Mrs. Suphatra Srimaitreephithak and officials at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.

The State Counsellor was accompanied by Union Minister for International

Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The State Counsellor and party reached Don Mueang International Airport, Bangkok, Thailand at local standard time 2:55 p.m. and were welcomed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Thailand General Prawit Wongsuwan, Union Minister U Thaung Tun who went ahead to Thailand to attend the meeting, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint Than, Military Attache Brig-Gen Khin Zaw and officials at the airport.

From there the State Counsellor and party left by motorcade for Okura Prestige Hotel where she will be residing during her stay in Bangkok. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

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Myanmar, China celebrate 4th Paukphaw Friendship Day

A fourth Myanmar-China Paukphaw Friendship Day event jointly organized by the Embassy of People's Republic of China (PRC) in Myanmar and organizations of Chinese descendants in Myanmar was held at Pan Pacific Hotel, Yangon yesterday evening.

The event began with the playing of the national anthems of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and PRC, and then the PRC Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Chen Hai delivered an opening address.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe then spoke about the Myanmar-China Paukphaw Friendship Day event being held for the fourth time by now and the event was started on the 66th anniversary of the establishment of Myanmar-China diplomatic relations on 8 June 2016 with the aim of achieving mutual benefit from Paukphaw relationship. The Union Minis-

ter also added that the bilateral relations had achieved the best situation with visible bilateral cooperation in belt and road initiative.

Afterwards, fourth Myanmar-China Paukphaw Friendship Day organizing committee chairman U Yone Mu delivered a speech.

Following this, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe and PRC Ambassador took commemorative group photo with attending guests and had dinner together.

The event was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and wife, Peace Commission Chairman Dr. Tin Myo Win and wife, Lt-Gen Than Tun Oo of the office of Commander in Chief (Army) and wife, high ranking Tatmadaw officers, ambassadors and charge d'affaires of foreign embassies in Myanmar, military attaches, United Nations resident representatives and invited guests.



The fourth Myanmar-China Paukphaw Friendship Day event being convened at Pan Pacific Hotel in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

At the day's event, a Myanmar-China Paukphaw Friendship scholarship award of K 220 million by PRC Embassy and

K 60 million for victims of natural disaster and conflict avoiding people by third Myanmar-China Paukphaw Friend-

ship Day organization committee chairman U Chit Sein was also donated.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Government Office Minister calls for increased reforms of administration institute

UNION Minister for Office of the Union Government, U Min Thu, visited the Institute of Development Administration, which is under the General Administration Department (GAD), in Mingaladon Township yesterday.

The Union Minister first met with the faculty members and delivered an address. He said Myanmar has passed through six different government administrations starting from the parliamentary system to the caretaker government, Union Revolutionary Council-led government, the socialist government, Tat-

madaw-led government and the elected government currently in office.

However, the GAD has always been the main driving force of the nation's administrative mechanism, said the Union Minister. He said the government has implemented the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan and the National Indicator Framework to help establish a democratic federal republic.

The Union Minister said the MSDP has three pillars and in its first pillar titled 'Peace and Stability' the first goal is for peace,

national reconciliation, security and good governance. He said the GAD was transferred to the Ministry of Office of the Union Government in December last year to support that goal.

At the same time, they have set three priority pillars towards decentralization, emergence of a good and public-inclusive administrative mechanism, and reforming administration to produce capable human resources, said the Union Minister.

He said the three pillars in detail are (1) modernizing laws, bylaws, procedures and notifica-

tions, (2) amending organizational structure and implementing effective services, and (3) implementing the belief of being the same with the public and carrying out people-centred projects.

The Union Minister said that it important to enhance the capability of the GAD staff in order to effectively implement the prioritized tasks. He said this is why this institute is now entrusted with an important role. He said they performed two observations with an external research group and the advisory group to search for necessary changes in the institute.

The Union Minister said they had interviewed 18 graduates from the institute and only three were seen to fully understand the necessary processes for federal establishment. He said the institute needs to try harder to provide the required the support to the nation and its political system. The Union Minister said they will place priority tasks for reforming the institute. He said he emphasizes the roles of the teachers and instructors and is planning to gather skilled and smart staff in the institute. He said they will design new processes to ensure the institute does not give off a message of nondevelopment. He urged the attendees to foster vigorous spirits and openly voice their suggestions.

The GAD supports peaceful

coexistence and harmony in Myanmar society and is instrumental in preventing conflicts, said the Union Minister. He said the nation's leaders have expressed interest in reforming this institute and are ready to provide any aid necessary. He expressed his wish for the institute to provide practical development in the political and administrative fields.

Next, the institute's principal, Director U Aye Maung Kyi, explained the institute's history, aims, objectives, courses available, subjects taught, current instructors, and teaching system. The faculty members then reported the institute's requirements.

This was followed by the Union Minister instructing on expanding special courses for land use, tax, border and law, improving English language teaching, and upgrading the library.

Afterwards, the Union Minister planed a commemorative tree in the institute's new training hall and inspected the trainee hostels, canteen, three-storied learning building, library and training courses in progress.

The Institute of Development Administration, under the GAD, was opened on 7 July 2003 and provides courses on eighteen topics. To date, the institute has conducted 87 trainings and facilitated 8,410 trainees.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Minister U Min Thu and officials planting the commemorative tree in the administration institute's new training hall. **PHOTO: MNA**

YRTA moves to replace older bus models

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Region Transport Authority has sought special permission from the Ministry of Transport and Communications for replacing 1999-2003 bus models, said U Hla Aung, the joint secretary of the transport authority.

“Cars from the 1999 model year and those of earlier make have been designated as old-age cars by the Union government. In Myanmar, there are some cars produced after 1999 which are not included in the list of old-age cars although their capacity has declined significantly and it has become really difficult to repair them. Hence, the YRTA is conducting negotiations with the Ministry so that buses from the 1999-2003 model years can be replaced under the government’s old-age car substitution program, as a special case,” he said.

“Since 2011, the Union government has allowed replace-

ment of old-age cars, starting with the 1995 model year. The 1999 year models are currently included in the government’s old-age car substitution program. As per the ministry’s policy, buses from the 1999 model year are currently allowed to be replaced by new buses,” U Hla Aung added.

As per instructions issued by the Union government, to help develop the city’s transport infrastructure, owners of buses operating within Yangon will be granted slips to buy new cars, while bus owners from other regions and states will not be allowed to replace buses with cars and they will only get permission to replace their buses with other buses. At present, the substitution of 1999-2003 model year buses is under negotiation between the Yangon Region Transport Authority and the Ministry of Transport and Communications. ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi leaves for Thailand to attend ASEAN Summit



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin were seen off by Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung and wife, Myanmar Police Force Police Chief Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo, and Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar Mrs. Suphatra Srimaitreephithak and officials at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)**

The Union Minister U Thaung Tun attends the X International Meeting of High-Ranking Officials Responsible for Security Matters and Myanmar-Russia Business Seminar in Russia

THE Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and National Security Advisor of the Union Government U Thaung Tun accompanied by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu and Myanmar Ambassador to Russian Federa-

tion H.E. U Ko Ko Shein participated in the X International Meeting of High-Ranking Officials Responsible for Security Matters in Ufa, Russia, from 18 to 20 June.

Prior to the International Meeting, the Union Minister met with H.E. Mr. Nikolai Pa-

trushev, Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation at Parkovy Complex Kamenny Hall on 17 June. During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on bilateral relations and cooperation as well as cooperation at the United Nations and other in-

ternational fora.

At the International Meeting, the high-ranking officials discussed matters relating to ways and means to meet the challenges of growing hybrid threats, enhancing international cooperation to combat the spread of terrorist ideology and countering changing strategies of international terrorist organizations. The meeting also discussed strengthening international cooperation in the field of emergency humanitarian response and to maintain strategic stability, establishing the system of international information security as a guarantor of strategic stability.

The Union Minister addressed the plenary session under the agenda item: Ensuring national security and sustainable socio-economic development of states in the face of growing hybrid threats.

The Union Minister also attended the working lunch hosted by Mr. Nikolai Patrushev, Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation for ASEAN representa-

tives on 18 June.

The Union Minister H.E. U Thaung Tun met with H.E. Mr. Maxim Oreshkin, Minister of economic development of Russian Federation in Moscow on 19 June. They openly exchanged views on promotion of bilateral economic cooperation. Present also were H.E. Mr. Tumor Maximov, Vice-Minister and officials concerned from the Russian Ministry and H.E. U Ko Ko Shein, Myanmar Ambassador to the Russian Federation.

The Union Minister also attended the Myanmar-Russia Business Seminar organized by the Russian Ministry of economic development and he widely discussed matters on bilateral economic and investment opportunities as well as cooperation of small and medium enterprises between Myanmar and Russia.

