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NATIONAL

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin attends 52nd ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and Related Ministerial Meetings

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Sunday, 4 August 2019

President inspects Bagan World Heritage Site



President U Win Myint observes the ancient Buddha image displayed at Bagan Archaeological Museum in Bagan yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT U Win Myint who was in Mandalay Region's Nyaung U inspected the Bagan cultural heritage region which had been recently added to the World Heritage Site list, to preserve the region, develop travel business and create

economic opportunities for the local people.

The President accompanied by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Thura U Aung Ko, Dr Myint Htwe and U Ohn Maung, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung, Myanmar

Police Force Chief Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo and officials paid homage to the Shwezigon Pagoda, the Tantkyitaung Pagoda, the Lawkananda Pagoda, the Tuyintaung Pagoda, the Alodawpyi Pagoda, the Htilominlo Pagoda, the Ananda Temple, the

Dhammayangyi Pagoda and the Thatbyinnyu Pagoda by offering 'soon', flower, water, oil lamps, scented water and cash donations.

Next the President visited the Bagan Archaeological Museum to observe the displays and

spoke of the need to preserve the cultural and architectural heritages of the Bagan region.

Later in the afternoon the President and party left Nyaung U by motorcade and arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw early in the evening. — MNA ■

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Union Minister U Kyaw Tin attends 52nd ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and Related Ministerial Meetings

ASEAN Foreign Ministers reiterate continued support to Myanmar's efforts to bring peace, stability, the rule of law and to promote harmony and reconciliation in Rakhine State

THE Myanmar Delegation led by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, attended the 52nd ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) and its Related Ministerial Meetings held in Bangkok, Thailand from 30th July to 3rd August 2019.

While in Bangkok, the Union Minister attended Interface Meeting with Representatives of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), Meeting of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Commission and Working Dinner of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers on 30th July 2019. At the Working Dinner, the Ministers also informally exchanged views, among others, on the implementation of the Preliminary Needs Assessment (PNA) report relating to Rakhine State.

At the Working Dinner, the Union Minister informed the Meeting about the visit to Cox's Bazar of the Myanmar High-Level delegation to share the information on arrangements made for prospective returnees, steps taken to form a Technical Working Group comprising of officials from Myanmar, ASEAN Secretariat and AHA Centre, to implement the recommendations made in the report of the Preliminary Needs Assessment, ongoing cooperation with UNDP and UNHCR to create a conducive environment for the returnees and efforts made by the Myanmar Government for the repatriation. The ASEAN Ministers agreed to the proposal made by the Secretary-General of ASEAN to set up an Ad Hoc Unit to help with the implementation of the recommendations of the PNA Mission.

On 31st July, the Union Minister paid a joint courtesy call on Mr. Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, together with other ASEAN Foreign Ministers. Then, the Union Minister attended Opening Ceremony of the 52nd ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Plenary and Retreat Sessions of the 52nd ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM), Signing Ceremony of the Instruments of Accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) by Peru and ASE-



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin poses for group photo, together with other attendees at the 26th ASEAN Regional Forum Meeting (AFM) in Bangkok, Thailand on 2 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

AN Post Ministerial Conferences (PMC) with China, Russia and New Zealand.

On 1st August, the Union Minister attended ASEAN Post Ministerial Conferences (PMC) with Australia, Japan, India, Canada, the United States, European Union and Republic of Korea. At the ASEAN-Canada Ministerial Meeting, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin co-chaired the Meeting with Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada. In the evening, the Union Minister attended Gala Dinner hosted by the Foreign Minister of Thailand.

On 2nd August, the Union Minister attended the 20th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting, 9th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting and Retreat and Plenary Sessions of 26th ASEAN Regional Forum.

At the 9th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting and Retreat of the 26th ASEAN Regional Forum, Ministers made reference to the complex humanitarian situation in Rakhine. The Ministers stressed the importance of addressing the root causes of the problem and creating a conducive environment for the returnees. They also welcomed the report of the PNA Mission and the visit of Myanmar High-Level delegation to Cox's Bazar to share the information

on arrangements made by Myanmar for prospective returnees. They encouraged ASEAN to continue its efforts to help Myanmar in addressing the humanitarian situation in Rakhine. They also

The issue of citizenship would be addressed in line with the 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law and they need to undergo verification process to apply for citizenship.

encouraged Myanmar and Bangladesh to continue constructive and effective dialogue to facilitate the repatriation process.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin briefed both Meetings on Myanmar's efforts to address the situation in Rakhine State. In his briefing, the Union Minister stated that Rakhine issue is just one of many challenges facing Myanmar in its efforts for democratic transition, peace and national reconciliation and development. He added that the world is focusing on just this issue, due to

wrongful mischaracterisation of the issue as a religious one. He made it clear that it is neither an issue of religious persecution nor an issue of driving one ethnic group out of the country. But it was an issue with deep-rooted history involving irregular cross-border migration, as there had been three waves of illegal mass migrations into Myanmar since the time of colonial period and it is therefore, imperative to solve the issue bilaterally. He stressed that the world should not overlook that the recent mass displacement into Bangladesh side was triggered by provocative, coordinated attacks of ARAS terror group against multiple police outposts in October 2016 and August 2017. He refuted that the number of the displaced persons claimed by the Bangladesh side as 1.2 million is too much inflated and have to be verified and confirmed. He also stated that the Government of Myanmar has been addressing the accountability issue through the Independence Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) which has yet to receive permission from Bangladesh to visit Cox's Bazar.

Then, the Union Minister stated that the Government of Myanmar is committed to make efforts to bring peace, security and development for all communities in Rakhine State as

effectively as possible. He re-affirmed Myanmar's readiness to receive the verified displaced persons in accordance with the bilateral agreements. He added that the issue of citizenship would be addressed in line with the 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law and they need to undergo verification process to apply for citizenship. He also updated the Meetings of the visit of Myanmar High-Level delegation comprising representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, AHA Centre and ASEAN-ERAT to Cox's Bazar to share the information on arrangements made for the returnees and then informed that such arrangement would be continued in the future. The Union Minister also apprised the Meeting of Myanmar's effort to create conducive environment for the returnees in cooperation with ASEAN and the United Nations Agencies, ensuring that ASEAN's projects were not to sideline the works of UN but to complement and reinforce each other.

The Union Minister also pointed out that the issue of Rakhine State is a complex one which requires time and space to build trust and harmony among communities and to educate all communities to live harmoniously.

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President inspects Bagan World Heritage Site



President U Win Myint visits the Tantkyitaung Pagoda in Bagan yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)**



President U Win Myint visits the Htilominlo Pagoda in Bagan yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)**

3rd Myanmar Gems & Jewelry Day ceremony held in Nay Pyi Taw

ATHIRD Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Day ceremony was held at the Mani Yadanar Jade hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein, Union Minister for Transport

and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win, Deputy Minister U Ye Myint Swe, Hluttaw representatives, directors-general and managing directors, Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Entrepre-

neurs' Association chairman and officials, departmental officials and invited guests.

At the ceremony Union Minister U Ohn Win said 3rd August was a special day for gems and jewelry sector as it was designated as Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Day start-

ing from 2017. Starting from the time Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Entrepreneurs' Association was formed sub-associations were formed in Myanmar for development of gems and jewelry market and provided supports for the smooth operation of local gems and jewelry works.

Gems and jewelry of Myanmar earns a lot of foreign exchange, provide tax income for the country and support the economic development of the country. Myanmar gems and jewelry sector is an economic sector that has been providing many job opportunities for the citizens. On the special day that is Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Day, all are urged to cooperate in unity toward successfully achieving the aims of Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Entrepreneurs' Association, extract Myanmar gems and jewelry for the benefit of the people, the country and generations to come said the Union Minister.

Next Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Entrepreneurs' Association Chairman U La Hpai

Khun Sa delivered a message of greeting and association's fourth term chairman U Yone Mu delivered a speech in honor of Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Day.

Afterwards Union Minister U Ohn Win accepted cash donations made by Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Entrepreneurs' Association for eco-system replenishing plantation 100 acres and presented document of honor to the association chairman in return.

Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein, Union Ministers U Thant Sin Maung and U Ohn Win, Deputy Minister and officials presented documents of honors to persons and organizations that organizes the exhibition and conducted Myanmar gems and jewelry development works.

In the afternoon the tenth annual meeting of Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Entrepreneurs' Association was held. — MNA ■



The third Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Day ceremony being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

(Translated by Zaw Min)

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Two wild elephants caught in Hlegu

TWO elephants, that came in to cashew plantation near mile post (16/5) on Yangon-Mandalay expressway in Hlegu, were caught with tranquilizer gun in the morning of 3 August.

It was reported to the authority that 2 wild elephants were roaming about between mile posts (13/2) and (13/4). To catch the elephants, Chief forest ranger led a group of rangers and police to track down the elephants. They were found near Zaloat Gyi village in Hlegu township. At about 8 am on August 3rd they went into cashew plantation where the group led by Staff Officer U Tin Htut Oo caught them with tranquilizer using three elephants from Tharyarwady wood enterprise at 8 am. These elephants were given antidote and sent to Bago regional north Zar Mari elephant conservation camp.—Naing Lin (Hlegu) ■
(Translated by Alphonsus)



The wild elephants seen near mile post (16/5) on Yangon-Mandalay expressway in Hlegu Township on 3 August. **PHOTO: NAING LIN (HLEGU)**

Illegal drugs confiscated in Muse, Loilem, Panglong, Aungban

AUTHORITIES have seized illegal drugs in four townships of Shan State on 2 August, according to Myanmar Police Force.

Police from Muse confiscated 1,840 stimulant tablets and 10g of heroin from the house of Yeinkhaw in Area 17, Homon Ward, Muse Township.

Similarly, police from

Loilem seized 40,000 stimulant tablets, Myanmar currency notes of K 83,000 and three mobile phones from a motorcycle driven by Saw Aung Myo (a) Aung Gyi and Ma San San Yin on board near Ho Tint Village on Loilem-Taunggyi road, Loilem Township. In connection with this case, a Honda Fit car and

a mobile phone Khun Maung Poke's house in Naung Pa Luu Street in Ward No.2, Panglong Township and a mobile phone from Sai Pee's house in Lanmadaw Street in Ward No.4 of Panglong Township were also confiscated.

Police from Taunggyi also arrested Kyaw Aye for in posses-

sion of 1,200 stimulant tablets on Yay Htwet Oo road, Nyaung Pin Htaung Ward, Aungban Town, Kalaw Township.

Police filed charges against the suspects under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. —GNLM ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Fire engulfs one-storey house in Hlegu Township yesterday. **PHOTO: NAING LIN (HLEGU)**

No injuries in house fire in Hlegu Township

A fire broke out at 9.40 am on 1st August in a 30 x 20 foot one-storey house in Maygawady 4th Street in Yeikthar ward, Hlegu Township, Yangon region.

According to officials, the fire was caused by a short circuit when the house owner, U Htay Win, 54, and his family were away. The fire was put out by

the fire service at around 9:50 am, with the assistance of neighbours. The house was damaged in the blaze, with losses estimated to exceed K 150,000. No one was injured in the fire. The police have taken action against the house owner, according to officials.—Naing Lin (Hlegu) (Translated by Hay Mar)

Three killed after tree falls on house in Hpa-an

A tree blown off by strong wind fell on a thatched house in Hpa-an, Kayin State, yesterday and killed three people in it.

