

NATIONAL

Speaker U T Khun Myat arrives back Nay Pyi Taw after attending AIPA Preparatory meeting, AIPA-ASEAN Interface meeting in Bangkok

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State Counsellor attends 34th ASEAN Summit, ASEAN Summit (Retreat) in Bangkok



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for a group photo at the opening ceremony of the 34th ASEAN Summit in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended the opening ceremony of the 34th ASEAN Summit and the ASEAN Summit (Retreat) yesterday.

Accompanied by Union Ministers U Thaug Tun and U Kyaw Tin, Permanent Myanmar Representative/Ambassador to the ASEAN U Min Lwin and of-

ficials, the State Counsellor attended the opening ceremony of the 34th ASEAN Summit held at Crystal Hall of Anthenee Tower at 9 am local time.

Present on the occasion were Prime Minister of Thailand General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Ret.), Sultan of Brunei Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, Prime

Heads of ASEAN member states exchanged views on ASEAN's external relations and international affairs.

Minister of Cambodia Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Singapore Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, President of the Republic of the Philippines Mr. Rodrigo Duterte, President of the Republic of Indonesia Mr. Joko Widodo, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Laos Mr Thongloun

Sisoulith, Prime Minister of Malaysia Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, the Secretary-General of ASEAN and officials.

The ceremony started with the playing of the ASEAN anthem.

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G-136, G- Floor, Building 1, SOHO Diamond Tower, Nar Nat Taw Street, Kamayut Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 01-705577, 09-730 38899, 09-7777 16161, 09-4433 16161
E-mail: bulgogibrothers.myanmar@gmail.com | www.facebook.com/Bulgogi Brothers Myanmar/ www.bulgogibros.com

ASEAN agrees to implement recommendations of the Preliminary Needs Assessment Mission and enhance ASEAN's role in supporting Myanmar in facilitating the repatriation process

THE Myanmar delegation led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, arrived back Nay Pyi Taw today evening by a special flight after attending the 34th ASEAN Summit held in Bangkok, Thailand from 22 to 23 June 2019.

During the 34th ASEAN Summit (Plenary), the ASEAN Leaders discussed ways on advancing partnership for sustainability of the ASEAN Community Building on 22 June 2019. On 23 June 2019, the Leaders also exchanged views on external relations and future direction of ASEAN as well as regional and international issues during the 34th ASEAN Summit (Retreat).

On the humanitarian situation in Rakhine State, the ASEAN Leaders discussed in a constructive way acknowledging the complexity of the issue and the need to enhance ASEAN's support to Myanmar in facilitating the repatriation process. Some stressed the importance of creating conducive environment for the returnees and taking into consideration of timeframe in implementing the recommendations of the Preliminary Needs Assessment Mission.

The State Counsellor ex-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends 34th ASEAN Summit (Plenary) in Bangkok, Thailand, on 22 June 2019. **PHOTO: MNA**

pressed her appreciation to the Secretary General of ASEAN and the AHA Centre for their pragmatic and positive approach in seeking solution to the issue. She also said that the report of the Preliminary Needs Assessment Mission was constructive, and she welcomed the support and assistance of all ASEAN Member States. She added that Myanmar more than any other State would wish for a smooth and speedy resolution of the problems and that it is important for Myanmar and Bangladesh as well to work constantly to hasten up the implementation

of the bilateral agreement on repatriation. As peace, stability and development are linked together, she said that Myanmar has been trying to bring about in Rakhine State peace, stability and development to establish long-term harmony between all the different communities.

At the Working Dinner of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers held on 21 July 2019, the Ministers discussed in an informal manner the ASEAN's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific and the humanitarian situation in Rakhine State. On the issue of Rakhine State, the Minis-

ters discussed the Report of the Preliminary Needs Assessment Mission which was based on the mandate given by ASEAN, implementation of the recommendations contained in the Report, the importance of prioritization of the basic services needed, cooperation with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners on possible support and the cooperation and assistance voluntarily extended by the ASEAN Member States to Myanmar to address the humanitarian situation.

Chairman's Statement of the 34th ASEAN Summit was issued at the conclusion of the

Summit. With regard to the humanitarian situation in Rakhine, the ASEAN Leaders reaffirmed, in the Statement, their support for a more visible and enhanced role of ASEAN to support Myanmar in providing humanitarian assistance, facilitating the repatriation process and promoting sustainable development. They agreed for the Secretary General of ASEAN to go further with the recommendations contained in the Preliminary Needs Assessment, including those that focus on capacity-building, dissemination of information and support to the provision of basic services in Rakhine State. They also expressed their continued support for Myanmar's commitment to ensure safety and security for all communities in Rakhine State as effectively as possible. They also reaffirmed ASEAN's support for Myanmar's efforts to bring peace, stability, the rule of law, to promote harmony and reconciliation among the various communities as well as to ensure sustainable and equitable development in Rakhine State.

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Date: 23 June 2019*



State Counsellor receives ADB President in Bangkok

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received President of Asian Development Bank Mr. Takehiko Nakao and party at Athenee Tower in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday at 1 pm local time.

During the call, talks were focused on rural development and improvement of the social status of the rural people in My-

anmar, progress of transport, food safety, electric power supply, aids for sustainable development and continuation of loan payments,

Also present at the call were Union Ministers U Thaung Tun and U Kyaw Tin and officials. —

MNA ■

(Translated by TMT)

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hand with President of the Asian Development Bank, Mr. Takehiko Nakao. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor attends 34th ASEAN Summit, ASEAN Summit (Retreat) ...

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Prime Minister of Thailand General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Retd.) delivered the opening address, followed by the staging of a cultural performance "Vivid ASEAN".

Heads of State/Government of ASEAN member states, who attended the ceremony, posed for documentary photo.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor took part in the 34th ASEAN Summit (Retreat) held at the Grand Hall of the Anthee Hotel.

Heads of ASEAN member states exchanged views on ASEAN's external relations and international affairs.

Also present at the Summit together with the State Counsellor were Union Ministers U Thaug Tun



Thailand Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha delivers the speech at the opening ceremony of the 34th ASEAN summit in Bangkok Thailand, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomed by Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe and officials at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

and U Kyaw Tin.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor visited the Myanmar Embassy in Thailand and met with Ambassador U Myo Myint Than, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Khin Zaw, staff members of the embassy and military attaché office and families and officials.

After looking round the embassy, the State Counsellor signed the visitor's book.

The State Counsellor and entourage arrived at Don Mueang International Airport in a motorcade, and were seen off at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Thailand General Prawit Wongsuwan, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand

U Myo Myint Than, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Khin Zaw, staff members of embassy and military attaché office and families and officials.

The State Counsellor and entourage arrived back at Nay Pyi Taw at 6.30 pm on board a special flight. They were welcomed by Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Min Thu, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung and wife, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar Mrs. Supattra Srimaitreephithak and officials at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. —MNA ■

(Translated by TMT)

Tachilek in Shan State to hold Children's Literary Festival

THE Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) of the Ministry of Information and, the Basic Education Department (BED) and Tachilek District management department will hold the Children's Literary Festival (Tachilek) on a grand scale on 25 and 26 June at the Basic Education High School in Makaho Hkam Ward, Tachilek.

The festival will be held with the goal of nurturing children to become life-long learners and book lovers, to have the habit of working in unity with others, and to become future leaders possessing a high level of knowledge and ability.

The festival will open 19 educational booths for broadening the children's scope of knowledge, apart from culture booths of ethnic races including Shan, Lahu and Arka.

Talks and round table discussions on literature will also be held at the festival, and they will be opened to all. The festival will be further enlivened with book shows, book sales, poem recitation contest, storytelling contest, extempore talks, painting contest, paper folding contest, proverb solving contest, football match and other traditional competitions.

Students of schools in Tachilek

will also perform entertainment programs at the festival, which will also stage elephant dances for the public.

The Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Education and the respective local governments jointly held the children's literary festivals in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Mawlamyine, Taunggyi, Monywa, Yangon, Patheingyi, Myittha and Bago. Additionally, the local governments in cooperation with IPRD, BED, social organizations, book lovers and well-wishers also held the festivals in district capitals. — Aung Min Han (Translated by TMT)



Organisers prepare the booth for Children's Literary Festival in Tachilek on 25 and 26 June. **PHOTO: THAN TUN AYE (IPRD)**

Speaker U T Khun Myat arrives back Nay Pyi Taw after attending AIPA Preparatory meeting, AIPA-ASEAN Interface meeting in Bangkok

A MYANMAR delegation led by Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday after attending the Association of Southeast Asian Nations – ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly-AIPA Preparatory Meeting and 34th AIPA-ASEAN Interface in Bangkok.

At the invitation of AIPA President Mr. Chuan Leekpai, who is also the Thai National Assembly President, Speaker U T Khun Myat and party left for Bangkok, Thailand, on 20 June.

They were welcomed by MPs of Thailand and Myanmar Ambassador and officials of the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok at the Suvarnabhumi Airport.

