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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Tuesday, 10 September 2019

## Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 13<sup>th</sup> regular session holds 22<sup>nd</sup>-day meeting



Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 13<sup>th</sup> regular session is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

**S**ECOND Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 13<sup>th</sup> regular session held its 22<sup>nd</sup>-day meeting at yesterday where US\$ 185 million loan from Asian Development Bank (ADB) was explained, Education Research, Planning and Training bill and Fiscal Year 2019-2020 National Planning bill approved, the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) report, CBM explanation and discussion of the Hluttaw put on record.

**US\$ 185 loan from ADB**

At the meeting \$185 million loan from Asian Development

Bank for Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation to implement public development projects sent by the President was explained by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw and Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win.

Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw explained that the aim of the project was for the public to participate in the regional development works raising their income and living standard while improving their ability to

A population of about 1.81 million residing in 2,942 villages of the 17 townships will benefit from the project.

face and counteract to natural disasters.

The project design was drawn up by experts from the

World Bank and Department of Rural Development after conducting preliminary surveys for a year in 2018. The project design costs \$ 244.95 million and the project period was planned to be conducted for seven years from 2019-2020 to 2025-2026.

The project area covers 17 townships; Haka, Falam, Tiddim and Thantlang in Chin State; Kalewa, Mawlaik, Mingin and Phaungpyin in Sagaing Region; Leshi, Lahe and Nanyun in Naga Self-Administered Zone; Thayetchaung,

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All villages in Yangon Region to be electrified by Dec, 2020

**T**O MEET its target of providing all villages access to electricity by December, 2020, the Yangon Region Government will spend K32.585 billion in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, K45.469 billion in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, and K31.5 billion in the 2020-2021 fiscal year on building power supply infrastructure.

The Yangon Region Power Supply Corporation announced at a press conference yesterday that it will install seven 33/11 KV sub-power stations, 210 transformers, 57.110 miles of long cable, 250.970 miles of long 11 KV line, and 247.130 miles of long 400 KV line in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

In the 2020-2021 fiscal year, 11 more sub-power stations, 403 transformers, and cable lines will be installed, said U Maung Maung Latt, the chairman of the corporation.

The Yangon Region Power Supply Corporation said it has built nine sub-power stations with 410 MVA installed capacity, five sub-power stations with 180 MVA installed capacity, 14 sub-power stations with 85 MVA installed capacity so far over the past three years to meet its target, said U Khin Maung Latt.

The corporation disclosed its plans to the media at the press conference at its office in Ahlon Township yesterday.—Min Thit (MNA) ■

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## Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 13<sup>th</sup> regular session holds 22<sup>nd</sup>-day meeting

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Yebyu and Launglon in Taninthayi Region and Bogale, Pyapon and Labutta in Ayeyawady Region, said the Deputy Minister.

The proposed project's loan period was 32 years with 8 years grace period and interest during grace period is only 1 per cent. In the remaining 24 years the interest would be 1.5 per cent. Loan repayment and interest will be drawn up in the yearly budget and will be repaid with the approval of Union Government and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The project will support the country's agriculture development policies and works. By conducting the project benefits such as infrastructure development in natural disaster prone villages, development in livelihood works and incomes of poor families and increasing the capacity of government organizations and rural people in responding and countering to natural disasters will be achieved. A population of about 1.81 million residing in 2,942 villages of the 17 townships will benefit from the project. A total of 1,395 local youths will be appointed as chief public organizers creating job opportunities as well. It was for these reasons that the US\$ 185 million ADB loan was proposed, explained the Deputy Minister.

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win explained that the project was in accordance



Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win. **PHOTO: MNA**



Deputy Governor of CBM U Soe Min. **PHOTO: MNA**



Joint Bill Committee member U Nay Myo Tun. **PHOTO: MNA**

to Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Union Budget Law, Public Debt Management Law, 2018 Mid-term debt management strategy and policy on development aid. Furthermore it was also found to be in line with Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (2018-2030) strategy 3.1 and strategy 3.6.

From the view point of planning and finance, development of the country's GDP was to be supported by raising the income and living standards of rural families through people's participation in regional development works as the project aims.

Only then can the work processes of rural development and poverty reduction implemented by the country be successful and also implement United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore it was important for project funds to be used effectively for the real development and progress of local people's

socio economic lives. Project implementers need to use the minimum on consultant fees, administrative and management costs, office expenses, meeting and training expenses.

The loan was made not with the sole purpose of achieving economic benefits alone but as a development loan type that develop the country's economy. The loan repayment was to be made long term from income of the country. Development in GDP is increasing the country's income and the loan repayment capability will be improved. Project works must be conducted to support GDP growth of the country and project progress need to be reported regularly. In conclusion the Deputy Minister requested the Hluttaw to discuss and approve the loan.

Following the explanation by the Deputy Ministers, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced for Hluttaw representatives who

want to discuss the matter to register their names.

### Hluttaw approves Education Research, Planning and Training Bill

Next Joint Bill Committee member U Nay Myo Tun submitted and proposed by clauses of the Education Research, Planning and Training Bill in which the two Hluttaws were in disagreement and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker obtained the consensus of the Hluttaw and approved it.

### CBM Report, explanation of CBM and discussion of Hluttaw representatives put on record

Afterwards Central Bank of Myanmar's Deputy Governor U Soe Min provided additional explanation on Central Bank of Myanmar Financial Policy Implementation Report and Financial Stability Report for Fiscal Years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

Following the explanation by CBM Deputy Governor, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw putting on record the CBM Report, explanation of CBM and the discussion of the Hluttaw representatives.

### Hluttaw approves Fiscal Year 2019-2020 National Planning Bill

Joint Bill Committee member U Zaw Win then proposed by clauses of the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 National Planning Bill and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker approve it after obtaining the consensus of relevant union level organizations.

Amendments to the bill was explained and proposed by Joint Bill Committee member U Zaw Win and U Than Soe (a) Than Soe (Economic) of Yangon Region constituency 4 explained the clauses to be amended. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker then obtained the decision of the Hluttaw and approved it.

Finally Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win tabled a motion for the entire bill to be approved as discussed. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's approval of the entire bill as discussed after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw.

The 23<sup>rd</sup>-day meeting of Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 13<sup>th</sup> regular session will be convened on 12 September. — Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Meeting 33/2019 of the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution held in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Joint Committee on Amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 33/2019

MEETING 33/2019 of the Joint Committee on Amending the the 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Committee Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein,

Deputy Chairman of the Joint Committee Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Joint Committee Secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe and members who were Hluttaw representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)



## Senior General attends 18<sup>th</sup> inter-military arts and magic competition prize awarding ceremony

A PRIZE-AWARDING ceremony of the 18<sup>th</sup> inter-military performing arts, dramatic performance, play and magic show contests organized by the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) was held at the Sinphyushin hall in the Transit Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the ceremony and presented the trophy.

Winners of group prizes for magic, modern music and group Myanmar music were presented with prizes by Psychological Warfare and Public Relations committee Chairman Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Myo Zaw Thein. Winners of group prizes for Myanmar traditional palace dance, Myanmar

traditional select dance, traditional ethnic dance were presented with prizes by Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Mya Tun Oo. Winners of group dance prize and group play prize were presented with prizes by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win.

Next, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presented the 18<sup>th</sup> inter-military performing arts, dramatic performance, play and magic show contest trophy to the No 2 Mobile Public Relations Company. Afterwards Tatmadaw personnel who had competed in the competitions performed songs and dances.

The Senior General then presented cash prizes to competitors and judges, discussed and gave



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents trophy to the winners of 18<sup>th</sup> inter-military performing arts contest at the prize awarding ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES.

necessary comments regarding the competition and performance.

Later in the afternoon the second part of the prize awarding ceremony was held where prizes were handed out to the winners by

Public Relations and Psychological Warfare Directorate Director Maj-Gen Tun Tun Nyi, Deputy Director Col Ye Yint Aung, advisers, judges and officials.

A total of 312 Tatmadaw per-

sonnel participated in 35 types of competitions according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

## MNHRC requests Thai human rights commission to aid Myanmar migrant workers facing death sentence

MYANMAR National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) Chairman U Win Mra sent a letter to the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT) requesting them to use their good offices to enable the two Myanmar migrant workers Win Zaw Tun and Zaw Lin to enjoy their right to life.

The two men were sentenced to death for the murder of two British citizens in Koh Tao Island and lost their final appeal on 29 August 2019.

MNHRC requested by two letters on October 2014 and

December 2015 that the two men were given a fair trial, protected from torture, ensure no delays in the judicial process, allowed to meet with family members, and given no discrimination before the law.

The letter expressed MNHRC's high appreciation of NHRCT's utmost cooperation and requested support from a humanitarian perspective for the right to life of the two migrant workers who have failed their final appeal. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye receives Canadian Ambassador

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye and Ambassador of Canada to Myanmar Ms Karen Mac Arthur discussed yesterday afternoon providing humanitarian assistance and repatriation programmes for

displaced persons.