The officials concerned from Russian Ministry and entrepreneurs from various sectors were present at the seminar and the Union Minister replied the questions raised by them.—MNA ■



Union Minister U Thaung Tun attends the X International Meeting of High-Ranking Officials Responsible for Security Matters in Ufa, Russia. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint holds talks with Mr Shigeru Aoyagi, Director of the UNESCO Asia Pacific Region, and Ms Min Jeong Kim, Head of UNESCO Myanmar Office, and officials in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

Union Minister for Information receives UNESCO Regional Director

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint received Mr Shigeru Aoyagi, Director of the UNESCO Asia Pacific Region, and Ms Min Jeong Kim, Head of UNESCO Myanmar Office, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During their meeting, they discussed matters related to offering Media and Information Literacy-MIL courses at Community Centres of the In-

formation and Public Relations Department nationwide, ways for tackling fake news and hate speech, the progress of drawing the RTI law, and reviewing and updating the existing curriculum of Journalism course at the National Management Degree College to meet the standard of modern times. — MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)

Twantay Township administrator faces corruption charges

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has filed corruption charges against the head of the Twantay Township General Administration Department after its investigation team found him guilty of accepting a bribe of K12 million and threatening a local.

The commission had re-

ceived a complaint against U Moe Khaing Tun, the Administrator of Twantay Township, stating that he had taken a bribe of K12 million while investigating a land dispute case in Khalaukchaikkwin Village-tract in Twantay Township of Yangon Region.

Following the complaint, an

investigation team was formed by the Anti-Corruption Commission to probe the complaint.

According to a statement released by the Anti-Corruption Commission, the head of the Twantay Township General Administration Office demanded a bribe of K500,000 on 15 May,

2018 in exchange for writing a complaint on the farmland ownership dispute when his team dealt with the case.

He also demanded K12 million on 25 June, 2018 for writing a testimonial in the official letter, as per the ACC's statement.

The Anti-Corruption Com-

mission said the officer was found to have abused his authority by taking bribes.

A case has been registered against U Moe Khaing Tun under Section 56 of the Anti-Corruption Law at the Myoma Police Station in Twantay. —MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Sports delegation to attend opening of Olympic House in Lausanne, Switzerland

A Myanmar sports delegation led by Dr. Mya Lay Sein, Deputy Minister for Health and Sports and Vice President of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, left Yangon for Switzerland on 20 June to attend an official opening of Olympic House by the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne to be held from 22

to 23 June.

During the visit in Switzerland, the delegation will hold talks with officials of the NOC Relations Department Head of Institutional Relations and Governances over drafting the Myanmar Sports Law meeting the framework of the International Olympic Committee.

Dr. Mya Lay Sein is accompanied by Vice President of Myanmar Basketball Federation U Maung Maung Myint and Assistant Director of the Sports and Physical Education Department U Win Htet Mon.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



The Myanmar sports delegation led by Deputy Minister Dr. Mya Lay Sein is seen at the Yangon International Airport before departing for Switzerland. **PHOTO:MNA**

Constitutional Tribunal of the Union member Daw Hla Myo Nwe arrives back from ROK

AT the Invitation of the President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Korea, Daw Hla Myo Nwe, a member of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, and party attended the 2nd International Symposium of the Association of Asian Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Institutions Secretariat for Research and Development (AACC

SRD) held in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, from 17 to 20 June. After arriving back from ROK on 20 June, Daw Hla Myo Nwe and party were welcomed back by officials from the office of the Constitutional Tribunal at the Yangon International Airport. — MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)



Daw Hla Myo Nwe, a member of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, is welcomed back by an official. **PHOTO:MNA**

Myanmar seeks advice to enter EITI membership

THE Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Global Conference for 2019 was held from 18 to 19 June at the OECD Conference Centre in Paris where Union Minister U Ohn Win and his delegation attended.

At the opening ceremony, International EITI Board Chair Mr. Fredrik Reinfeldt and French Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne delivered separate opening remarks.

The attendees then discussed how the EITI standards were approved and officially published at the 43rd International EITI Board Meeting on 17 June. They also discussed the transparency in the extractive industry, changes to modern situations, and future tasks.

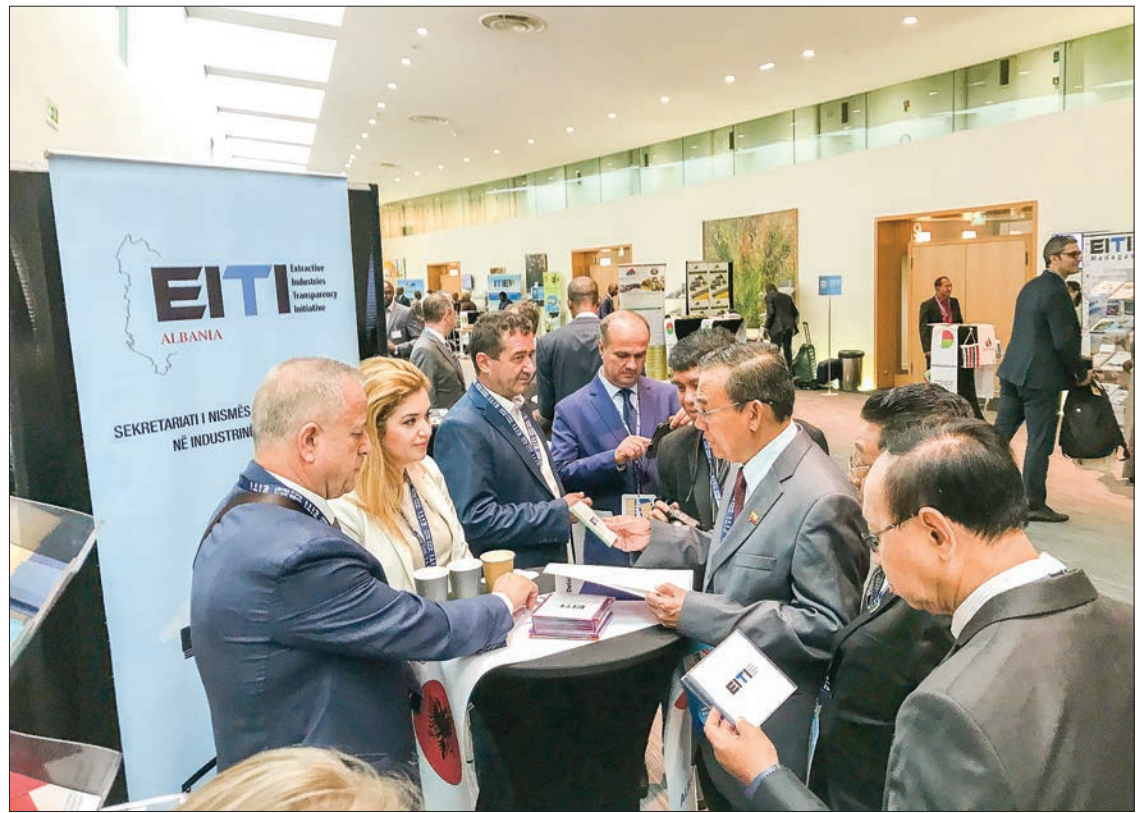
After the opening ceremony, the Union Minister raised questions on transparent processes of the extractive industry in the 52 countries attending the EITI Global Conference, the challenges faced after observing the reports, and their strengths and

weaknesses.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister met informally with Mr. Fredrik Reinfeldt and discussed Myanmar's eligibility to become an EITI member. He then attended the meeting on 'From reports to disclosure using the EITI to strengthen government'.

On the second day of the Global Conference, the Union Minister delivered a speech at the EITI Stakeholders Forum on Showcasing Leadership on the Transparency Agenda. He spoke on Myanmar's commitments to implementing transparency in the extractive industry, sharing information to the public, producing the most benefit for the current generation and the ones to come, keeping impact to a minimum on the environment and livelihoods of local residents, all the while adhering to international standards.

In the morning of 19 June, the Union Minister met separately with the Indonesian EITI group led by Prof. Akhmad Syakhroza, Indonesian Deputy



Union Minister U Ohn Win attends the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Global Conference for 2019 in Paris. **PHOTO: MNA**

Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources, and with Mr. Daniel Kaufmann, Chair of the Natural Resource Governance Institute.

During the meetings they discussed Indonesia's experiences to aid Myanmar in becoming an EITI member, exchanged

suggestions, technical assistance, and international experience.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Mogok city draws tourists in June



Tourists and local people flock to the gems and jewellery sales in Mogok. **PHOTO: H&T**

WITH the aim of boosting tourism in Mandalay Region, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism designed three trips in February—Panling-Bernard village, Kyauk Pyathet, and Mandalay-Madaya-Singu-Thabeikkyin-Mogok. This month, the region's Mogok Town welcomed 36 visitors.

Tourists from China, India, Australia, Germany, and Viet Nam toured Mogok Town between 11 and 20 June. Their visit was arranged by eight travel agencies with the permission of the Mandalay Region government.

The tourists visited places of interest in the city such as

the Mani Mingalarhtar gems market, Kyauk Pyathet Pagoda, Daw Nankyitaung, Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda, Mogok night market, caves, and other famous pagodas. They also checked out mosaic gem art, green tea plantations, and the Kin Chaung waterfall during their trip. ■ GNLM (Translated by La Wonn)

Djenkol bean enjoys good demand in Myitkyina

THIS harvest season, there has been strong demand for djenkol bean in Myitkyina Township, Kachin State, with retailers selling the fruit for K25-K27 per piece in the domestic market.