On 21 June morning, the delegation led by Speaker U T



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat poses for a documentary photo at AIPA Preparatory Meeting for the AIPA-ASEAN Interface at the 34th ASEAN Summit in Bangkok yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat meets with Thai National Assembly President Mr. Chuan Leekpai. **PHOTO: MNA**

Khun Myat participated in the preparatory meeting of ASEAN leaders and representatives of AIPA along with parliamentary leaders and representatives of other AIPA countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Lao, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

In the afternoon, Speaker U T Khun Myat met with Mr. Chuan Leekpai, Thai National Assembly President.

At the meeting, they discussed exchanging visits between the leaders of the parliaments of the two countries as part of efforts for promoting and strengthening the friendship between the peoples and parliaments of the two countries. They also discussed matters related to promoting

the relations between the two parliaments.

In the evening, the Myanmar parliamentary delegation attended a dinner hosted by AIPA President Mr. Chuan Leekpai.

On 22 June afternoon, the delegation attended the AIPA-ASEAN Interface.

In the evening, the Myanmar delegation attended a dinner hosted by Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, the Senate speaker of Thailand.

On 23 June, the delegation led by Speaker U T Khun Myat left for Myanmar after attending the opening ceremony of the 34th ASEAN Summit at the Athenee Tower in Bangkok. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Union Ministers U Ohn Win, Dr. Win Myat Aye meet with locals of Namtu Township, discuss resettling Internally Displaced People

MINISTER of Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win and Union Minister for Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye arrived in Namtu in Kyautme District, Northern Shan State and met with Township IDP Supporting committee, department officials, Ethnic literature and Culture groups and locals at Namtu assembly hall.

During the meeting, Dr Win

Myat Aye said that the Union Government has always tried to realize the internal peace with ethnic armed groups. There are a lot of things to be done and the equality for all is always first priority.

That long stay at IDP camps will do harm to health, education and social. If opportunity arises, the IDP camps will be close and resettlement will be initiated, he said. He continued to say that the gov-

ernment is working on better health care and revitalizing jobs, careers and businesses, adding that the strategy has been drawn up to resettle IDPs from the camps.

Afterwards, U Ohm Win urged people to be economical with natural resources.

He briefed about consequences of deforestation in the world, adding that the government is also trying to tackle it. Myanmar signed a climate deal

in Paris in 2015 and is trying to comply with it by reducing deforestation and focusing on forest cover area expansion. He urged the people to conserve the forest in Shan State.

Then, a general round of discussion with the attendees followed.

Afterwards, the Union ministers and their entourage proceeded Shwe Myint Thar (Kyuu Sout) to hand over a month ration of rice, oil, salt and beans,

K45,00,000 to build playground, K120000 for the disables and a donations of K40,00,000 from Department of Mines and K40,00.000 from Corner Stone Resort to the officials of IDP camps in Lisu Church and Kachin Baptist Church.

Then, the ministers and the entourage arrived at Shwe Myint Thar (Kyuu Sout) and encouraged and gave toys and snacks to children. —MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
Notification 2/2019**

6th Waning of Nayon 1381 ME
23 June 2019

**Summoning Second Pyidaungsu
Hluttaw thirteenth regular session**

In accord with Section 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 13 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law and Rule 3, Sub-rule (b) of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rules, it is hereby announced that the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw thirteenth regular session is summoned at 1:30pm on the 14th Waxing of Waso 1381 ME (15 July 2019) (Monday).

*Sd/ T Khun Myat
Speaker
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw*

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Pyithu Hluttaw
Notification 2/2019**

6th Waning of Nayon 1381 ME
23 June 2019

**Summoning Second Pyithu
Hluttaw thirteenth regular session**

In accord with Section 126 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 35 of the 2012 Pyithu Hluttaw Law and Rule 3, Sub-rule (b) of the 2013 Pyithu Hluttaw Rules, it is hereby announced that the Second Pyithu Hluttaw thirteenth regular session is summoned at 10 am on the 14th Waxing of Waso 1381 ME (15 July 2019) (Monday).

*Sd/ T Khun Myat
Speaker
Pyithu Hluttaw*

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Amyotha Hluttaw
Notification 2/2019**

6th Waning of Nayon 1381 ME
23 June 2019

**Summoning Second Amyotha
Hluttaw thirteenth regular session**

In accord with Section 155 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 35 of the 2012 Amyotha Hluttaw Law and Rule 3, Sub-rule (b) of the 2015 Amyotha Hluttaw Rules, it is hereby announced that the Second Amyotha Hluttaw thirteenth regular session is summoned at 10 am on the 14th Waxing of Waso 1381 ME (15 July 2019) (Monday)..

*Sd/ Mahn Win Khaing Than
Speaker
Amyotha Hluttaw*

Basic Education High School in Pyapon, Ayeyawady Region upgraded

A ceremony to upgrade and open the No 4 Basic Education High School in Pyapon, Ayeyawady Region was held at the school yesterday morning, with the greetings extended by Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Hla Moe Aung.

Speaking at the ceremony, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi said his ministry opened 525 new schools and upgraded 100 schools in Ayeyawady Region during the current academic year, with the recommendation of the Region Government. Schools which had the fixed number of students or which were located in the accessible plains and were three miles from the school that was one level higher than them or schools located in the areas with poor transport or located in the hill regions and which met the prescribed distance of two miles were inclusive in the program, he added.

Pyapon Township had a high matriculation pass-rate, he said, and added that making the right choice in selecting the major subject was an important factor to pass the matriculation examination. Academic skill of



Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and officials open the No 4 Basic Education High School in Pyapon, Ayeyawady Region yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

teachers and their teaching methods were also important, he said. Students who were outstanding in English, Mathematics and science subjects should choose the science major category in the high school, he suggested. But students who passed the middle school at B or C level should choose the science plus arts major category, he added.

The involvement of parents was required in nurturing children to have the habit of helping each other and collectively taking part in social welfare and sanitation activities, he pointed out. The Union Minister called for the involvement of the

respective local governments, MPs, parents and guardians and the public in bringing out brilliant youths.

Representative of Amyotha Hluttaw U Thein Swe also gave a speech.

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, MP U Thein Swe and officials formally opened the ceremony and unveiled the school signboard.

Headmistress of the school Daw Kyu Kyu Win presented commemorative pennants to the Union Minister and officials. The Union Minister donated school rucksacks and stationery for needy students through the township edu-

cation officer.

Patron of the Parent-Teacher Association of the school Myo Myint reported on the functions of the association and the headmistress spoke words of thanks. The Union Minister and officials took part in the meeting of education officers, school heads and teachers, which was held at Thiri Annawa Hall in Pyapon.

The Union Minister and the Chief Minister delivered address at the meeting. Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi and officials looked into the requirements presented by the participants at the meeting. — MNA

(Translated by TMT)

Pyithu Hluttaw representatives informed to attend parliamentary session

THE Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw has sent invitation letters to the Pyithu Hluttaw representatives to attend thirteenth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw to be held at Pyithu Hluttaw's meeting hall at 10 am on 15 July 2019 (Monday).

The Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, either they receive the invitation letters or not are urged to contact Pyithu Hluttaw Hall (I-12) not earlier than 13 July 2019 (Saturday) and not later than 14 July 2019 along with their identity cards. —MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw representatives informed to attend parliamentary session

THE Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw has sent invitation letters to the Amyotha Hluttaw representatives to attend thirteenth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw to be held at Amyotha Hluttaw's meeting hall at 10 am on 15 July 2019 (Monday).

The Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, either they receive the invitation letters or not are urged to contact Amyotha Hluttaw Hall (I-19) not earlier than 13 July 2019 (Saturday) and not later than 14 July 2019 (Sunday) along with their identity cards.—MNA

Trade Mark Ads

Call Thin Thin May,

09251022355
09974424848

ACTING CHIEF EDITOR

Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORS

Zaw Min
Zaw Htet Oo
Win Ko Ko Aung

INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR

Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

LOCAL NEWS EDITORS

Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com

TRANSLATORS

Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun

REPORTER

Nyein Nyein Ei,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

PHOTOGRAPHER

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAM

Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe

EDITORIAL SECTION

(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax - (+95) (01) 8604305

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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gnlmdaily@gmail.com
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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.

120 car sales centres, 44 show rooms open as of May

ABOUT 120 car sales centres and 44 showrooms had been opened as of May, according to the Supervisory Committee for Motor Vehicle Imports and Related Business.

Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister for Commerce, who is also the chairman of the committee, said at the committee's meeting on Friday that the committee is also encouraging the development of the automobile assembly industry.

Between April, 2018 and January, 2019, the committee has allowed eight auto manufacturers to import products that are essential to make vehicles in the country, with the permission of the Myanmar Investment Commission, he said.

"Priority must be given to investors who offer technological assistance to the country through assembling and manufacturing their



Union Minister Dr. Than Myint addresses the meeting of Supervisory committee for Motor Vehicle Imports and Related Business in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

products in accordance with the MIC's rules and regulations," he said.

He urged committee members to deal with difficulties through negotiations with the

concerned departments, in line with their procedures.

The committee discussed the development of the automotive industry and the assembly of vehicles in the

country.