A tree, 5 feet in diameter and 40 feet in length, fell on the rear part of the house. Subsequently, Daw Ma Li Tha, 48, Mg

Pi Chay, 13 and Ma Hla Hla, 16, were found dead under the tree after the police and the local cleared up the site. Ma Bo Ta Naw sustained only minor injuries was sent to Hpa An hospital.—IPRD (Hpa-an) ■ (Translated by Alphonsus)



The tree blown off by strong wind in Hpa-an township yesterday kills three people. **PHOTO: IPRD (HPA-AN)**

Compensation for confiscated land in Yangon Region amounted to K200 bln

By Nyein Nyein

CHIEF Minister of Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein disclosed yesterday that the total payment of compensation for the farmland which were confiscated for establishing new cities in Yangon Region amounted to K200 billion.

The chief minister made the comment at the press conference at Yangon Region Government and promised to resolve the issues by giving the compensation and returning some farmland to the farmers concerned. "I would like to say that the compensation amounts to K200 billions. Because we have already scrutinized these cases, form (3) will be issued and the land will be returned soon. Compensation will be given too." Said U Phyo Min Thein. About 982 acres of land will be returned to the owners, according to the Yangon Region Government. To resolve the land issues, the incumbent Yangon Region Government formed the Central Committee for

Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and regional committee. The tripartite committee comprised of Hluttaw, government and civil organizations scrutinized the land confiscation cases. About 2,202 cases which were left to be scrutinized at 1st Hluttaw and 2225 cases reported by Central Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands has now been investigated. Furthermore, 6077 of 12527 other cases reported to regional government has now been investigated. In Yangon, there are about 5000 cases. It was found there was weakness in compensating when new townships: four Dagon townships, Hling Tha Yar and Shwe Pyi Tha were built. The regional government is planning to pay compensation of K77 billion this fiscal year and 33 billion in 2019-2020 fiscal year.

The amount of money for the compensation will be raised by selling in land in new townships.

"Kyat seven billion will be



Farmers plant rice in a paddy field in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

given before September ends. Concerning the compensation, we are trying to ask for more in 2019-2020 fiscal year as there is only 440 billions in our budget. In the doing so, we are going to sell the land left when transforming farm lands into resident area" he said

Land will be sold in four methods

1. Houses which value at 30,000,000 MMK will be for people in slums. Resident must pay for the building.
2. Affordable flats will be built and sold with 15 installment plan.

3. Plot will be sold.
4. Land will be sold to investors at affordable prices.

The chief minister said that compensation for the confiscated farm land and future reports will taken care of by the regional government.

(Translated by Alphonsus)

Myanmar-Thailand border trade reaches over \$3.3 bln in 2018-2019 FY

BORDER trade between Myanmar and Thailand reached US\$3.3 billion as of 26 July, for the current 2018-2019 fiscal year, up \$1.36 billion compared to the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Based upon figures released by Myanmar's Commerce Ministry, the country's exports to Thailand via border gates totaled over \$2.37 billion, while the value of imports was \$959 million during the period.

The Hteekhee border gate

topped the trade with \$2.05 billion, followed by Myawady with \$787 million and Myeik with \$217 million.

The country mainly conducts border trade with Thailand through seven border checkpoints, Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese gates.

The country's main exports are fishery products, including fish, crabs and shrimps, as well as agricultural products

to Thailand, while cosmetics, machinery, food products and agricultural equipment are imported from Thailand.

The value of the country's total border trade was over \$8.59 billion, in which exports reached \$6.05 billion, and imports were \$2.55 billion as of 26 July, for 2018-2019 FY.

Meanwhile, Myanmar is conducting border trade with neighboring India, China and Bangladesh, through 17 border checkpoints.—Zwe ■

FMI seeks service for remitting and withdrawing of money through Wave Money

By Aye Yamon Oo

FIRST Myanmar Investment public company (FMI) has sought approval from the Central Bank of Myanmar to offer remittances and withdrawals using Wave Money for customers' smart accounts, said U Tun Tun, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of FMI public company limited.

This service will be jointly offered by Yoma Bank and Wave Money, he said at the 27th FMI annual general meeting held at the Sedona Hotel, Yangon, on 3 August. "After forming a partnership between Yoma Bank and Wave Money, Yoma Bank's smart account holders will be able to deposit, withdraw and remit money through Wave Money agents. Later, Yoma Bank customers will be able to manage their smart accounts with their mobile phones. Then, Yoma Bank customers will no longer need to go to the bank when they want to perform money transactions. The service that Wave agents offer will be the same as the bank. We have already requested the Central Bank of Myanmar to allow us to offer these kinds of services. We will offer these services as quickly as we get permission," he added.

Currently, Wave Money has signed an agreement with Myanmar Economic Bank to issue

pension payments to retired service personnel, through the use of digital technology.

There are over 45,000 Wave Money agents, and over 11 million users across the country. Over Ks 2.6 trillion have already been transmitted through Wave Money since its establishment.

Wave Money, which is a digital financial service company, is a joint venture between Telenor and Yoma Bank.

"Soon, smart account users will be able to deposit, withdraw and transmit money through Wave Money agents. We've made the right decision, because Wave Money is the leader in the digital financial service industry," said U Thein Wai, the executive chairman of FMI. Moreover, FMI earned Ks 279.7 billion in 2019 from four main business sectors, an increase of 36 per cent compared to 2018. The FMI's four main business sectors are: the financial service sector, the housing sector, the health care sector and the hotels and tourism sector.

In 2019, FMI earned Ks 110.7 billion in profits, an increase by Ks 52.2 billion compared to 2018. Although their profits have increased, they have spent Ks 104.7 billion on general expenditures. Therefore, FMI earned a total profit amounting to Ks 14.4 billion. ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

OPPO launches monsoon promotion programme

OPPO Myanmar is offering its products at discount price as part of the monsoon promotion programme. OPPO smart phones: OPPO A5s, F11 with 48 MP main camera and F11 with Panoramic Screen would be discounted and combined with gifts.

OPPO Myanmar has announced that it will detail about the promotion programme in Grab Application and will present Grab Promo Code. It will hold the Online Campaigns from 12 to 16 August.—GNLM ■



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Office of the President holds press conference

OFFICE of the President Director-General U Zaw Htay gave a press conference at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 August in the afternoon.

Malaysia Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad

Director-General U Zaw Htay first spoke of Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad's media statement during a trip to Turkey. The Director-General said the statement was against ASEAN's cardinal principle of non-interference in the internal affairs and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of ASEAN member states. It was also seen as a deviation from the principles set out in the ASEAN Charter, said the Director-General.

The Myanmar government and ASEAN have been cooperating in many ways on the Rakhine State affairs and the statement was seen as unsupportive of this cooperation and even affects and reduces the cooperation. It also affected the cooperation between Myanmar and Bangladesh governments on displaced persons.

It also affected ASEAN cooperation and unity. Myanmar categorically rejects such statements and Permanent Secretary U Myint Thu of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had received the Malaysia Ambassador at the ministry a few days ago and objected to the statement of the Malaysian PM, said the Director-General. Launching of Myanmar satellite

The Director-General next explained about launching of a Myanmar satellite. As a first step Myanmar leased Myanmar Sat 1 and the second step was a joint-ownership system. To implement the second step a satellite was to be launched on 7 August 2019. Total cost for this was US\$ 155.7 million of which 30 percent was paid in two installments during the 2018 six-month budget. In fiscal year 2018-2019 50 percent of the amount was paid in four installments. The final 20 percent was to be paid in two installments in fiscal year 2019-2020. 432 MHz C-band and 432 K-u-ban totaling 864 MHz will be used. It will be used by education, health, security, forest, border and other departments. The amount paid was much less than the amount used by ministries when the satellite was leased. The life of the satellite was 15 years and as a third step, Myanmar will strive toward launching a fully-owned satellite, said the Director-General. This



Director-General U Zaw Htay of the Office of the President holds a press conference at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 August. PHOTO: MNA

stage will be implemented when satellite channel usage increases, technological experience and the capacity to control the satellite on our own was achieved. An Earth Observation Micro-Satellite (EOS) that can provide the services the country needs will be launched and the construction of the satellite will be conducted in cooperation with Hokkaido University of Japan.

The cost for this will be more than US\$ 8 million in the first two years. More than US\$ 6 million is required for the next two years. The total was estimated to be more than US\$ 15 million.

Myanmar Sat 2 will be launched on 7 August from Ariane Rocket Station at the North Atlantic shore, said the Director-General.

Questions of News Watch Journal reporter U Maung Maung Tun

On the first question by U Maung Maung Tun, the Director-General said the matter was related to religious matter that was very important and critical. Medias were requested to report this matter with special care as Myanmar was a Buddhist majority country and there must not be disintegration of the Sangha. It was also a financial matter. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture will handle the matter taking into consideration the present situation and stability of the country and possible consequences.

Another question was a dinner the day before at the residence of Union Minister Thura Aung Ko. This was planned a long time ago and was only through coincidence that it was held on the specific day. It was a dinner not arranged immediately but was prepared well in advance. The reason for the dinner was awarding religious titles and donation of dry ration at Uppatasanti Pagoda. At an earlier dry ration donation

event the State Counsellor asked Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko on how long the event would be. The Union Minister said it would be about 2 hours but actually took 3 hours. This was the first year. The same thing happened last year and the year before too. The State Counsellor penalized the Union Minister to arrange a private dinner for a total of 80 personnel from President Office, State Counsellor Office and security. This was a private dinner of the leaders and a family member of the Union Minister posted a picture of it on Facebook. The person should have considered whether the matter should be informed to the public or not. This is a matter of ethics. The dinner was for a very simple reason. It was not in any way an approval or showing support as accused or complaints made.

Question on Ministries

Regarding the questions by Irrawaddy reporter U Htat Naing Zaw on the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Ministry of Industry and Ministry of Planning and Finance, Director-General U Zaw Htay said the matter of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy was handled by the Anti-Corruption Commission. The commission was handling this according to the Anti-Corruption Law and the administrative sector would not interfere or get involved in it. The commission would make an announcement accordingly and the government would not be involved in this, said the Director General.

On the matter of Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho the Director-General said this was handled by the government. The President received a complaint letter on the matter and after deliberations the President formed an investigation group consisting of three minister-level members. After detailed investigation, the group reported

that the matter was following a wrong office procedure and the Union Minister resigned as a responsible person for the matter.

Union Minister U Soe Win concurrently serving two ministries was the outcome of consideration by the President and the State Counsellor. Only a little more than a year and half of the government's term remained while the ministry of industry was also being discussed in the Hluttaw for closing down about 18 state-owned enterprises (SOEs). The Ministry of Planning and Finance was the ministry responsible for closing down SOEs, privatizing or forming joint ventures. That was why Union Minister U Soe Win was assigned to concurrently serve the two ministries as it was most appropriate, said the Director-General.