During the call at the ministry, they also held talks on bilateral cooperation in human resource development, early childhood development programmes, child rights, social protection plans, pos-

sible measures on closure of IDP camps across the country, preparations for drafting a national policy and future cooperation between the two countries.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye holds talks with Ambassador of Canada to Myanmar Ms Karen Mac Arthur in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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## Regional Informational Workshop on Deep Seabed Resources, Blue Economy for ASEAN & BIMSTEC Countries held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Regional Informational Workshop on Deep Seabed Resources and the Blue Economy for ASEAN and BIMSTEC countries was held at Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Myanmar is the first nation in ASEAN and BIMSTEC countries to host this workshop in cooperation with the International Seabed Authority, and it was supported by the Korea Maritime Institute. Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and Secretary General of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) Mr Michael Lodge delivered the opening remarks at the ceremony. The main objectives of the workshop are to increase the knowledge amongst ASEAN and BIMSTEC members on the mandate and responsibilities of International Seabed Authority as well as the obligations of sponsoring States and contractors in undertaking activities in the Area; to understand the potential development



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin delivers the opening speech at the Regional Informational Workshop on Deep Seabed Resources and the Blue Economy for ASEAN & BIMSTEC countries in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

PHOTO: MNA

opportunities arising to ASEAN and BIMSTEC members from increased participation in activities undertaken in the Area; and to enable conditions for capacity-building opportuni-

ties for ASEAN and BIMSTEC members.

On the first day of the workshop, Daw Hla Myo Nwe, member of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, chaired session

one titled 'The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and 1994 Agreement'.

Mr Michael Lodge led session two titled 'Other institutions operating or created under

the framework of the Convention and South Asia and South East Asia'.

Dr Thura Oo, Rector of Monywa University, took a leading role for the session three titled 'Increased regional international cooperation in support of the sustainable development of ASEAN and BIMSTEC members' Blue Economy'.

The workshop was attended by the senior government officials from the concerned ministries, representatives from the ASEAN and BIMSTEC countries, private sector, scholars as well as experts and resource persons from the International Seabed Authority (ISA), commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) and Korea Maritime Institute (KMI).

The second day of the workshop will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> September. —MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Deep sea science is very challenging and very expensive for the developing countries. But the human potential is very enormous.

The Regional Informational Workshop on Deep Seabed Resources and the Blue Economy for ASEAN and BIMSTEC countries was held at Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. The following is the excerpt from interview with Secretary General of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) Mr Michael Lodge who took part in the workshop.

**Q: Could you explain the objective of this workshop?**

**Ans:** We have a hundred and sixty-eight member countries, including Myanmar. We are pleased to be here this week. This is the first time this organization has taken a long way to Myanmar to hold a very important seminar involving Myanmar and other countries from ASEAN and BIMSTEC. Most of the countries in the two blocs are the member countries of ISA. The seminar will discuss ways how Myanmar and the neighbouring countries work together for the development of the Blue Economy. This means an ocean based economic model for the sustainable use of ocean resources, including oil, natural gas and metals for economic growth.

**Q: How can the ISA help Myanmar in doing seabed research development?**

**Ans:** The ISA is very much involved in promotion in deep

sea scientific research. We need to learn more about this research. Only then, we will understand more about deep sea, marine biodiversity, the nature of natural resources and the values of these resources, and how we can use its sustainability to know how we can conserve the marine biodiversity. It is very important for us.

**Q: As Myanmar possesses a long coastline, how would you suggest the country to do more about deep sea scientific research and other related activities?**

**Ans:** Yes. Myanmar has a very long coastline. The country has controlled about 200 nautical miles. It is the national responsibility of Myanmar. Our responsibility is to manage the international water beyond 200 miles. It is very important tasks of international cooperation. We will try to encourage international cooperation, and will find the ways how to col-



Secretary General of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) Mr Michael Lodge.

PHOTO: MICHAEL HTAN

lectively we can all manage the deep sea in the international jurisdictions.

**Q: This is very first host country for this workshop. Is there any plan to conduct training and seminars for the country?**

**Ans:** We are doing a lot of

training programmes globally. We are a global organization. All member countries under this programme are eligible for training programme. I know that nationals from Myanmar, as well as nationals from ASEAN countries will be benefited from the trainings. But we have to do much more. I am very interested in the next two days during this workshop to listen to the Myanmar and neighbouring to understand what specific needs in terms of capacity-building and training. And then we could work with the countries to design appropriate programmes to mobilize resources so that we can do more in the future. Definitely, this is just beginning. This will be helpful to come up for Myanmar and neighbouring countries to do more and more in the long run.

**Q: What kind of benefits are expected from the workshop?**

**Ans:** I think the countries

in this region have a lot of potentials. Of course, the region is very much pragmatic approach to international cooperation through the law of deep sea. This is a good step in this point. The region has strong interest in the ocean. It has a lot of potential in living resources and non-living resources. The region also has tremendous potentials in terms of human resources. A lot of works are taking place in universities and training institutes. So, we would like to do is to understand how we can help and how we can do in the future. Deep sea science is very challenging and very expensive for the developing countries. But the human potential is very enormous. So what we need to do is to link human potentials with resources available from more developed countries. And, we will try to find ways for Myanmar and other neighbouring countries to participate much more in this sector. — Aung Zaw Lin, Kyaw Htike Soe ■



# Myanmar hosts 46<sup>th</sup> session of Panel on Tropical Cyclones

THE 46<sup>th</sup> session of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones began in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

It was launched with the extended greeting of Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung and the opening remarks of Director-General of India Meteorological Department Ms Sunitha Devi Santhamma, Chief of Disaster Risk Reduction at UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Dr Sanjay K Srivastava and Representative of World Meteorological Organization Dr Taoyong Peng.

The main objective of the five-day panel is to discuss dissemination of technical information on research and forecasting of tropical cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea among the member countries of Myanmar, Oman, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,

Thailand and Yemen.

The panel also aims at mitigating the socio-economic impact of tropical cyclone related disasters and will discuss measures to improve early warning systems in countries affected by tropical cyclones.

Representatives of the panel will discuss meteorological and hydrological disasters which occurred between September 2018 and August 2019, preparedness measures on natural disasters, capacity-building courses and research activities.

The panel will approve the new suggested names of member countries on cyclones in Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea, and discuss the contribution of funds in the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) Panel on Tropical Cyclone Trust Fund (PTCTF).



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung delivers the opening speech at the 46<sup>th</sup> session of the Panel on Tropical Cyclones for Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

The opening ceremony of the panel was also attended by Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Thar Oo, Permanent

Secretaries, experts from WMO and UNESCAP, technicians from Chinese Meteorological Administration and Japanese International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM) and the experts and

officials from the panel countries. Myanmar hosted the 39<sup>th</sup> session of this panel in the same capital city from 5 to 9 March 2012. —MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Increasing support in monitoring, preventing and responding to seasonal influenza

THE Ministry of Health and Sports maintains close cooperation with World Health Organization and regional and partner organizations, in accordance with International Health Regulations 2005, to continuously monitor, prevent and effectively respond to communicable diseases and those with fast spread rates while also conducting communicable disease surveillance.

The seasonal influenza occurs in Myanmar, its neighbors and around the world with Seasonal Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus strain spreading across Myanmar this year. The virus does not exhibit signs for potential of an epidemic nor is it a new strain. It has already been analyzed by the WHO laboratory in Japan.

Seasonal influenza status around the world from 1 January to 9 September 2019

Sr	Country	Est. population	Influenza A (H1N1) pdm09	Influenza A (H3N2)	Influenza B	Total
1	China	1434	48779	21252	26375	96406
2	India	1366	6008	2483	589	9080
3	Australia	25	584	4393	1102	6079
4	Japan	126	1698	3857	504	6059
5	Qatar	2	201	313	1402	1916
6	Bangladesh	163	352	554	769	1675
7	Nepal	29	1105	77	381	1563
8	Thailand	70	163	289	720	1172
9	Iran	83	55	1063	26	1144
10	Myanmar	54	553	54	91	698
11	Pakistan	204	263	99	216	578
12	Malaysia	32	128	84	338	550
13	Bhutan	1	306	78	137	521
14	Singapore	5	118	88	261	467
15	Cambodia	17	152	226	81	459

Source: Flunet, WHO

Review of seasonal influenza cases in Myanmar from 1 January to 9 September 2019  
(B-1) Virus scanning and infection

Suspected seasonal influenza patients scanned in laboratories	Confirmed cases of seasonal influenza			Total
	Influenza A (H1N1) pdm09	Influenza A (H3N2)	Influenza B	
1632	553	54	91	698

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## RMD, Yooshin Cooperation sign contract for GMS highway project



Director-General U Ohn Lwin and President of Yooshin Engineering Cooperation Mr Jong Hun Kim exchange notes of the contract witnessed by Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

MINISTRY of Construction's Road Management Department (RMD) and Yooshin Engineering Cooperation signed a contract for Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) Highway Modernization Project (HMP) at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The project was funded by Asian Development Bank.

At the signing ceremony, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw

and President of the Yooshin Engineering Cooperation Mr Jong Hun Kim gave opening remarks.

Afterwards, Director-General of the Road Management Department U Ohn Lwin and President of Yooshin Engineering Cooperation Mr Jong Hun Kim signed the contract in the presence of the Union Minister. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



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

**Spectators throng to see traditional boat-rowing race in Meiktila**

A MYANMAR traditional boat-rowing competition was flagged off at 10 am on 9 September in Meiktila Town as part of the 136<sup>th</sup> Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda Buddha Pujaniya Festival, and attracted huge crowds from nearby towns and villages and visitors from across the country.