The committee members reported the progress of their works in each sector to the Union Minister.—MNA (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin) ■



Officials inspect preparations for holding the Children's Literary Festival in Tachileik on 25 June. **PHOTO: TACHILEK IPRD**

State Ministers examine preparations for Children's Literary Festival

SHAN State Government's Development Affairs Minister U Sai Sont Sai and Shan State Minister for Bama Ethnic Affairs Dr Aung Than Maung yesterday inspected the preparations for Children's Literary Festival to be held successfully.

The ministers and the entourage inspected ministerial

galleries, entertainment, competition halls and the area where books will be displayed, and the officials detailed the current status of the preparation. The festival will be held at Makar Ho Khan Basic Education High School in Tachileik Township on June 25th and 26th.—IPRD (Translated by Alphonsus)

Three-gold medallists Kyaukse elephant troupe to perform in Tachileik Children's Literary Festival

KYAUKSE Nyan Lin Htet's elephant dance troupe will be performing at the Children's Literary Festival coming to Tachileik.

Led by the model elephant actor Nyan Lin Htet, the troupe has secured three first place prizes in dancing competitions. He is the son of famous elephant actor Sayar Zaw Gyi Maung, who has six gold medals.

Also performing alongside them are musicians Paw Shan,

Shin Tun (Myanmar literature), Sine Prince Zaw Thu Hein, Mel Naw (Mandalay), and Mahn Pan Trazan Phe (PyinOoLwin).

The troupe was invited Abbot U Jotika to perform in Thailand in 2017. In addition, they have also performed in previous children literary festivals in Mawlamyine, Monywa, Yangon, Sagaing, Sittway, Myitkyina and Bago. Everyone is invited to come see their performance in Tachileik on 25 and 26 June.—Ko Ko Naing (Mine Yu)



Nyan Lin Htet's Kyaukse elephant dance troupe entertain the audience. **PHOTO: KO KO NAING (MONGYU)**

Domestic fuel market sees slight change in one week

THERE was no significant change in fuel prices in the domestic market during the week between 17 and 23 June, local retailers said.

According to filling stations, a litre of 95 Octane was sold for around K885 in the Yangon's retail market on 23 June, while a litre of 92 Octane was priced at K795. Diesel was sold at K905 and premium diesel at K915.

Yangon saw a slight increase in price of fuels starting 21 June compared with prices on 17 June when a litre of 95 Octane was sold at around K785 in the Yangon's retail market, whereas 92 Octane was priced at K875 per litre, diesel at K895 and premium

diesel at K905.

Fuel prices are slightly different in the regions and states. A litre of 95 Octane was sold for about K915-K920 in Bago, K925-K930 in Nay Pyi Taw, K945-K1,005 in Mandalay, K950-K965 in Magway, K950-K960 in Sagaing, around K990 in Kayah State, and K955-K995 in Shan State.

Also, premium diesel was priced at K940-K985 in Bago, K970-K975 in Nay Pyi Taw, K945-K1,015 in Mandalay, K985-K995 in Magway, K950-K960 in Sagaing, around K1,000 in Kayah State, and K990-K1,035 in Shan State.—Kyu Kyu/(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)



A worker fills a car with petrol at a refilling station in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Myanmar-Viet Nam trade up 8.5 % in April

TRADE between Myanmar and Viet Nam topped US\$70.5 million in April in the current 2018-2019 Fiscal Year, a slight increase in value by \$5.5 million, or 8.5 per cent, from that of last April, according to the latest monthly report issued by the Ministry of Commerce.

In the month of April, bilateral export reached \$12.67 million, while bilateral imports stood at nearly \$57.92 million. Compared with last April, the value of bilateral exports rose by \$3.5 million, whereas there was an increase of \$2.03 million in bilateral imports.

From October through April, this FY, bilateral trade between the two ASEAN member states totalled \$492.6 million, with \$155.6 million in exports and \$337 million in imports.

Myanmar chiefly exports minerals, agricultural, forest and marine products to Viet Nam, importing food, auto parts, computer and related

accessories, construction materials, steel, plastics, pharmaceuticals, and other chemical products from the Southeast Asian country.

The two counties are focusing on boosting trade and investment in anticipation of regional economic growth. According to the Commerce Ministry's statistical report, Myanmar-Viet Nam trade hit \$714 million in the 2017-2018 FY, the highest figure in seven consecutive years since the 2011-2012 FY.

During the 2018 mini-budget period (April-September), bilateral trade totalled \$426 million, up by \$48.7 million as against the same period of the previous FY.

The Myanmar Investment Commission approved two investment projects from Viet Nam with a capital of \$12.98 million in the current fiscal.—Khine Khant ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Exports at Muse down 25.8% in current FY

BETWEEN October and mid-June in the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year, the value of exports through Muse, a border between Myanmar and China, stood at US\$2.3 billion, decreasing by over \$800 million or 25.8 per cent, as against the same period last 2017-2018 FY.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar-China bilateral border trade during the period totalled \$3.587 billion, including \$1.259 billion, which showed an increase in value of \$76.5 million or 6.47 per cent, in comparison with the previous fiscal.

At this time last FY, bilateral trade between the two countries topped \$4.324 billion in total, with exports amounting to \$3.141 billion and imports val-

ued at \$1.182 billion.

Myanmar delivers goods to China, the largest neighbouring country, from both border routes and non-border routes.

Border trade between the two countries is mainly conducted through five gates—Muse, Lweje, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw, and Kengtung. Of them, the Muse gate sees the highest trade, in terms of both volume and value.

As of 14 June, this FY, the China- Myanmar bilateral trade through all border gates reached nearly \$4.4 billion, with trade totaling over \$130 million at Lwejel, over \$400 million at Chinshwehaw, about \$270 million at Kanpikete, and almost \$6.7 million at Kengtung.

Usually, Myanmar sells ag-

ricultural, minerals, marine and forestry products, along with manufactured goods to China, the world's most populous country. At the Sino-Myanmar border, eel, crab, watermelon, muskmelon, mango, rice, and cattle are marketable export products.

Moreover, Myanmar buys consumer goods, raw materials, construction equipment, automobiles, motorbikes, and capital goods from its largest neighbour.

The Myanmar Investment Commission has granted fresh investments of \$295.7 million from 72 projects from China as on April in the current fiscal year.—Shwe Khine ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)



Trucks seen at 105-mile trade zone in Muse, northern Shan State. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Balancing health and justice a must for tackling drug problems

TRANSNATIONAL crimes linked to drugs have become common across the globe. The world today is facing the problem of money laundering, terrorism and terror funding, crime, social, and health issues — all of which are the result of drug trafficking.

Countries across the world have been cracking down on drug-related problems for decades, but have failed to resolve the complicated issue. In the fight against drugs, hundreds of drug traffickers were killed in one country, but it still failed to root out

drugs, and the image of the country's leader was tarnished by the fighting. His country is still far from freeing itself of the drug menace.

As the operations of drug producers and traffickers have reached the transnational level, we need cooperation, advanced technology, and financial assistance from the international community to fight local and transnational crimes.

Today, we have recalibrated our approach to tackling challenges related to drugs to ensure safe, secure, and healthy communities.

In the past, our approach was mainly focused on supply reduction, and less thought was given to other related issues, and as a result, we did not achieve the results we had anticipated.

The National Drug Control Policy of Myanmar, announced on 20 February, 2018, is aimed at addressing all aspects of the drug problem, focusing on the unique needs of the country.

The policy signalled a significant shift towards an evidence-based and more people and health-focused approach, while advocating practical strategies to reduce the negative effects of drug production, trafficking, and use.

We laid down a five-year strategy from 2019 to 2024, and have been implementing it.

Our new policy is a significant departure from the past, when it comes to managing the drug problem in Myanmar.

We hope it will contribute to rebalanced and refocused national efforts as we move to address drug challenges, ensure greater public security and safety, and bring about improved public and community health.

Since the adoption of the new policy, the measures taken for fighting the drug problem reflect a shift from a punitive approach to a more health and human-oriented approach.

The motto of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking-2019 which falls on 26 June is 'Health for Justice. Justice for Health'. As health and justice are two sides of a coin in fighting drug abuse and trafficking, all departments concerned and the people are urged to support the implementation of the new policy to address the drug problems in the country.



Myanmar Police Force helps investigate Facebook identity theft

By Shin Min

THE Myanmar Police Force now investigates cases of stolen Facebook accounts used to extort money and discredit the original owners. The following is an interview with Police Colonel Nyunt Wai, head of the Cyber Crime Department, on this new service.

Q: Can you tell us how the Myanmar Police Force addresses Facebook identity theft? And how many reports have there been so far?

A: There are two types of extortion through Facebook. The first type is where they hack your account and asks your friends for money. They may say they are short on cash or their car broke down while posing as you. They'll ask your friends to transfer money and promise to repay later. It's hard to find the perpetrator in this scenario.

The other kind is where they befriend you through Facebook's Messenger and ask you to save up money after gaining your trust. They will eventually swindle that savings. The victim and culprit usually know each other pretty well in this scenario.