"In the Myitkyina market, djenkol bean is currently priced around K150,000-K162,000 per bag (containing roughly 6,000 fruits), whereas transportation charges for a bag of djenkol bean are ranging between K4,500-K5,000. About 250 bags of djenkol beans are being sent to nearby markets from Myitkyina on a daily basis," said one local retailer.

"Wholesalers in Myitkyina are sending the fruits to Monywa

and Mandalay markets by car, while some wholesalers are purchasing them directly from the farms. Djenkol cultivators and sellers have made handsome profits as the fruit is selling very well in the domestic market this monsoon," he said.

Djenkol beans are grown in Kachin, Mon, Kayah, and Nawnghkio Township of Shan State, as well as Taninthayi, Ayeyawady, and Pyin Oo Lwin in Mandalay Region. Djenkol, a species of flowering tree in the pea family, can produce between 3,000 and 5,000 fruits.—Swe Nyein ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)



Womens select djenkol bean for sales in market. **FILE PHOTO / GNLM**

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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.

Bago gets Paradiso Cinema, 20th of Paradiso Co. Ltd

PARADISO Cinemas Co. Ltd opened a new movie theater in Bago Region on 21 June as part of its 100-cinema project, according to the company's spokesperson.

The cinema is the 20th launched by the company, which is continuing to develop movie theaters, especially in crowded towns across the nation, with the aim of attracting more audiences.

The new Paradiso Cinema is located on Nyunt Cinema Road in Zepaing Ward of Bago Town. It was inaugurated by Bago Region Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Maung Yin, along with film stars Lu Min and Pyay Ti Oo. In his opening remarks, U Khin Maung Yin urged those working in the film industry to do their best for the public and said the new movie theatre is expected to make film lovers happier.

The company plans to develop 24 cinemas in commercial hub Yangon, 15 cinemas in Mandalay Region, nine cinemas in Magway



Bago Region Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Maung Yin, along with film stars Lu Min and Pyay Ti Oo opening the Paradiso Cinema in Bago yesterday. **PHOTO:TIN SOE (BAGO)**

Region, eight cinemas in Sagaing Region, two cinemas in Taninthayi Region, 12 cinemas in Bago Region and Shan State, 19 cinemas in Ayeyawady Region, six cinemas in Mon State, and five

cinemas in Rakhine State under the 100-cinema project. Paradiso Cinemas has already launched new movie theaters in Bago, Hmawby, Monywa, Pyapon, Aungban, Kyaukpadaung, Tha-

ton, Shwebo, Bogale, Madara, Mawlamyine, Kalay, Maubin, Ayethaya, Yamethin, and Hinthada towns.—Tin Soe (Bago) ■
(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Locals asked to be alert of crocodiles in rivers in Ayeyawady Delta

WITH the mating season of crocodiles on, officials with the Meinmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary have asked locals in Bogale, Pyapon, and Mawlamyinyun townships of Ayeyawady Region to be on the alert while bathing in the Ayeyawady River. They have also advised them against letting animals venture near the river.

The mating season of the crocodiles is between April and June. They build nests from June to August, and breed from September to November. During the mating, nesting, and breeding seasons, crocodiles tend to be sensitive and dangerous. Their heightened maternal instinct can lead them to attack humans and animals.

Crocodiles mostly inhabit the Meinmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary, and the mangrove forests near Kadone Kani and Pyin Dayel villages in Bogale Township, Pyapon District, Ayeyawady Region.

The administration office of the Meinmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary issues an alert on crocodiles every year.

"Nowadays, the sanctuary has caught tourist attention, who are visiting the area for watch-



Crocodiles mostly inhabit the Meinmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary, and the mangrove forests near Kadone Kani and Pyin Dayel villages in Bogale Township, Pyapon District, Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO : MOE SETT (BOGALE)**

ing crocodiles. If the tourism sector of Ayeyawady Region is upgraded, locals can get jobs and improve their livelihood," according to an official with the sanctuary.

In five attacks in 2018, four injured and one was killed. A woman was killed in a crocodile

attack in June, 2018, in a river in Bogale.

Myanmar's delta region is no stranger to crocodile attacks, as they occur yearly.

Meinmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary is located at the mouth of the Ayeyawady River.

The sanctuary attracts vis-

itors keen on viewing crocodile hatching camps and conservation projects in the region's mangrove forests — the forests are in a steady decline due to deforestation in the area.—Moe Sett (Bogale)

(Translated by La Wonn)

Myanmar's overseas trade up 8% this FY, with \$1 bln in deficit



Myanmar's international trade exceeds US\$24 billion as of 14 June in the current 2018-2019 Fiscal Year. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

MYANMAR'S international trade exceeded US\$24 billion as of 14 June in the current 2018-2019 Fiscal Year, up by almost \$290 million or 8.2 per cent, from that of the corresponding period last 2017-2018 FY, the Ministry of Commerce reported on Friday. Over the eight and a half months, the country's export reached \$11.8 billion, while its imports totalled nearly \$12.9 billion, resulting in a trade deficit of \$1.05 billion, which declined by over \$2.09 billion, as against the same time last FY, when Myanmar recorded a trade deficit of nearly \$3.2 billion.

Compared with the previ-

ous FY, the current import value declined by over \$860 million from both border and non-border trade, however, the current export value went up by nearly \$1.15 billion.

At this time last FY, Myanmar exported \$10.6 billion worth of domestic goods and imported \$13.7 billion worth of foreign commodities, totalling \$24.7 billion.

Myanmar's external trade is conducted mainly through by sea. As of mid-June in the current FY, the country's trade by sea topped \$14.4 billion, while border trade stood at almost \$7.3 billion. This FY saw a decline in

maritime trade by almost \$690 million in comparison with this time last FY, while the country's border trade rose by \$978 million.

Normally, Myanmar exports seven main groups of commodities—agricultural, forest, marine and animal products, minerals, manufactured products and other miscellaneous products. It chiefly imports four major categories of commodities—capital goods, intermediate products, consumer goods and CMP raw materials.—Khin Khant ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Myanmar-China trade tops \$6.7 bln in seven months

MYANMAR'S overseas trade with China stood at US\$6.7 billion between October and April in the current 2018-2019 Fiscal Year, with almost \$3.2 billion in exports and \$3.5 billion in imports, according to the latest trade report of the Ministry of Commerce.

In the month of April, bilateral trade between Myanmar and China totalled \$1.186, including exports worth \$655.5 million and imports worth \$531.2 million.

As one of Myanmar's top trade partners, China imports a wide range of products from Myanmar, including minerals, agriculture, marine, and forest products. Myanmar's imports

from China cover medicines and related equipment, consumer goods, electronic appliances, food and beverages, cosmetics and other commodities.

Sino-Myanmar trade is conducted not just via the sea routes, but also through border trade camps. There are five major border trade camps between the two countries—Muse, Lwejel, Chinshwehaw, Kanpiketee, and Kengtung.

During the 2018 mini-budget period (April-September), bilateral trade between China and Myanmar was pegged at more than \$5.5 billion.

Sino-Myanmar trade to-

totalled \$5 billion in the 2011-2012FY. It decreased to \$4.957 billion in the following FY. Trade between the two nations increased to \$7 billion in the 2013-2014FY, and \$9.7 billion in the 2014-2015FY. Sino-Myanmar trade exceeded \$10 billion in the 2015-2016 and the 2016-2017 financial years.

As on April, the Myanmar Investment Commission has granted 72 Chinese investment projects with the capital of nearly \$295.7 million. During the last mini-budget, China's investments in Myanmar was \$304.7 million in total.—Swe Khine ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda

Govt compensates 84 farmers for land used for projects in Hlinethaya

THE government has provided K10 million per acre to 84 farmers in Hlinethaya Township as compensation for using 582.65 acres of land for projects during a ceremony held at 2 p.m. on 20 June at the Hlinethaya Township General Administration Department office.

The projects include the Dagon-Ayeyar Highway Bus Station, the Hteinpin Cemetery, and a rubbish dump.

During the ceremony, 84 farmers received more than K5 billion in compensation for their farmland. The Township Farm Management Committee (TFMC) is planning to compensate seven more farmers for 81.52 acres of land used for the government projects.

The Yangon City Development Committee has used 104.78 acres of land for building the Dagon-Ayeyar Highway Bus Station. The authorities have given K7.5 million per

acre in compensation to 17 out of 19 farmers whose land was used for the project, and the Township Management Committee will conduct an inspection to compensate the two remaining farmers.

"I'm 81 years old and I owned 10 acres of land near Kalargyisu village, which is currently part of the Hteinpin Cemetery. I would like to thank the government for the compensation. Now, I will be stress-free for the rest of my life," said U Khin Maung from the Kalargyisu Village of Hlinethaya Township.

U Maung Maung Oo, a representative of the Pyithu Hluttaw, representatives from the Amyotha Hluttaw and region Hluttaw, and officials from the concerned departments attended the compensation ceremony. — Than Htike ■

(Translated by La Wonn)



Local farmers gather at Hlinethaya Township General Administration Department Office to receive compensation for their farmland. **PHOTO: THITSA**

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Moving forward with hope

THE economic reforms and policies ushered in by the civilian government over the last three years are beginning to show results. According to estimates by experts, Myanmar's economy is expected to grow by 6.8 per cent in the 2018-2019 fiscal year. The National Plan for the 2019-2020FY projects that the nation's GDP would rise to 7 per cent.