Transition to democracy

On the question relating to transition to democracy Director-General U Zaw Htay said Rakhine State issue affected the most on the transition to democracy. Since the incumbent government came into power it had formed a central committee to handle the matter and while handling it ARSA attacks occurred. It affected the stability and development of the Rakhine State. Later there were attacks by AA on 4 January. When works were conducted to achieve peace and stability in the region there were international criticisms and pressures.

There was a democracy transition research conducted by the World Bank on 30 countries that were transitioning to democracy during the period 1985 to 2009. The report found that on an average a 20 years period was required to reach a stage where democracy became strengthened. The fastest country took 12 years. Involvement of the military was found in some of these countries. For the military to re-

turn to where they were, it would take an average of 17 years. The fastest was 10 years. But those countries did not have internal conflicts as much as Myanmar had. Those countries did not have a Rakhine State issue that this country faced. Considering these two conditions the fastest country would take 12 years. Considering internal conflicts, the time required could be calculated.

Looking at good governance, it took an average of 36 years. The fastest country took 13 years. On anti-corruption it took an average of 27 years to reduce corruption significantly. The fastest was 16 years. Rule of law was another matter. These countries took an average of 41 years for this. The fastest was 17 years.

There was another assessment conducted in 2010. The assessment was on 115 incidences of transition to democracy from 1995 to 2007 covering 86 countries. Of these 86 countries only 15 reached the democratic norms set by the west. There were 27 incidences of back-tracking. There were 27 incidences where democracy was not achieved. Without back-tracking some did not achieve a firm stage of democracy for 30 to 40 years. This meant that these countries were stuck in the transition stage. Region wise none of the Latin American countries reached the democracy norm set by the west. There were only a few in Europe.

Myanmar started its transition beginning from the 2010 elections. The current civilian government came into power after the 2015 elections. At that time the transition faced many challenges. When other's transitions were observed, it could be seen that they did not have the huge internal conflicts that we had. They also did not have as much armed factions as we had. The biggest was Rakhine State matter and the countries in the assessment did not have such issues. Myanmar's transition may be long but it would not reverse nor back-track, said the Director-General.

The Director-General also explained about the investigation conducted on the Yenangyoung alluvial land matter and a nine member Myanmar delegation trip to Bangladesh led by Ministry of Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary U Myint Thu. Afterwards Director-General U Zaw Htay responded to questions raised by local and foreign media.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Minister for Information meets Myanmar Cartoonists Association officials

UNION MINISTER for Information Dr Pe Myint held a meeting with the Myanmar Cartoonists Association's chairman and executive committee members at the Printing and Publishing Department on Theinbyu Road in Yangon yesterday.

At the meeting, the Union Minister offered the ministry's hall to be used at no charge if the artists hold paper reading sessions and invited the script creators to contribute their creations to the print media of the minis-

try, reviving the memories of famous cartoonists U Aung Shein and U Ngwe Kyi in the Mirror Daily of the ministry in the past.

The participants at the meeting also discussed the space and honorarium for cartoons in the Myanma Alin and the Mirror dailies, the possible participation of cartoon sections in the children's literary festivals, and gave suggestions on development of youth literature, inviting foreign cartoonists, holding cartoon festivals in regions

and states dedicated to peace, and the role of cartoonists in the Shwe Thwe weekly journal, published by the ministry.

The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the Union Minister.

The Myanmar Cartoonists Association was established in March 2016 with some 300 members. Its office is located in Room 601, Building No. 173/175 on Pansodan Road, Yangon. —MNA ■

(Translated by KZL)



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint addresses the meeting with the Myanmar Cartoonists Association's chairman and executive committee members at the Printing and Publishing Department in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint inspects the GTC Printing Factory in Insein Township, Yangon Region yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister for Information inspects printing houses of PPD in Insein Tsp

UNION MINISTER for Information Dr Pe Myint inspected the printing houses of the Printing and Publishing Department of the ministry in Aung San Ward in Insein Township yesterday.

The Union Minister arrived at Aung San Ward at 10 am and inspected the Sarpay

Beikman Printing Factory, Aung San Printing Factory and GTC Printing Factory.

During his tour of inspection, the Union minister observed the printing of text books, stores and training hall of the PPD.

Following the visits, he held a meeting with

officials concerned and gave instructions on timely completion of the printing of text books meeting with required quality, work-site safety, observing the code of conducts of public servants, and maintenance of the printing machines.— MNA ■

(Translated by KZL)

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Union Minister U Kyaw Tin attends 52nd ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and Related Ministerial Meetings

ASEAN Foreign Ministers reiterate continued support to Myanmar's efforts to bring peace, stability, the rule of law and to promote harmony and reconciliation in Rakhine State

FROM PAGE-2

He added that if both neighbours, Myanmar and Bangladesh, strictly follow the bilateral agreements, the repatriation could be made a success, as has been done in the past. He also informed the Meetings of Myanmar's readiness to resolve the issue in accordance with the bilateral agreements, his invitation extended to the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh to visit Myanmar to discuss the issue and the agreement to continue holding of trilateral Ministerial Meeting among Myanmar,

Bangladesh and China. He also highlighted the importance of avoiding measures that could worsen the situation and drive the communities farther apart, and welcomed any partners who really wish to facilitate Myanmar's effort in bringing the conflicting communities together and finding a sustainable solution to the issue.

The Union Minister also attended the 12th Lower Mekong Initiatives (LMI) Ministerial Meeting, 10th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Ministerial Meeting, 9th Mekong-Republic of Korea Ministerial Meeting,

and 12th Mekong-Japan Ministerial Meeting.

While in Bangkok, the Union Minister had bilateral meetings with Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, Norway and Republic of Korea as well as High Representative of European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission. During the bilateral meetings, the Union Minister discussed issues of mutual interests and promotion of bilateral relations.

At the end of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the Joint Communiqué of the

52nd ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting was issued. In the Joint Communiqué, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers, among others, welcomed the recent visit of High-Level Mission led by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar together with representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat and the AHA Centre, including an ASEAN-ERAT member, to Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh to share the information on arrangement made by Myanmar for prospective returnees. They welcomed the extension of the MOU between Myanmar,

UNHCR and UNDP. They also look forward to the continued and effective dialogue between Myanmar and Bangladesh to facilitate the repatriation process. 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 International Cooperation
Dated. 3 August 2019.

Changing our mindset in building a Democratic Federal Republic

TODAY, all the people of Myanmar are united in reaching the same goal of establishing a Democratic Federal Republic.

Our country is a Union, as ethnic people live together throughout the country. If it is a Union, it must be a federal Union with a democratic system that guarantees freedom, security and self-determination for all the people residing in the country.

The sovereignty of the country spreads to the states and regions in a federal country, and all people have the right to sustain and develop their ethnic literature, culture, language and tradition, along with the government's policy of equitable development of all states and regions.

Also, a Democratic Federal Republic must guarantee a politically, economically and socially fair administrative system to provide all citizens with equal opportunities, and equality in the face of the law.

It must be an administrative system that preserves the rule of law and not one that leads to the oppression of people. It must provide an administrative machinery that ensures the safety and happiness of the people.

In a democratic system, the executive pillar must serve the people. In our country, people have given the government the authority for a democratic transition.

In the legislative pillar, there are laws, rules, a constitution and law makers who make the laws. Whether the laws were truly beneficial for the country and people, appropriate to the situation of the respective places, or not, needs to be reviewed and assessed.

It is the duty of the MPs to be well versed in their rights, laws and rules. Apart from making laws in the parliament, they need to coordinate with relevant authorities on regional development issues.

The judiciary must be unbiased, to provide all citizens with equality before the law. No one is above the law and no one must interfere in legal judgments.

The three pillars, namely the executive, the legislative and the judiciary, need to check and balance one another.

They need to cooperate and work together towards development of the country, as well as peace and prosperity for the citizens.

As the country is in transition to democracy, officials from various departments must not consider one another as rivals, but as colleagues, and are required to coordinate for the benefit of the country and its people.

We need to change our mindset to reach our goal of a Democratic Federal Republic. Reform or change is not a threat. It is an opportunity for peace and prosperity for our future generations.



Are dams and coal-fired engines really detrimental to the environment?

By Khin Maung Myint

BEFORE proceeding further, I would like to make one thing very clear. I am neither a political activist nor a lobbyist nor an advocate for any social or government organization. I am, but an ordinary dutiful citizen, who wish to see my country develop and prosper. Thus I had been writing articles as a freelance writer to discuss matters that would contribute to the well beings of the people and the country. In doing so, I have no prejudice or bias, but only good intentions -- to clear all obstacles that hinder the progress and prosperity of our country.

About a decade or so ago, readers may remember the incident where a consortium of Chinese and Thai companies planned to implement a project to build hydro-power dams over the Salween River in our territory. They met with stiff oppositions from the locals led by a young activist, who was later invited to the USA and was conferred an award making him an instant hero of sort. If I remember correctly he was even invited to the congress to honor him.

That project was abandoned when some engineers who were doing the survey works were abducted for ransoms. In my opinion, that project was abandoned due to security reasons and not because of the protests. Anyway the leader of that protest became famous as the champion of environmental conservation. The US spotlighted him to fame undeservedly.

Also, a few years back, when a coal-fired power station was planned to be installed in the Dawei region, it met with protests and was abandoned. Then there was the protest at Patheingyi Township opposing the construction of a factory that will incorporate a coal-fired power plant. There may be some other instances, but these two examples would be enough to express my opinion concerning the coal powered plants.

Today the coal-fired power plants are becoming safer than in the past. Our neighbour, Laos has three hydro power dams built on the section of the Mekong River inside their territory.

But still, they constructed some coal-fired power plants to supplement their electricity exports to Thailand. All those projects never met with much opposition as in our country.



File photo shows the Hongsa Power Plant (3x626MW), which was constructed by China National Electric Engineering Co., Ltd. (CNEEC), was inaugurated in Laos' northern Xayaboury Province on 9 December, 2015. PHOTO: XINHUA

Hope the above stated facts would suffice as a prelude to what I will be discussing. First, it will be about the dams. Before building a dam thorough Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) have to be carried out by experts. Such studies or assessments could take years to avoid adverse consequences. Here, please allow me to mention a royally initiated multipurpose dam built in Thailand. It is one of the two largest dams in that country. The surveys, studies and environmental impact assessments took over twenty years before the implementation of that project was commissioned in 2011 by the late Thai Monarch -- King Bhumibol Adulyadej, Rama IX.

I was very familiar with that dam as my son, a water resources engineer, was one of the three project engineers who undertook its constructions. I had visited that project twice a year since the start of that project in 2011 until its completion in 2017. Right from the start there were protests by the villagers whose properties will end up inside the catchment area and have to evacuate. Though the government compensated

them lavishly for their homes and crops, some troublemakers from outside instigated the villagers to ask for more. Though most of the villagers willingly took the compensations and moved out, some stubborn ones continued protesting. In their case they don't cite environmental impact as their cause, but they demanded for more compensations.

A small group of protesters numbering about twenty households, built shanty huts across the road from the project site office of the Royal Thai Irrigation Department in a show of defiance and continued their protest. The authorities tried to reason with them, but without any agreement reached. During that period, while some were trenched-in for a long term protest new villages sprung up overnight in the vicinity of the dam away from the catchment area. On enquiring, I learned that they were the villagers who agreed to move out by taking the compensations. All the houses are large, modern in design and pucca buildings. I noticed that every household have brand new four wheel drive, four doors pick up trucks parked under their porticoes. It was a vast improvement in their living standards as their old homes were mostly rundown timber structures and their cars were beat-up old two

doors pickups.