You can file a complaint at the nearest police station for this type of swindling. It falls under Section 420 of the Penal Code. But the Cyber Crime Department needs to provide their remarks to the court in order for

evidence to be considered valid. However, if we're talking about the hacker scenario, then we can't know who the culprit is. We try to recover the accounts with all the personal data we can get.

If we can't get enough we have to take down the account because the hackers are ceaselessly borrowing money from the friends in that account. Your friends need to tag you in a post saying hackers are swindling them while masquerading as you.

Sometimes we can't take down the account so we have to contact the Facebook Team and request them to shut down that account. The team cooperates if the situation is true and gets it done in one or two days.

As to how many reports we receive, they don't open cases for hackers asking for money through Messenger. The case is important but we don't know who the culprits are and we police can't handle it effectively given the circumstances. So, we post updates on the Ministry of Home Affairs' websites and on the Ye Zarni Page.

What you should do is call 199 and ask to be put forward to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). Now, swindling online savings began around 2018 and we have handled about 80 cases to date.

Q: There have also been cases of the Facebook accounts of famous being held for ransom.

How do you handle that?

A: This is blackmailing. It's hard to open a case at the police station since the culprit's identity is hidden. The best way we can help is to guide them in setting up preventive measures. There have been instances of people having their personal accounts on Facebook stolen between 2018 to 2019.

We've found that this has less to do with the expertise of the hacker and more due to carelessness on the part of the owners. For example, some people set up passwords that are very easy to guess like their birthdates, having the same word for their username and password, their hometown, or just a string of 12345. This is very easy for hackers to exploit.

People also fall prey to accounts on sale that have generated more than a hundred thousand likes or so. They buy these accounts at cheap prices but may neglect to change the passwords. This leads to them being exploited.

Another instance is where the hackers get close to famous artists and monks and offer technological assistance and open up accounts for them. They wait for the user to make a mistake and then sell the password to another hacker.

Some abbots misplaced their trust in their disciples who open up accounts for them and use the abbot's image to ask for mon-

ey from people in his friend list, most of who may be donors or laymen.

And then there are mobile phone stores where the employees open accounts for the buyers but write down the password and steal pictures, videos and other information from the buyer later.

Some people open new accounts and forget about the old one. But they should remember their old accounts still has their friends in the list. Hackers will try every means to get into those old accounts and contact your friends through Messenger.

Unfortunately, this happens often so people must learn to open Facebook accounts by themselves and how to change passwords. The passwords must also have a combination of letters, numbers and symbols to make it harder to decrypt.

Remember to put in two factor authentication codes and monitor login activities regularly. Also, keep your private information to the 'only me' setting and turn on notifications for login attempts. Keep your passwords to yourself too. This will make your account safer.

Only tell your password to someone you trust the most and it's a good idea to change your password once every three months. Some people change passwords once a month. Also make sure to properly deactivate your account if you don't plan to use it anymore.

We want the people to know that we are offering assistance for identity theft. The victims rarely come report a case themselves. It's usually someone close to them that comes reports to us.

Q: To what extent can the Myanmar Police Force assist people who have been disgraced or humiliated on social media? What do people need to provide when reporting a case?

A: Police stations and investigators ask CID for remarks. We scrutinize the case to see if it's a cybercrime. In some cases, the culprit doesn't hand over the evidence but signs a confession instead. This is sent to court. Some culprits hand over a different phone, one that doesn't have the information we need. We try our best to resolve cases like this. If necessary, we send it paired with the handphone with the witness with our remarks.

After all that, the verdict is for the judge to make. Some people may delete evidence from their accounts so, we track down the material on YouTube and in accounts that were shared to.

If you want to open a case to us, you need take screenshots of the post, video, photo or comment that is damaging you and submit it to us as evidence.

It can be difficult to get the handphones of the culprit. Some destroy it by dropping it in water or smashing it apart. What you can do in this case is submit the handphone of someone the court



Police Colonel Nyunt Wai. PHOTO: HTAN PHONE

can trust and contains the same evidence.

Q: How does the Facebook Team help with this?

A: They have their 22 Community Standards. If the reported content falls into one of those standards then then take down that account. If sexual abuse is involved, then they may give the location of the scene of the incident if you request with sufficient proof.

Q: Do you have anything else you want to say to the readers?

A: I wish to inform the public to learn how to properly use social media, the apps and manage their own passwords and security. We would like to request government organizations and financial services, like Ok Dollar and Wave, NGOs and tech agencies in Myanmar to cooperate with us when we need their assistance.

(Translated by Pen Dali)



“ရာသီဥတုကောင်းစရာပါ မိမိကန္တရီ ကာကွယ်ပါ။”

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

Take to a nearby hospital or clinic.

ဆရာတော်ဘုရားရှင်တော်တို့ကတော်မူခဲ့သော သောဗျာဓိကုသိုလ်နည်းများကို မှတ်တမ်းတင်ပါ။ (၆/၁၁/၂၀၁၉)



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 23rd June, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 24th June, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin and Chin States, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, scattered in Shan, Kayin and Mon States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4 - 7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Moderate monsoon over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal. **FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24th June, 2019:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24th June, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24th June, 2019: Likelihood of Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

A Historic Day for University of Traditional Medicine, Mandalay

By Dr. Than Lwin Tun, Nay Nay Naing Ye, May Thazin, Thandar Win (Ministry of Health and Sports)

THE University of Traditional Medicine (UTM), which is located in Aungmyaytharzan Township of Mandalay Region, is one university of Myanmar traditional medicine. The Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) managed university under the Department of Traditional Medicine. The university offers a five-year program including a one-year internship and confers a BMTM -Bachelor of Myanmar Traditional Medicine) degree and 2 year MMTM -Master of Myanmar Traditional Medicine degree. It began as Myanmar Traditional Institute in 1976 and was founded as a University in December, 2001. Myanmar Traditional Medicine has been set up to include medical

aspects of the teachings of Theravada Buddhism and Myanmar traditional philosophy and belief. Myanmar traditional medical practices have also developed, through successive generations, in line with natural herbal resources and scientific studies.

The Department of Traditional Medicine (DTM) has been providing medical care to the people and produced qualified practitioners by establishing the Traditional Medicine University. To promote traditional medicine, the DTM is working with the Traditional Medicine Council, the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Association, and advisers for improving Myanmar traditional

healing practices, by encouraging experienced and learned practitioners, and working to rediscover highly effective traditional healing practices, valuable herbs, highly valuable medicinal plants, and natural herbal and mineral resources of medicinal value written on ancient scriptures written on stone (kyauk Sar) and palm leaf manuscripts (Pay Sar).

The Union Minister of MoHS has encouraged the traditional medicine professionals to develop standardized methods of therapeutic methods and to identify therapeutic agents and medicine, as well as to guided the development of standardized curricula, teaching methods, research, creative learning environment, attitudes

and practices of the teachers, e-library, documents and traditional treatises. As a part of support to implement the above activities, the MoHS awarded Professor Emeritus, Honorable Professor and Visiting Lecturer Certificates to retired professors and teachers of the University of Traditional Medicine on 8th June, 2019. It was a very first time in the history of UTM. A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Traditional Medicine which will serve as a think tank for holistic perspectives of traditional medicine was also founded. In conclusion, the 8th June 2019 was an auspicious day for traditional medicine professionals and acknowledged and appreciated the retired professors and teachers who actively participated in tradi-



The Professor Emeritus Title conferral ceremony being held at the UTM, Mandalay on 8 June.

tional medicine society and energetically contributed for progress of the University of Traditional Medicine. This awarding ceremony is the very first-time event in

Myanmar. This day is honored and recorded as a historic day for the University of Traditional Medicine, Mandalay.



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

Sports meet hails literary festival

SCHOOL SPORTS meet hailing the children's literary festival (Tachilek) continued in Tachilek yesterday.

Semifinal football matches of the under-12 school sports meet were held at the Myoma soccer field. The final match will be held

on 25 June.

Group fixture of the Sepak takraw took place at the Myoma indoor stadium yesterday. Ten teams are taking part in the contest, and the final match will be held on 26 June. —District (IPRD)



Youths competing in the Sepak takraw event at the Myoma indoor stadium in Tachilek yesterday.
Photo: District (IPRD)

Morocco's sole oil refinery battles for survival

MOHAMMEDIA (Morocco) — Three years after it was liquidated for racking up billions of euros worth of debt, Morocco's sole oil refinery and one-time economic flagship is struggling to attract a buyer and survive. A self-declared "national front"—comprising employees, economists and union leaders—is leading the charge to salvage refining company SAMIR, while a trade court desperately seeks a new owner.

They face a tough battle, including a court deadline of July 18 to seal the refinery's fate.

The firm was liquidated in 2016 after it was unable to honour some four billion euros (\$4.5 billion at current prices) in borrowing. The refinery was set up in 1959 by the Moroccan government and sold in 1997 to the Corral group, a Saudi-Swedish enterprise that holds a majority stake of more than 67 percent.

Work at the refinery, which had a capacity of more than 150,000 barrels a day, had already wound down a year before it was dissolved. But nearly 800 employees remain on the payroll, albeit



Morocco's sole oil refinery in Mohammedia, near Casablanca, has been struggling to attract a buyer and survive three years after it was liquidated for failing to honour huge debts. PHOTO: AFP

on slashed salaries scratched together from company coffers and creditors. The workers' fate now hangs in the balance, according to staff representative Houcine El Yamani, who has spearheaded efforts by the "national front" to salvage the facility.