At a time when global economies and political establishments are facing instability, Myanmar is doing surprisingly well in terms of economic development. Countries around the world are also monitoring this interesting phenomenon. In its report, the World Bank has estimated Myanmar's economy will grow 6 to 7 per cent in the 2020-2021FY.

This is good news because Myanmar's and World Bank's estimates are close, so there is a greater likelihood that the projected growth will be achieved. We must use this opportunity to boost our economy and attract more investments and work together to realize the World Bank's growth estimate.

A leading economist with the World Bank (Myanmar), Hans Anand Beck, said the new laws being passed and implemented are contributing to the rising market sentiment.

Myanmar's economy has grown from the previous years because economic reforms were pushed forward with gusto. There were also increases in wholesale and retail activities, flow of investments into the insurance and banking sectors, and spending on basic infrastructure.

However, the World Bank report also stated that Myanmar needs to invest twice as much in its power sector and implement projects

thrice as fast to meet growing demand.

The production and services sector are the main engines of economic development. The revival of the textile, automobiles, construction, and government wholesale and retail industries has increased the chances for GDP growth.

Myanmar's economy was a bit unstable in 2018, but it is recovering gradually. We must follow the guidelines of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Program to maintain this pace of development, with increased cooperation from the private sector, in addition to the government's endeavors.

Domestic forces are working hard to raise our production quality so that we can achieve the expected economic growth. We can see that there has been an annual increase in exports and a rise in domestic consumption. This will surely support us greatly to reach the GDP growth we are aiming for.



Seasonal influenza vaccines protect only 46 per cent from infection

According to the Ministry of Health and Sports from 1 January 2019 to 20 June, there were six fatalities from Influenza Type A (H1N1) pdm09. Following is the interview with officials from the Ministry of Health and Sports on status of prevention and treatments of Influenza Type A (H1N1) pdm09 conducted by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Dr. Phyu Phyu Aye

Interviewed by Shin Min

Dr. Khin Khin Gyi (Deputy Director) (Central) Contagious Disease Prevention and Eradication Division Department of Public Health



Dr. Khin Khin Gyi (Deputy Director)

Q: At the moment it was known that there were six fatalities from H1N1 and there were some patients suspected of having the disease. First, let us know about the status of the disease occurrence.

A: Seasonal influenza is a respiratory infection caused by influenza viruses that spread rapidly from one person to another. There are 3 types of seasonal influenza viruses type A, B, and C. In the occurrence process of seasonal influenza, it was found to be caused by Subtype A (H1N1) pdm09 of Seasonal Influenza Virus Type A.

According to news and information received by 20 June 2019, there were 22 patients infected with seasonal influenza of which six patients were Influenza B not determined. 16 patients were found with Seasonal Influenza Subtype A (H1N1) pdm09. Most of the patients were in the age group of 15 to 65 years and to date there were six fatalities.

Five of the fatalities were from Yangon Region while one was from Sagaing Region. Most occurrences were in Yangon Region. There have also been occurrences in Shan State (North), Sagaing Region, Rakhine State and Nay Pyi Taw too.

Q. What has been done by Ministry of Health and Sports on prevention and treatment of it?

A. Whenever a suspected patient of seasonal influenza has been found State/Region Public Health departments are to provide treatments in rural public health clinics and sub rural public health clinics.



Dr. Phyu Phyu Aye (Director)

A: A coordination meeting led by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe to reinforce the monitoring, prevention and effective response work was held at the Ministry of Health and Sports meeting hall 4 today (20 June). Monitoring and response works, the status of occurrences and fatalities, laboratory test matters and publishing

At the moment patients with Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI) were to be transferred to the nearest hospitals. In order to prevent infection from suspected patients and SARI patients, persons taking care of the patients were informed about do's and don'ts.

If a cluster of suspected patients were found patients with Influenza-like illness (ILI) were treated as outpatients while SARI patients were transferred and treated in hospitals.

At least five out of the suspected patients in a Cluster were to be given a Rapid Diagnosis Test with Nasopharyngeal Swab. If A (H1N1) pdm09 was found the Nasopharyngeal Swab sample was to be sent to the National Health Laboratory for confirmation.

To prevent the spreading of disease, suspected patients were kept in an isolated room where they live, urged to rest for up to seven days and avoid going to public places.

Dr. Phyu Phyu Aye (Director) Health Education and Promotion Division Department of Public Health

Q: A meeting was held this morning (20 June) at Ministry of Health and Sports. All in the meeting discussed about prevention and treatment. What was decided at the meeting?

ing true news to reduce public concerns were discussed.

Q: What are the symptoms of the disease and do's and don'ts for the public?

A: Disease symptoms were fevers above 38 degree centigrade, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches and fatigue (tiredness). If the disease is severe, there'll be high fever, extreme coughing, fatigue, difficulty to breath, high rate of breathing, dizziness, confusion, and fainting.

Much care must be taken toward personal hygiene. Cover your cough or sneeze. Wash your hands frequently with plenty of soap and water. Sleep and rest well. Take nutritious food and conduct regular physical activities. Stay where you can have good air to breath. Avoid public places and crowded areas. If symptoms of the disease show

up in you, take treatment at the nearest health department.

Q: Can the disease prevented by vaccines?

A: Seasonal influenza vaccines protect only 46 percent from the occurrence. World Health Organization and most of the countries in the world hadn't suggested or recommended taking seasonal influenza vaccines. But if you want to take it, consult and take it at the nearest hospital and clinic.

Q: Seasonal influenza occurs back in 2017. What is the difference between then and now?

A: After the outbreak of seasonal influenza in 2017 Ministry of Health and Sports, Department of Public Health, (Central) Contagious Disease Prevention and Eradication Sub-Department reinforced ILI/SARI Surveillance works by designat-

ing Yangon People's Hospital, Thingangyun Model Teaching and General Hospital, Nay Pyi Taw 1000-bed General Hospital, Myitkyina People's Hospital, Myawady People's Hospital, Muse People's Hospital, Mandalay People's Hospital and Sitway People's Hospital as Sentinel Site and diseases monitoring works were conducted starting from 2018 April.

Response work will be conducted on the basis of experience gained in the occurrence of Seasonal Influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 from 21 June to 19 August 2017. At that time there were 1,198 respiratory infection patients out of which 400 were found with Seasonal Influenza A (H1N1) and 49 were found with H3N2. There were 38 fatalities and the fatality rate was found to be 3.17 percent.

Thanks for answering.

(Translated by Zaw Min)

FLU

Spread the message Save lives

DO NOT...

- shake hands or hug
- spit in public
- take medicines without consulting a physician

DO...

- wash your hands
- stay more than one arm's length distance from persons sick with flu
- avoid crowded places
- eat nutritious food and drink plenty of water
- get plenty of sleep and rest

If you are sick, PLEASE

- cover your cough or sneeze
- stay home and limit contact with others as much as possible
- rest and take plenty of liquids
- seek medical advice

World Health Organization, Regional Office for South-East Asia. 2009. www.searo.who.int

“ရာသီတိုင်းတွေ့ရောဂါ မိမိကစ၍ ကာကွယ်ပါ။”

- Coughing/ sneezing into a cloth handkerchief
- Wash your hands often.
- Keep your distance.

Take to a nearby hospital or clinic.

World Health Organization, Regional Office for South-East Asia. 2009. www.searo.who.int

Low pressure area persists over Bay of Bengal

FROM PAGE-1

STATE OF THE SEA: Moderate to rough sea. Wave height will be about (6-9) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd June, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd June, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd June, 2019: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Yangon Region and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Region.—GNLM

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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



Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and Chinese president, holds talks with Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), in Pyongyang, DPRK, 20 June, 2019. PHOTO: XINHUA

China ready to join DPRK in turning blueprint of bilateral ties into reality: Xi

PYONGYANG — Chinese President Xi Jinping said here Friday that Beijing seeks to join Pyongyang in turning the blueprint of the bilateral ties for a new era into reality.

Xi, also general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), made the remarks during his meeting at the state guest house with Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

The Chinese leader, on behalf of the CPC, the Chinese government and the Chinese people, appreciated the warm reception and thoughtful arrangements by the DPRK side, saying that his visit has been cloaked with a warm atmosphere that reflects the deep and profound friendship between the CPC and the WPK, as well as between the two countries.

Xi said his successful visit has consolidated the traditional

China-DPRK friendship, made clear the direction for the development of bilateral ties in the new era, and demonstrated both sides' determination to push for a political solution to the nuclear issue in the Korean Peninsula and to promote lasting peace and security in the region.

He added that the trip has also realized the historical exchange of visits by the top leaders of the two parties and countries in such an important year as the one that marks the 70th anniversary of the diplomatic ties between China and the DPRK, and the 5th gathering between him and Kim in 15 months, noting that it is a vivid demonstration of the vitality of the traditional China-DPRK friendship.

The Chinese leader said that he hopes both sides can work together to implement the various agreements during the visit this time so as to turn the blueprint of the bilateral ties for a new era into reality step by step.

The Chinese side, said Xi, will firmly support the DPRK's

socialist enterprise, the implementation of its new strategic line and a political solution to solving the nuclear issue and materializing lasting peace and security in the peninsula.