The protesting group was left untouched until the project was completed and just before the commissioning ceremony of the dam and the reservoir that was to be graced by the new King -- Rama X, they were evicted by force. It is learnt that according to the Thai laws, whenever they requisitioned the lands and properties the government compensate them their worth. If they declined to take they were nev-

er forced right away, but the authorities would remit their entitled amounts in a bank in their names, which they are free to draw, once they moved out. However, after certain period if they are still obstinate the government will raze their land to continue with the construction and the money in the bank will be withdrawn by the authorities, depriving them of the compensations.

Though I am not an engineer by profession, as I had

been to seven such project sites where my son worked, I am quite familiar with the workings of the dams. Every dam has to incorporate a fish ladder to afford access for the fishes to migrate upstream to spawn. Thus there is no danger of depletion or extinction of the fish populations as most activists in our country who opposed the dam constructions claimed. Also, as a dam has to release water periodically (the hydro power dams release continuously), the force of the water head pressure is so great that it flushes away the silts. Thus there is no danger of rivers sedimentation or drying up and eventually disappearing. Also the dams will not impede the river traffic, a fact which is proven by the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River in China, where a diversion canal was dug for the river crafts to by-pass the dam..

As further proofs that the dams do not have serious effects on the rivers and the environments, I would like to mention some dams built on some major rivers around the world, I had already mentioned about the three dams on the Mekong River in Laos. The Mekong River originates on the Tibetan Himalayan plateau in China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam. Thus, all the six countries along its path can claim the right to it. Apart from the three dams

in Laos, there are seven more dams inside China built on that river. We had never heard any country down stream objecting those dams or they are causing any significant adverse effects on the environments or the ecosystems in the countries along its path. The Mekong is still flowing on.

Another example is the Nile River in Africa. Like Mekong, it flows through many countries, thus all those countries can say it belongs to them too. Today, there are three hydro power dams built in Ethiopia on the Blue Nile, which is one of the tributaries that flows through Sudan and fed the main River Nile that passes through Egypt where there is also a large dam built across it before emptying into the Mediterranean Sea. Likewise, there are dams on the other tributaries of the Nile in other countries. There wasn't any report of serious protests or objections there.

There are many more examples, which prove that, in reality there is no serious environmental impact or adverse effect on the ecosystem as claimed by the environmentalists. If there were, there would be protests or even conflicts between the countries along the Mekong and the Nile, which we will be aware of. But there was none. In my opinion, even if there should be some impacts on the rivers caused by the dams, they would be much less damaging than

those caused by deforestations, which our activists never ever seriously or loudly protested.

As far as the coal-fired power plants are concerned, China is said to be installing them at the rate of one plant a week to cope with the demand for electricity for their growing industries. If they are really detrimental to environment and health, though we abstain from building them ourselves, we will still be exposed to those dangers with such a large number of them being built in neighboring China and Laos. Just look how the smog from the Indonesian islands' slash and burn agricultural practices affect Singapore.

As conclusion, I would like to mention the benefits from the Naruebodindrachinta Reservoir in Thailand, named in honor of the late Thai monarch who initiated its constructions. It is the dam where my son worked. Before the dam was built, the Prachimburi Province where it is located was subjected to severe flooding every monsoon season, which I had experienced many times myself. Today those were things of the past.

The fish populations too have vastly increased as the reservoir provides a large body of water for spawning and breeding. The villagers from far and near can freely catch fish to supplement their diets and incomes. The water from the canal systems of the reservoir provide ample water supply for agricultural purposes too. The dam also helps in deterring sea water entering the Bang Pakong River that flows into the Gulf of Thailand, by releasing the water from the reservoir to push back the rising sea water during high tides. This benefits the farmers along the river banks by keeping their agricultural fields salinity free. These are concrete proofs that if the EIA and the planning are thorough and transparent, the dams pose no threats, but are beneficial.

(Khin Maung Myint is a freelance writer, and the views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily represent or reflect the views of The Global New Light of Myanmar.)



Photo taken on 12 Dec, 2016 shows the first stage's No. 2 hydropower station of the Power China-contracted project in Luang Prabang Province, north Laos. PHOTO: XINHUA

Japan, Mekong nations to create sustainable development framework

BANGKOK — The foreign ministers of Japan and five South-east Asian countries along the Mekong River agreed Saturday to create a framework for cooperation on sustainable development by the time their leaders gather in November.

They shared the view that the framework, to be called the Mekong-Japan Initiative for SDGs toward 2030, should take

an approach that is region-wide, open and encourages cooperation between the public and private sectors, according to a co-chairs' statement released after their meeting in Bangkok.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono and his counterparts from the Mekong countries — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam — gathered on the sidelines of a series

of annual meetings involving the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

They also agreed on the importance of "continued efforts of each country to reinforce a free and open order based on the rule of law to maintain peace, stability and prosperity" in the region, the statement said.

At the meeting, Japan

was named one of the partners in the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy, an initiative aimed at bridging the economic gap between the Mekong countries.

Other partners that will assist with development projects in areas such as energy include the United States, Australia and India. —Kyodo News ■



The US, which invaded Afghanistan and toppled the Taliban in 2001, wants to withdraw thousands of troops but only in return for the insurgent group renouncing Al-Qaeda and curbing attacks. **PHOTO: AFP**

US eyes breakthrough in push for peace with Taliban

DOHA (Qatar) — Washington is hoping for a breakthrough as talks between the US and the Taliban resumed in Doha on Saturday in a bid to end 18 years of war in Afghanistan.

The US, which invaded Afghanistan and toppled the Taliban in 2001, wants to withdraw thousands of troops and draw down its longest ever war.

But it would first seek assurances from the insurgents that they would renounce Al-Qaeda and stop other militants like the Islamic State group using the country as a haven.

Washington is hoping to strike a peace deal with the Taliban by 1 September — ahead of Afghan polls due the same month, and US presidential polls due in 2020.

US President Donald Trump told reporters at the White House on Friday that "we've made a lot of progress. We're talking".

A coalition led by Washington ousted the Taliban accusing it of harbouring Al-Qaeda jihadists who claimed the 11 September, 2001 attacks against the US that killed almost 3,000 people.

"We are pursuing a peace agreement not a withdrawal

agreement, a peace agreement that enables withdrawal," US envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad tweeted on Friday as he arrived in Doha after talks with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan in Islamabad.

"Our presence in Afghanistan is conditions-based, and any withdrawal will be conditions-based."

'No Afghan is inferior'

In another sign of progress, the Afghan government has formed a negotiating team for separate peace talks with the Taliban that diplomats hope could be held as early as later this month.

The Washington Post reported Thursday that an initial deal to end the war would see the US force in Afghanistan reduced to as low as 8,000 from the current level of around 14,000.

In exchange, the Taliban would abide by a ceasefire, renounce Al-Qaeda, and talk to the Kabul administration.

An Afghan official hinted last week that the government of President Ashraf Ghani was preparing for direct talks with the Taliban, the details of which have yet to be announced. — AFP ■

Police detain dozens at Moscow opposition protest

MOSCOW (Russia) — Police detained dozens of demonstrators in Moscow on Saturday as Russian opposition supporters took to the streets in defiance of a formidable security presence, in fresh protests calling for fair elections in the capital next month.

The unauthorised march, which comes after stark warnings from Russian authorities and a crackdown on Kremlin critics, was billed as a "stroll" along Moscow's leafy boulevards as anger grows over the refusal of officials to let popular opposition candidates run in next month's city parliament elections.

Most of those candidates and opposition leaders are still in police detention following the last rally, as what began as a local issue has boiled over into one of the worst political conflicts of recent years.

At least 89 were detained by police about an hour into the rally, according to OVD-Info, a non-governmental organisation that operates a hotline for detainees. AFP correspondents also observed several arrests.

Lyubov Sobol, an ally of key opposition leader Alexei Navalny, was detained as she set off for

the rally. "Why are you detaining me?" she shouted as riot police in helmets dragged her out of a taxi.

Sobol is on the 21st day of a hunger strike that she began after authorities barred her from running in the polls and was visibly weak.

Heavy police presence, metal barriers and empty buses used to transport detainees lined the boulevards, and mobile internet was down in central Moscow. Some shops and cafes were shut Saturday following warnings by city authorities.

Amount of police appeared to outnumber small groups of protesters. About a hundred people were pushed out from central Trubnaya square by a line of riot police. Several hundred more were spread out along the boulevards.

"I'm here because I want them to let candidates take part in the elections," 22-year-old artist Varvara told AFP. "I want there to be big changes... now there is an atmosphere of total control."

At least six people were detained about 30 minutes after the planned start of the rally, according to OVD-Info website. — AFP ■



At least 89 were detained by police about an hour into the rally, according to OVD-Info, a non-governmental organisation that operates a hotline for detainees. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Georgieva honored to be nominated to lead IMF, taking leave from World Bank

WASHINGTON (United States) — Bulgarian Kristalina Georgieva said Friday she was honored to be the European Union nominee to lead the International Monetary Fund and is taking a leave of absence from her post at the World Bank.

If selected she will replace Christine Lagarde at the IMF, who has been nominated to take the presidency of the European Central Bank. By tradition, a European always leads the IMF, while an American runs the World Bank. — AFP ■

7 dead, 8 missing after boats sink in central Philippines

MANILA — The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said that at least seven people died and eight others were reported missing after two ferry boats sank at around 12:15 p.m. on Saturday in the central Philippines.

Coast guard spokesman Captain Armand Balilo said in a text message to Xinhua that 31 people have so far been rescued. He said the boats have more than 40 passengers and crew on board at the time of the accident. Balilo said the boats named Cheche and Keziah were transiting Farola Wharf in Iloilo to Jordan Wharf in Guimaras when they were battered by sudden strong winds and sank. — Xinhua ■

Death toll rises to 5 in Indonesia quake

JAKARTA — The death toll has risen to five in Friday's earthquake that struck off of the west coast of Indonesia, authorities said Saturday.

National Disaster and Mitigation Agency spokesman Agus Wibowo said three people died of heart attacks, one from injuries sustained in a fall, and another from fatigue. A total of four people were injured in the quake, which struck at 7:03 pm, he said, adding that 113 houses in the Banten and West Java provinces of Java Island were damaged. — Kyodo News ■

Hong Kong protesters seize roads in defiance of China warnings

HONG KONG (China) — Pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong erected barricades in a popular tourist district and briefly blocked a major tunnel Saturday evening, defying increasingly stern warnings from China over weeks-long unrest that has plunged the city into crisis.

The semi-autonomous southern Chinese financial hub has seen two months of protests and clashes triggered by opposition to a planned extradition law that quickly evolved into a wider movement for democratic reforms.

Authorities in Hong Kong and Beijing this week signalled a hardening stance, including with the arrests of dozens of protesters, and the Chinese military saying it was ready to quell the “intolerable” unrest if requested.

But protesters have remained unyielding, vowing to hold multiple occupations and

rallies into next week, sending tensions soaring once more.