District Administrator U Thet Lwin explained the objective behind celebrating the event. Afterwards, regional Hluttaw representative U Aung Kyaw Moe, U Thet Lwin, and U Soe Naing Htwe, the Deputy Chairman of the Phaung Daw Oo pagoda trustee group, opened the ceremony by cutting the ceremonial ribbons. The competition will be held till 14 September, and will feature two types of races — senior and junior boat races. Six teams will compete in the senior boat row-



Traditional boat races being held at Meiktila's Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda Festival on 9 September.

**PHOTO: CHAN THAR (MEIKTILA)**

ing contest and 22 teams will participate in the junior boat race. Fourteen races will be held every day as part of the competition, with each team competing in three rounds per race. Teams

winning two rounds in a race would be declared winners.

The Phaung Daw Oo pagoda festival in Meiktila Town has been thronged with spectators since the first day of the compe-

tion. The final round of the boat race will take place at the end of the festival, and officials will award prizes to winning teams.

—Chan Thar (Meiktila)

*(Translated by La Wonn)***Ten historic buildings in Yangon to be converted into tourist attractions**

THE authorities will select 10 historic buildings in Yangon to transform them into tourist spots. The decision was taken at a recent meeting of Yangon's Regional Tourism Committee.

Currently, there are 200 buildings which are of architectural value in Yangon. The committee will select 10 buildings and develop them into tourist attractions.

"Bagan has been listed by the UNESCO. So, many more tourists are visiting Bagan these days. There are a few pagodas in

Yangon Region, like Shwedagon and Botahtuang. But, there are many historic buildings in the region, comparable to those in the Southeast Asian region. Our committee plans to designate the ten best sites, in cooperation with the Yangon Heritage Trust. Those 10 buildings will become the symbols of Yangon Region, where tourists can pose for photos," said an official from the committee.

Tourists usually get photos taken at famous spots and in front of beautiful buildings, and

upload them on social media for families and friends to see. Thus, the government has to spend little on tourism promotion.

The Yangon Directorate Hotels and Tourism has reported that over 743,000 travellers visited Yangon in the seven months to July, which is an increase of 100,000 compared to the year-ago period. Currently, there are about 430 hotels and motels operating in the Yangon Region, according to government data.

—Aye Cho

*(Translated by Hay Mar)*Secretariat Building is one of the historic buildings in downtown Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR****Tourist information centre to be opened in Sagaing Region**

A TOURIST information centre will be opened in Sagaing Region to provide information to travellers, said an official from the Township Municipal Committee.

Sagaing Region has been implementing six travelling zones for the development of tourism in Sagaing, Monywa, Shwebo, Kani, Kalay, and Mawlaik townships.

The tourist information centre will provide information on historical sites, pagodas, local businesses, and significant places, which local travellers and tourists can visit in the tourist zones.

The tourist zones are being implemented for the development of the tourism sector. The one-storey information centre building will be built in September or by October near the Sagaing Region entrance gate at a cost of K60 million.

To promote the tourism sector in Sagaing Region, the regional authorities are upgrading places of tourist interest such as the fortress and Tilawaguru cave, and they are also getting travel signposts erected. The authorities are also upgrading roads to provide better transportation. —Aye Cho



## Sesame cultivated under GAP fetching good price in Aunglan Township

THE PRICE of sesame cultivated under Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) is currently K10,000 higher per bag (45 viss) on account of strong demand from Japan and China, allowing growers to earn a healthy profit.

According to traders, regular sesame seeds are priced at K260,000 per bag, while sesame produced under GAP is fetching K272,000 per bag at present.

“Over 59,800 acres of monsoon sesame was cultivated this year, with over 4,855 acres of farms in 26 villages in Aunglan Township growing sesame using Good Agricultural Practices. One acre can yield 12 baskets of sesame (Samone variety),” according to the township’s Agriculture Department.

To meet GAP standards, the Agriculture Department has joined hands with Japanese agriculturists for survey and research. Awareness-raising campaigns have also helped reap fruitful results.



Sesame seeds drying in the sun during the harvest in Aunglan Township. PHOTO: THEIN LWIN

“A growth in the sesame seed acreage combined with GAP has helped increase exports. Farmers who used GAP in farming have reaped benefits,” said exporters.

Myanmar exported 90,000 tons of various sesame seeds, worth US\$147 million, between

1 October, 2018 and 12 July, 2019, according to the Ministry of Commerce. Myanmar shipped the sesame seeds to markets in the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece, and Poland among the EU countries. The EU markets prefer organically farmed sesa-

me seeds from Myanmar, said an official from the Trade Promotion Department.

Japan prefers Myanmar’s black sesame seeds, cultivated under GAP, and purchases them after a quality assessment. Black sesame seeds from Myanmar are

also exported to South Korea and Japan. Meanwhile, China purchases various coloured sesame seeds from the country.

Sesame is cultivated throughout the year in the country. Magway Region, which is gaining a reputation as the oil pot of Myanmar, is the main producer of sesame seeds, and it was also the first region to adopt the GAP system for sesame farming.

The area under sesame cultivation is also growing in Mandalay and Sagaing regions. Of the edible oil crops grown in Myanmar, the acreage under sesame is the highest, accounting for 51.3 per cent of the overall oil crop plantation.

The volume of sesame exports was registered at over 96,000 tons, worth \$130 million, in the 2015-2016 fiscal year; \$100,000 tons, worth \$145 million, in the 2016-2017FY; and, 120,000 tons, worth \$147 million, in the 2017-2018 FY.—Thein Lwin/Ko Khant (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Local rubber growers struggling with low prices

MYANMAR’S rubber growers are still struggling with low prices as the country’s rubber is substandard owing to weak harvesting techniques and an un-systematic latex tapping method, according to rubber associations.

At present, rubber prices are ranging from US\$1,500 to \$1,700 per ton, depending on the rubber variety (Ribbed Smoked Sheets 1,2,3, 4, and 5).

In 2017, the price had fallen drastically, forcing some rubber farm owners to shut down businesses without tapping latex as they could not cover labour wages. Seventy per cent of rubber produced in Myanmar goes to

China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, South Korea, India, Japan, and other countries.

Rubber prices can vary depending on the dollar price, global crude oil price, and the global political climate.

As Myanmar’s rubber is substandard, there is a price gap between global and local rubber prices, according to rubber associations. In addition, dollar exchange rate fluctuation in the local currency market has also been responsible for the instability in the price of local rubber.

All the stakeholders in the rubber supply chain are making

concerted efforts to produce profitable quality rubber. At present, the rubber law is still being drafted. The government and rubber associations are planning to set up a rubber central market after the rubber law comes into effect.

Myanmar rubber is primarily produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions. There are 1.63 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, and rubber latex can be produced on over 700,000 acres of plantations. About 150,000 tons of rubber was exported in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.—Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Sagaing Region Investment Committee endorses 30 projects as of end August



Sagaing Region Investment Commission (SRIC) meeting (7/2019) is convened in Monywa. PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)

THE SAGAING Region Investment Committee (SRIC) has endorsed 29 domestic proposals, with an estimated capital of US\$4 million and K34 trillion, and a \$1-million foreign project as of end August.

The enterprises will be engaged in water parks and gardens; crop drying, categorizing, and rice milling and processing activities; manufacturing and marketing of concrete pillars; manufacturing of motorcycle parts and accessories; manufacturing of special bamboo furniture; hotel services; packing and wrapping equipment suppliers; and private schools.

Under the Myanmar Investment Law, the region and state Investment Committees are allowed to grant permissions to local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not ex-

ceed K6 billion, or \$5 million. This is aimed at simplifying the verification of investment projects.

Some projects no longer need the Myanmar Investment Commission’s approval, while some businesses that are strategic to the government require MIC permits. Also, those businesses that have large capital investments exceeding \$5 million and could have a possible impact on the environment and the local community need to be passed by the DICA proposal assessment team. Having introduced a fast-track way to set up a business in Myanmar, investors can apply to the MIC or the state and regional investment committees for an endorsement of an investment proposal, depending on the business type.—Myo Win Tun(Monywa) (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Maritime trade falls in Oct-Aug

THE VALUE of Myanmar’s maritime trade in the period from 1 October to 30 August in the current fiscal year totalled US\$22.64 billion, a decline of over \$1.39 billion compared with the corresponding period of the previous FY, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

In the October-August period, maritime exports were valued at \$8.86 billion, while imports were registered at \$13.77 billion. Compared to the year-ago period, imports were lower by \$1.15 billion, while exports registered

a drop of \$240.6 million.

In the past eleven months, the value of trade through the border gates has been estimated at \$9.37 billion, an increase of \$1.23 billion amid tight confiscation of illegal untaxed goods and trade suspension by Myanmar’s main trade partner, China, coupled with the closure of the Mandalay-Muse Road, a major trading route.

During the period, the country’s total external trade has topped \$32.02 billion, which is lower than the \$32.18 billion

recorded in the year-ago period.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other products, while it imports capital goods, consumer goods, and raw industrial materials. The country currently has nine ports involved in sea trade. The Yangon Port is the main gateway for Myanmar’s maritime trade, and includes the Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port.—Mon Mon (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



# Beware of all forms of influenza

THE seasonal influenza and dengue fever this year has claimed more lives than in the past in Myanmar. The health department announced that 109 people from all over the nation had passed away due to the seasonal influenza as of 6 September and 68 have passed away from dengue fever as of 10 August.