For his part, Kim appreciated China's valuable support for the WPK's efforts to lead the people in the DPRK on the path to socialism, saying that the friendship between the two sides has been long standing, and enjoyed a firm basis, and the two sides are conducting intensive exchanges and friendly cooperation like family.

Kim added that he is willing to follow through the noble intentions left by the elder generation of leaders, and join hands with Xi in boosting bilateral ties at a new historical starting point, and writing new and even more glorious chapters of the DPRK-China friendship.

Xi's wife, Peng Liyuan and Kim's wife Ri Sol Ju also attended the meeting. Ahead of their departure, Xi and Peng attended a seeing-off ceremony at the airport held by Kim and Ri.—Xinhua

Severe water crisis hits India's fourth biggest city

NEW DELHI — India's southern state of Tamil Nadu is facing an acute water crisis this year and the worst hit area is India's fourth biggest city of Chennai, officials said.

The situation, according to experts, has worsened in the wake of soaring temperature, dearth of rainfall, drying up of reservoirs, wells, lakes and delayed monsoon.

"With no water in reservoirs, wells and lakes, people are looking for alternative sources like drilling new boreholes to meet water needs," Su Kumar, a local resident in Chennai, the capital city of Tamil Nadu told Xinhua. "At some places the bore wells too are running dry and it seems the water table has drastically gone down."

The residents in Chennai have to wait for water tankers to arrive and most often queue for hours together up to collect their daily water supply in buckets or pitchers. Locals said brawls and fights are common sight in these queues.

"Often people indulge in fights and brawls while collecting water from the government tankers," Kumar said. "Last week, police arrested a man for stabbing his neighbour during a

fight over water-sharing in the neighbourhood." Locals said the ongoing water crisis was impacting all sectors of life.

Reports said some hotels and restaurants have been shut in the wake of the water crisis. The restrooms in several educational institutions have been shut down and some offices have asked staff to work from home due to non-availability of water.

The shortage of water has hit IT companies, five-star hotels and high-rise residential buildings. Among the dried-up reservoirs is the Chembarambakkamlake, Chennai's largest source of drinking water. The lake's bed is parched and presents a view of cracked bed, local media reported. According to officials, four main water reservoirs that used to supply water to Chennai have ran completely dry. The local government officials said they were taking necessary steps to supply drinking water to the residents.

"Water is being supplied through tankers and desalinated water is also being distributed," Chief Minister E Palaniswami said. Officials said Chennai city requires 800 million liters of water every day. But the Chennai Metro Water supplies only 525 million liters. —Xinhua ■



People sitting in the shade of a measuring tower at the dried out Puzhal reservoir on the outskirts of Chennai. According to local media reports, four major reservoirs around Chennai have under 30 mcft of water though their total storage capacity is more than 11,000 mcft.

PHOTO: AFP

Iran has no right to answer diplomacy 'with military force': US

AL KHARJ (Saudi Arabia) — The US said Friday Iran has no right to respond to diplomacy "with military force", a day after Tehran shot down a US reconnaissance drone over the Strait of Hormuz.

"Our diplomacy does not give Iran the right to respond with military force," Brian Hook,

the US special representative on Iran, told reporters in Saudi Arabia.

"Iran needs to meet diplomacy with diplomacy, not military force." The downing of the drone — which Washington insists was over international waters but Tehran says was within its airspace — has seen

tensions between the two countries spike further after a series of attacks on tankers the US and its staunch ally, Saudi Arabia, have blamed on Iran.

Tehran denies having been behind the attacks but has frequently threatened in the past to block the vital sea lanes into and out of the Gulf. "Iran is re-

sponsible for escalating tensions in the region.

They continue to reject diplomatic overtures to deescalate tensions," Hook said.

The US diplomat was in Saudi Arabia, where he met deputy defence minister Prince Khaled bin Salman on Friday morning.

The two discussed efforts to

counter Iranian actions, Salman said on Twitter.

"We affirmed the kingdom's support for the United States' maximum pressure campaign on Iran, which came as a result of continuing Iranian hostility and terrorism, and discussed latest Iranian attacks on the kingdom," he said.— AFP ■

Protesters surround Hong Kong police HQ over extradition bill

HONG KONG — Thousands of protesters surrounded Hong Kong's police headquarters on Friday to demand the complete withdrawal of a controversial extradition bill, work on which was recently suspended by the territory's chief executive.

Earlier, about 2,000 of them blocked parts of the same major roads occupied by demonstrators in the 2014 Umbrella Movement that sought democratic change in the territory.

Friday's protest, called for by student groups, comes just days after Chief Executive Carrie Lam apologized to citizens over her mishandling of the bill, which had spurred huge street protests.

But she stopped short of scrapping the bill and resigning, as demanded by protesters. The bill seeks legal amendments that

would facilitate the extradition of criminal suspects to mainland China. While indefinitely suspending work on the bill in the Legislative Council means it will likely be automatically dropped next year, some protesters remain skeptical.

Friday's protest was led by activists such as Joshua Wong, one of the student leaders of 2014's mass demonstrations, also known as "Occupy Central", who was released from prison this week.

A 24-year-old jobless man at Friday's protest said he could not believe Lam's reassurance that amendment work would not go forward, because she did not promise the bill's withdrawal.

The Hong Kong government has decided to close its offices near Friday's protest for safety



Thousands of protesters surround Hong Kong's police headquarters on 21 June, 2019 to demand the complete withdrawal of a controversial extradition bill, work on which was recently suspended by the territory's chief executive. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

reasons. While police readied 6,000 officers, they did not deploy them near protesters, possibly to avoid a repeat of the violent clash that marred a demonstration on 12 June. Despite continued calls among mostly young protesters

for the bill's withdrawal, some citizens appear satisfied with the progress made in recent weeks.

Organizers say nearly 2 million people took to the streets of central Hong Kong on Sunday to march against the bill, which

it is feared will bolster the influence of communist China in the territory and erode civil liberties.

Police put the peak-time turnout at 338,000 on the three roads permitted for the procession.

—Kyodo News ■

Malaysia working to recover \$5 billion embezzled from state fund

PUTRAJAYA — Malaysia is looking to recover some \$5 billion worth of assets abroad that have been linked to money embezzled from the beleaguered state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad, an anti-corruption agency official said Friday.

"The outstanding amount is about \$5 billion," Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Deputy Chief Commissioner Azam Baki told reporters, adding that the 1MDB-related assets "are spread in many countries."

A task force will be set up soon to coordinate the recovery process, he said.

So far, the government had recovered 919 million ringgit (\$221 million) from abroad, MACC chief Latheefa Koya told the same press conference.

Part of it was the \$196 million that the US government returned last month as part of the first instalment from the \$1.7 billion that the US Justice Department has sought to recover from assets believed to have been bought with funds illicitly obtained from 1MDB.

US authorities inves-



Former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak speaks to reporters in Kuala Lumpur on Oct. 25, 2018, after being released on bail. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

tigating money laundering offenses had estimated that over \$4.5 billion had been misappropriated, flowing out of Malaysia through a series of complex transactions using shell companies spanning the globe, from Singapore to Switzerland and the United States.

Azam said the value of the assets has inflated and some are related to former 1MDB subsidiary SRC International Sdn. Bhd.

1MDB was founded by

former Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak in 2009. Investigators named tycoon Low Taek Jho, a family friend of Najib, as the mastermind behind the scheme to defraud 1MDB.

Low, Najib and his wife Rosmah Mansor, and their stepson Riza Aziz have all been implicated with receiving millions of dollars from the state fund and spending it on such things as luxury penthouses in New York and London, paintings, jewelry and a superyacht, as well as on funding of Hollywood productions.

Over \$681 million was allegedly deposited into Najib's personal bank accounts, most of which was later returned.

The US Justice Department had in 2016 launched civil forfeiture suits to seize \$1.7 billion worth of assets, describing the move as the "the largest action" brought under the Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative established in 2010 to curb high-level public corruption around the world.

The US legal suits did not involve Najib, however. —Kyodo News ■

Georgia opposition vows fresh protests after police crackdown

TBILISI — Georgian opposition leaders on Friday vowed to hold mass protests until parliament is dissolved, after police used rubber bullets and tear gas against demonstrators who had rallied overnight.

Demonstrations broke out in capital Tbilisi on Thursday after a Russian lawmaker addressed parliament from the speaker's seat — a deeply controversial move in a country at loggerheads with Moscow.

"The Georgian people and opposition parties demand snap parliamentary polls as well as the resignation of the speaker and the interior minister," Grigol Vashadze, the leader of the United Opposition alliance, told AFP.

"Peaceful mass protest will continue until these demands are met," he said, adding that a fresh rally would start at 7 pm (GMT 1500) on Friday.

The Kremlin on Friday condemned the protests as "aggressive demonstrations against citizens of Russia".

The presence of Russian MP Sergei Gavrilov in parliament sparked outrage in the ex-Soviet nation which in 2008 fought and lost a war with Moscow over the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

But with parliamentary polls set for next year, opposition groups are also seeking to capitalise on discontent with the ruling Georgian Dream party over its failure to kick-start a stagnant economy.

About 10,000 protesters gathered outside parliament on Thursday afternoon after Gavrilov addressed a forum of lawmakers from predominantly Orthodox countries.

Police pushed back demonstrators when they attempted to enter the parliament courtyard but overall the rally continued peacefully until midnight when officers launched a violent crackdown.

Ambulances evacuated dozens of injured protesters, an AFP reporter at the scene said.

An adviser to Georgian Prime Minister Mamuka Bakhtadze said 39 police officers and 30 protesters were hospitalised. Hundreds of baton-wielding riot police intervened again, beating up and arresting dozens of protesters.

Human Rights Watch criticised the use of tear gas and rubber bullets "against thousands of non-violent protesters".

Police failed to "abide by human rights for the use of force," the group said. —AFP ■

ASEAN seeks conclusion of China-led trade deal this year: Thai PM

BANGKOK — Southeast Asian leaders are eager to sign a sweeping China-led trade pact by the end of this year, Thailand's prime minister said Friday, with further talks expected at a Bangkok summit on the world's biggest commercial deal.

Beijing is seeking to shape the rules of free trade across the Asia-Pacific, as America retreats from multilateral deals under US President Donald Trump.

The China-crafted Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) includes all 10 economies of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) who are meeting this weekend in the Thai capital.

But it also sweeps in China's main regional rival India, as well Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, covering half the world's population and around 40 per cent of its trade.

Squabbles with India over access to its giant consumer market — as well as Australia

and New Zealand over the lack of 'high quality' labour and environmental standards — have undercut talks in recent months.

Analysts say these competing priorities mean signing the deal any time soon may be unlikely.

But ASEAN, hosted this year by Thailand, is determined to hustle the pact through as tit-for-tat tariffs between the US and China tariff darken the outlook for global free trade.

"Thailand is trying to expedite the conclusion of the RCEP negotiations this year," Prayut Chan-O-Cha, Thailand's former junta leader who is now premier, told a business forum in Bangkok Friday. "This is the agreed intention of all leaders."

Seven of the 18 chapters within the deal have been "concluded", according to the Philippines' Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez. "We have reached a point to really demand from different negotiating parties to be more

realistic, pragmatic," he said, adding the US-China spat should prompt ASEAN to "fast-track" the RCEP deal.

Shortly after taking office, Trump pulled out off an American-led Asia-Pacific trade pact — called the TPP, preferring to leverage the power of the world's largest economy bilaterally with Southeast Asian nations.

That opened the door for Beijing to champion free trade across the Asia-Pacific.

But the US is at pains to insist it has not abandoned the region and remains "very committed" to Southeast Asia, Peter Haymond, US Charge D'Affairs to Thailand said at the forum.

"We see this as a hugely dynamic region," he said, adding the Trump administration "has put more priority on updating and improving" existing trade agreements. "But (it) is very committed to strengthening its partnerships throughout ASEAN and throughout the region."—AFP ■



A China-led trade pact is expected to be discussed at a regional meeting of Southeast Asian leaders in Bangkok this weekend. PHOTO: AFP

Children among 30 killed in Indonesia matchstick factory fire

JAKARTA — At least 30 people, including several children, were killed when a fire ripped through a private home that operated as a matchstick factory in Indonesia on Friday, authorities said.

Pictures from the scene showed blackened corpses lying on top of each other in the burnt-out house after the blaze, which authorities said broke out early Friday afternoon. TV footage

showed plumes of black smoke billowing from the home in the town of Binjai in North Sumatra, about 70 kilometres (44 miles) west of provincial capital Medan. "We don't know what caused the fire but it has been extinguished," the head of North Sumatra's disaster agency RiadilLubis told AFP, adding that at least three children were among the dead. "We've sent teams there," he add-

ed. Resident Budi Zulkifli was headed to the local mosque in the Muslim-majority nation when the fire started. "I was about to go out to Friday prayers when there was a loud explosion," he told AFP. "But I don't know what blew up." Binjai police chief Nugroho Tri Nuryanto said a gas canister explosion may have sparked the blaze, but added the cause still needed to be confirmed.—AFP ■



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi performs yoga at a mass yoga event on International Yoga Day in Ranchi in eastern Jharkhand state, on 21 June, 2019. PHOTO: AFP

Modi and mutts on mats for International Yoga Day

RANCHI (India) — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and some well-poised pooches led the way Friday for International Yoga Day, this year with the theme of stopping climate change.

Yoga Day, observed mostly in India but also worldwide on the Northern Hemisphere's longest day, was Modi's idea. It was adopted unanimously by the UN General Assembly in 2014 and first took place in 2015.

Modi performed sun salutations and other flexible feats in a mass early-morning session with an estimated 30,000 other devotees that was live-streamed on the media-savvy premier's Twitter feed to his 48 million followers.

Elsewhere in India, armed forces personnel laid out their yoga mats on the deck of the aircraft carrier INS Viraat anchored in Mumbai while at India Gate, a Delhi landmark, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh led the way.

In Haryana the Indo Tibetan Border Police stretched out atop their nonplussed-looking horses and lying on the ground with their dogs who valiantly put their best paw forward, as did the pooches of the Border Security Forces and the Army Dog Unit, tongues hanging out.

Foreign consulates in Delhi also got in the act with staff at the French embassy in the red, white and blue of the national flag. Germany's new pony-tailed envoy and staff did their asanas a day early around his shiny red Ambassador car he calls "Auntie Amby".

Members of India's National Cadet Corps (NCC) took part in

a mass yoga session at the Bison Polo Grounds in Hyderabad while roughly 70,000 people took over the race course in Mysore in the south. Modi this year took to business networking website LinkedIn to extol yoga as a "panacea" for stress and even hate.

"In a world where ideologies of hate can potentially divide brother from brother, Yoga stands as a unifying force," Modi wrote.

"In a time where health ailments, especially stress-related ailments are rising, Yoga is giving relief and joy."

The theme of this yoga day, the fifth, is "climate action" and Modi said yoga can "foster oneness... with all the flora and fauna with whom we share our beautiful planet". In recent days Modi, 68, fresh from a landslide election victory, has also posted videos to social media featuring an animated version of himself performing different yoga postures.

Yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice originating in India. The word derives from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolising the union of body and consciousness, the UN's official Yoga Day webpage says. It has boomed in recent decades, with millions — perhaps up to 300 million — practising it regularly, although in the West it is often more of a physical than a spiritual activity.

Among the more unusual forms that have sprung up are "hoga" (yoga on a horse), "noga" (nude yoga), "doga" (yoga with a dog) — and Harry Potter yoga complete with a "Downward Dumbledore".—AFP ■

EU leaders fail to agree on candidates for top posts due to wide division

BRUSSELS — European Union (EU) leaders on Friday failed to reach a deal on candidates for the bloc's top jobs and announced that they will meet again on 30 June to try again.

The successor to European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker as the head of the EU executive is the key leadership role in Brussels.

Five years ago, a marathon negotiation lasted through the summer with a final decision reached in late August. Juncker finally claimed the EU throne with the help of the so-called "spitzenkandidaten system."

The process is a procedure whereby European political parties, ahead of European Elections, appoint lead candidates for the role of the Commission president, with the presidency of the Commission then going to the candidate of the political party



President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker and the President of the European Council Donald Tusk give a press conference after the first day of the European Summit where the future of the Presidency of the Commission and the Council were discussed in Brussels, on 21 June, 2019. PHOTO: AFP

capable of marshalling sufficient parliamentary support.

However, the European Elections in May had greatly shifted Europe's political landscape, with the traditional duopoly — the centre-right European People's Party (Juncker is a member) and the centre-left Social and Democratic Group — lost their

jointly enjoyed comfortable majority, and consequently lowered the competitiveness of their lead candidates Manfred Weber and Frans Timmermans.

Shortly after Thursday's working dinner, French President Emmanuel Macron said that the "lead candidates" of the three biggest pro-EU political families, namely

Weber, Timmermans and Renew Europe's Margrethe Vestager, had been eliminated from the race for Commission presidency. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Tusk had reported there was no majority for any of the three candidates, but left open the possibility that the situation could change. —Xinhua ■

Johnson faces Hunt in battle to be British PM

LONDON — Boris Johnson will face Jeremy Hunt in a run-off to become Britain's next prime minister after a final ballot of MPs on Thursday, with the winner tasked with guiding the country through Brexit.

In the fifth ballot of MPs in the governing Conservative Party, former London mayor Johnson won 160 of the 313 votes, while Foreign Secretary Hunt earned 77.

Johnson said he was "deeply honoured" to have such emphatic backing from his colleagues, having won more than half the votes.

"I look forward to getting out across the UK and to set out my plan to deliver Brexit, unite our country, and create a brighter future for all of us," he tweeted.

Environment Secretary Michael Gove, who with Johnson had led the successful 2016 referen-

dum campaign to leave the European Union, was narrowly eliminated after winning 75 votes.

The centre-right party's 160,000 grassroots members will now pick their new leader from the final two, who will then take over from Theresa May as prime minister in late July.

Both Johnson and Hunt have promised to take Britain out of the EU as quickly as possible, with the current exit date — after two delays — set for October.

Both say they want to renegotiate the deal May has already struck with Brussels — which parliament has rejected three times — but are prepared to walk away if necessary.