On Saturday they embraced their mantra “be water” — a philosophy of unpredictability espoused by local martial arts legend Bruce Lee — in a bid to keep police guessing. Throughout the evening they put up makeshift barricades across multiple roads in TsimShaTsui, a popular shopping and tourist district on the harbourfront, where many luxury malls and hotels shut their doors.

They also blocked one of the three cross-harbour tunnels connecting to the main island, causing widespread traffic chaos, before disappearing after half an hour. “We will fight as guerrillas today and be water,” a masked and helmeted 19-year-old, who gave her surname Lee, told AFP.

In a statement, police called on protesters to “stop their illegal acts” and told members of the public to avoid the area.



Many roads in the tourist district TsimShaTsui were blocked by protesters. PHOTO: AFP

City-wide strike

Many of the chants and graffiti tags that were thrown up called for residents to join a planned strike on Monday.

“The more the government suppresses us, the more we will come out until the government responds to our demands,” protester Ah Kit, 36, told AFP.

Two marches are also planned for Sunday — one on

Hong Kong island and the other in the Tseung Kwan O district — as well as a city-wide strike on Monday and rallies in seven locations.

The call for strike action appears to be gaining more traction than previous walkouts, with a host of organisations and unions vowing to join.

Hong Kong has witnessed eight consecutive weekends of

huge rallies — often followed by violent clashes between police and small groups of hardcore protesters.

Under the terms of the 1997 handover deal with Britain, the city has rights and liberties unseen on the Chinese mainland, including an independent judiciary and freedom of speech.

But many say those rights are being curtailed, citing the disappearance into mainland custody of dissident booksellers, the disqualification of prominent politicians and the jailing of pro-democracy protest leaders. Public anger has been compounded by rising inequality and the perception that the city’s distinct language and culture are being threatened by ever-closer integration with the Chinese mainland.

On Saturday evening, protesters tore down the Chinese flag from a pole on the waterfront and threw it in the harbour. —AFP ■

San Francisco airport bans sale of plastic bottles

SAN FRANCISCO (United States) — San Francisco International Airport is banning the sale of single-use plastic bottles and will require fliers to buy refillable bottles if they’re not already carrying their own, US media reported on Friday.

The new rule comes into effect on 20 August, the San Francisco Chronicle reported, and is part of a five-year plan to lower landfill waste, net carbon emissions and net energy use to zero.

“We’re the first airport that we’re aware of to implement this change,” airport spokesman Doug Yakel told the newspaper.

“We’re on the leading edge for the industry, and we want to push the boundaries of sustainability initiatives,” he said.

The ban will apply to all restaurants, cafes and vending machines, though not to planes using the airport.

It exempts brands of flavored water. Filtered water is provided for free at 100 “hydration stations,” where flyers can top up glass or metal bottles.

The airport describes itself as an “industry leader” in sustainability, installing solar panels and instructing all tenants to use fully compostable food ware including straws and utensils.

Airports in Dubai and India have announced similar plastic bottle bans, but have yet to fully implement them.

The city of San Francisco banned the sale of plastic water bottles on city-owned property back in 2014, but allowed delays and granted certain exemptions.

Global plastic production has grown rapidly, and is currently at more than 400 million tons per year. Single-use items represent about 70 per cent of the plastic waste littering the marine environment.

Each year, a million birds and more than 100,000 marine mammals worldwide are injured or killed by becoming entangled in plastic or ingesting it through the food chain.

Canada and the European Union have pledged to ban single-use plastics starting in 2021. —AFP ■

Judge blocks Trump asylum restriction: reports

WASHINGTON (United States) — A judge on Friday blocked a move by US President Donald Trump’s administration to stop migrants from claiming asylum unless they had entered the country at an official border crossing, news outlets reported.

The policy, enacted by Trump last year, is among a host of measures his government has taken against the movement of hundreds of thousands of migrants from Central America and elsewhere who have recently tried to cross into the US from Mexico and request asylum.

Federal judge Randolph Moss, sitting in Washington, ruled that the policy was “in excess of statutory... authority,” ABC News reported.

Moss said it contradicts standing US immigration law, which allows undocumented people who are physically present in the country to apply for asylum even if they did not enter at an official port of entry, The Hill newspaper said.

The policy had earlier been blocked by a judge in San Francisco, a ruling the government is appealing.

Trump’s immigration policy has been the subject of numerous court challenges.

Last week, a federal judge

in California issued a preliminary injunction blocking the administration’s new rule barring most immigrants from obtaining asylum in the US if they transit through Mexico.

That policy would have effectively prevented most Central American asylum seekers from gaining entry into the United States at the southern border, as the majority come through Mexico.

Day later, Guatemala signed an agreement with the US that, according to Washington, makes

it a “safe third country,” meaning migrants who want to seek asylum in the United States but travel through Guatemala must request asylum in the Central American country.

The number of border-crossers detained by the US Border Patrol surged to a 13-year high of more than 144,000 in May before easing to 104,000 in June — still up 142 per cent from a year earlier.

Most are families from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. —AFP ■



The judge said the Trump administration’s policy contradicts standing US immigration law. PHOTO: AFP

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Sudan protesters reach full agreement with generals on civilian rule

KHARTOUM (Sudan) — Protest leaders reached “full agreement” with Sudan’s ruling generals Saturday on a hard-won constitutional declaration, the African Union said, paving the way for a promised transition to civilian rule.

Thousands of jubilant Sudanese took to the streets of the capital Khartoum when the deal was announced before dawn to celebrate the prospect of a civilian government.

The declaration builds on a landmark power-sharing deal signed on 17 July and provides for a joint civilian-military ruling body to oversee the formation of a transitional civilian government and parliament to govern for a three-year transition period.

The deal is the fruit of difficult negotiations between the leaders of the mass protests which erupted last December against the three-decade rule of president Omar al-

Bashir and the generals who eventually ousted him in a palace coup in April.

“I am announcing to the Sudanese, African and international public opinion that the two delegations have fully agreed on the constitutional declaration,” AU mediator Mohamed El Hacem Lebat told reporters.

He said further meetings would be held to work out the technical details of the deal and discuss the signing ceremony.

An initial inking of the agreement is expected to take place on Sunday, protest leaders said, ahead of a formal signing in front of foreign dignitaries.

The talks between the protest movement and the generals had been repeatedly interrupted by deadly violence against demonstrators.

They were suspended for weeks after men in military uniform broke up a long-running protest camp

outside army headquarters in Khartoum on June 3, killing at least 127 people according to doctors close to the protest movement.

They were briefly suspended again earlier this week when paramilitaries shot dead six demonstrators in the city of Al-Obeid, four of them schoolchil-

dren.

‘Revolution succeeded’

Demonstrators among the crowds that took to the streets in the early hours hailed victory in their struggle for a new Sudan.

“For us, the revolution succeeded now and our country set foot on the

road towards civilian rule,” said 25-year-old Ahmed Ibrahim as he joined the cavalcade of vehicles that criss-crossed the streets of Khartoum, horns blazing.

Fellow protester, Somaiya Sadeq, said she hoped there would now be justice for those who had given their lives.

“We have been waiting for a civilian state to seek fair retribution from the murderers of our sons,” she told AFP.

Doctors linked to protest umbrella group the Alliance for Freedom and Change say more than 250 people have been killed in protest-related violence since December.

Protest leaders have blamed much of the violence on the feared paramilitaries of the Rapid Support Forces, who sprang out of the Janjaweed militia notorious for alleged war crimes during the conflict in Darfur. The military announced on Friday that nine of them had been dismissed and arrested on suspicion of involvement in this week’s fatal shootings in Al-Obeid.

Protest leaders said they had won the military’s agreement that the RSF irregulars would be integrated in the army chain of command.—AFP ■



Thousands of jubilant Sudanese take to the streets of the capital Khartoum to celebrate the “victory” of their revolution after protest leaders reach full agreement with the ruling generals on a transition to civilian rule. PHOTO: AFP

REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF HOTELS AND TOURISM DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM PROMOTION Invitation for Tenders

In conformity to the Tenders Guidelines of Myanmar government, Directorate of Hotels and Tourism under the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism would like to invite proposals for “**Making Design for Tourism Promotional Materials such as Destination brochures, Travel Magazine, Posters and Buntings**” to use in tourism promotion activities and Travel Fairs of inland and International.

The Directorate of Hotels and Tourism now invites sealed bids from eligible firms for the above mentioned tourism promotional materials. 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 Tourism Promotion Department, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

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

Available Date : 1st August, 2019 (Office Time)
Closing Date and Time : 14th August, 2019 by 14:00 PM (Myanmar Time)
Contact Phone No : +95 67 3406129
Email : promotion@tourism.gov.mm
Address : Department of Tourism Promotion, Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Office No.(33), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1106 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1106 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-8-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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.

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SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

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

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

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M Tower:

The first high-rise steel structure in Yangon

By Maung Chit Kyi

YANGON is where high-rise buildings higher than 8-storey were springing up. In Myanmar, Yangon is a city with the most high-rise buildings. M Tower planned to be completed in early 2020 is one such high-rise building in Yangon. It had one distinct characteristic that make it different from other high-rise buildings in Yangon. It is the first high-rise steel structure in Yangon.

Mottama Holding Company was constructing M Tower and the company chairman U Yan Ho said, “The building was designed up to a height of 112 metre in accordance to the prevailing regulation. Projects like this will support in raising Yangon’s living standard.”

The M Tower high-rise building is situated between Hledan Centre and Asia Green Development Bank in Kamayut Township, Yangon. The building was constructed on a 3,800 square metre land and will have 26 stories. Initial plan was to construct a 38-storey building but due to Yangon high-rise building rules and regulations it was reduced to 26 stories.

The entire building was constructed by steel frames but the two underground levels were constructed with reinforced concrete. The whole building construction is estimated to cost about US\$ 80 million.

Construction was started in June 2016 and is expected to be completed and opened in April 2020. According to project particulars the building rises up to 112.2 metre height from ground level and the underground portion was to a depth of 11.2 metre.

It’ll be the first and highest steel-frame office tower in Yangon. The building was designed to withstand wind speed up to 120 miles an hour. Both the outer and inner walls will be made of high quality glasses that’ll reduce heat and sounds entering into the building.

Raw materials used in the buildings were imported from China, South Korea and Japan and more than 8,000 tons of quality Japan technology steel was used. The building will also have a parking space that can accommodate 265 cars.

The building was a 51-49 joint venture between a local Mottama Holding Company and Hong Kong based Mutual Profit Company.

Yangon was full of high-rise buildings, businesses and industrial zones constructed by local as well as foreign investments.

Experts group on inspecting and overseeing high-rise building in Yangon as well as the whole country permits high-rise buildings to a maximum height of 34 stories only. In Yangon there were only two high-rise buildings that were 34 stories high and one was Diamond Inya Palace on U Tun Nyein Road near Inya Lake Hotel.

There were many 33-storey and 29-storey buildings that were constructed or under construction. No other foundation except pile-foundation was permitted for high-rise buildings as an official from Yangon City Development Committee said only pile-foundation can withstand the shocks of earthquakes.