"We have made tremendous efforts" to pressure the state into reviving SAMIR since work stopped in 2015 at the plant in Mohammedia, between Rabat and the economic hub Casablanca, El Yamani said. Such efforts include sit-ins and press con-

ferences. "We still have hope of finding a solution," he added.

A "national front" report submitted last year to Moroccan authorities denounced the 1997 privatisation of the refinery as a "big sham" and the sale to Corral as "totally lacking in transpar-

ency". "The Corral group did not respect any of the terms of the contract (including pledges to invest funds to develop the refinery), dragging the sole national refinery into an infernal spiral," said the report. The drop in global oil prices in 2014 affected SAMIR, but the "national front" says bad management was the main factor behind the firm's woes, as debts mounted and attempts to satisfy creditors failed.

'Sold to scrap'

After its liquidation in March 2016 by a Casablanca court, a committee of trustees was set up to find a buyer and safeguard jobs for employees. "Around 30 international groups showed an interest," but nothing materialised, El Yamani said. The "national front" also said the government could have been more pro-active. "In the absence of any government action, the refinery's assets risk being sold to scrap by the kilogramme," the coalition of employees, economists and union leaders said in its report.—AFP ■

Zambia's president collision course with mining giant

LUSAKA (Zambia)—If mounting foreign debt, an anaemic currency and stagnating growth aren't enough, President Edgar Lungu's move to break up Zambia's largest copper mining firm threatens an investor exodus and thousands of job losses.

Higher taxes on the mining sector were supposed to help Zambia with its debt problem, but Lungu has taken a hardline approach with international mining companies, accusing them of failing to pay taxes and threatening to expel them from the country.

"Government will not take kindly to any form of arm-twisting," he told a recent mining and energy

conference.

"Government's expectation is for investors to operate within the confines of the law -- failure to do so will result in government imposing sanctions and disengaging with the unwilling parties."

The latest rhetoric follows a series of fiery speeches by Lungu condemning London-based Vedanta mining company, the majority shareholder in KCM, the country's largest copper producer. Zambia holds a minority stake though a state-owned firm.

Lungu, 62, has pledged to dissolve KCM, threatening Vedanta with "divorce" and saying "enough is

enough" in the dispute over taxes -- winning cheers from his supporters.

Zambia's High Court last month appointed a provisional administrator charged with selling off KCM's assets.

Companies from Turkey, Russia, India, Canada and China are all interested in buying the Vedanta unit, Lungu told Bloomberg News this past week, adding that talks on a sale could be completed within one month.

Vedanta says it hopes for a negotiated solution, but the High Court dismissed its application to join the liquidation proceedings.—AFP ■

US conducted cyber attack on Iran in response to drone downing: report

WASHINGTON (United States)—The United States launched cyber attacks against Iranian missile control systems and a spy network after Tehran downed an American surveillance drone, according to US media reports.

US president Donald Trump secretly authorized US Cyber Command to carry out a retaliatory attack on Iran, The Washington Post reported Saturday, shortly after the US president pledged to hit the Islamic republic with major new sanctions.

The attack crippled computers used to control rocket and missile launches, according to the Post, while Yahoo News said a spying group responsible for tracking ships in the Gulf was also targeted. Tehran is yet to react to the reports, Iran's Fars news agency said Sunday.

It added that it was "still not clear whether the attacks were effective or not," and suggested the US media reports were a "bluff meant to affect public opinion and regain lost reputation for the White House" following the downing of its drone. Trump called off a planned retaliatory military strike Friday, saying the response wouldn't be "proportionate", with Tehran warning Washington that any attack would see its interests across the Middle East go up in flames.

On Sunday US National Security Advisor John Bolton warned Tehran against misin-



Iran has shown what it says is the debris of the US drone it shot down—a Global Hawk reconnaissance aircraft that costs more than \$120 million. **PHOTO: AFP**

terpreting the last-minute cancellation.

"Neither Iran nor any other hostile actor should mistake US prudence and discretion for weakness," he said ahead of a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem. The downing of the US drone came after a series of attacks on tankers in the congested shipping lanes of the Gulf, that Washington has blamed on Iran, exacerbated already-tense relations between the two countries.

Iran has denied responsibility for those attacks. Trump, who spent Saturday huddling with his advisors at Camp David, initially told reporters that he was keen

to be Iran's "best friend"—if the country agreed to renounce nuclear weapons. "When they agree to that, they're going to have a wealthy country. They're going to be so happy, and I'm going to be their best friend," he told reporters. Iran has denied seeking a nuclear weapon, and says its program is for civilian purposes.

A multinational accord reached by Tehran and world powers in 2015 sought to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions in exchange for sanctions relief.

But Trump left that agreement more than a year ago and has imposed a robust slate of punitive economic sanctions designed to choke off Iranian oil

sales and cripple its economy—one he now plans to expand.

"We are putting major additional Sanctions on Iran on Monday," tweeted Trump, who has also deployed additional troops to the Middle East. "I look forward to the day that Sanctions come off Iran, and they become a productive and prosperous nation again - The sooner the better!"

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo added: "When the Iranian regime decides to forgo violence and meet our diplomacy with diplomacy, it knows how to reach us. Until then, our diplomatic isolation and economic pressure campaign against the regime will intensify." —AFP ■

Uruguay court orders sale of WWII Nazi eagle from sunken warship

MONTEVIDEO (Uruguay)—A court in Uruguay has ruled that a bronze Nazi eagle from a German destroyer that fought in one of the first naval skirmishes of World War II must be sold.

Half the proceeds will go to the government and half to the salvage team that found the insignia in the River Plate off Montevideo in 2006 after a decade of searching, the ruling said.

This 50-50 split is stipulated in an agreement the salvagers signed with the Uruguayan navy in 2004. The treasure hunters had filed suit arguing the government reneged on that deal.

Since it was found, the sculpture—seen as likely to fetch a handsome sum at auction—from the ship called the Admiral Graf Spee has been kept in a navy warehouse.



A photo of the Nazi eagle on the Admiral Graf Spee the day it was recovered in 2006. **PHOTO: AFP**

It features an eagle with its wings spread wide open and clutching a swastika in its talons. The sculpture adorned the stern of the Graf Spee, the pride of the German navy.

A salvage team led by two

Uruguayan brothers, Alfredo and Felipe Etchegaray, filed for permission to search for the eagle in 1997.

The team welcomed the ruling, which said the sculpture must be sold in 90 days.

"Justice is being done," Alfredo Etchegaray told AFP.

The Graf Spee's captain, Hans Langsdorff, scuttled the battleship on December 17, 1939 following the Battle of the River Plate.

The Nazi ship, one of the Third Reich's largest battleships, briefly sought sanctuary in Montevideo's harbor from two British ships and a New Zealand battleship that were seeking to sink the Graf Spee.

After sailing out of the harbor, Langsdorff ordered the Graf Spee scuttled—he apparently fell for a ruse designed to convince him a large British naval force was awaiting him in international waters.

Several days after that humiliation, Langsdorff committed suicide.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Convicted Japanese man arrested after 4 days on run

YOKOHAMA—A Japanese man convicted of assault and theft was arrested Sunday in Yokosuka, near Tokyo, four days after he escaped attempts to take him into custody.

Makoto Kobayashi, who brandished a knife before fleeing in a vehicle when prosecution authorities tried to take him into custody on Wednesday, was apprehended while hiding at a friend's apartment in the port city around 6:40 a.m., said the Yokohama District Public Prosecutors Office. This time he did not attempt to evade capture.—Kyodo News ■

Aussie watchdog readies clampdown on Google, Facebook

SYDNEY (Australia)—Australia's competition watchdog is poised to call for far-reaching new regulations on Facebook, Google and other tech giants which could have global ramifications for how they make money and choose the content people consume.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's recommendations, if confirmed, would be among the strongest yet in a drive to rein in the power of digital behemoths amid a host of worldwide concerns ranging from anti-trust issues to privacy abuse, and their role in spreading disinformation and hateful content.—AFP ■

Syria regime air strikes kills 4 civilians: monitor

BEIRUT (Lebanon)—Syrian regime air strikes killed four civilians including two children Sunday in a northwestern bastion of opposition, a Britain-based war monitor said. The Idlib region of some three million people is supposed to be protected by a September buffer zone deal, but the jihadist-run enclave has come under mounting bombardment by the government and its ally Russia since late April. An air raid by Damascus aircraft on Sunday took the lives of two adults and two children in the village of Josef in Idlib province, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.—AFP ■

Ethiopia army chief, local officials killed amid regional 'coup' bid

ADDIS ABABA (Ethiopia)—Ethiopia's army chief and a top local leader have been shot dead during an attempt to overthrow a regional government in the north of the country, underscoring political instability as Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed tries to reform the nation.

Violence flared on Saturday afternoon in Amhara, one of nine autonomous regions, when a "hit squad" attacked a meeting of top officials, Abiy's office said Sunday.

Spokeswoman Billene Seyoum told journalists the Amhara "coup attempt" was led by local security chief Asaminew Tsige, who was only last year released from almost a decade in prison over a 2009 coup plot.

State president Ambachew Mekonnen and his advisor were "gravely injured in the attack and later died of their wounds," she said, adding that the regional attorney general had been seriously wounded.

"Several hours later in what seems like a co-ordinated attack, the chief of the staff of the national security forces Seare Mekonnen was killed in his home by his bodyguard", she said.

Seare and a visiting retired general were shot dead in his home in the upmarket Bole district of Addis Ababa, home to diplomats, aid workers and expats.

The bodyguard has been apprehended while Asaminew was



Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has embarked on economic reforms and allowed dissident groups back into the country but has also battled a surge in tensions between ethnic groups. **PHOTO: AFP**

still on the loose, sources said.

There was a heavy police presence outside Seare's house on Sunday, as mourners, some dressed in black, streamed to his house to pay their respects.

A parking attendant, who asked not to be named, said he heard about 10 minutes of gunfire at the residence at 9:00pm local time on Saturday before security officers arrived.

Gedrekirostos Tessaye, 30, said he had come to pay respects to honour Seare's service to the country. "I am so worried, I want Ethiopia to be an ambassador of peace and democracy but this kind of event shows that we are heading to anarchy," he said.

Elsewhere in the capital it appeared a normal, quiet Sunday, with shops and restaurants open, however there was heavy security outside Abiy's offices.

According to the statement from Abiy's office, the situation in Amhara region was "currently under full control".

Since coming to power in 2018, Abiy has won praise for his reforms to open up the country from the iron-grip of his predecessors, but his moves have also brought to the surface long-running ethnic tensions and territorial disputes.

The prime minister took to national television in military fatigues in the early hours of Sunday morning.

"The people of Ethiopia do not believe in silencing, killing and claiming power by spilling the blood of their brothers and sisters," he said.

"They don't accept totalitarian regimes. They've shown that through a common struggle." —AFP ■

India rejects critical US religious freedom report

NEW DELHI (India)—India hit out Sunday at a US report saying religious intolerance was growing under its right-wing government, setting off a new spat ahead of a visit by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

An annual report on international religious freedom released by Pompeo on Friday said Hindu-groups had used "violence, intimidation, and harassment" against Muslims and low-caste Dalits in 2017 to force a religion-based national identity.

But Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government insisted that no foreign country had the right to criticise its record.

Pompeo arrives in New Delhi on Tuesday for a trip intended to strengthen ties, but already complicated by spats over trade tariffs, data protection rules, US visas for Indians and buying arms from Russia.

The US religious freedom report said groups claiming to protect cows — considered sacred by Hindus — have attacked Muslims and Dalits. Christians have also been targeted for proselytizing since Modi came to power in 2014.

"Despite Indian government statistics indicating that communal violence has increased sharply over the past two years, the Modi administration has not addressed the problem," the report said.

The Indian foreign ministry rejected the report, saying there was no right "for a foreign entity/government to pronounce on the state of our citizens' constitutionally protected rights".

"India is proud of its secular credentials, its status as the largest democracy and a pluralistic society with a long-standing commitment to tolerance and inclusion," spokesman Raveesh Kumar said in a statement.

"The Indian Constitution guarantees fundamental rights to all its citizens, including its minority communities."

The United States has sought to boost ties with India as a counterweight to China, and both US President Donald Trump and Modi have highlighted their good relationship.

However, India last week imposed higher import tariffs on 28 US items in retaliation to Washington's recent withdrawal of trade privileges for New Delhi.

Pompeo wants to use his New Delhi trip to lay the ground for a Trump-Modi meeting at the G20 Summit in Osaka this month. It will be their first since Modi's new landslide election win last month.

Pompeo is also to give a speech on the future of the relationship between the two countries. —AFP ■

Huge crowds of protesters demand Czech PM step down

PRAGUE (Czech Republic)—Huge crowds flooded central Prague on Sunday demanding Prime Minister Andrej Babis step down over allegations of graft in a protest that organisers and local media claim drew around 250,000 people, making it the largest since the fall of communism in 1989.

The 64-year-old billionaire was charged last year in connection with a two million euro (\$2.25 million) EU subsidy scam, while an audit by the European Commission ruled that he has a conflict of interest as a politician and entrepreneur.

The Czech government said earlier this month there were "errors" in the audit from Brussels and Babis has refused to budge.

"Judging from the aerial

photos, it looks like we're about 250,000. We'll see how many more people will still arrive," said Mikulas Minar, head of Million Moments for Democracy, the NGO organising the protest, as it got underway.

Police estimates of the size of the crowd were not immediately available. "We're fed up with what Babis is doing, how he manages the country," Mila Stiburkova, a 39-year-old sales manager from the central Czech town of Sazava, told AFP.

"We don't like him pocketing money and fooling people who trust him," added Stiburkova, who like many protesters, travelled to Prague for the event.

Country plagued with graft

Babis, the second wealthiest Czech according to Forbes,

leads the centrist populist ANO movement, which, despite the controversy, won May's elections to the European Parliament.

ANO took office after winning the 2017 general election campaigning on an anti-corruption ticket in the country plagued by graft.

It teamed up with the left-wing Social Democrats to form a minority coalition with tacit backing from the Communists for a parliamentary majority.

Babis, a former Communist, is the first politician since the 1989 fall of Communism in former Czechoslovakia to let the Communists have a role in government.

The Slovak-born 64-year-old is facing charges over EU subsidy fraud after allegedly taking his farm out of his sprawling



A man holds a Czech National flag during a rally demanding the resignation of Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babis on 23 June 2019 in Prague. **PHOTO: AFP**

Agrofert holding to make it eligible for an EU subsidy.

The EU is probing his dual role as a politician and entrepreneur, and Babis also faces allegations that he served as a secret Communist police agent

in the 1980s.

Despite the allegations, which Babis fervently denies, ANO — described as a one-man party by critics — enjoys a steady 30-percent voter support in opinion polls.—AFP ■

North Korean leader receives 'excellent' letter from Trump: KCNA

SEOUL (South Korea) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un received a personal letter of "excellent content" from US President Donald Trump, the country's state media said Sunday, amid a nuclear deadlock between Pyongyang and Washington.

Talks have been stalled since the collapse of a second summit between the two leaders in February after they failed to agree on what the North would be willing to give up in exchange for sanctions relief.

The two sides have blamed each other for the breakdown but both have expressed a willingness to meet again, with Trump saying earlier this month that he had received a "beautiful letter" from Kim.

On Sunday, the North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported that Trump had written to Kim, who "said with satisfaction that the



The front page of North Korea's official Rodong Sinmun newspaper carried a photo of Kim holding Trump's letter as he read it in his office. **PHOTO: AFP**

letter is of excellent content". "Appreciating the political judging faculty and extraordinary courage of President Trump, Kim Jong Un said that he would seriously contemplate the interesting content," KCNA said.

The report gave no further detail about the con-

tent of the letter or when it was sent and received.

The front page of North Korea's official Rodong Sinmun newspaper carried a photo of Kim holding Trump's letter as he read it in his office.

In a statement the White House confirmed "a letter was sent by

President Trump and correspondence between the two leaders has been ongoing." South Korea's presidential Blue House said it was aware of the correspondence through its communication with Washington, and described the exchange as "positive".

—AFP ■

REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION
DEPARTMENT OF BRIDGE
Reference No. ESIA DOB1-MOC

Invitation for Tenders

The Government of Myanmar (GoM) has received a grant aid from the People's Republic of China to build a new 2-lane bridge on Thanlwin River in Kunlon Township of Shan State. In conformity to the Procurement Guidelines of Myanmar Government, Department of Bridge under the Ministry of Construction would like to invite proposals from the interested and competent ESIA consulting firms for developing ESIA for the construction of the proposed bridge in conformity to the Myanmar ESIA Procedure (2015).

The Department of Bridge (DOB) now invites sealed bids from eligible national ESIA consulting firms for the following works for the implementation work of the proposed new bridge in Kunlon. Interested qualified eligible contractors are invited to obtain an electronic copy of the complete set of bidding documents in English for free-of-charge. Further information or clarification for this may be obtained from Research and Development Section, Department of Bridge, Ministry of Construction.

Notice that electronic bidding will not be considered and late bidders will be rejected.

Available Date : 26th June 2019 (Office Time)
Closing Date and Time : 18th July 2019 at 12:00 PM (Myanmar Time)
Contact Phone No : 067-407465, 09-421154246, 09-456663906
Email : bridgeresearchdepartment@gmail.com
Address : Research and Development Section, Department of Bridge, Ministry of Construction, Office No.(11), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

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Rescuers scour rubble as Cambodia building collapse toll rises to 18

SIHANOUKVILLE (Cambodia)—Victims of the Cambodia building collapse were buried alive as they slept, a survivor told AFP on Sunday, as the death toll at the Chinese-owned site rose to 18 and increasingly desperate rescuers picked through the compacted rubble for any further signs of life. There are fears many more workers may be buried as rescuers had scoured barely half of the debris of twisted metal, glass and large concrete slabs after the seven-storey building collapsed on Saturday in the beach

resort of Sihanoukville. "I'm so lucky to be alive," survivor Phat Sophal, 37, told AFP over the telephone.

In an ordeal that began before dawn while workers slept, Phat Sophal said he spent around six hours trapped in the debris, before being pulled out by rescuers on Saturday morning. "At around 4am there was a loud 'bang'... my floor trembled, suddenly the building went down. I was crushed by debris from my waist down," he said. "My nephew and brother-in-law were also sleeping near me. Everyone was

screaming and crying for help. A bit later I stopped hearing them. "I don't think they have survived." Around 70 workers were sleeping on the second, third and fourth floors of the seven-storey building, he said, adding Chinese electricians were resting on the upper floors. The former fishing village of Sihanoukville has seen a Chinese construction boom buoyed by tourists to its dozens of casinos in recent years, with questions raised on the speed of development in a nation notorious for lax safety standards. —AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY. NO. (642 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY. NO. (642 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-06-2019 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 SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1121 W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V XETHA BHUM VOY. NO. (1121 W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-06-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (915S/917N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (915S/917N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-06-2019 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 UNI ANGEL VOY. NO. (0172-502W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI ANGEL VOY. NO. (0172-502W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-06-2019 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.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINES**

Phone No: 2301185



Main Ma Ye Thakhinma mountain. **PHOTO: YE YINT AUNG**



Ywangan that I've been to

By **Ye Yint Aung (Geology)**

I WENT on a field survey with geology students in 2017 to Ywangan Region in Danu Self Administered Zone. Ywangan Town is at an elevation of 4,028 ft. above sea level. It was formed with 28 village tracts and had a population of more than 82,000. It was in Shan State south and can be reached from Aungban-Pindaya road junction. As Ywangan town was surrounded by unspoiled natural beauties it was considered as a virgin land. It is a land where peace and tranquillity prevails.

To Ywangan we go

Hinthada geology field survey group led by Dr. Kyaw Lin Zaw went to Ywangan Region by rail from Yangon Station. We entered Shan State south passing through

Thazi and Yinmabin. As we entered Shan State, the temperature became cooler. The rail track twist and turns after passing Kalaw and after about half an hour, we reached our disembarkation station in Aungban. Aungban Station to Ywangan was a 42 miles car ride that took us through natural scenes of mountains and hills as well as some pagodas. Euclid trees were all along the road side occasionally dotted by some farm lands. We passed through several big villages such as Myin Twin, Myinjado and Phayagyigon and reaches Ywangan after a car ride of about an hour.

Alechaung Village - our base camp

The geology field survey group set up a base camp at

Alechaung Village. It is situated on the west of the Pindaya mountain range. The majority of the villagers were Danu and they were a very friendly and simple people. Of the 135 ethnic nationals in Myanmar, the Danus are the tenth most populous and were one of the ethnic nationals that had lived in Myanmar for the longest time. Danu National Day was held annually on the 8th Waxing Day of Nattaw. Bama, Pa-O and Palaung in addition to Danu lived in the region. Mountains and hills lies on the east of the village while farmlands and plains are on the west of the village. Every five days, there is a market and access to food was very convenient and easy.

The village had two monasteries, named simply North



A monument to the late Col. Ba Htoo. **PHOTO: YE YINT AUNG**

Monastery and South Monastery. Geology field survey group from Pathein had setup their base camp in the North Monastery so our Hinthada Group setup our base camp in the South Monastery. In addition to having access to electricity and water, the South Monastery has a football field that became football practicing ground for our survey students.

The village is a liquor free area where sale and consumption was not made. Villagers were devote Buddhists and the time was when a donation ceremony was being held for young boys becoming novice monks. We were invited to enjoy the food donation made for the occasion which runs for a whole week and villagers from nearby villages were also invited.

Agriculture products of the region

Agriculture was the main mean of livelihood in Ywangan region. Fruits and vegetables such as orange, tomato, cabbage, ginger, avocado etc. were grown but the main products were coffee and tea. Coffee and tea plantations are the usual sight seen at entrance of every village. Ywangan coffee has become known in the world for its quality and was reported to have achieved a Geographical Indication (GI), the same designation that protects the Champagne region in France from copycats. Ywangan coffee beans are of the Costa Rican variety and are grown as a substitute for poppy. The coffee is currently rated at a level of 85 in the global market under the rec-



Workers dry coffee berries under the sun shine in Ywangan. **PHOTO: MNA**



Pyadalin Cave Yawngan Township, Taunggyi, Shan State.
PHOTO: YE YINT AUNG

blue but locals believe that it was the reflection of an emerald bowl (Myathabeik in Myanmar language) at the bottom of the pond. Local superstition was such that littering, washing with the water in the pond, taking water from the pond was not done while care was taken of not speaking any word that can be deemed as offensive or rude.

20-minute walk from Blue Water Pond will take you to Tawkye waterfall. The water in the pond at the bottom of the waterfall was so clear that fish can be seen swimming in it.

There was even a waterfall right near Alechaung Village. It was a fall that goes down 11 steps or levels. During the time when the waterfall was at its highest flow of water volume, there were considerable numbers of visitors visiting it.

Pyadalin Cave in Ywangan Township is another famous cave. There are in fact two caves the

smaller one amount to being a rock shelter while the larger one had nine chambers connected by narrow passages. Three large sink holes bring in natural light into the cave. This cave contains an impressive amount of history reportedly dating back to the Neolithic era. The two caves were only 30 meters apart from one another and some of the earliest wall carvings and paintings in Myanmar were found here along with weapons made of bones and stones by primitive people. According to Wikipedia a superficial investigation of the caves had been performed by American South-East Expedition for Early Man in 1937-1938 and geologist U Khin Maung Kyaw discovered the paintings in 1960. The site was added to the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List on 4 October 1996 in the Cultural category.

Another unique place is the Yephyu Waterhole near Tatkon Village, Kyantaw Village Tract. It

is located southwest of Alechaung Village. The water from this waterhole was not clear but white in color; hence the name Yephyu which mean white water. Locals say bathing with the water from this waterhole eases aches and itches. The place is indeed a virgin area.

The highest peak in Shan State, 7,752 ft. high Ashay Myin Anauk Myin Mountain is also in Ywangan. Taunggyi town can be seen looking toward the east from the summit. Looking west, Meiktila town can be seen too. South of the mountain lies 7,307 ft. high Moelonehein Mountain and to the north lies 7,203 ft. high Pansitpway Mountain. The Ashay Myin Anauk Myin Mountain is home to rare flowers as well as birds and animal species. The summit of the mountain can be reached either from Ywangan side or Pindaya side. The mountain was located about 6 miles southwest of Alechaung Village.

Another significant place is a small pillar marking the place where ash of Colonel Ba Htoo was buried. Major Ba Htoo at that time led the fight against the Japanese in upper Myanmar in 1945. The plan was for the Myanmar army under General Aung San to revolt against the Japanese in end March but Major Ba Htoo declared unilateral war against the Japanese on early March diverting attention from General Aung San who led the entire Myanmar army uprising at a later date. Major Ba Htoo's action contributed toward driving the Japanese fascist forces out of the country but he succumbed to a severe case of malaria. The plaque on the pillar simply stated "Martyr hero Colonel Ba Htoo passed away on 8:10 p.m. 2 June 1945 in Ywangan Township Telu Village. His ashes were buried here." It was reported that when Major Ba Htoo passed away, he never knew of his promotion to colonel by General Aung San. A monument honouring Colonel Ba Htoo was put up in Aungban but the small pillar in front of Telu Village Basic Education Primary School was the spot where his ashes were buried. Even though it was a considerable walk through humid valley and over a rickety bamboo bridge across a river, we took the long walk to honor and salute our martyr hero.

I was there as part of a geological field survey but I would have gladly made the trip as a tourist to enjoy again all that I've seen and been to in Ywangan region.

Translated by Handytips



Natural clear blue water lagoon (Mya-tha-bait-yay-pyar-aing). **PHOTO: YE YINT AUNG**



Scenery of Ywangan. **PHOTO: YE YINT AUNG**

ommendations from American Coffee Specialists. Any grade of 80 or above is considered a specialty coffee. Out of 125 villages in Ywangan Township, about 90 are engaged in coffee plantation with 7,300 acres of coffee farms.

Field survey starts

The field survey starts by studying geological layouts of the area near Alechaung Village. One day, the field survey team conducted a survey of rock formations on Yasakyi Mountain that was on the east of the village. It was the highest mountain in the area where the survey was conducted rising to a height of 6,860 ft. The mountain rises above us imposingly as we reached the foot of the mountain where we took a brief rest before hiking up. We left the village in the morning and we reached the summit of the mountain only at noon. Although the hike up the mountain was tedious and time consuming, the sight waiting at the summit was

breathhtaking. All the mountains in the area were below us except for some higher peaks of Shan State that were visible afar. Every hiking enthusiast should hike up Yasakyi Mountain near Alechaung Village in Ywangan Township to enjoy the view from the summit as well as the hike up and down the mountain.