While these communicable diseases spread every year and are not uncommon, the extreme weather this rainy season has contributed to their ability to spread quickly over a wider area. This of course took the death rate higher as well as only 38 people passed away from among the 406 patients who contracted the seasonal influenza in 2017 while 109 have passed away from the 672 patients this year. The numbers have tripled.

This year, 13,048 people contracted dengue fever between January to 10 August and 68 people have died. Dengue fever usually spreads until September so we must take precautions to ensure it doesn't spread any further.

Dengue fever also spreads the most in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions. It is carried by mosquitoes and is on the rise all over the world. Last year, 23,000 people contracted dengue fever and 112 of them died from the disease. This year, 13,048 people contracted dengue fever between January to 10 August and 68 people have died. Dengue fever usually spreads until September so we must take precautions to ensure it doesn't spread any further.

Everybody must take precautions against the communicable seasonal influenza and maintain a lifestyle that promotes healthy living while those in authority must carry out their tasks to prevent the diseases from spreading and claiming lives.

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Everybody must take precautions against the communicable seasonal influenza and maintain a lifestyle that promotes healthy living while those in authority must carry out their tasks to prevent the diseases from spreading and claiming lives.

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# The Benefits of Reading

By Ma Ma Moe ( Hmawby)

THOUGH the moon shines at night in the sky, there will be a great difference between a man with bright eyes and a blind man. The blind man could not enjoy the beauty of the moon and its light; he will have to walk in total darkness in a fumbling manner. Men with bright eyes could enjoy the beauty of the moon and know how to use the light. By seeing the light, they could walk on the right path. In the same way, one could enjoy reading literature for the improvement of his intelligence and benefits of literature.

While going through difficult times in life, he becomes to analyze what is good or bad, right or wrong; by distinguishing the cause and effect, one could go across in life without finding serious obstacles in his path. Education has nothing to do with age, but it is related to one's desires to pursue his education. Some world-famous personalities didn't have a chance of pursuing their education in their young days. But their eager desires pushed them to study persistently to bring them back to become world-famous.



For instance, U Kyipwe alias Shindithamauk was illiterate in his young days, but because of his relentless study, he became a literary figure in history. That is why we should keep on studying literature so that benefits of literature could be used effectively. Reading could show some parts of one's life and open the window of intelligence and knowledge so that one could

business on a way to success. Reading plays an important role not only in economic fields but also in social ones; a literate person is prominent wherever he goes. The saying 'Prominent education play an important role on all occasions' means an extraordinary ability in terms of intelligence and knowledge. Nowadays, there are many ways of reading; but majority of the

people read and write less and less. It is sad the standard of living in the country still remains lower if countries and their people are compared. That is why majority of the learned men repeatedly recommend to develop a habit of reading.

The developments in a country, its people, and religion are directly related with literature; the poorer the standard of literature and reading, the narrower is the outlook of the people.

The developments in a country, its people, and religion are directly related with literature; the poorer the standard of literature and reading, the narrower is the outlook of the people. So the windows of literature must be open from all sides. Because of that action, the benefits of literature will create human resources for the better benefits of our country. Reading is able to give a nutritional value to one's mind, having a great advantage of literature. Being in a loss and

depression, the benefits of literature are enormous; literature still encourages you for the better. While in troubles, knowledge of analysis will overcome difficulties easily. That is why reading creates intelligence and possess a treasure trove;

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The developments in a country, its people, and religion are directly related with literature; the poorer the standard of literature and reading, the narrower is the outlook of the people. So the windows of literature must be open from all sides. Because of that action, the benefits of literature will create human resources for the better benefits of our country. Reading is able to give a nutritional value to one's mind, having a great advantage of literature. Being in a loss and

## Bago River Crossing Bridge No 3 to bring economic prospects

By Than Htike

BORED piling and preparatory works for construction of Bago River Crossing Bridge No. 3, which will be a major development for Thilawa Special Economic Zone and will bring the region's long-term economic prospects, began recently by Japan and Myanmar engineers.

The new bridge is being built next to the existing Thanlyin bridge, connecting Thakayta and Thanlyin townships. With four lanes in total (two lanes each way), it will be a steel cable-stayed, PC box girder and steel box girder bridge.

The pre-engineering works started on 13 May, and the bridge takes shape today. The bridge would 3,500 metre long and can withstand 75 tons of load.

The bridge is targeted to be completed at the end of 2022. In building the bridge, Japanese engineers are taking construction duty while Myanmar engineers are taking supervisory and exchange of construction technology.

"Despite heavy rain, we have no difficulties for the construction. The bridge would ease the traffic congestion on the road to the Thilawa SEZ and would smooth transportation of good from Bago Industrial Zone to Thilawa SEZ. Being the four-lane bridge, the bridge would improve the logistic network from the Thilawa SEZ to Bago, Mawlamyine and Mandalay," said U Kyaw Lin, Director-General of the Bridge Department of the Ministry of Construction.

The infrastructure would also promote the foreign direct investment for the Thilawa SEZ and eco-

economic development of Myanmar.

A new Bago River Bridge is constructed under the Loan Scheme of the Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA).

The Loan Agreement, with the total amount of Japanese Yen 31,051 million, was signed on 1 March 2017. The scopes of work of the Project include construction of the main and approach bridge, fly over bridge and consulting services.

Upon completion, the bridge would satisfy increasing traffic demand between Yangon and Thanlyin, especially the Thilawa SEZ, facilitate smooth traffic and logistic network.

Besides, job opportunities for the people in Thanlyin and Thakayta townships will emerge with the completion of the new bridge.

(Translated by TTN)



Bored piling machine in operation at the construction site of the new bridge linking Thanlyin and Thakayta. PHOTO: THAN SOE

## President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures acting on tip-offs

THE Office of the President issued Press Release No 34/2019 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 7 September.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 7 September.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 11 September issue of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*. — GNLM

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Participation ဒီမိုကရေစီရင်သန်ဖို့ ပူးပေါင်းဆောင်ရွက်ကြပါစို့  
An illustration of a map of Myanmar with a group of people below it.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Monday 9th September, 2019)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 10th September, 2019:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Northern Shan State, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavyfalls in Nay Pyi Taw and Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (8-10) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

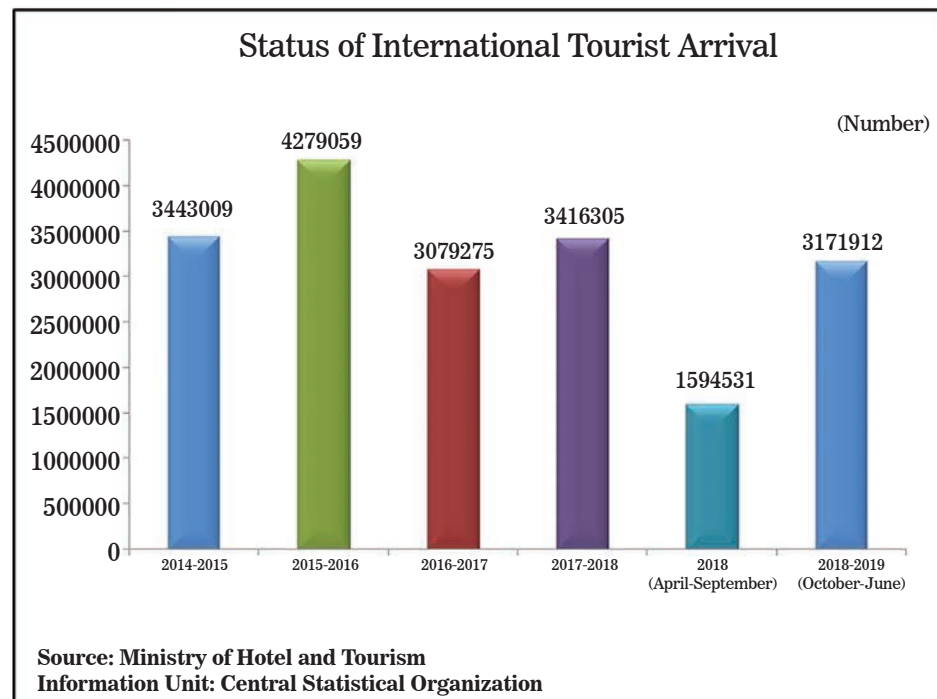
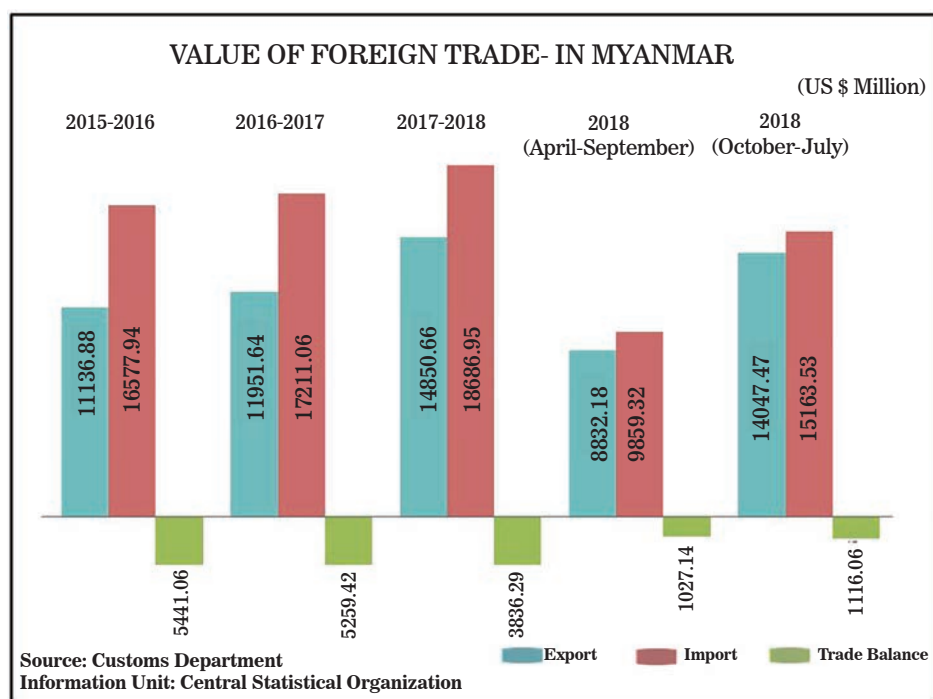
**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of increase of rain in Upper Sagaing and Bago Regions, Kachin and Shan States.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10th September, 2019:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10th September, 2019:** Some rain or thundershowers which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10th September, 2019:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).