M Tower will be a new image of Yangon’s development springing up in Hledan, now being dubbed by some as the second central business district of Yangon. During the construction stage, M Tower will provide work opportunities for many as well as construction experience on constructing modern high-rise buildings.

Once it is completed, it’ll provide business opportunities for businesses and work opportunities for people in a modern quality high-rise building that was designed to withstand earthquake and extreme winds. *(Translated by Handytips)*



M Tower. PHOTO: MAUNG CHIT KYI



An endangered tiger in Hukaung Valley. PHOTO: WCS MYANMAR (TWITTER)

Development shouldn't be zero-sum game or situation

By Zaw Min (GNLM)

A ZERO-SUM game or situation is a game or a situation where a win by one person or one thing means a loss by another person or a thing.

Throughout the history of human development, we've seen this zero-sum situation or win-lose situation being played out repeatedly. Industrialization gave development to the people and a country but with draw backs such as industrial pollution and environmental degradation.

For an agriculture based country like Myanmar, it is important that industrialization is not at the expense of its agriculture sector. Natural resource extraction is also another important sector of development but this should also not be at the expense of other sectors. Natural environment and natural beauty is an immense resource for the country to develop its travel and tour sector, a smokeless industry. Therefore, developing mineral resources or industrialization must not harm the natural environment which is a nature given resource for development that doesn't need any further investment except care to prevent it from being degraded.

Climate change is affecting the countries of the world adversely and this situation shouldn't be exacerbated placing undue emphasis on one development sector over another development sector.

A good and simple example on one development becoming detrimental to another development is plastic. Introduction of plastic packaging and bags into the country seems to have given a short term appearance of development to the packaging industry. But after a few decades, this development in packaging industry was found to have a very adverse effect on our environment and even to our health. When irresponsibly discarded plastics clogged the drains, rain water no longer drains away causing roads and streets to become small creeks or river. When plastics break down into small particles, it ended up in the fishes of rivers and oceans. Fish meat, considered to be a healthier meat over red meat had become contaminated with plastic particles that eventually end up on our lunch and dinner plates. The end result is a healthier food becoming an unhealthy food. This is just a small example of how a simple and seemingly harmless plastic had adversely affected our environment and health.

Being late in development gave the late comer an opportunity to follow other's development rather than finding a new path or making the same mistakes. They can learn from other's mistake and leap frog over what others did good. Most countries have developed along the zero-sum situation. Industrialization in the west had made its cities and rivers polluted and took them much time and efforts to restore it back to the pre-industrialization situation. This experience should be heeded and we must ensure that our development is not a zero-sum game or situation.



Field visit along the planned Dawei road to study potential wildlife crossing sites and location of bridges and culverts, September 2015. PHOTO: WCS MYANMAR



Wild tiger in Myanmar. PHOTO: WCS MYANMAR



The Myanmar U-18 team seen training, prior to the AFF U-18 Championship 2019. PHOTO: MFF

Myanmar prepares for AFF U-18 Championship 2019

THE Myanmar U-18 team is preparing for the ASEAN Football Federation's U-18 Championship 2019, as the team has selected 23 talented football players, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

Team Myanmar, managed by head coach Soe Myat Min, started training weeks ago and will leave for Viet Nam on 4 August.

The AFF U-18 Champion-

ship 2019 will be held in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, from 6 to 19 August.

Myanmar has been placed in Group A, together with Indonesia, Laos, Timor Leste, the Philippines and Brunei.

Meanwhile, host Viet Nam team has been placed in Group B, along with Australia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Cambodia.

Myanmar will take on their

first match with Laos on 6 August, second match against the Philippines on 8 August, third match against Timor-Leste on 10 August, fourth match against Brunei on 12 August and the final group match against Indonesia on 14 August.

All Myanmar matches will take place at Binh Duong Stadium in Ho Chi Minh City.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Happy to play after injury: Yadanarbon's Ye Ko Oo

AFTER recovering from his injury, Ye Ko Oo, midfielder of Yadanarbon FC, expressed his pleasure in returning to his team.

"As a player, the chance to play on my team is crucial. Now, I have a chance to participate again. I will do my best," said Ye Ko Oo. Yadanarbon FC will play an away match against Shan United today at Taunggyi Stadium.

After 18 matches, Yadanarbon FC stands in sixth place with 26 points. Ye Ko Oo also noted that poor playing by his team last week was due to injuries by other key players.

"The main reason our team had poor results is because of

injuries among some key players. Now, I am also ready to join the team. My teammate Hlaing Bo Bo is also in good shape. Youth midfielders Myat Kaung Khant and Aung Naing Win were also showing their best. So, our team can play much better than in the previous weeks, especially in the match against Shan United, I think," said Ye Ko Oo.

The Yadanarbon vs Shan United match will be played at Taunggyi Stadium today and televised on MRTV and MRTV-4 free-to-air channels. In their previous meet at Yadanarbon FC's home stadium, Shan United played to a 2-2 draw with Yadanarbon FC.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Yadanarbon's midfielder Ye Ko Oo (No.7) touches the ball during a training session, prior to the match against Shan United at Taunggyi Stadium. PHOTO: MNL

'A golden chance': Japan's Fukushima eyes Olympics for recovery message

NARAHA (Japan) — The J-Village sports complex in Japan's Fukushima was once a staging ground for battling the 2011 nuclear disaster, but next year it will host Olympic teams and the torch relay, sending a message of recovery.

The Tokyo 2020 Olympic torch relay will begin at the centre, and Olympic softball and baseball matches will be played elsewhere in Fukushima, as part of efforts that officials and residents hope will help repair the reputation of a region now synonymous with the nuclear meltdown.

"The torch relay is a golden opportunity to send a message about our reconstruction to the world," said Yusuke Takana, a 32-year-old official at the J-Village, from where the Olympic torch will set off on 26 March, 2020.

"The J-Village overcame

the disaster and has been revived in its original form as a sports training centre," Takana said.

Built in 1997 as a fully fledged sport training complex, the J-Village was radically transformed by the nuclear meltdown.

Thousands of workers wearing radiation protection suits, gas masks and dosimeters were dispatched every day to the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant from the sports centre, located just on the edge of the initial 20-kilometre (12-mile) no-go zone.

Sports fields were used as a heliport, a decontamination centre and temporary houses were set up for plant workers, while armoured vehicles and firefighters were stationed at its parking lots.

"It was so painful to see these buildings being put up on

the ground where we trained in our youth," said Ayako Masuda, a former goalkeeper with a women's football club run by the nuclear plant operator Tokyo Electric Power (TEPCO).

The J-Village's pitch was her team's home ground, said the 44-year-old, who stayed with

TEPCO as an employee after retiring from football.

'Difficult tasks' remain

The complex clean-up at the nuclear plant continues, but the J-Village's role as a staging centre diminished over time and it reopened fully as a sports cen-

tre in April.

On a Friday afternoon, schoolboys were kicking and heading a ball on the turf as part of a summer football camp, cheered from the sidelines by coaches and parents. "The pitch is beautiful. It's well worth playing here," said Ryuki Asai, a 12-year-old boy in his team's soccer uniform.

There are few signs of the role the J-Village once played, though a digital display showing radiation levels still operates outside the front gate. It registered 0.111 microsieverts per hour at the gate — barely different from 0.110 in central Japan's Gifu.

Emiko Takahashi was visiting with her son from Tokyo, and had checked the radiation levels posted on the J-Village website.

"Coming here with my son is a way of supporting Fukushima's reconstruction," Takahashi said.—AFP ■



Ayako Masuda, a former goalkeeper, said it was painful to see how Fukushima had changed after the nuclear meltdown. PHOTO: AFP

The Art of Thinking



By Htet Zaw Htoo (SUOE)
Senior Assistant Teacher
at B.E.H.S. Minemaw

ONE of my teachers said, “If reading a book is like growing a plant, thinking after reading is like weeding that plant to survive”. It means that a plant will never survive if it is not weeded though it is planted. Likewise, reading is no more effective without any thinking followed up. Therefore, thinking is of considerable importance in everything we do. In fact, every subject, successful inventions and also books come from a start of thinking. It is undeniable that scientists, mathematicians and writers, their inventions, laws and all principles from thinking first. The study of thinking is terminologically termed as ‘philosophy’.

The word ‘philosophy’ has a Greek origin. ‘Philosophia’ a Greek word consists of two words, i.e., ‘phileo’ meaning love and ‘sophia’ meaning wisdom. Therefore, the literal meaning of philosophy is ‘love of wisdom’. As Marcus Tullius Ciero (106-43 BC) said, Philosophy is the mother of all arts and the true medicine of mind. On the one hand, Samuel Taylor Coleridge said, “Philosophy is science of sciences”. Therefore, it can be said that philosophy is the root of all arts and sciences. In the past of the world history, people were fond of thinking. As a result, all of the inventions, principles, laws, poems, stories and books are all the results of thinking. Sir Isaac Newton also thought why the apple fell on the ground instead of picking up and eating it. Otherwise, he could create no law and principle. Similarly, authors both in our country and all over the world thought much and changed their thought into words. As a result, their contributions can be available to be read and studied around the world. Besides, our everyday activities need to be done through thinking first. Otherwise, it is impossible to know exactly whether it should be done or not. In addition, it should be followed up with thinking to know which one is strength and also which are weaknesses. It can also be termed as reflection. In order to get used to thinking, philosophy should be introduced both to the students and to all members of the society formally and informally. By and large, the philosophy of education employs the basic terms metaphysics, epistemology, axiology and logic. Metaphysics deals with the nature of reality. Epistemology deals with the nature of knowledge. Axiology deals with the nature of values and logic deals with the nature of reasoning.

In conclusion, thinking is a necessity for all human beings like such basic needs as food, clothes and shelter. It is important to think before and after doing something so as to be on the right track. Thinking guides us what we should do most and shouldn't too. Besides, thinking is the food for the soul. Without any thinking, the real essence cannot be grasped from reading books, stories, poems and listening songs too. Therefore, thinking is a kind of art every man must do in order to live wisely and meaningfully in life.



Bagan, Myanmar's Ancient Complex and the New Global Heritage!