However, the EU has repeatedly said it will not change the text and the tough talk of "no deal", particularly from Johnson, has sparked frustration across the bloc.—AFP ■

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Notice

TPR Myanmar Ltd has entered into an agreement to sell all of its telecommunication towers in Myanmar to Irrawaddy Green Towers Ltd which is one of the largest owner and operator of telecom towers in Myanmar. The effect of this is that rental payments for the leases will in future come from Irrawaddy Green Towers Ltd, who have confirmed that they will honor all the leases [and associated lease payments] agreed with between TPR and landlords. The terms of the Ground Lease contracts [including rental amount and time of payment] shall remain exactly the same.

If anyone has any objections to the transaction between TPR and Irrawaddy Green towers Ltd, please send mail with related facts to U Tun Tun Latt at tel 095133706 tuntun@sin-mi.com or communicate to him by post within (14 days starting from this advertisement date) at TPR Myanmar Ltd, No 74 Lann Thit Road, Nant Thar Kone Ward, Insein Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Transferring Manufacturer Registered Pesticides

Manufacturer of the fungicide, Forum 50 WP (Dimethomorph 50% WP), provisional registration number F2018-475 registered by BASF Myanmar Limited is transferring from BASF SE, Germany to S.T.I (Solfotecnica Italian S.p.A), Italy (tolling company). Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayintnaung Road, West Gyogon, Insein Township, Yangon within 14 days.

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M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (041 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (041 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-06-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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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.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
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 the ".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 July 10th, 2019 by 13:00 PM (Myanmar Standard Time).

Attention:

Director General
Posts and Telecommunications Department
Ministry of Transport and Communications
Building No. 2, Nay Pyi Taw,
The Republic of the Union of 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>.



AMONG Myanmar wooden monasteries found in many areas, monasteries decorated with woodcarving Buddhist plots of dramas were known as Yokesone monasteries. Among them, Mandalay Yokesone monastery at the foot of Mandalay Hill, Sagaing Yokesone monastery along the Sagaing mountain range, Sagu Yokesone monastery near Minbu-Salin road, Salin monastery at Wethe Lake, Salin town and Legaing Yokesone monastery and woodcarving Yokesone monastery are most famous.

Chauk and Salay

Salay town, situated on the east bank of the River Ayeyawady, is 56 km (34 mile) south of Bagan town, 23km (15mile) veering towards south.

Salay town had been administered by Township Officer until 1930 and Township Administrative Officer moved to Chauk town in 1930 where there were many oilwells, leaving Salay town in the rank of mere village in the Chauk town.

According to the Myanmar Encyclopaedia, the Salay town was a domestic port and remained as a small town during flourishing Feudalism. Salay town was famous for Salay King Kwe, Konbaung Era's late poet Salay U Ponnya and seedless jujube fruit. U Ponnya, jujube fruit and Yokesone monastery are outstanding symbols of Salay town. In accordance with the statistics issued in 2013 by Archaeology and National Museum Department, 19 ancient buildings including a Yokesone monastery have been maintained.

Yokesone Monastery

There are eight monasteries of Konbaung Era in Salay town; Salay Yokesone monastery built in Yadanabon Era was renovated in 1992 and opened in 1995 as a museum. Former U Ponnya monastery was gutted by fire and the brick building was replaced by as a library, standing tall up until today under the supervision of Archaeology and National Department. Merchant U Po Kyi of North Salay built Salay Yokesone monastery in 1244 ME for Sayadaw U Guna to reside at the monastery so that it took years to get it finished in 1254 ME. Donor U Po Kyi asked for the permission for building a Yokesone monastery from the King who allowed the donor by a royal order to fell trees in the state-owned forest without paying any taxes.

In Konbaung Era, restrictions were imposed on sizes and decorations of the monasteries in accordance with the reputation of a residing Sayadaw and a donor. As U Guna was a residing Sayadaw and U Po Kyi was a rich man, the monastery with four ladders was decorated

Salay Yokesone n and Myanmar H

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)



with carved figurines and floral designs. In ancient times, the houses where the princes once lived, were donated when they became kings. The houses were called royal houses and

imitated houses were known as royal monasteries.

U Po Kyi, with the help of carpenters from Tanyaung village, built a big monastery which was composed of 154 teak

posts, each post with a girth of average six feet. The size of the monastery was 152 feet long and with a width of 76 feet. Irons with a measurement of 1 ½ to 13 inches for the monastery were

astery was built of many-tiered annexes, Sanu annexe, Saung-hla annexe, main hall, Khon and Bawga annexes. The annexe in front of the monastery had seven tiers referring to the Mount Meru. The monastery was attached with four

now these figureheads are not found distinctly. At the same way, the mythical animal at the north ladder was installed with a pointed crest and a mouth agape whereas the one at the south ladder with a round crest and a mouth shut up. The two

sculptural designs were found on the railings and gates ranging from the east to the west. The figures were sculpted by U Shan and Ko Shwepyi and other woodcarvers. Sayadaw U Guna ordered these figures to be sculpted to get the crimi-

natively. Therefore, Seintone Queen built a monastery in Sinmakyatkan village, somewhat like a Zetawon monastery.

Sayadaw taught the Buddhist Scriptures to other monks at the Dekhitnawon monastery for seven days and resided at a monastery situated far from laypersons. Again in 1231 ME, boat owner U Pike and wife Daw Ein Kywe built a monastery with nine annexes. Sayadaw punished those who had destroyed a tranquil life in the country in accordance with Buddhist Scriptures and so did for the depraved monks.

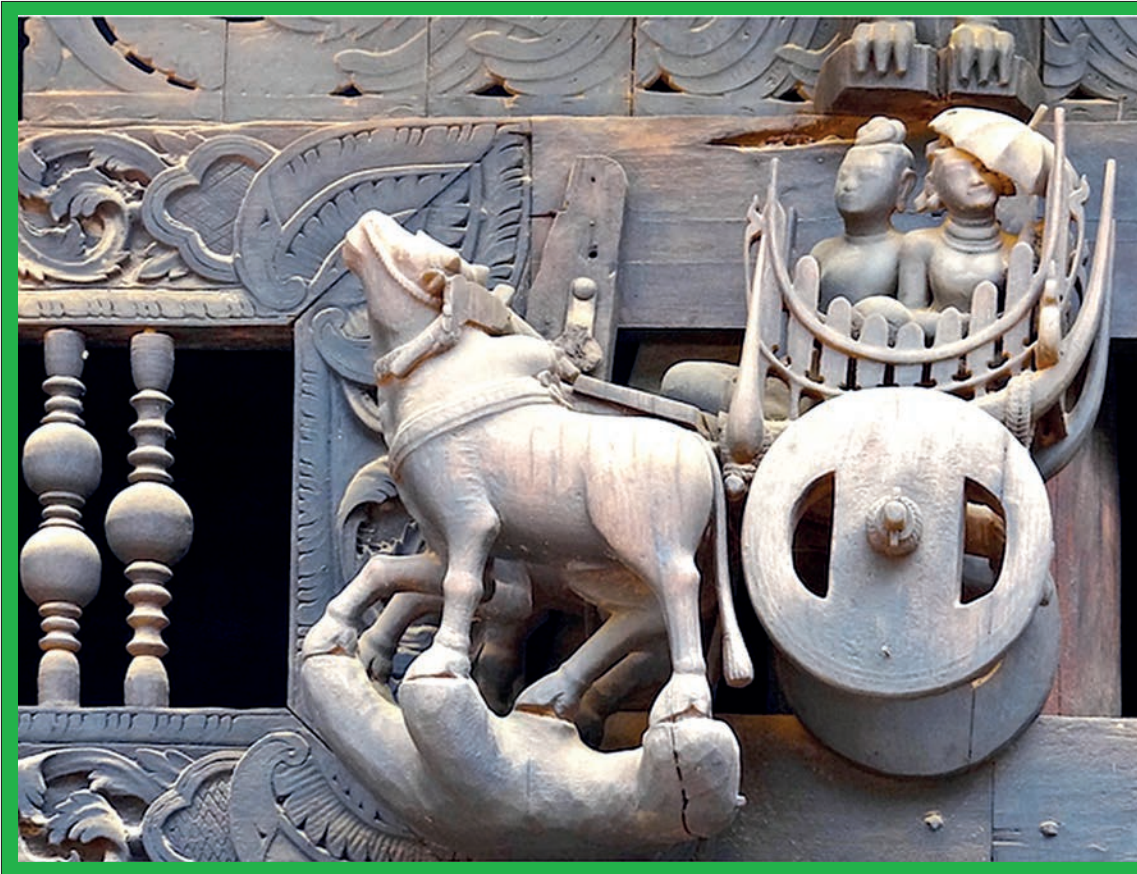
The construction of a woodcarving Yokesone monastery, in which Sayadaw U Guna would reside happened to coincide with dethroning King Thibaw in 1247 ME, lasted for ten years. In 1254 ME, the husband and the wife donated the monastery to U Guna. The monastery was handed over to his disciple U Ponnya to reside in Yokesone monastery. At that time, Sayadaw was summoned to a British court for being allegedly involved in a case. The court called U Guna in the boyhood name of Maung Htaung and the Sayadaw disappeared from the monastery after the end of lawsuit.

U Guna was believed to have passed away in around 1258 ME and to have resided in Lamugyi village, Hinthada area. His disciples---monks and U Po Kyi---went to the village to collect his bones and brought back to Salay town to enshrine his bones in Maha Abaya Pagoda.

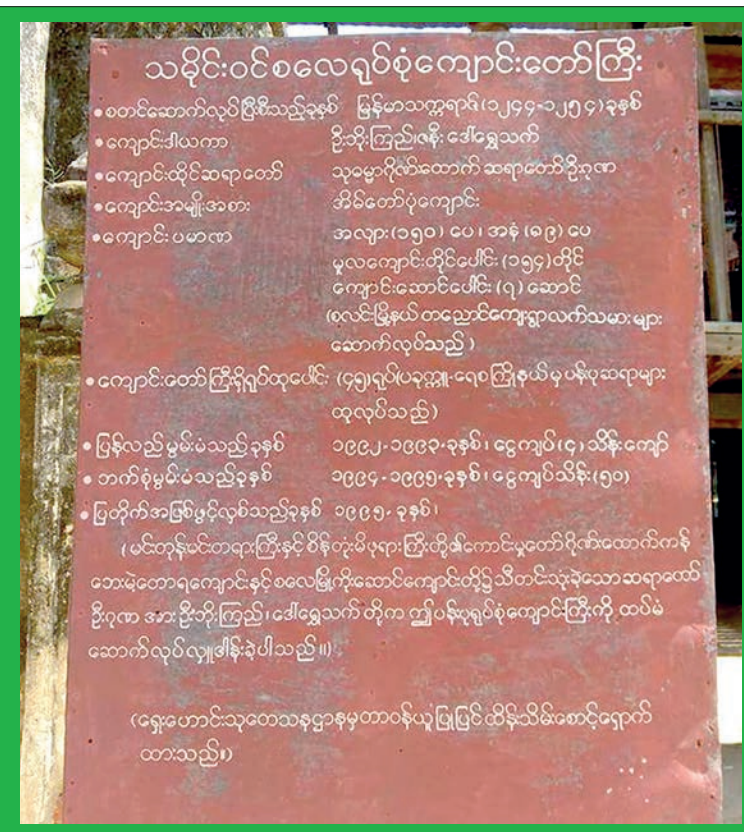
Woodcarving in Yokesone monastery

Woodcarving figures included many Buddha's life stories which were sculpted for the laypersons to get ashamed from doing misdeeds. According to the history of Salay Yokesone monastery, there are 45 figures totally including 36 figures from Jatakas. Among them, some figures could not be described for their origins. Woodcarving figures beautifully hand-crafted in Salay Yokesone monastery are more famous than those in other monasteries.

Ref: Myanmar Traditional Designs and Monasteries (Maung Yin Hlaingg, Pyin-mamyaing) World-famous woodcarving figures from woodcarving Yokesone monastery (Maung Maung Latt) Translated by Arakan Sein



monastery handiwork



mythical animals were believed to mean an ascent and a descent to the monastery.

Annexes were paved with circular streets and attached with roofless balconies. Posts along the streets were covered with sand and rocks to prevent from the state of decay. The figurines of princes and alchemists were beautifully sculpted in the covers of sand and rocks which disappeared gradually to be replaced with bell-shaped covers. On the north side of the monastery, the Yadanabon Era

nals ashamed from committing adultery and for repentance.

U Guna and Yokesone monastery

King Mindon and Seinton Queen worshipped Sayadaw U Guna who was revered by the Queen from the rank of lady-in-waiting. At the time of becoming a queen, she addressed formally to the Sayadaw to build a monastery in Nay Pyi Taw. Rejecting a royal offer, the Sayadaw decided to reside at two Salay monasteries alter-

made in the Blacksmith's workshop in Tanyaung village.

The structure of Salay Yokesone monastery

The Salay Yokesone mon-

ladders: elephant figurehead at the southwest corner, horse figurehead at the northwest corner, lion figurehead at the southeast corner and cow figurehead at the northeast. By



Magwe striker Pyay Moe to miss match against Zwegapin United

MAGWE F.C. forward player Pyay Moe will miss the team's Week 13 national league match against Zwegapin United, which is scheduled to be held at 4 p.m. on 22 June at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon, according to a statement from the Myanmar National League.

Striker Pyay Moe got three yellow cards during a recent MNL match, and is now facing a match ban.

A reliable player, Pyay Moe has so far scored two goals for Magwe F.C. in the league.

During their previous match in the national league, Magwe had beaten Zwegapin United by 2-0.

Magwe is currently placed ninth in the standing table with 10 points from three wins, one draw, and eight losses of 12 matches played.

Zwegapin United is in the eighth place with 11 points from two wins, five draws, and five



Magwe's reliable striker Pyay Moe (No. 10) takes control of the ball during a match against Chin Land F.C. at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. **PHOTO:MNL**

losses.

The match between Zwegapin United and Magwe F.C. will

be broadcast live on free-to-air channel Mizzima TV. It will also be steamed live on MySports'

Facebook Page, according to the Myanmar National League.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Week-13 MNL matches to be shown live on free-to-air channels

THE Week-13 matches of the Myanmar National League will be broadcast live on free-to-air channels, according to a statement released by MNL.

One of the most anticipated matches featuring Sagaing United vs Yadanarbon F.C., scheduled to be held at 3:30 p.m. on 22 June at the Monywa Stadium, will be broadcast live on MRTV and MRTV-4.

At the same time, Hanttharwady United will play Southern Myanmar F.C. at the Grand Royal Stadium in Bago, and the match will be broadcast live on Fortune TV. The match between Magwe F.C. and Zwegapin United at 4 p.m. on 22 June at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon will be broadcast live on Mizzima TV channel.

On 23 June, Chinland F.C. will take on Dagon F.C. at the Thuwunna Stadium, and the match will be stream lived on MySports' Facebook page.

The most interesting match for the week featuring Shan United and Yangon United, which is slated to take place at the Taunggyi Stadium, will be streamed live on MRTV-4 and MRTV.

The same day, Ayeyawady United will face Rakhine United at the Patheon Stadium, and the match will be shown on Mizzima TV.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Klopp-like Voss-Tecklenburg eyeing first World Cup title with Germany

BERLIN — Just half a year after she was appointed, new Germany coach Martina Voss-Tecklenburg is aiming to do what she never managed to do as a player and win the Women's World Cup.

The 51-year-old made 125 appearances for her country in her playing career, retiring in 2000 before Germany's World Cup wins in 2003 and 2007.

A demanding but approachable coach who has compared

herself to Liverpool boss Juergen Klopp, Voss-Tecklenburg is hoping to be crowned world champion from the dugout in 2019.

Germany face Nigeria in the last 16 on Saturday, having won all three of their group games without conceding a goal.

Voss-Tecklenburg has warned that Nigeria will be "a tough nut to crack", but her team are already looking formidable in France.

Once the undisputed European power in women's football, Germany are enjoying a resurgence under Voss-Tecklenburg.

The 51-year-old took over from interim coach Horst Hrubesch in November with the national team reeling from a turbulent few years.

After winning the gold medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics under legendary coach Silvia Neid, Germany's aura faded under Neid's

successor Steffi Jones.

Jones was eventually sacked, and Hrubesch brought in to steady the ship. Since Voss-Tecklenburg the Germans have remained unbeaten ever since.

"There are more teams at the top of the game these days, but we are still among the best in the world," Voss-Tecklenburg told AFP subsidiary SID before the tournament.—AFP ■

Football: Koji Miyoshi scores twice as Japan draw 2-2 with Uruguay



Twenty-two-year-old Yokohama F Marinos midfielder Miyoshi opened his international account with a superb finish in the 25th minute. **PHOTO KYODO NEWS**

PORTO ALEGRE — Newcomer Koji Miyoshi scored in both halves for Japan as Hajime Moriyasu's young side matched Uruguay in an entertaining 2-2 draw Thursday at the Copa America in Brazil.

Luis Suarez equalized from the penalty spot after Japan took a surprise 1-0 lead, while Jose Gimenez leveled the scores at 2-2 following Miyoshi's second goal at Porto Alegre's Arena do Gremio.

After opening their Group C campaign with a 4-0 loss to Chile, Japan gave a much-improved performance against the 15-time

South American champions, who won their previous match against Ecuador 4-0.

Moriyasu made six changes to his lineup comprised largely of young players in the picture for next year's Tokyo Olympic Games.

Veteran goalkeeper Eiji Kawashima made his first start of the tournament, while Real Madrid acquisition Takefusa Kubo moved to the bench, eventually entering as a late substitute for man-of-the-match Miyoshi.

Uruguay displayed their attacking threat early, quickly

generating a shot for Suarez off a length-of-the-field counter following a Japan corner.

Twenty-two-year-old Yokohama F Marinos midfielder Miyoshi opened his international account with a superb finish in the 25th minute, running onto a long ball from Gaku Shibasaki before beating keeper Fernando Muslera from the right of the area. "I thought I had a chance to score, as I received the ball in space and saw I had room in front of me. I was glad to put my shot on target," Miyoshi said.—Kyodo News ■