Well known areas in the vicinity

There were many well known areas in the region. To the south of Ywangan Town lies Meinmaye Thakhinma Mountain. There are stairways to the pagoda on top that will take about 15 minutes to climb up.

Myathabeik Blue Water Pond and Tawkye waterfall is near Tawkye Village. Blue Water Pond was teeming with small shops selling local products such as herbs, local food, honey, flowers and gift items. There was no scientific explanation made yet for the water in the pond being



Ahlechaung waterfall. **PHOTO: YE YINT AUNG**



MIU F.C. star Pyae Phyo Maung and teammates celebrate their victory over Cambodia's Down Town Sport F.C. yesterday at Terminal 21, Korat, Thailand. With the win, the team have finished third in the AFF Futsal Cup 2019. **PHOTO: MIU F.C.**

Myanmar's MIU F.C. wins bronze in AFF Futsal Cup 2019

THE Myanmar Imperial University F.C., representing Myanmar in the ASEAN Football Federation Futsal Cup 2019, finished third in the tourney, for the fourth time in their history, by beating Cambodia's Down Town Sport 9-5 yesterday at Terminal 21, Korat, Thailand. Team MIU's hopes of entering the finals were crushed after their loss to Viet Nam's Sanvinest F.C. in the semi-final, and the team launched an all-out attack in the match yesterday to secure the bronze.

Down Town F.C. responded with careful defense and goal-

keeping, and showed great technique right from the start.

In speedy play, MIU scored four goals in the first 10 minutes. Ko Ko Lwin scored one goal at 3 minutes, Pyae Phyo Maung at seven minutes, and Hlaing Min Tun landed a double goal at 10 minutes. Down Town launched a strong counterattack, scoring their first goal at 12 minutes from a free-kick by Keo Cheatu. The first half ended 4-1 in favor of MIU F.C.

In the second half, Down Town made a strong effort to win, with the team creating more goal

chances than in the first half.

They managed to even the score with four consecutive goals in the first 15 minutes of the second half. The goals were scored by Ros Sichamrouen.

Again MIU's Pyae Phyo managed to secure one more goal, taking the tally to 5-5, prompting MIU to redouble their efforts. One goal by Kyaw Kyaw Tun at 36 minutes and a hat-trick by Pyae Phyo Maung (one goal at 37, and a double at 40) helped MIU to end the match with a four-goal lead, and secure the bronze in the Futsal Cup.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Royal-D Golden Belt Lethwei Championship semi-finals to be held in Mandalay

THE semi-final of the Royal-D Golden Belt Myanmar Lethwei Championship 2019, organized under the supervision of the Myanmar Traditional Lethwei Federation, will take place on 29 June at the Diamond Plaza in Mandalay, according to Myanmar Lethwei's official page. The semi-final stage of the championship will feature 14 men's bouts and two women's bouts. The 51-kg flyweight category will have two bouts — Aung Aung (Yan Sit Nyein) vs Thein Soe (Yarza Thein Kha), and Hlaine Htet Aung (Shwe Kuko) vs Thant Zin Htoo (Shwe Barlar, Hpa-An).

In the 54-kg Bantamweight category, Ye Win Aung (Zayar) will fight Saw Shwe Lay (Doe Yoe Yar), and Saw Kyaw Hae (Royal-D Wan Chai) will face Aung Paing (Htoo Myittar Nyein Chan Yae). In the 57-kg Featherweight category, Byat Gha (Kyar Phyu) will fight Auk Chin Lay (Taung Zaluk), and Salai Hein Htet (Shwe Barlar, Hpa-An) will take on Hein Tun Aung (Royal-D Shwe Tha Hton). In the 60-kg Lightweight category, Moe Mhaung (Myaing Kalay Beluck Maya Set Yone)

will fight Nhat Khat Aung (Zwe Kabin Myay), and Saw Min Naing (Shwe Balar, Tha Hton) will face Htoo Nay Thu (Taung Kalay).

In the 63.5-kg Light Welterweight category, Tun Naing Oo (S.T.L) will take on Salai Chan Myae Ko (Shwe Barlar, Hpa-An), and Thway Thit Maung (Aphyu Yaung Thway Thit) will fight with Saw War Lu (Zwe Kabin Myay).

In the 67-kg Welterweight category, Kaung Htet (Myaing Kalay Beluck Maya Set Yone) will fight with Ye Tagon (Aphyu Yaung Thway Thit), and Sein Myo Aung (Zwe Kabin Myay) will take on Ye Min Naing (Shwe Balar, Tha Hton). In the 71-kg Light Middleweight category, Aung Khaing (Myaing Kalay Beluck Maya Set Yone) will fight Shan Ko (A.M.T.2), and Saw Min Aung (Taung Kalay) will face Yan Naing Tun (Zwe Kabin Myay). In the 49-53 kg Super Flyweight women's event, Shwe Ko Lay (Chin Thae Min) will fight Cherry Maung (YFC), and May Thazin Htoo (Kayar) will face Sein Ta Pwint (Zar Ti Mhan).—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

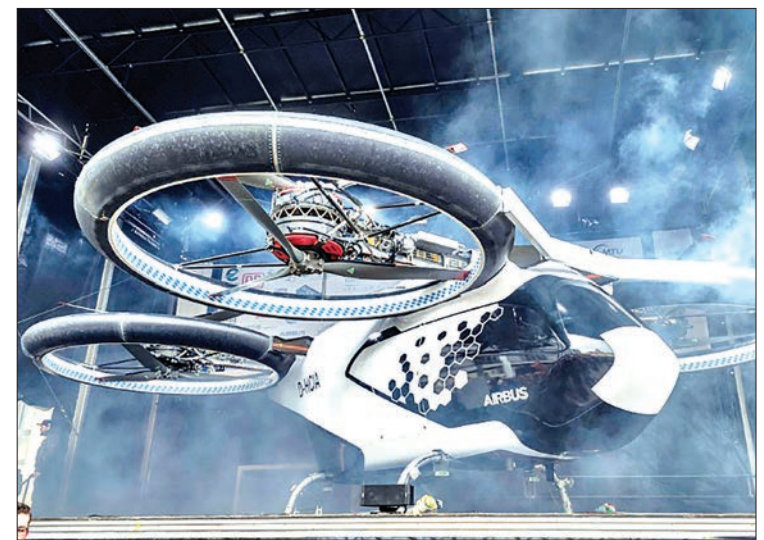
Paris aims to beat Olympic traffic with flying taxis

LE BOURGET (France) —Paris aims to give visitors to the 2024 Paris Olympics a flying start by offering airborne taxis to tournament sites straight from the airport. Arrivals in the City of Light currently face an hour-long haul by train or bus into town from Charles de Gaulle airport to the north of Paris. But if Aeroports de Paris (ADP), Airbus and the RATP regional transport have their way passengers, right after their jets have taxied to a halt on the runway, will be able to take to the air once again with a self-flying urban taxi of the future.

The firms used this past week's Paris Air Show to say the Olympics afforded the perfect opportunity to bring into service futuristic Vertical Take-off and Landing (VTOL) machines, and that they would launch a feasibility study. "In 2010, for the first time, more than half of humanity was living in urban zones and we think we shall surpass 60 percent by 2030," said Airbus CEO Guil-

laume Faury. The time had now come to vault up to "the third dimension" of local commutes — air, he said. "If we have the conviction that in the next five, 10, 15, 20 or 30 years low altitude is a space to be conquered we have to put in place the conditions today," said ADP Group's executive director general Edward Arkwright.

VTOL converts are already sprouting in number as the world looks to move beyond—or rather, above—today's saturated motorways and growing environmental concerns. Back on the ground, the view has been muddled by a delay beyond the Games, to 2025, of the express fast train designed to cut congestion and travel time between Charles de Gaulle airport and the city centre. For aircraft manufacturer Airbus, airport manager ADP and RATP, which manages Parisian public transport services, the Games are a chance to showcase French savoir-faire in urban mobility. — AFP ■



A prototype of the "CityAirbus" air taxi. **PHOTO: AFP**

Hantharwady United leads in Week-13 of national league

HANTHARWADY United is leading the standing table in Week-13 of the Myanmar National League with 25 points, one point more than second placed Yangon United.

Hantharwady United has replaced Yangon United at the top of the table with 7 wins, 4 draws, and 2 losses in the 13 matches played. Meanwhile, Yangon United has garnered 24 points from 7 wins, 3 draws, and 3 losses.

Shan United is in the third place with 23 points from 5 wins, 8 draws, and no losses.

Sagaing United is placed fourth, with 23 points, but a goal difference from Shan United. Sagaing United has managed 6 wins, 5 draws, and 2 losses in the 13 matches played.

Ayeyawady United is in the fifth position with 21 points from 5 wins, 6 draws, and 2 losses, and Yadanarbon F.C. is sixth on the table, with the same points as Ayeyawady, but a goal difference.

Southern Myanmar F.C. is at the bottom of the table, with 9 points from 2 wins, three draws, and 8 losses.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■