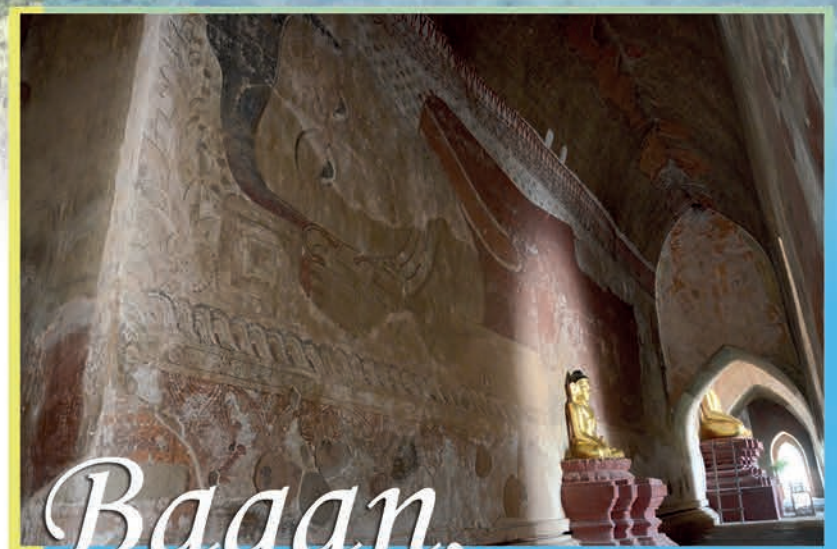
By Aung Kaung Sett Hein
3rd year medical student

IT is for sure a huge deal for us when just recently, Bagan, the phenomenal archeological symbol of Burma which houses thousands of breathtaking monuments, has finally been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, twenty-four years after being nominated. As we all know, this sacred landmark which is home to ancient dynasties lies in the central dusty plains of Burma (Myanmar) and stays populated as far as the eyes can behold with centuries-old temples, stupas, monasteries, scriptures, and sites of pilgrimage all featuring

Buddhist architecture. I have learned that this inscription finally came official after concrete measures had been taken to meet standard criteria established by experts to protect the structures of Bagan. But even since before this official status was achieved, Bagan has always been a place of fascination abroad, while being a national cherishment locally, and as a Burmese studying in the West, Bagan is one of the common things that I get asked or receive interesting remarks about with regards to Burma; this reinforces the fact that the golden land of Myanmar and Bagan cannot be dissociated from each other!

Thinking about or hearing “Bagan” always leaves with me this unique feeling of eternal joyousness and excitement, bringing me into a place of nostalgia, while captivating my soul to pay an instant visit that moment, no matter how many times I have been there; as the author Alexandra Stoddard said, “When you leave a beautiful place, you carry it wherever you go.” which is very much fitting of describing Bagan. Nowadays, there is even a proliferation of social media and technology driven awe-inspiring captures of Bagan, through Youtube blogs, drone footages, and under Instagram hashtags, but we all locals can agree on that nothing can ever beat a visit in person. Arguably the most beautiful sunset in the globe they say, the sky in a hot air balloon ride at sunrise on their checklist no matter how expensive it is – what else can this Myanmar’s crown jewel not offer for tourists?

Now after making it into UNESCO list, tourism in this city of deep historical profile is expected to bolster, along with a more positive boost on jobs and economy. With this designation of course comes responsibilities to raise standards for protection and safety Bagan really needs, in a way that regulations need to be established making sure tourists as well as locals do not endanger themselves and monuments. As locals, we have a personal responsibility to preserve the cultures and architects of Bagan, raising awareness about preventable man-made



Bagan, the world's heritage

Lo and behold!
How glorious the remains of Bagan fold
As the world's heritage, the UNESCO recognized
This is the great amazement our pride
Since her birth in eleven century
Myanmar has been glorious in history,
Bagan was famous for her heroes, the great warriors
Anawrahta and Kyansittha of the Eastern hemisphere
The Theravada Sasana enshrined
As if treated with magic stone, the golden land,
Lo and behold!
The historic buildings here and there retold
Bagan, the origin of Myanmar
How auspicious it is in splendor!

By UTA (YU)

actions. Bagan is an amazing living treasure of heritage considering the fact that it has endured challenges for more than a thousand years, including most recently an earthquake in 2016 that has damaged about its 400 monuments, most of which have now been restored.

Today, we celebrate Bagan's new and long-awaited World Heritage award, with a hope to see further ongoing efforts of its conservation and management, and an even higher surge in tourism numbers that value its cultural values, amid challenges that might lie ahead. For me, the magnificent Bagan is always synonymous with Buddhist legacy that goes back to centuries, and I firmly believe that we all can join hands in ensuring this unique treasured world-famous heritage does not perish, and remain for another thousand years or more!





Thabyu's smelting businesses maintain village tradition

By Nat Ye Hla

THABYU Village in Kawa Township has been popular for recycling waste aluminum into household utensils, such as frying pans and kettles, since the time of independence. But today the village manufactures new products, such as propellers for motorized boats, as residents continue operating traditional smelting businesses.

While shifting to new products ordered by customers, the businesses are moving onto the right path. Today, there are some 30 small and medium businesses in the village.

"Our business has grown since 10 years ago. My business produces from 150 to 600 sizes of traditional frying pans per day during the rainy season. But, when we get several orders in the summer, we have to struggle to meet the demand," said Ko Aung Myint Htay, who is operating his business with 20 skilled workers.

However, he has abandoned producing traditional kettles, since modern thermos flasks from neighboring countries entered Myanmar. "In the past, nearly the whole industry in this village produced tin kettles. But today, there are only two to three businesses which produce kettles," said Aung Myint Htay.

The impressive growth of his business can be attributed to securing orders for propellers for motorized boats, especially from the Ayeyawady Delta, Rakhine State and the southern coastal towns of Myanmar.

His factory produces 100 propellers for small boats per day, as well as 40 propellers for large boats.

The hand-made products from his business have to compete with propellers made in other countries.

"The quality of their products is better than ours, because they use machinery to produce them. To compete, I reduce the price of our products," he said.

To give jobs to about 20 skilled workers is not an easy task for him. He realizes that the more investment he can make, the higher the income for the workers.

"Transportation is another challenge for us. To send our products to Yangon is okay. But, to send to regions and states means we have to wait about two weeks to get back the costs for our products," he said.

Another business, located next door, is his aunt's Pyo Industry, which mainly produces frying pans.

The aunt, Daw Soe Soe Mar, 52, said she takes pride in providing

PHOTO: Phoe Khwar



jobs to 50 skilled workers, as her business produces about 750 small frying pans and 50 large frying pans per day.

"Before I founded this business about 23 years ago, I was also a worker. We have to make investments to stockpile our products in the rainy season because demand is very high in the summer," she said.

Traditional frying pans are used for cooking curry in large scales at charity events and fishermen use them for frying prawns. Big frying pans are also useful for making jiggery in central Myanmar, while small fry pans are still popular as cooking utensils at homes.

They remain optimistic about the growth of their businesses, as their main challenge will be eased when a bridge crossing the Bago River is completed by the government.

"When the bridge is completed, our villagers working in other areas will come back and work here because we will have better access to Yangon and other areas," said Maung Myint Htay.

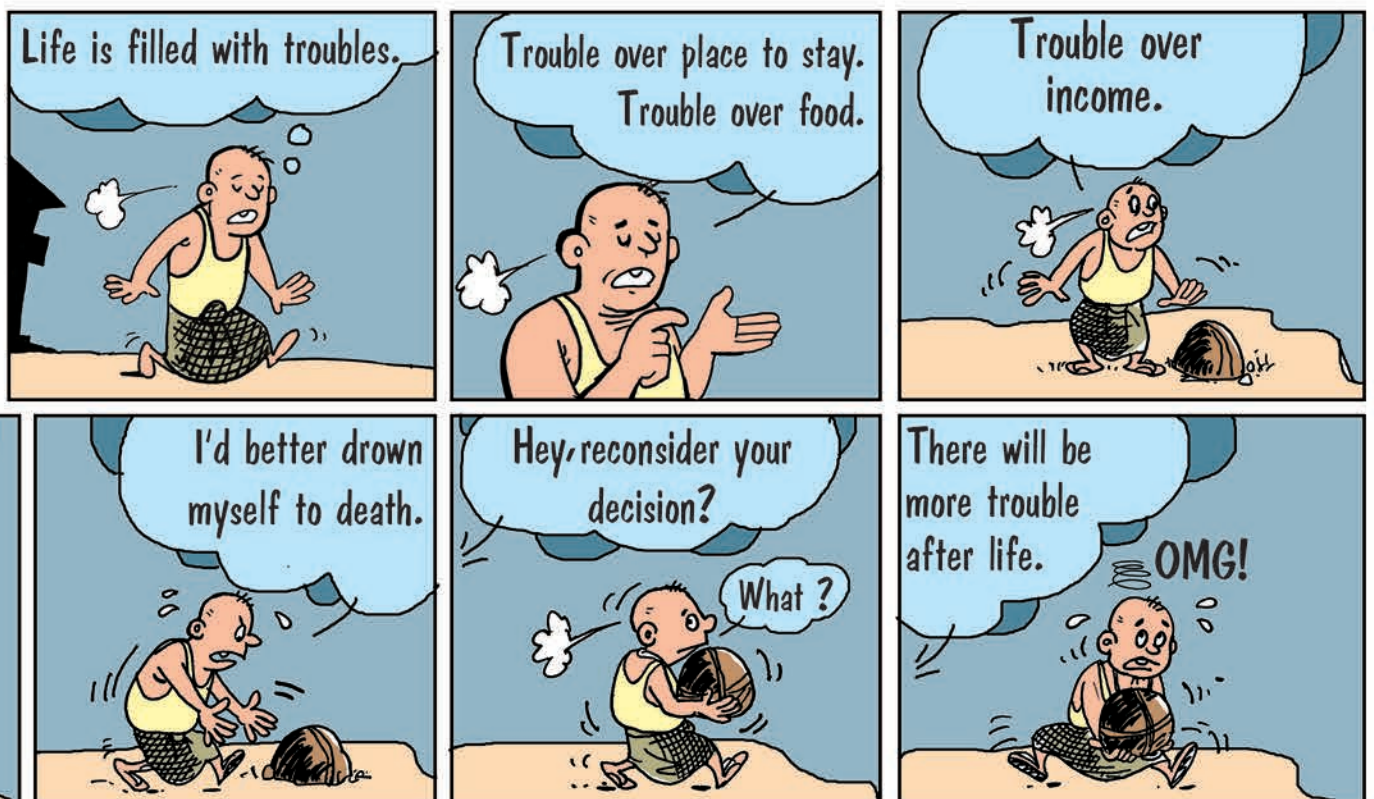
"With the completion of the bridge, the transportation costs for the village's products will decrease and road transportation will no longer be a headache," said Daw Soe Soe Mar.

SUNDAY COMICS



PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2019





Education is a life-long process



By Phyu Min
BA (English); Dip in ELTM;
Dip in English.

EVERYONE accepts that education plays a vital role in determining the quality of human resources. Education sector produces skilled manpower for the country's human resources. Obviously, it shoulders the nation's responsibility. A nation's progress is determined by its quality of education. From the surface meaning of education, it is generally concerned with teaching and learning usually at school, college and university. In fact, education has a wider meaning. It does not mean just learning the lessons at school. It is not limited only in the school compound. Hence, it is a life-long process.

The word 'educate' comes from the latin origin 'educio' which means 'to lead forth and to bring up a child'. So, its meaning includes all round perfection of a child. We acquire education at schools in order to change ourselves into thoughtful and mutual persons, duty-conscious and respectable people, gentlemen and good citizens.

Every developed country understands the importance of education and invests a lot in it. Looking around the world, we can make a

remark that only the countries made up of educated citizens have developed significantly. Poor countries have fewer educated people.

Education focuses not only on knowledge but also on wisdom, that is, realizing what is right and what is wrong. At a very young age, children start to learn about everything they see and hear. They learn about the environment, the nature, human beings and animals around them. They ask their parents, teachers and elders what they want to know more. This is the beginning of the education. Parents, grandfathers and elders tell them interesting stories based on moral lessons, for examples, Aesop's fables. It is a kind of education.