**Compare of foreign tourist entry from international airports, sea ports and border gates**

Sr	Month	2017-2018 financial year			2018-2019 financial year		
		Tourist	Business	Total	Tourist	Business	Total
1	October	46693	21253	67946	52647	21005	73652
2	November	63529	21828	85357	77498	21482	98980
3	December	63522	19619	83141	82474	19538	102012
4	January	61123	20485	81608	93125	18689	111814
5	February	57450	18581	76031	100145	23949	124094
6	March	51461	25650	77111	95932	23693	119625
7	April	31198	20392	51590	71148	22848	93996
8	May	29096	21425	50521	67410	22123	89533
9	June	28844	18636	47480	65879	21714	87593
10	July	30496	20672	51169	78835	23245	102080
11	August	32068	19807	51875	88772	21955	110727
	Total	495480	228349	723829	873865	240241	1114106

**Compare of foreign tourist entry from international airports, sea ports and border gates**

Sr	International airports and border gates	July 2018		July 2019		Remark
		Tourist	Business	Tourist	business	
1.	Yangon Airport/ Sea Port	26167	15548	46633	14860	
2.	Mandalay Airport	4840	3494	35580	3733	
3.	Nay Pyi Taw Airport	188	216	866	292	
4.	Myeik Airport	0	0	0	0	
5.	Tachilek	396	78	3921	91	
6.	Myawady	394	363	1466	2895	
7.	Kawthoung	55	87	48	51	
8.	Hteekhee	16	10	145	14	
9.	Tamu	12	11	112	19	
10.	Reedhorda	0	0	1	0	
	Total	32068	19807	88772	21955	

**Increasing support in monitoring, preventing and responding to seasonal influenza**

**FROM PAGE-5**

The above graph shows that 698 people were diagnosed with seasonal influenza and 110 died from the disease.

**(B-2) Reviewing the deaths related to seasonal influenza**

People who contracted the seasonal influenza had chronic illnesses or are either too old or too young to resist the virus, resulting in high death rates. Upon close inspection of the 110 people who died from seasonal influenza between 1-1-2019 to 9-9-2019, the majority of deaths occurred within the 15-65 age group and comprised 44% of casualties. Meanwhile, 88 patients had some sort of chronic illnesses (diabetes, heart diseases, respiratory diseases, nerve system disorders, hereditary diseases, cancer and other diseases that lowered the immune system) comprising 80% of deaths. People with symptoms who could not reach hospitals in time had high death rates.

**(B-3) Reviewing confirmed deaths with Influenza A(H1N1) pdm09 (Between 1-1-2019 to 9-9-2019)**

Number of deaths involving chronic illnesses	Number of deaths from age groups with high vulnerability (elderly and young)	Number of deaths involving no other prominent illnesses	Total deaths
88 (80%)	13 (12%)	9 (8%)	110

**(B-4) Number of patients in public hospitals**

Patients with seasonal influenza between (1-1-2019 to 9-9-2019)

Total number of patients	440
Patients discharged	322
Patients still receiving treatment	8

**(B-5) Number of laboratory confirmed/deaths from seasonal influenza across the states and regions between 1-1-2019 to 9-9-2019**

No.	State/Region	Population density per Km <sup>2</sup>	Number of suspected seasonal influenza patients screened in laboratories	Confirmed influenza patients	Confirmed deaths
1	Yangon Region	716	680	283	68
2	Nay Pyi Taw	164	214	99	-
3	Ayeyawady Region	177	124	59	14

4	Bago Region	124	109	47	10
5	Kachin State	19	112	39	1
6	Magway Region	87	58	38	4
7	Rakhine State	87	84	32	2
8	Mandalay Region	200	52	20	2
9	Kayin State	52	89	17	-
10	Mon State	167	26	14	3
11	Sagaing Region	57	27	13	4
12	Shan State (South)	-	17	12	1
13	Kayah State	24	12	12	-
14	Shan State (North)	-	13	6	-
15	Taninthayi Region	32	9	5	1
16	Chin State	13	5	2	-
17	Shan State (East)	-	1	-	-
	Total	76	1632	698	110

The entire Shan State has a population density of 37 people per Km<sup>2</sup>.

Upon reviewing the seasonal influenza this year, the highest cases occurred in the first and second weeks of July and decreased starting from the third week. While the rate has decreased, the risk factors for those in the senior citizens and young children are still vulnerable and so are those with chronic illnesses can develop severe symptoms. People in these groups need to seek immediate medical attention if symptoms reveal themselves.

The rate of the influenza has dropped and has returned to normal but the Ministry of Health and Sports has issued directives for the States and Regions concerning the seasonal virus. The directives call for continued surveillance, preventive measures, effective response, stocking up on necessary medicine in the central and state/regional hospitals, delivering effective treatment, and monitoring.

The Ministry of Health and Sports regularly updates information on the seasonal influenza and deaths at its website at [www.mohs.gov.mm](http://www.mohs.gov.mm) and Facebook pages at <https://www.facebook.com/MinistryOfHealthAndSportsMyanmar> and <https://www.facebook.com/MyanmarCDC>.

While the rate of the seasonal virus spreading has decreased, the public is advised to continue adhering to the preventive measures issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

**Ministry of Health and Sports**  
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



## UN sounds alarm over climate change's impact on human rights

GENEVA (Switzerland) — Climate change is not only having a devastating impact on the environments we live in, but also on respect for human rights globally, the UN warned Monday, urging collective action.

UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet cited the civil wars sparked by a warming planet and the plight of indigenous people in an Amazon ravaged by wildfires and rampant deforestation.

She also denounced attacks on environmental activists, particularly in Latin America, and the abuse aimed at high-profile figures such as teenage campaigner Greta Thunberg.

"The world has never seen a threat to human rights of this scope," she told the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

"The economies of all nations, the institutional, political, social and cultural fabric of every state, and the rights of all your people, and future generations, will be impacted" by climate change, she warned.

The 42<sup>nd</sup> session of the council opened with a minute of silence for the victims of Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas,

where at least 44 have been killed and thousands of homes reduced to rubble.

"The storm accelerated with unprecedented speed over an ocean warmed by climate shifts, becoming one of the strongest Atlantic hurricanes ever to hit land," Bachelet said.

Low-lying small island states like the Bahamas, which are heavily impacted by climate change, are quickly seeing rights to water, sanitation, health, food, work and adequate housing, she warned. She called for international action to mitigate the impact there.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights also denounced the "drastic acceleration of deforestation of the Amazon.

"The fires currently raging across the rainforest may have catastrophic impact on humanity as a whole, but their worst effects are suffered by the women, men and children who live in these areas," she said.

### 'Prevent future tragedies'

She urged authorities in Bolivia, Paraguay and Brazil



Bachelet cited the plight of indigenous people in an Amazon ravaged by wildfires and deforestation as an example of human rights violations. PHOTO: AFP

to "ensure the implementation of longstanding environmental policies ... thus preventing future tragedies."

Bachelet's comments risk further angering Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who last week accused her of meddling in his country's affairs after

she criticised the deteriorating rights situation there.

The UN rights chief also highlighted the impact climate change is having on insecurity around the world. She cited a UN estimate that 40 percent of civil wars over the past six decades have been linked to environmen-

tal degradation.

In the Sahel region of Africa for instance, degradation of arable land "is intensifying competition for already scarce resources," she said. This in turn exacerbates ethnic tensions, and fuels violence and political instability, she added. —AFP ■

## Malaysia to make it rain as Indonesian smog pollutes air

KUALA LUMPUR (Malaysia) — Malaysia prepared to seed clouds after air quality in parts of the country reached unhealthy levels due to smog from forest fires in neighbouring Indonesia, an official said Monday.

Smog regularly blankets parts of Southeast Asia during the dry season when burning is used to clear Indonesian land for palm oil, paper plantations and other crops, sparking ire from regional neighbours.

In the latest outbreak, parts of Malaysia's eastern state of Sarawak on Borneo island have been blanketed over the past few days.

The pollutant index in some places has reached "very unhealthy levels", said Gary Theseira, special functions officer with the environment ministry.

"It is extremely severe in Kuching," Theseira told AFP, referring to a city of half a million people.

He said Malaysia is prepared to carry out cloud seeding to induce rain in an effort to ease the smog.

"The moment the cloud sit-



The smog regularly blankets parts of Southeast Asia during the dry season when burning is used to clear Indonesian land for palm oil, paper plantations and other crops. PHOTO: AFP

uation is right, the chemicals will be loaded and the aircraft will take off and proceed with the seeding," he said.

Some countries conduct seeding during prolonged dry spells to induce rain and clear the air by releasing certain chemicals into the clouds, although some experts have questioned its efficacy.

Boo Siang Voon, a 47-year-old engineer in Kuching described the skies as "hazy, hot with smoky smell".

"This year the smog is getting worse. Residents are using face masks. We should not pay the price of our health for the open burning. We want a solution," he told AFP.

The Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur and neighbouring Singapore were also experiencing hazy conditions on Monday, with the air laced with the smell of burning foliage, although the pollutant index remained at moderate levels. —AFP ■

## Australia girds for worst as bushfire season comes early

SYDNEY (Australia) — Australia battled to contain around 160 bushfires in the east of the country Monday, an early start to a wildfire season that authorities warn could be the worst in decades.

Drought and strong winds have turned swathes of Queensland and New South Wales to tinder, prompting fires that have already damaged dozens of buildings and forced thousands of people to evacuate.

Australia's hot, dry climate makes bushfires a regular occurrence, but scientists say climate change is making conditions ever-more combustible.

Government-backed researchers have already predicted the next six months of southern hemisphere spring and summer have "the potential to be an active season" because of a very warm and dry start to the year.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services assistant commissioner Brad Commens told AFP the early bushfire season had caught authorities off-guard.

Many of his staff would ordinarily be working on planning and preparation this early in September, but they have been called to action instead.

"At this point, we're fairly early in the fire season so it's difficult to predict how long this will go on for, but it's certainly not what I've seen over the last 30 years," he said.

"Without significant rain or without a significant weather change, I think we're in for the long haul."

The fire season usually starts in the far north of Queensland in September and slowly progresses down Australia's eastern states, hitting New South Wales around Christmas, and Victoria and Tasmania in January and February.

But it is already hitting southern Queensland and New South Wales — where there are 70 fires and 99 percent of the state was declared in drought last May.

On Friday, a fire tore through the small town of Tenterfield, destroying around 25 buildings including five houses. —AFP ■



## Special Thanks and Appreciation

### Launching Ceremony for Korea - Myanmar Industrial Complex (KMIC) located at Nyaung-hnit-pin, Hlegu Township, Yangon

The KMIC Development Co., Ltd would like to express our deep appreciation and special thanks to the President of Republic of Korea, Vice President of Myanmar, Union Ministers, Chief Minister and cabinet members of Yangon Region, representatives and businesspersons from two countries for your support and honorable presence at the launching ceremony of Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex at Lotte Hotel, Yangon on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2019. We wish to promote much more successful and beneficial bilateral cooperation through the establishment of KMIC.

### KMIC Development Company Limited

• Department of Urban and Housing Development • Korea Land and Housing Corporation • Global SAE-A

## Crisis-hit Nissan CEO set to resign as board meets

YOKOHAMA — The CEO of crisis-hit Japanese automaker Nissan plans to resign, reports said Monday, as the firm's board meets to discuss an audit launched after former chief Carlos Ghosn's arrest over financial misconduct.

Hiroto Saikawa's reported decision to step down comes days after he admitted receiving over-payments, and is the latest blow to the firm after Ghosn's arrest and ouster.

Nissan said it had no immediate comment on the reports, which first emerged overnight.

The timing of Saikawa's resignation, as well as who will succeed him, have reportedly not yet been decided but the embattled CEO is said to have informed several Nissan executives of his



Reports in Japan say Nissan CEO Hiroto Saikawa will step down over issues with his pay. **PHOTO: AFP**

decision. Nissan's board, including executives from the firm's alliance partner Renault, will meet at the company's Yokohama headquarters outside Tokyo from Monday afternoon.

Their discussions, which will include the results of an internal Nissan audit, are expected to "run late into the night", sources told AFP. —AFP ■

## S African leader condemns Johannesburg violence after two killed

JOHANNESBURG (South Africa) — South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Monday condemned weekend violence in Johannesburg that claimed two lives after security forces clashed with looters involved in fresh xenophobic attacks.

At least ten people have been killed since the start of the month in a surge in attacks targeting foreign-owned businesses in and around South Africa's largest city.

Riot police fired stun grenades and rubber bullets on Sunday to disperse crowds targeting shops in Johannesburg's gritty central business district and other neighbourhoods.

Ramaphosa "has con-

demned in the strongest terms a resurgence in public violence that claimed two lives in Johannesburg yesterday," the presidency said in a statement. One person was stabbed and another victim shot dead in an incident involving a large group of armed attackers, it said. Many shops remained closed on Monday morning in the central business district, an AFP reporter said. Shops were set alight and burned on Sunday in the neighbouring Malvern district. Officials said most of the ten people killed since last week were South Africans. Local residents say at least one of those was killed when a shop owner defended their property.—AFP ■

## British Airways says almost all UK flights cancelled over strike

LONDON (United Kingdom) — British Airways said Monday it has been forced to cancel almost all its flights from UK airports on the first day of a strike by pilots.

"After many months of trying to resolve the pay dispute, we are extremely sorry that it has come to this," BA said in a statement.

The airline said it remains willing to return to talks with the British Airline Pilots Association (BALPA).

"Unfortunately, with no detail from BALPA on which pilots would strike, we had no way of predicting how many would come to work or which aircraft they are qualified to fly, so we had

no option but to cancel nearly 100 percent of our flights".

The UK flag carrier and its 4,300 pilots have been locked in a nine-month pay dispute that could disrupt the travel plans of nearly 300,000 people.

Pilots are to continue their strike on Tuesday and are threatening to strike for one more day on September 27 — and then possibly again closer to the winter holidays — should the dispute rage on.

BALPA has rejected a pay increase of 11.5 per cent over three years that the airline proposed in July.

BA says the offer would see flight captains receive "world-

class" pay and benefits of around £200,000 (\$246,000 or 220,000 euros) a year.

It also points out that two other unions representing 90 per cent of the airlines' workers have accepted the 11.5-per cent raise. BALPA counters that co-pilots' salaries average around £70,000 — and that of junior ones drops down to just £26,000.

This leaves some in heavy debt since they must first undergo training that the BBC estimates costs around £100,000.

BALPA also points to a nearly 10-per cent jump in pre-tax profits reported by BA's parent company IAG last year.—AFP ■



British Airways and its 4,300 pilots have been locked in a nine-month pay dispute that could disrupt the travel plans of nearly 300,000 people. **PHOTO: AFP**



## Economy watcher sentiment rises in August on buying ahead of tax hike

TOKYO — Business sentiment among workers with jobs sensitive to economic trends rose in August for the first time in four months, supported by solid sales of summer items and last-minute buying ahead of a planned consumption tax hike in October, government data showed Monday.

The diffusion index of confidence among “economy watchers” such as taxi drivers and restaurant staff increased 1.6 points from July to 42.8, the Cabinet Office said.

A reading below 50 indicates that more respondents reported worsening rather than improving conditions over the past three months. But the diffusion index gauging the economic outlook in the coming months tumbled 4.6 points to 39.7, the steepest drop since June 2016 and the lowest level since March 2014. The office maintained its assessment, saying, “The economy has shown weak movement in its recovery. As for the future, there are concerns observed about the con-

sumption tax increase and situations overseas.”

The survey was conducted less than two months before the government is scheduled to raise the consumption tax to 10 per cent from the current 8 percent on 1 October.

A government official who briefed reporters said economy watchers started to cite the tax hike as reasons to judge the economic conditions in the survey, although the frequency is less than 2014, when Japan lifted the tax rate to 8 per cent from 5 per cent.

A home electronics shop clerk on the northernmost main island of Hokkaido said big-ticket goods, including 4K ultra high-definition televisions, sold well in the reporting month. Looking ahead, a department store employee in the Kanto region expected sales to tumble due partly to a possible plunge after the tax hike.

The survey covered 2,050 people from 25 to 31 August, of whom 1,849, or 90.2 per cent responded. — Kyodo News ■



A shopper selects vegetables at a supermarket in Tokyo. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

## China's central bank injects liquidity

BEIJING — China's central bank pumped 120 billion yuan (about 16.94 billion US dollars) into the financial system Monday, according to the bank's latest statement.

The People's Bank of China injected 120 billion yuan into the market through seven-day reverse repos at an interest rate of 2.55 per cent, with 176.5

billion yuan of reverse repos maturing. The move aimed to offset the impact of reverse repos set to expire in the near future, according to the statement. A reverse repo is a process by which the central bank purchases securities from commercial banks through bidding, with an agreement to sell them back in the future. —Xinhua ■

## US economy untouched by trade war: Mnuchin

WASHINGTON (United States) — US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on Monday said America's economy was unscathed after more than a year of entrenched trade conflict with China and Europe.

The remarks brushed aside concerns prompted by recent economic data showing slower employment growth, falling business investment and a weakening manufacturing sector, which have intensified recession warnings.

“I don't see in any way a recession,” Mnuchin told Fox Business.

“There's no question there's been a considerable slowdown in the world economy both in China and in Europe but as you look

at the US, we continued to be the bright spot.”

“We have not seen any impact on the US economy,” he added. High-level trade negotiations are due to take place in Washington next month after a summer of acrimony and deteriorating US-China trade relations. Months of negotiations have so far failed to achieve a bargain after talks verged on collapse in May, prompting observers to speculate the trade conflict may drag on far longer than expected with the two sides unable to reconcile their differences. But on Monday Mnuchin held out hope for progress. “They're coming here. I take that as a sign of good faith that they want to negotiate,”



US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin (L) says the trade war with China has had no impact on the US economy and he sees no sign of a recession. PHOTO: AFP

he said. American industry and agriculture leaders have denounced Trump's trade wars but so far failed to block its steady escalation, with US duty rates on hundreds of billions in Chinese goods set to rise in stages through the end

of the year. Official job creation numbers released Friday showed employers across major industries slowed the pace of hiring, which economists took as another sign the world's largest economy is cooling off. —AFP ■

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M.V AISOPOS II VOY. NO. (936W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AISOPOS II VOY. NO. (936W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-09-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/T.M.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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## Two dead, travel chaos, after powerful typhoon pummels Tokyo

TOKYO — A powerful typhoon that battered Tokyo overnight with record winds killed two people, police said Monday, as cancelled trains caused commuter chaos and more than 100 flights were scrapped, leaving thousands stranded at the airport.

Typhoon Faxai, packing winds of up to 207 kilometres (129 miles) per hour, made landfall in Chiba just east of the capital before dawn, after barreling through Tokyo Bay.

The transport disruptions unleashed by the storm came less than two weeks before the start of the Rugby World Cup, and delayed the arrival of the Australian team — a reminder that Japan's typhoon season could present challenges for organisers. Police confirmed two people were killed in the storm — a woman in her fifties who was found dead in Tokyo and an elderly man in the neighbouring Chiba prefecture.

Security camera footage showed that high winds pushed her across a street and into a wall, while the 87-year-old man was found dead in the woods under a fallen tree. The storm injured more than 30 people, including a woman who sustained serious injuries after gusts toppled a protective netting structure at a golf driving range onto nearby houses. Non-compulsory evacuation orders were issued to hundreds of thousands and authorities said more than 2,000 people had taken refuge in shelters at one point.

### Commuters stranded

The strong winds downed



A man with an umbrella crosses a street early morning under the rain as a typhoon hits Tokyo on 9 September 2019. PHOTO: AFP

trees and power lines. Nearly 760,000 households were still without electricity in the Tokyo area Monday evening.

Scaffolding was ripped from buildings and protective sheeting hung to keep construction debris off the streets was crumpled and torn by the storm.

While the damage was relatively light given the wind speeds, it was enough to cause chaos in the capital's notoriously busy morning commute. The overland East Japan Railway train system was largely halted in the early hours of operation while tracks were checked for fallen trees and other debris.

The storm also caused de-

lays and stoppages on subway lines, leading to massive crowds at some stations in the busy metropolitan area that is home to 36 million people. Bullet train services that were suspended during the storm had largely resumed, though some were operating on a reduced schedule. Some roads were blocked by downed trees. And trains running to and from Narita International Airport were halted, with buses and taxis the only options left to those arriving or hoping to fly out. Thousands of people were stranded at the airport Monday evening, with officials preparing to distribute blankets and food. —AFP ■

## Suicide bomber killed at Philippine army base

MANILA (Philippines) — A suicide bomber dressed in a traditional Muslim woman's gown died after detonating a bomb outside a military camp in the restive southern Philippines, but no other casualties were reported, authorities said.

Suicide attacks were once very rare in the Philippines, but since July 2018 there have been four, including the latest explosion on Jolo island on Sunday.

The Islamic State claimed responsibility for all three previous suicide attacks, which experts have previously told AFP is a worrying escalation of extremism in the Philippines under the group's influence.

According to a military statement, the attacker on Sunday was "foreign looking", wore an abaya gown and appeared to be a woman. However, au-

thorities had not confirmed the attacker's gender.

No group has yet claimed the attack, which came a day after an IS-claimed bombing wounded eight at a market on the island of Mindanao.

Separatist groups in the Christian-majority nation's south have waged decades-long insurgencies that have killed thousands.

This weekend's attacks cast a shadow over a step toward a measure of peace in the region. The largest Muslim rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, began to lay down its weapons on Saturday.

While the MILF has brokered peace with the government, other more extreme factions like jihadist group Abu Sayyaf continue to stage deadly attacks. —AFP ■

## 946 detained over telecom fraud in central China

ZHENGZHOU — Police in central China's Henan Province said Monday they had cracked down on 1,032 criminal cases of telecom fraud and arrested 946 suspects since a campaign was launched on 25 July.

A total of 104 criminal gangs were busted, with more than 20 million yuan (about 2.81 million U.S. dollars) seized and frozen, according to the provincial department of public security.

The police said the result came from close cooperation between cities and provinces, and more than 2,500 phone cards, nearly 2,700 bank cards as well as 40 vehicles and 578 computers were also confiscated.

Public security authorities across China have launched a campaign to crack down on telecom fraud until October 31, the Ministry of Public Security announced in June. —Xinhua ■

## 'Braves' on the frontlines of Hong Kong's protests

HONG KONG (China) — Ryan began the day pretending to his parents that he was off to play football and ended it with a rubber bullet to the leg sustained in clashes with Hong Kong's police.

The 19-year-old bespectacled student is one of what Hong Kong protesters have dubbed "the braves" — hardline pro-democracy activists who have embraced violence and specialise in fighting police.

Were it not for Hong Kong's summer of rage, Ryan might have been enjoying the holidays and getting ready to start university

later this month.

Instead he has spent most of the past 14 weekends on the barricades of the city's huge and sometimes violent anti-government protests, a frontline role he has managed to keep secret from his parents at home.

He joined the protests at the start, initially as a first aider.

But he soon found himself radicalised after police used tear gas and rubber bullets to clear demonstrators outside the city's parliament on June 12.

He remains unapologetic about turning to violence, saying



Since early June more than 1,100 people have been arrested in Hong Kong's protests, many facing riot charges that carry up to ten years jail. PHOTO: AFP

Hong Kong's pro-Beijing leaders have spent years ignoring peaceful pro-democracy marches.

"When I saw so many companions being hurt and badly battered by the police, I started feel awakened at that moment and thought it was time to do something," he told AFP, in between clashes with police on a recent weekend close to the parliament.

"I am with burning anger," he added. "I want to let the police know that they can't beat us, they can't beat the residents with no consequences. They have to pay the price." —AFP ■



## Kremlin suffers losses in Moscow city vote after protests

MOSCOW (Russia) — Pro-Kremlin candidates suffered major losses in a Moscow city election, results showed Monday, following a police crackdown on a wave of anti-government protests over the summer.

But President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov played down the losses, pointing to other local and regional elections across Russia on Sunday in which the ruling party was "very successful".

Demonstrations broke out in the capital after top opposition figures were barred from standing in the city vote, but they widened in scope after a harsh response from authorities.

Kremlin-backed candidates previously held 38 of the Moscow assembly's 45 seats, but after voting that was down to 25.

Opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who called the first summer protests after his al-



Russian opposition activist Alexei Navalny, who voted alongside his daughter Daria, said his call for "smart voting" had dealt a blow to the pro-Kremlin candidates. PHOTO: AFP

lies were kept off the ballot paper, put the losses down to his "Smart Voting" plan.

The campaign called on

Muscovites to back the politician, most likely to beat a pro-Kremlin candidate, whatever their affiliation.

The beneficiaries were the Communist Party — which took 13 seats, up from five — as well as the liberal Yabloko party and

the left-leaning Just Russia, which each won three.

The shake-up in the city parliament comes amid a stagnating economy, declining living standards and a fall in President Vladimir Putin's approval ratings.

"We fought for this together. Thanks to everyone for their contribution," Navalny said on Twitter following the Moscow results.

Lyubov Sobol, who emerged as a protest leader after she was blocked from running in the election, said the vote would go "down in history thanks to the courage and perseverance of Muscovites, and the cowardice and meanness" of the city administration.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin, a close ally of Putin, said the polls were "emotional and genuinely competitive", adding that greater diversity would be "useful" for the city's parliament. —AFP ■

## UK PM seeks Brexit breakthrough as MPs set to block snap election

DUBLIN (Ireland) — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson met his Irish counterpart in Dublin on Monday as he battles to salvage his hardline Brexit strategy and force an early election in the face of fierce opposition in Westminster.

Johnson held talks with Leo Varadkar amid an apparent stalemate in the Brexit process and as MPs look set to vote down his second bid for a snap poll next month. The British leader has vowed to take Britain out of the EU by 31 October with or without a formal divorce deal — despite warnings that the latter scenario would entail economic chaos.

He wants the bloc to scrap a special provision in the deal agreed by his predecessor Theresa May to keep the Northern Irish border open in all circumstances after Brexit, arguing "alternative arrangements" exist. "I won't say that we can do it all today, but I believe there is a deal to be done by 18 October," a characteristically upbeat Johnson said ahead of his first face-to-face talks with Varadkar since taking office in July.

He added that failing to find a compromise, resulting in Britain leaving the bloc without a deal, "would be a failure of statecraft for which we would all be responsible." —AFP ■



Boris Johnson met Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar to discuss Brexit deadlock over the border. PHOTO: AFP

## US, Taliban keep open door to talks after summit scrapped



The dramatic cancellation of the Camp David meeting comes weeks ahead of the presidential elections in Afghanistan, with fears the Taliban may step up their attacks. PHOTO: AFP

WASHINGTON (United States) — The United States and Afghanistan's Taliban on Sunday both left the door open to fresh talks after President Donald Trump abruptly canceled a secret summit, but the insurgents threatened to inflict greater costs.

Washington also said it would not relent in fighting the militants after Trump blamed the scuttling of the unprecedented meeting on a Taliban attack that killed a US soldier.

Trump said he had invited Taliban leaders and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani for talks Sunday at the Camp David presidential retreat on a draft deal

that would see the United States withdraw thousands of troops and wind down its longest-ever war.

In a series of television interviews, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo did not rule out a return to talks but said the United States needed a "significant commitment" from the Taliban.

"I'm not pessimistic," Pompeo told NBC. "I've watched the Taliban do things and say things they've not been permitted to do before."

"I hope it's the case the Taliban will change their behavior, will recommit to the things that we've been talking to them about for months," he said on ABC.

"In the end, this will be resolved through a series of conversations," he added, urging the Taliban to drop their long-running refusal to negotiate with Ghani's internationally recognized government.

He said that Trump had not decided whether to go ahead with a withdrawal, which under the draft deal would pull 5,000 of the roughly 13,000 US troops from Afghanistan next year.

But Pompeo warned that the United States was "not going to reduce the pressure" on the Taliban, saying US forces had killed more than 1,000 insurgents in the past 10 days alone.

### 'Americans will be harmed'

Veteran US negotiator Zalmay Khalilzad had spent a year meeting with the Taliban, who said that Trump showed "neither experience nor patience."

"Americans will be harmed more than any other" by Trump's decision, warned a statement by the group's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid.

But he added that the Taliban still believed "that the American side will come back to this position" of talks that seek "the complete end of the occupation." —AFP ■



## Myanmar traditional boxing competition to be held in Mandalay

THE Myanmar traditional boxing competition will be held on Thursday at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay, according to the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation's Facebook page.

The event will have 11 men's bouts and one women's bout. The men's bouts will feature Zwe Man Aung (United) vs Shwe Thwe (Zayar), Shwe Taung Thar (Taung Zalot) vs Nine One (King Lion), Swe Yay Htoo (Tha-ti) vs Kyar Thwe (Tun Tun Min), Boyka (Kyar Phyu) vs Aung Bo Hein (Hu Kaung Kyar), Tun Lin Khant (Sagaing) vs Auk Chin Thway (Taung Zalot), Thein Soe (Yaza Theinkha) vs Shwe Lulin (Zayar), Saw Shwe Lay (Doe Yoe Yar) vs Auk Chin Lay (Taung Zalot), Kyaw Swar Win (United) vs Saw Hla Min (Cement Factory), Byat Ga (Kyar Phyu) vs Saw Htain Lin (Doe Yoe Yar), Soe Lin Oo (Doe Yoe Yar) vs Soe Maung Oo (Yadanabon), and Ye Thura Aung (Kyar Phyu) vs Hein Thiha (Shwe Phue).

In the women's bout, Naw Ohmar Soe (King Lion) will face



The Myanmar traditional boxing competition will be held on 12 September at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay. PHOTO: MTBF

Htet Htet Kyaw (RBL). The event will begin at 6 p.m. Tickets are priced at K10,000 for ordinary seats and 30,000 for VIP seats. — Kyaw Khin

## Man United's Dalot visits 'Miracle Doctor' in China

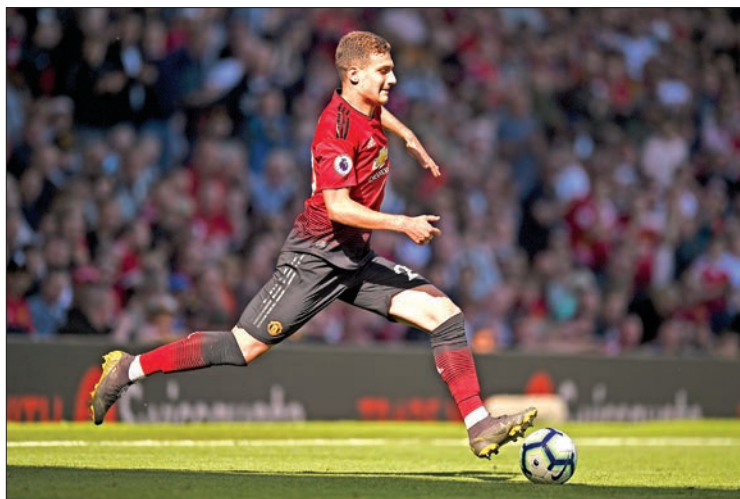
SHANGHAI (China) — Injured Manchester United defender Diogo Dalot has been having treatment at Chinese club Shanghai SIPG under a Brazilian physio known as the "Miracle Doctor".

The 20-year-old Portuguese right-back is yet to feature this season and manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said last month that he was out until after the current international break.

What Solskjaer did not say is that Dalot, a \$25 million capture in June 2018 from Porto, was suffering with a hip problem and had gone to see Shanghai's physio Eduardo Santos.

Dalot landed in Shanghai on 29 August and spent 10 days with the Chinese champions, the club said, publishing a photo of the defender at their training ground.

Dalot, who could be moved to a more advanced role on United's right after the signing of Aaron Wan-Bissaka, may now be in contention for a Premier League start this month. Then-United manager



Manchester United's injured Portuguese defender Diogo Dalot has sought treatment in Shanghai. PHOTO: AFP

Jose Mourinho called Dalot the best young full-back in Europe after signing him last summer.

Santos was dubbed "Miracle Doctor" by French media in 2015 after getting defender David Luiz — then at Paris Saint-Germain — fit in just a few days after a serious hamstring tear.

Luiz had contacted his fellow Brazilian, then employed by Zenit St. Petersburg, and flew off to Russia for treatment. French international

Eliaquim Mangala, former Tottenham midfielder Moussa Dembele and Colombian striker Radamel Falcao have all sought Santos's help in recent years.

There have been murmurs from experts querying how he can get players back into action so quickly, but Santos told AFP in an interview last year: "What we do is not a miracle.

"I do science, and of course the results that I have are really, really good." —AFP ■

## Europe's clubs divided over Champions League reform

LAUSANNE (Switzerland) — The battle over the future of the Champions League will resume on Monday and Tuesday when the European Club Association (ECA) meets in Geneva and the leadership faces rebellion from members.

ECA, led by Juventus chairman Andrea Agnelli, is closely involved in proposals to reshape Europe's main club competition from 2024.

The proposals were presented by European football's governing body UEFA in May although details had leaked earlier.

The reforms include the introduction of weekend fixtures, four groups of eight, and a tiered system with relegation and promotion that would see the top six teams in each group automatically qualify for the following year's competition.

ECA, which boasts of "more than 230 members", faced an outcry from many of those clubs and from national leagues which would be hit hard by the scheme.

"A semi-closed league with more matches... threatens to enormously impoverish the Spanish league," said Javier Tebas of La Liga.

England's Premier League issued a statement saying: "The domestic game should continue to be the priority for professional clubs."

Opponents say the plan is designed to guarantee the income of a handful of big clubs.

"This reform would especially harm medium and small clubs," said Wanja Greuel, the president of Young Boys of Berne, the reigning Swiss champions.

"It eliminates the access to

the top flight of European competitions through domestic leagues. Fans will gradually lose interest in domestic leagues and those leagues would be further economically damaged."

Last month UEFA announced it was cancelling a meeting with the ECA and the European Leagues, a wider body representing more than 900 European clubs, scheduled for 11 September.

### 'It will kill the dream'

UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin said he wanted to "collect feedback" from member federations.

The cancellation of the meeting "reveals strong opposition," said Bernard Caiazza, president of French Ligue 1 club Saint Etienne, who are outspoken opponents of the plan.

"When you close the supreme competition to 90 percent of clubs, you kill the dream for a middle-sized club reaching it," said Caiazza.

He gives the example of Lille, who dramatically improved last season, finished as French league runners up, but who from 2024 "could no longer experience this fairytale of moving from 17th place in Ligue 1 to the Champions League in the space of 14 months".

On Friday, both UEFA and the ECA struck a cautious note.

"We need to take into consideration the clubs' feedback," ECA secretary general Michele Centenaro said. "Domestic football (leagues) must be protected and, at the same time, we must try to better reward European cup performances." —AFP ■



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah holds aloft the Champions League trophy in 2019 - but the competition could have a revamped format by 2024 if the European Club Association gets its way. PHOTO: AFP