Education gives children not only facts and figures but ideas and thoughts as well. When they go to school, they are educated by teachers in a more systematic way because teachers are well trained educators. Some lessons are to be learnt by heart. Some are to be calculated. Some are to be recited. Some are to be rewritten down. Many people think that this is the boundary of education. In fact, education is more than that. The stu-

dents must be able to use what they learn in class practically in life when they leave school. The moral lessons in stories are not just to be recited, but to be practised in real life. The lessons in the textbooks are actually experimented and proved facts. They come from research and experiences of previous generations. They are to be used by next generation in their real lives. As human generations never end, educations will never end. It is a life-long process.

In conclusion, we need to build up a modern developed nation with educated young people. At the same time, we need to know that education is not just certificates, diplomas and degrees. Diplomas and degrees are not education. They are just milestones to show how far you have gone. The real purpose of education is to be used in practice, to serve the community, the society and all humanity. So long as human beings exist in the world, education will go on endlessly. In the same way, as the saying goes, no man is perfect. Therefore, everyone needs to learn throughout his life because education is a life-long process.





By Su Sandar
Yangon University
of Economics

Green inheritance

There was a living thing,
nature gives us for surviving.

He absorbs water by his legs,
gives us shade by his green hats.

He protects us from storm and flood,
gives us nutrition we need to have,
but response be got is only neglect.

He got easily destroyed in every part.
No one can bear his crying for help.

Heat and water cycle's controller.
He is also traveller.

Engines to run the world.
He is "Tree" we simply call.

He uses water, sun and CO₂ to synthesize,
distributes oxygen for us to breathe.

He is not absent for his duty,
keeps trying to fulfill his responsibility.

We must live with trees by interdependence.
It's time to save them as a green inheritance.



INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULE



YANGON TO BANGKOK					BANGKOK TO YANGON					YANGON TO KUALA LUMPUR					KUALA LUMPUR TO YANGON					YANGON TO SHANGHAI					SHANGHAI TO YANGON									
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE						
PG706	5:50	8:10	Daily		TG2303	7:55	8:50	Daily		AK505	8:25	12:40	Daily		AK504	6:45	7:55	Daily		MU2099	22:15	1:35+1	2,4,6		MU2100	2:35	8:50	3,5,7						
8M335	7:40	9:25	Daily		PG701	8:50	9:40	Daily		MH741	11:30	15:50	Daily		MH740	9:10	10:25	Daily		YANGON TO DHAKA					DHAKA TO YANGON									
UB-019	7:45	9:40	Daily		TG2301	9:35	10:30	3,4,5,7		OD551	12:25	16:45	1,4,7		OD550	10:15	11:30	1,4,7		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE						
TG2304	9:50	11:45	Daily		8M336	10:40	11:25	Daily		MH743	16:15	20:30	1,4,6,7		MH742	13:55	15:05	1,4,6,7		BG061	14:15	16:00	1,3,6		BG060	10:45	13:30	1,3,6						
PG702	10:30	12:30	Daily		UB020	11:00	11:55	1,3,5,6,7		OD553	23:55	4:20+1	2,3,5,6		OD552	21:45	22:55	2,3,5,6		YANGON TO DUBAI					DUBAI TO YANGON									
TG2302	11:30	13:25	3,4,5,7		PG707	13:45	14:45	Daily		YANGON TO SEOUL INCHEON					SEOUL INCHEON TO YANGON					YANGON TO DUBAI					DUBAI TO YANGON									
PG708	15:20	17:20	Daily		PG703	16:45	17:35	Daily		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE						
8M331	16:30	18:15	Daily		TG305	17:50	18:45	Daily		KE472	23:30	7:15	Daily		KE471	18:15	22:10	Daily		EK389	2:20	5:40	5,7		EK388	9:15	17:25	1,3,5,7						
UB-017	17:25	19:20	Daily		8M332	19:15	20:00	Daily		YANGON TO TAIPEI					TAIPEI TO YANGON					MANDALAY TO BANGKOK					BANGKOK TO MANDALAY									
PG704	18:20	20:20	Daily		PG705	20:40	22:00	Daily		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE						
TG306	19:45	21:40	Daily		UB018	20:20	21:15	Daily		C17916	10:45	16:20	1,2,3,4,6		C17915	7:00	9:50	1,2,3,4,6		PG710	14:05	16:30	Daily		PG709	11:55	13:20	Daily						
YANGON TO DON MUEANG					DON MUEANG TO YANGON					YANGON TO KUNMING					KUNMING TO YANGON					MANDALAY TO DON MUEANG					DON MUEANG TO MANDALAY									
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE						
DD4231	8:05	9:50	Daily		DD4230	6:20	7:05	Daily		CA416	12:15	15:45	Daily		MU2011	8:20	12:10	3,7		FD245	12:45	15:00	Daily		FD244	11:00	12:15	Daily						
FD252	8:30	10:15	Daily		FD251	7:15	8:00	Daily		MU2012	13:10	20:05	3		CA415	10:45	11:15	Daily		MANDALAY TO KUNMING					KUNMING TO MANDALAY									
SL201	9:25	11:15	Daily		FD253	16:10	17:00	Daily		MU2032	16:00	19:50	Daily		MU2031	14:30	15:10	Daily		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE						
FD254	17:30	19:15	Daily		FD257	18:05	18:55	Daily		YANGON TO BEIJING					BEIJING TO YANGON					MANDALAY TO DON MUEANG					DON MUEANG TO MANDALAY									
FD258	19:25	21:15	Daily		SL206	18:55	19:45	Daily		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE						
SL207	20:45	22:45	Daily		DD4238	19:30	20:15	Daily		CA906	23:50	5:50+1	1,3,5,7		CA905	19:30	22:50	1,3,5,7		MU2568	10:20	13:25	1,3,5,7		MU2030	16:10	19:25	Daily						
DD4239	21:00	22:45	Daily		YANGON TO GUANGZHOU					GUANGZHOU TO YANGON					YANGON TO HANOI					HANOI TO YANGON					MANDALAY TO KUNMING					KUNMING TO MANDALAY				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE						
8M711	8:40	13:15	2,4,5,7		CZ3055	8:30	10:20	3,6		VN956	15:25	17:55	Daily		VN957	00:00	17:55	Daily		MU2567	8:55	9:20	1,3,5,7		MU2029	14:55	15:10	Daily						
CZ3056	11:25	15:55	3,6		8M712	14:15	15:50	2,4,5,7		VJ918	18:55	21:20	Daily		VJ917	16:30	17:55	Daily		MU2028	14:55	15:10	Daily		NAY PYI TAW TO BANGKOK					BANGKOK TO NAY PYI TAW				
CZ8472	17:30	22:00	1,5		CZ8471	14:40	16:30	1,5		YANGON TO SINGAPORE					SINGAPORE TO YANGON					YANGON TO DOHA					DOHA TO YANGON									
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE						
UB001	7:30	12:00	Daily		SQ998	7:55	09:20	Daily		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		QR919	7:40	11:55	1,3,4,6,7		QR918	20:00	5:30	2,3,5,6,7						
8M231	8:20	12:50	Daily		3K581	8:55	10:25	1,2,5,6,7		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		YANGON TO CHIANG MAI					CHIANG MAI TO YANGON									
SQ997	10:35	15:10	Daily		UB002	13:15	14:45	Daily		VN942	13:00	14:25	1,3,4,5,7		VN943	9:30	11:05	1,3,4,5,7		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE						
3K582	11:15	15:50	1,3,4,5,7		8M232	13:50	15:20	Daily		YANGON TO TOKYO					TOKYO TO YANGON					AIR LINES CODES														
UB003	16:15	20:45	Daily		M1518	15:15	16:40	1,2,3,4		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		3K = Jet Star					MH = Malaysia Airlines									
M1519	17:35	22:10	1,2,3,4		SQ996	15:15	16:40	5,6,7		NH814	21:45	6:50+1	Daily		NH813	11:15	16:05	Daily		8M = Myanmar Airways International					MI = Silk Air									
SQ995	17:35	22:10	5,6,7		M1520	16:10	17:35	3,4		YANGON TO DOHA					DOHA TO YANGON					AI = Air India					MU = China Eastern Airlines									
M1521	18:30	22:55	3,4		3K583	16:55	18:35	1,3,4,5,7		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		AK = Air Asia					NH = All Nippon Airways									
3K584	19:15	23:50	1,2,5,6,7		UB004	21:45	23:15	Daily		QR919	7:40	11:55	1,3,4,6,7		QR918	20:00	5:30	2,3,5,6,7		BG = Biman Bangladesh Airlines					PG = Bangkok Airways									
YANGON TO HONG KONG					HONG KONG TO YANGON					YANGON TO CHIANG MAI					CHIANG MAI TO YANGON					CA = Air China					QR = Qatar Airways									
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		CI = China Airlines					SL = Thai Lion Air									
KA251	1:05	5:25	1,2,3,4,6,7		UB8028	13:05	14:50	3,5,7		PG724	13:10	15:05	Daily		PG723	10:40	12:35	Daily		CZ = China Southern					SQ = Singapore Airways									
UB8027	7:25	12:05	3,5,7		KA250	21:50	23:45	1,2,3,5,6,7		YANGON TO DOHA					DOHA TO YANGON					FD = Air Asia					TG = Thai Airways									
KA275	17:20	21:45	5		KA252	22:20	00:10+1	4		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		KE = Dragonair					TR = Tiger Airlines									
YANGON TO HONG KONG					HONG KONG TO YANGON					YANGON TO CHIANG MAI					CHIANG MAI TO YANGON					KA = Dragonair					UB = Myanmar National Airlines									
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		KE = Korea Airlines					VN = Vietnam Airlines									
KA251	1:05	5:25	1,2,3,4,6,7		UB8028	13:05	14:50	3,5,7		PG724	13:10	15:05	Daily		PG723	10:40	12:35	Daily																
UB8027	7:25	12:05	3,5,7		KA250	21:50	23:45	1,2,3,5,6,7		YANGON TO DOHA					DOHA TO YANGON																			
KA275	17:20	21:45	5		KA252	22:20	00:10+1	4		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE																
YANGON TO HONG KONG					HONG KONG TO YANGON					YANGON TO CHIANG MAI					CHIANG MAI TO YANGON																			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE																
KA251	1:05	5:25	1,2,3,4,6,7		UB8028	13:05	14:50	3,5,7		PG724	13:10	15:05	Daily		PG723	10:40	12:35	Daily																
UB8027	7:25	12:05	3,5,7		KA250	21:50	23:45	1,2,3,5,6,7		YANGON TO DOHA					DOHA TO YANGON																			
KA275	17:20	21:45	5		KA252	22:20	00:10+1	4		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE																
YANGON TO HONG KONG					HONG KONG TO YANGON					YANGON TO CHIANG MAI					CHIANG MAI TO YANGON																			
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE																
KA251	1:05	5:25	1,2,3,4,6,7		UB8028	13:05	14:50	3,5,7		PG724	13:10	15:05	Daily		PG723	10:40	12:35	Daily																
UB8027	7:25	12:05	3,5,7		KA250	21:50	23:45	1,2,3,5,6,7		YANGON TO DOHA					DOHA TO YANGON																			
KA275	17:20	21:45	5		KA252	22:20	00:10+1	4		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE																