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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VI, No. 164, 15<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tawthalin 1381 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Saturday, 28 September 2019

## President U Win Myint receives outgoing Czech Ambassador



President U Win Myint meets with outgoing Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Myanmar Mr Jaroslav Dolecek at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

**P**RESIDENT U Win Myint received outgoing Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Myanmar, Mr Jaroslav Dolecek, who is leaving Myanmar after completion of his tour of duty in Myanmar at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to increasing

bilateral relations and friendship, cooperation in trading and economic, and Myanmar's democratic transition.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Min Thu and officials. — MNA ■

*(Translated by TTN)*

## Myanmar observes World Tourism Day 2019



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Union ministers and dignitaries observe bicycles displayed at the event to mark the World Tourism Day 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

**W**ORLD Tourism Day 2019 was organized at the Myanmar International Convention Center II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, under the theme of 'Tourism and Job: A Better Future for All'

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Vice President U Henry Van Thio attended the ceremony, together with Union Ministers Dr Pe Myint, Thura U Aung Ko, U Thant Sin Maung, U Thein Swe, U Soe Win and U Ohn Maung; the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, States/Region Chief Ministers and ministers, departmental heads, members of the National Tourism Development Central Committee, ambassadors, UN agencies, international development partners, representatives from the Myanmar Tourism Federation and associated groups, award-winners in the contests to commemorate the World Tourism Day, and invited guests.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi looked around the displays of tourist attractions in the states and regions, the implementing community based tourism

programmes, tourism business firms, attractions to tourism investments and bicycles to be donated by the Flymya Tech Co, Ltd. to the 52 villages where community-based tourism is being implemented.

The ceremony was opened with the song entitled 'Welcome with Golden Hands' performed by artistes from the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio, chairman of the National Tourism Development Central Committee gave an opening speech at the event.

He said that the member countries of the World Tourism Organization has celebrated the annual event since 27 September 1980 with the aim of making the people understand the crucial role of the tourism industry and its related benefits in social, cultural, political and economic sectors. Myanmar rejoined the UNWTO in 2012, and its annual ceremony has been organized since then.

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## Myanmar rejects draft resolution jointly tabled by EU and OIC

MYANMAR categorically rejected the draft resolution on "Situation of Human Rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar" tabled by the European Union (EU) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on 26 September 2019 at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Permanent Representative of

Myanmar U Kyaw Moe Tun delivered a statement, before taking action on the draft resolution. He highlighted the following main reasons, among others, why the draft resolution was not accepted by Myanmar:

1. As a matter of principle, Myanmar opposes any country-specific resolution.

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# Magway Region officially opens Hluttaw building



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Regional Chief Minister Dr Aung Moe Nyo and Magway Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tar unveil new building of Magway Region Hluttaw in Magway yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE new building of the Magway Region Hluttaw was officially opened with a ceremony yesterday morning with Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat unveiling the building.

Firstly, the ceremonial ribbons for opening the building were cut by Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Regional Chief Justice U Sein Tun, Regional Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Zaw Myo Win, Regional Minister for Construction, Transportation and Communications U Tin Nwe Oo, Regional

Hluttaw Representatives U Kyaw Htay, U Thet Khine and U Aye Kyaw, and the Managing Director of Kyaw Thar Engineering & Construction Group Co Ltd, U Maung Aye.

Next, U T Khun Myat, Regional Chief Minister Dr Aung Moe Nyo and Regional Hluttaw Speaker U Tar electronically unveiled the building. The dignitaries then sprinkled scented water on the Hluttaw's commemorative monument slab.

This was followed by the Magway Region Hluttaw Speaker

handing commemorative gifts to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, Regional Chief Minister and state/regional Hluttaw speakers. In addition, Magway Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker handed over commemorative gifts to the deputy speakers of the state/regional Hluttaws and Director-General of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.

Speaker U T Khun Myat and officials then planted Gangaw trees (*Mesua ferrea*) to commemorate the Hluttaw's opening, took a documentary photo at the

building's facade, and toured the interior. U T Khun Myat and U Aye Tha Aung also signed the guestbook of the local Hluttaw office. After the Magway Region Hluttaw opening ceremony, U T Khun Myat went to inspect the Bogyoke Aung San Home Museum in Natmauk, together with Regional Speaker U Tar and Regional Minister for Social Affairs Dr Khin Maung Aye. From there, U T Khun Myat departed for Nay Pyi Taw and arrived there in the evening. A dinner reception was held at Magway City Hall

to commemorate the opening of the Hluttaw building on Thursday. The event was attended by U T Khun Myat and wife Daw Yin May, U Aye Tha Aung and wife Daw Thein Yin Chay, the officials who were present at the Magway Region Hluttaw opening in addition to the regional cabinet, Hluttaw representatives and other invited guests. The guests were entertained with dance performances by students of the National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay).—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Joint Committee on Amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 42/2019



Meeting 42/2019 of the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

MEETING 42/2019 of the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attend-

ed by Chairman of the Joint Committee Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, 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)

## Union Minister U Kyaw Tin meets with EU Special Representative for Human Rights in New York

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, who is currently in New York, attending the 74<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly met European Union Special Representative for Human Rights, Mr Eamon Gilmore at the United Nations headquarters on 25 September.

During the meeting, the Union Minister briefed the EU Special Representative on the recent steps taken by Myanmar for protection of child rights, including enactment of the new child law and ratification of the Optional

Protocol on Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict of CRC. He also reaffirmed Myanmar side's readiness to take back all verified residents from Rakhine State and stressed the need for Bangladesh to take action against ARSA terrorist group which is hindering the repatriation process and to allow the return of 444 Hindus who have clearly expressed their desire to return to Rakhine State. EU Special representative suggested continued sharing information with displaced persons to bridge trust deficit.—MNA



**PHOTO: MNA**



# Myanmar observes World Tourism Day 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Vice President U Henry Van Thio pose for documentary photo together with chairpersons, secretaries from Myanmar Tourism Federation and the 11 associated groups, the members of National Tourism Development Central Committee at the event to mark the World Tourism Day 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

### FROM PAGE-1

The theme for this year aims to ensure a better future for all people by creating various job opportunities as the tourism industry was booming a lot in both developed and developing countries.

The UNWTO has estimated that the number of tourist arrivals internationally was 1.4 billion in 2018, increased by 6 per cent from 1.3 billion in 2017. It contributed 3.7 per cent to global economic development. The thriving of this industry could create job opportunities in related sectors, promote entrepreneurs, develop new capacities and help SMEs. The UNWTO has found that the booming of the tourism industry could significantly support the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

In Myanmar, tourist

arrivals from January to August this year numbered 2.81 million, increased by 25 per cent compared with the same period of previous year. The increasing number of inbound tourists will harmoniously support transport, infrastructure and financial management which are mainly included in the economic development of the country.

The Vice President also urged the relevant departments to support this industry that is the main driving force for the economic development of the country.

Myanmar has formed the National Tourism Development Central Committee, tourism committees and local tourism committee under the Myanmar Tourism Law which was newly enacted on 17 September 2018. In accordance with this law,

business licenses and their fees have been fixed. The local tourism committees are required to implement tourism projects with the approval of the central committee for more systematic development by reviewing the advantages and disadvantages of tourist destinations in respective areas. In addition to drawing plans for destinations, the local tourism committees need to explore the potential attractions in states and regions, to carry out tourism development projects with technical aid of foreign countries and to invite more local and foreign investments. The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is actively promoting community-based tourism to explore cultural traditions of ethnic people, to reduce poverty and to conserve the natural environment. This plan has spread widely to 42 villages

and 18 itineraries. As this plan can be participated by all interested local people, it could create employment opportunities and support the improvement of their socio-economic condition, in addition to infrastructural development. In order to support community-based tourism in line with international norms, the ministry has developed the Myanmar Community Based Tourism Standards guidebook with the contributions of local representatives in this industry and international development partners. This book was based on eight basic norms, 199 detailed standards, the Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria and the ASEAN Community Based Tourism Standard to ensure sustainable development for community-based tourism.

The UNESCO has recognized ancient Pyu cities of Sri Ksetra, Beikthano and Hanlin as the World Heritage Site in 2014, and Bagan on 6 July 2019. As a result, more tourists have become interested in Myanmar as its image has improved.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio also asked to ensure a safe and convenient environment for the local and foreign visitors to maintain the development of the Myanmar tourism industry. He advised both the public and private sectors to build up reputations of different areas, to adopt norms and regulations in reducing the negative impacts of mass tourism.

In conclusion, he quot-

ed the themes of this years' World Tourism Day, saying to create job opportunities for the better future of all with the development of the tourism industry by using tourism resources of respective areas, while supporting incomes of local people and their socio-economic condition. Then, the video message of Mr Zurab Pololikashvili, the Secretary-General of UNWTO, was screened.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Vice President U Henry Van Thio posed for documentary photos together with the Union Ministers, the Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, the Chief Ministers and ministers, representatives of foreign embassies in Myanmar, international development partners, chairpersons, secretaries from the Myanmar Tourism Federation and the 11 associated groups, members of the National Tourism Development Central Committee, award-winners in the contests such as in hotel and tourism services, essay writing and photos to mark the World Tourism Day.

The Vice President presented the first award for best services in the category of local owned hotels to Amazing Ngapali Resort, the second award to Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw, and the third award to Eskala Hotel & Resort; under the category of joint-ventured hotels to Sule Shangri-la Hotel Yangon, the second award to Novotel Yangon Max and the third award to Cha-

trium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint gave the first, second and third awards for best services in the category of local owned companies; Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko to the joint-ventured companies.

Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe presented awards to the winners in essay contest in basic education level; Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung to the winners in essay contest and impromptu talk contests in higher education level; Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung to winners in the photo contest.

Next, a responsible person from Luxembourg Agency for Development Cooperation handed over the Myanmar Community Based Tourism Standards guidebooks to Union Minister U Ohn Maung.

U Mike Than Tun Win, the founder of Flymya Tech Co., Ltd, presented 318 bicycles for the villages where community-based tourism is being implemented. Union Minister U Ohn Maung presented a certificate for the donation.

Then, the Vice President, the Union Ministers and the guest enjoyed the performance of artistes from the Fine Arts Department. Vice President U Henry Van Thio then presented floral basket to the dance troupe.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)



Vice President U Henry Van Thio presents to third award for best services in the category of joint-venture hotels to representative from Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**



## VP U Myint Swe attends meeting on eradication of child labour



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the third coordination meeting of MNCLE at the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

**V**ICE President U Myint Swe, in his capacity as Chairman of the Myanmar National Committee on Child Labour Eradication (MNCLE) addressed the third coordination meeting of the said committee held at the meeting hall of the Ministry for Labour, Immigration and Population, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday afternoon.

Present at the meeting were MNCLE Vice Chairman Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe; committee members Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Dr Pe Myint, Dr Aung Thu, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Dr Win Myat Aye and Nai Thet Lwin; Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung; Chief Ministers of states/regions Dr Khet Aung, U L Phaung Sho, U Salai Lian Luai, U Myint Maung, Dr Lin Htut and U Hla Moe Aung; Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Thu, U Win Maw Tun and U Soe Aung, Deputy Attorney General U Win Myint, states/regions ministers U Min Ko Khaing, U Moe Kyaw Thu, U Tun Tun Oo, U Myint Swe, U Aung Kyi, U Tun Min Aung and U Kyaw Aye Thein; Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, officials from eight work committees and national committee secretariat consisting of representatives of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry; Myanmar Industry and Service Workers' Union; Myanmar Farmers Agriculture and Foodstuff Workers' Union; Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs, Myanmar Red Cross Society; officials and invited guests.

In addressing the meeting the Vice President said the first coordination meeting the MNCLE was held on 19 February 2018 where 9 decisions were

made and all were being implemented. The second coordination meeting was held on 12 December 2018 where 14 decisions were made out of which 12 were implemented and two were still being implemented. Of the two the first was to coordinate and calculate Union Ministerial departments, Nay Pyi Taw Council area, States/Regions government wise funds required to implement work programs and include in fiscal year 2019-2020 expenditures. This was still being done among relevant departments. The second was to include health care sector in the National Work Plan (draft) and it was a matter that would be conducted continuously once works exist. In order to complete these ongoing works there was a requirement to coordinate and setup a time frame, said the Vice President.

Eradication of child labour is a global issue which poses a huge challenge for our country as well. Besides, it is a national duty that needs to be fulfilled over the long term. It was important for not only the officials and organizations but also related sectors to consistently implement through exact and practical programs.

According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) studies 218 million youngsters between the ages of 5 to 17 years were working and a total of 152 million, 88 million males and 64 million females were child labour. Out of this, 73 million were working in dangerous work sites. In addition to this out of the 152 million, 72.1 million was in African countries, 62.1 million was in Asia-Pacific countries, 10.7 million in America, 1.2 million in Arab countries and 5.5 million in Europe and Middle East regions.

The role of youth and child development was very important in establishing a future image of a country and youth and children were invaluable resources of a country. Furthermore, in the majority of developing countries in the region, youths and children were being employed as workers to support manufacturing capacity. Especially in countries where challenges relating to poverty were faced, child labour was seen to be more widely employed.

According to the 2018 annual labour force assessment report Myanmar had 12.4 million children between the ages of 5 to 17 years out of which 1.6 million

difficulties that pushes the children away from education and drives toward becoming a child labour. These are the difficult and long term work processes that a developing country needs to resolve.

The majority of child labour could be found in agriculture, in factories and those working as housemaids due to poverty, lack of educational opportunities and a desire to support their families. It was to protect such children that national level child labour eradication work plans were being drawn up and implemented.

As the country was a developing country and facing

and instilling in the people the mindset to cooperate and participate together in eradicating child labour.

Child labour was to be eradicated by collecting of firm and accurate basic information, raising awareness, capacity building, creating opportunities in formal education and vocational education, strengthening the implementation part by enacting new laws and amending laws, removal of children from the worst form of child labour and rehabilitation and creating employment for the family. These were to be implemented by prioritizing the industrial manufacturing sector and trade and commerce sector.

In implementing child labour eradication, out of the 15 places that includes Nay Pyi Taw Council and the states and regions, Yangon Region, Bago Region, Ayeyawady Region, Kayin State and Mon State were designated as priority project areas. Children's education, job opportunities, family situation, poverty situation were to be considered and work committees and main partner organizations were to cooperate toward designating priority works and implement it sector wise, said the Vice President.

He also invited the members of national committee, the chairpersons of eight working committees and the secretariat team of national committee, representatives of relevant associations and invited guests to discuss ongoing status, future plan, difficulties and requirements for the project.

Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, the Vice Chairman of MNCLE, briefed on the implementation of the programme.

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Eradication of child labour is a global issue which poses a huge challenge for our country as well. Besides, it is a national duty that needs to be fulfilled over the long term.

were working. 0.4 million were working in dangerous works and out of 12.4 million more than 30 percent were rural children and more than 20 percent were urban children. In the local child labour market the majority were children or youths between the ages of 15 and 17 years and most had education to primary level only.

Reducing and eradicating child labour was directly related to economic development of a country, increase in living standard and development in education as well as being the results of internal conflicts, poverty, migrating for works, natural disasters caused by climate change, food insufficiency and socio-economic

difficulties in eradicating child labour, there were international criticisms but work would still be continued as this was a national duty. The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) had an effect on the Child Labour Issue to a certain degree while special trade incentives support the country's economic development and create job opportunities.

In eradicating child labour, it was not sufficient or possible to simply remove child labour from work sites. It was necessary to provide school-age children to have free education, increase the number of civil society organizations protecting and caring for children, reducing poverty



## C-in-C of Defence Services plants trees to commemorate Gandhi's birth anniversary

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Tatmadaw personnel planted Sandal wood trees near Sin Phyu Taw Guest Hall in the compound of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services yesterday, in commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2 October.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Senior General said Myanmar and India share a similar history, culture and customs and are very close with one another. He said hearing the name Mahatma Gandhi brings to mind the nonviolent resistance he successfully led for India's independence and as a beacon for world peace.

The Senior General mentioned that on 2 October, Gandhi's birthday would reach its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary since his birth in 1869. He said his visits to Myanmar in 1902, 1915 and 1929 during Myanmar's struggle for independence was a source of strength for the nation.

Mahatma Gandhi personally led the mourning of Bogyoke Aung San's assassination in July 1947, said Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. He said this commemorative event values Gandhi's nonviolence approach,



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing looks around tree planting ceremony to mark 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in the compound of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

preserving history and his way of living is something to model after. He also wished for continued bilateral relations between Myanmar and India and to become a support in achieving world peace.

Next, U Khin Maung Cho, member of the Mahatma Gandhi 150<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Organizing Committee, spoke words of thanks concerning planting the Sandal wood trees. The Senior

General and Tatmadaw personnel then planted the trees together with padauk trees.

In related news, the Senior General and wife planted a tamalan tree during the 4<sup>th</sup> Monsoon Tree Planting Ceremony of the Families of Defence Services (Army, Navy, Air) for 2019, held near Yezin dam in Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, in the morning.

Next, Deputy Command-

er-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win and wife, union ministers and their wives, Tatmadaw officials and wives from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, and officials, military personnel and families then planted teak, tamalin, mahogany and manjanshar trees at the designated locations. The Senior General then observed the attendees planting the trees.

The 4<sup>th</sup> monsoon tree planting ceremony planted 1,458 young teak trees, 330 tamalin trees, 700 mahogany trees, and 2,074 manjanshar trees. In addition, the Office of the Commander-in-Chief announced that the military commands across the nation collectively planted 375,344 plants for the 4<sup>th</sup> monsoon planting ceremony. —MNA

*(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

## 2019 Chinese Movie Festival kicks off in Nay Pyi Taw

AN OPENING ceremony of 2019 Chinese Movie Festival was held at Aung Thapyay Cinema, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

The 2019 Chinese Movie Festival is being held from 26 September to 2 October at Nay Pyi Taw Aung Thapyay Cinema, Junction City JCGV and Gamnephwint Mingala Cinema in Yangon, Central Point Mingala Cinema in Mandalay and Thida Aye Cinema in Lashio. More varieties of movies compared to last year will be shown to the audience for free and the movies will have Myanmar language dubbing.

At the ceremony in Aung Thapyay Cinema, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, Ambassador of China to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai, Information and Public Relations Department Director General U Ye Naing and News and Periodicals Enterprise acting Managing Director U Thet Swe cut the ribbon to open the event.

The opening ceremony was then continued where Ambas-



Ambassador of China to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai delivers the speech at the opening ceremony of 2019 Chinese Movie Festival in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

sador of China to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai spoke of the desire for motion picture and media to become a bridge for deepening and strengthening the interchange and interconnection between the people of the two countries. Myanmar had a long history, rich arts and cultures. It was hoped that the diverse arts works of Myanmar movies also enable to

penetrate Chinese market, increasing the Chinese people's understanding of Myanmar and strengthening the Paukphaw relationship.

Next, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun said the day's event was held for Myanmar-China bilateral friendship. Increasing cooperation between the two governments was not sufficient

to construct bilateral friendship and it will become a sustainable and long lasting friendship only when there were more interconnection and interchange of cultures, characteristics and traditions between the peoples of the two countries.

The movies shown at the festival were said to be showing the cultures and customs of the

Chinese people from all angles and the movie festival is strongly believed to strengthen the bilateral friendship between the two countries, said the Deputy Minister. Afterwards, a movie depicting China's rural development of a poor village becoming a rich and prosperous village was screened. —MNA

*(Translated by Zaw Min)*







Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds talks with a delegation from World Vision International Myanmar at the office of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## SWRR Union Minister holds talks on supporting children with World Vision delegation

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye received a delegation from World Vision International Myanmar at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed such matters as child protection, child rights, protecting children from violence and abuse, rehabilitating street children, signing an MoU with World Vision to cooperate on combat-

ing trafficking of children, cooperating with World Vision in UEHRD's youth volunteering programmes, supporting street children of Yangon, Mandalay and other major cities, cooperating on vocation training courses, and working together with World Vision to provide small loans to the families of human trafficking victims. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Apartments to be built for company, civil service staff under monthly payment plan

PERMISSION has been granted for construction of apartment buildings for small and medium entrepreneurs and their employees, along with civil service personnel, on land granted to them under a long-term monthly payment plan, according to an official from iMyanmarHouse.com.

Those who wish to build one-storied or two- or three-storied apartment buildings will have to deposit K150,000 per month under the long-term payment plan.

"We don't mean to make a profit from the long-term payment system. We wish for Myanmar citizens to stay in their own flats," said U Nay Min Thu, the managing director from iMyanmarHouse.com.

iMyanmarHouse.com, the leading property website in the country, held a media conference at its office on Friday, in cooperation with the Myanmar Art Construction Company, to announce the construction of apartment buildings through the payment of a deposit of K150,000 per month. The houses can be built on 20x60 square feet of granted land after depositing K150,000 per month under the long-term payment system. The initial down payment is 30 per cent, and the remaining 70 per cent can be settled over the long-term via monthly payments. The tenures offered under the plan range from 3 years to 25 years. —Myint Maung (Translated by Hay Mar)

## Myanmar rejects draft resolution jointly tabled by EU and OIC

**FROM PAGE-1**

The whole exercise of this is politically driven attempt to exert undue pressure on a selected country.

2. The draft resolution aims to legitimize unjust convictions of Ms Yanghee Lee and fabricated and narrative-based reports of FFM. Both Ms Yanghee Lee and FFM cast negative light on every effort of Myanmar government as well as of private sector and humanitarian enterprises.

3. Furthermore, some Operative Paragraphs are one-sided and drive for repeated and duplicated actions on Myanmar, which are under active consideration of the UN Human Rights Council, with the aim to garner unprecedented scrutiny and international pressure.

4. The draft resolution comprises a number of factually flawed paragraphs based on sweeping allegations and false assumption. One example, among others, is the issue of freedom of religion. In Myanmar, freedom of religion and belief is legally guaranteed and protected.

5. In addition, although the title includes other minorities, the primary focus of the resolution is on the rights of one community in Rakhine. The voice of one community is heard at the Council. Others' voices which cannot reach out to this Council must be listened to. Last week, Hindu people in Myanmar held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Praying Ceremony for more than a hundred of Hindu people massacred by ARSA ter-

rorists. They expressed concern about their relatives and friends, who are desperately stuck in the camps in Cox's Bazar. All must not be silent to their plight and their request for return.

6. On top of these, tone and tenor of the draft resolution completely disregard for sovereignty of Myanmar. The issue of citizenship, for example, is entirely the prerogative of a sovereign state. Like in every country, no one can get automatic citizenship in Myanmar, without going through a process. The national verification procedure is applied in all parts of Myanmar.

7. Myanmar is fully aware of the differences between genuine concern for human rights and political drives. Thus, it strongly rejects intrusive paragraphs on accountability issue. Myanmar is willing, capable of, and addressing the issue of accountability with domestic accountability mechanisms.

The Permanent Representative emphasized the need to adhere to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and that any mechanism including the HRC should not be abused "for pursuing their own interest and political agenda."

"Myanmar shall not be bound by this unfair and highly politicized resolution" he stressed.

While calling for constructive approach, productive cooperation and practical support based on genuine goodwill for durable impact on the ground, he stated, "Such ill-intentioned, politically driven resolution would not contribute to any positive change and development in

Myanmar."

"Coercive retributive measures and undue political pressure imposed on Myanmar would only serve to inflame the discourse and detract from essential pursuit of democracy and human rights", he further stated.

The Permanent Representative concluded by appealing to the member states of the Council to stand firm with Myanmar on principle and to support the people of Myanmar by voting against the draft resolution.

The delegation of China called for a vote and casted a negative vote in support of Myanmar, explaining positive progress in Myanmar's efforts including repatriation. China pointed out that the adoption of that resolution would not be conducive to address the issue in Myanmar as it did not reflect the view of the country concerned.

The delegation of the Philippines voted against the resolution in support of Myanmar and

pointed out the proliferation of mandates on Myanmar, using a huge amount of money, without making concrete progress on the ground. The delegation of Japan abstained and expressed its disappointment on not getting enough time to study the draft resolution and stressed the need to ensure transparency and that none of its recommendations were reflected in the draft resolution.

The draft resolution of the EU and the OIC was put to a vote at the 47-member Human Rights Council, and adopted with a vote of 2 against, 7 abstentions and 37 in favour. China and the Philippines voted against the resolution in support of Myanmar.

The other 7 countries - Angola, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Japan, Nepal and Ukraine - did not support the resolution and abstained in the voting. Cuba did not participate in the voting — MNA ■



Permanent Representative of Myanmar U Kyaw Moe Tun. **PHOTO: MNA**



## NREC Minister delivers speech at Building Resilient Future Day in New York

U Ohn Win, the Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, delivered a speech at the opening plenary of Building a Resilient Future Day event held at the New School of the University Center in New York, the United States on 22 September.

The ministers from the United Kingdom, Egypt, Fiji and Bhutan discussed scientific measures on setting out ambitious and transformative actions on adaptation and resilience in climate impacts at the opening plenary.

The one-day event was attended by senior officials from a wide range of public and private organizations, science organizations, social communities, local representatives and the youth.

On 24 September, the Union Minister and party visited the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) at Bronx Zoo in New York. Vice President of WCS Dr Patrick Thomas and Asian Program Official Dr Aili Khan welcomed them and explained the conservation of wildlife across

the world and the participation of indigenous people in the management of conservation of biodiversity and wildlife sanctuaries and reserves.

The Union Minister also looked around the wildlife and veterinary clinic in the zoo. The Wildlife Conservation Society is an NGO that is working with the Forest Department since 1994 for conservation of tigers, elephants and other endangered species such as tortoise, pangolin and Ayeyawady dolphin.

On 25 September, the Union Minister made a speech at the Nature for Climate Coalition event held at the Central Park Zoo in New York, with the aim to recognize the role of natural forests in response to the climate change.

It was co-organized by the WCS, UNDP, Global Wildlife Conservation, World Resource Institute and Rain Forest Foundation (Norway). The event discussed conservation of natural forests, sustainability and socio-economic development for indigenous people and the crucial role of nat-



Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win delivers a speech at the opening plenary of Building a Resilient Future Day event in New York on 22 September. PHOTO: MNA

ural forests in climate change. It was attended by President and CEO of WCS Dr Cristián Samper, the environmental min-

isters from Norway, Costa Rica and Gabon, the environmental conservation organizations and indigenous people from Brazil.

The Union Minister and party arrived back to Yangon on 27 September afternoon.—MNA ■ (Translated by Aung Khin)

## Pakokku U Ohn Pe Awards 2018 handed to literary luminaries



Director-General U Aung Myo Myint presents an award to Chit Su Aung for winning first place at the 2018 poem contest in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

THE 2018 Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Awards were held at the meeting hall of the Printing and Publishing Department (PPD) on Theinbyu Road, Yangon, yesterday morning.

Firstly, PPD Director-Gen-

eral U Aung Myo Myint and Chairman of Myanmar Writers Association (MWA) U Kyaw Win (Manoktha Kyaw Win), who is also Chairman of the Pakokku Literary Award Fund Management Committee, delivered sep-

arate opening remarks.

Next, was the awarding process. U Kyaw Win conferred the Pakokku Lifetime Literary Award to U Myat Thu (Tekkatho Myat Thu) and U Aung Myo Myint conferred an award to Chit Su Aung for winning first place at the 2018 poem contest with 'Myin-moh-seik-kuu-kabyar-myar'.

MWA Vice Chairman-3 U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe) conferred awards to Kaung Nwè who secured second place with 'Nwar-mae-hlae-hnint-achar-kabyar-myar' and to In Pin Than Htay Aung for third place with 'Myint-myat-thu-hu-so-yar-wel-hnint achar-kabyar-myar'.

Following this, MWA Vice Chairman-1 Daw Cho Cho Tin (Ma Sandar) conferred an award to Ma Pin Myint San (Shwebo) for winning first place in the 2018 novel contests with 'Nar-ko-yar-mae-thu-ei law-ka-nei-ban-bon'.

MWA Vice Chairman-2 U Chit Naing (Chit Naing-Psychology) conferred awards to second place winner Tin Taw for 'Phaw-mae-way-lel lwan-ma-nay-chin' and to third place winner Yuan Nwè Hlhan for 'Nay-chi-pyar-mha nwey-dot-the'.

Secretary U Nyunt Tin

(Maung Nyein Thu-Gyopinkaut) conferred an award to Nandar Khin (Takala Myay) for winning first place in the 2018 short novel collection contest with 'Myohnint-achar-ya-ta-sar-su-myar'.

Joint-Secretary (1) Myat Wai Toe (University of Education) conferred awards to second place winner Lwin Oo (Kungyangon) for 'A-yine-hnint-a-yin sont-sar-khan-wut-htu-to-myar' and third place winner Maung Nay Chi (Pyay) for 'Nway-kan-thar-mha See-yine-pin-myar'.

Next, Joint-Secretary (2) U Myo Tun (Maung Sein Naung-Lewe) conferred awards to Kyaw Thet Khine (Monywa) for winning second place in the 2018 manuscript contest with 'Myanmar-mu Myanmar-sar thuta-paday-tar-kyan' and to third place winner Maung Yin Hline (Pyin Ma Myaing) for 'Myanma-kanote-pon Ayote-sone Anu-lat-yar-myar'.

Joint-Secretary (3) Mhaw Wan Kyi Myat conferred awards to Khin (Taunggyi) for winning second place in the 2018 research paper contest with 'Danu-taing-yin-tar batar-sagar-hnint Myanmar-sar Myanmar-sagar-set-nwe-chin' and to third place winner Ko Ko Nyein (Ka-

wlin) for 'Mon-dalei Mon-sayite Mon-thamine'.

Following this, U Tint Swe, Chairman of Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Committee, conferred the Pakokku U Ohn Pe Library Book Award to Dr Khin Maung Lwin (FAME) for 'Lu-thar-akyo-pyu pyar-myo-su', Min Maw Hla Pyint (YSO-PKU) for 'Parihnint-atu See-myaw-chin' which was accepted by Daw Tin Tun Khine on behalf of the writer, and Ko Tun (Kyel Gaung) for 'Atine-atar-ma-thi Hnaing-sayar-ma-shi-tar Mi-ba-myittar'.

The Rector of the National University of Arts and Culture (Yangon), U Aung Naing Myint, and other officials also conferred the university's scholarship awards and Pakokku U Ohn Pe Education Achievement Award for 2018 to the student recipients.

Next, U Tint Swe explained the history of the Pakokku U Ohn Pe awards and lifetime literary award recipient U Myat Thu spoke words of thanks on behalf of all recipients.

Afterwards, multiple donors handed over donations to the fund management committee which were received by its Chairman U Kyaw Win.—MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



## Rule of law central to rehabilitation efforts in Kachin

**T**HE incumbent government is giving priority to ethnic affairs and working to establish complete peace in the country.

The government considers reduction and prevention of conflict as sine qua non for ethnic areas and is giving priority to it in order to ensure these areas do not lag in development.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is undertaking measures, in accordance with the law, to boost preparedness for natural and man-made disasters.

While there are a number of displaced people and internal migrants due to conflicts in our country, Phakant, or the jade

land, in Kachin State has attracted a large number of migrant miners searching for lesser quality jade discarded by large mining companies.

When miners began using heavy machinery to extract jade from mines in Myanmar in 2005, migrant workers across the country flocked to the area to scavenge for small jade stones from discarded soil.

In spite of the presence of job opportunities in Hpakant, migrant workers have been working illegally, risking their lives. Jade from Phakant is well-known across the world. Tax from jade has greatly benefited our country. But, the area where jade is mined experiences deadly landslides every year, which kill dozens of miners

Shortcomings in following of safety regulations by both mining companies and migrant squatters pose challenges for local authorities in preventing landslides around jade mines in Kachin State.

To prevent such disasters, the Union Government needs to make more efforts for extending the rule of law in Hpakant, considering that the government is obliged to provide safe working conditions to migrant miners.

That's why, a task force with 14 members was formed by the Union Government on 4 October, last year and tasked with 14 goals. Six sub-working groups were formed under the task force on the same day. Steps are being taken to ensure the safety of migrant miners.

Meanwhile, there have been issues in implementing measures to bring about socioeconomic development and rehabilitate displaced people from the IDP camps in Kachin State. The government needs to cooperate with the ethnic organizations to resolve them.

As the National Camps Closure Strategy has been approved by the Union Government, we hope that the resettlement and rehabilitation of people displaced by conflicts would improve and better jobs created for them.

For rehabilitating migrant workers and displaced people from IDP camps, the rule of law is most important in Phakant. The participation of migrant miners, local people, and businessmen is critical to maintaining peace and the rule of law in the area.



# GEPARKS: Conserving, educating and promoting sustainable development

By Than Htun (Myanmar Geosciences Society)

## What is a Geopark?

A landscape is designated a geopark if it has a geological, archaeological, cultural, historical and ecological heritage of particular significance, rarity or beauty. The task of a geopark is to make this heritage into an experience for visitors and the population and to convey an awareness of the development and importance of the landscape.

UNESCO defines three overall objectives for a geopark: in addition to preserving the environment, action should be taken towards achieving sustained economic development and promoting better general education in the Earth sciences. There are currently 147 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 41 countries and 276 National Geoparks in 36 countries in Asia Pacific and Europe.

UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. A UNESCO Global Geopark uses its geological heritage, in connection with all other aspects of the area's natural and cultural heritage, to enhance awareness and understanding of key issues facing society, such as using our earth's resources sustainably, mitigating the effects of climate change and reducing the impact of natural disasters. By raising awareness of the importance of the area's geological heritage in history and society today, UNESCO Global Geoparks give local people a sense of pride in their region and strengthen their identification with the area. The creation of innovative local enterprises, new jobs and high quality training courses is stimulated as new sources of revenue are generated through geotourism, while the geological resources of the area are protected.

## Is a Geopark only about geology?

No! While a Geopark must demonstrate geological heritage of international significance, the purpose of a Geopark is to explore, develop and celebrate the links between that geological heritage and all other aspects of the area's natural, cultural and intangible

heritages. It is about connecting human society at all levels to the planet we all call home and to celebrate how our planet and its 4,600 million year long history has shaped every aspect of our lives and our societies.

## A bottom-up approach

Geoparks empower local communities and give them the opportunity to develop cohesive partnerships with the common goal of promoting the area's significant geological processes, features, periods of time, historical themes linked to geology, or outstanding geological beauty. Geoparks are established through a bottom-up process involving all relevant local and regional stakeholders and authorities in the area (e.g. land owners, community groups, tourism providers, indigenous people, and local organizations). This process requires firm commitment by the local communities, a strong local multiple partnership with long-term public and political support, and the development of a comprehensive strategy that will meet all of the communities' goals while showcasing and protecting the area's geological heritage.

## UNESCO Global Geoparks, Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites: a complete picture

UNESCO Global Geoparks, together with the other two UNESCO site designations Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites, give a complete picture of celebrating our heritage while at the same time conserving the world's cultural, biological and geological diversity, and promoting sustainable economic development. While Biosphere Reserves focus on the harmonized management of biological and cultural diversity and World Heritage Sites promote the conservation of natural and cultural sites of outstanding universal value, UNESCO Global Geoparks give international recognition for sites that promote the importance and significance of protecting the Earth's geodiversity through actively engaging with the local communities. In case an aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark includes a World Heritage Site or Biosphere Reserve, a clear justification and evidence has to be provided on



An area spanning over 360 square miles around Mandalay Region's Mount Popa has good potential as a UNESCO Global Geopark site.

PHOTO: CHAN THAR (MEIKHTILA)

how UNESCO Global Geopark status will add value by being both independently branded and in synergy with the other designations.

## Four Essentials Geological heritage of international value

In order to become a UNESCO Global Geopark, the area must have geological heritage of international value. This is assessed by scientific professionals, as part of the "UNESCO Global Geopark Evaluation Team". Based on the international peer-reviewed, published research conducted on the geological sites within the area, the scientific professionals make a globally comparative assessment to determine whether the geological sites constitute international value.

## Management

UNESCO Global Geoparks are managed by a body having legal existence recognized under national legislation. This management body should be appropriately equipped to address the entire area and should include all relevant local and regional actors and authorities. UNESCO Global Geoparks require a man-

agement plan, agreed upon by all the partners, that provides for the social and economic needs of the local populations, protects the landscape in which they live and conserves their cultural identity. This plan must be comprehensive, incorporating the governance, development, communication, protection, infrastructure, finances, and partnerships of the UNESCO Global Geopark.

## Visibility

UNESCO Global Geoparks promote sustainable local economic development mainly through geotourism. In order to stimulate the geotourism in the area, it is crucial that a UNESCO Global Geopark has visibility. Visitors as well as local people need to be able to find relevant information on the UNESCO Global Geopark. As such, UNESCO Global Geoparks need to provide information via a dedicated website, leaflets, and detailed map of the area that connects the area's geological and other sites. A UNESCO Global Geopark should also have a corporate identity.

## Networking

A UNESCO Global Geopark is not only about cooperation

with the local people living in the Geopark area, but also cooperating with other UNESCO Global Geoparks through the Global Geoparks Network (GGN), and regional networks for UNESCO Global Geoparks, in order to learn from each other and, as a network, improve the quality of the label UNESCO Global Geopark. Working together with international partners is the main reason for UNESCO Global Geoparks to be a member of an international network such as the GGN. Membership of the GGN is obligatory for UNESCO Geoparks. By working together across borders, UNESCO Global Geoparks contribute to increasing understanding among different communities and as such help peace-building processes.

## Top 10 topics within UNESCO Global Geoparks Natural resources

Since the dawn of humanity natural resources provided by the Earth's solid crust have been the basis for our social and economic development. These resources include minerals, hydrocarbons, rare earth elements, geothermal energy, air and water, and their sustainable use is vital for the

continued future well-being of society. Any element which can be found on Earth has its origin in geology and geological processes, is non-renewable and its exploitation has to be treated wisely. UNESCO Global Geopark inform people about the sustainable use and need for natural resources, whether they are mined, quarried or harnessed from the surrounding environment, while at the same time promoting respect for the environment and the integrity of the landscape.

## Geological Hazards

Many UNESCO Global Geoparks promote awareness of geological hazards, including volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis, and many help prepare disaster mitigation strategies among local communities. Through educational activities for the local people and visitors many UNESCO Global Geoparks give information on the source of geological hazards and ways to reduce their impact including disaster response strategies. These efforts build important capacity and contribute to building more resilient communities that have the knowledge and skills to effectively respond to potential

geological hazards.

## Climate Change

UNESCO Global Geoparks hold records of past climate change and are educators on current climate change as well as adopting a best practice approach to utilizing renewable energy and employing the best standard of "green tourism". While some UNESCO Global Geoparks stimulate green growth in the region through innovative projects, others serve as outdoor museums on the effects of current climate change thus giving the opportunity to show visitors how climate change can affect our environment. Such community and educational activities and projects are important in order to raise awareness on the potential impact of climate change on the region, and to provide the local communities with the knowledge to mitigate and adapt to the potential effects of climate change.

## Education

It is a per-requisite that all UNESCO Global Geoparks develop and operate educational activities for all ages to spread awareness of our geological heritage and its links to other aspects of our natural, cultural and intangible heritages. Global Geoparks offer educational programmes for schools or offer special activities for children through "Kids Clubs" or special "Fossil Fun Days". Global Geoparks also offer education, both formal and informal, for adults and retired people while many provide training for local people who can then, in turn, teach others.

## Science

UNESCO Global Geoparks are special areas where the geological heritage, or geodiversity, is of international importance. Global Geoparks are thus encouraged to work with academic institutions to engage in active scientific research in the Earth Sciences, and other disciplines as appropriate, to advance our knowledge about the Earth and its processes. A UNESCO Global Geopark is not a museum, it is an active laboratory where people can become engaged in science from the highest academic research level to the level of curious visitor. A Global

Geopark must take great care not to alienate the public from science and absolutely must avoid the use of technical scientific language on information boards, signs, leaflets, maps and books which are aimed at the general public.

## Culture

The motto of UNESCO Global Geoparks is "Celebrating Earth Heritage, Sustaining Local Communities". UNESCO Global Geoparks are fundamentally about people and about exploring and celebrating the links between our communities and the Earth. The Earth has shaped who we are: it has shaped our farming practices, the building materials and methods we have used for our homes, even our mythology, folklore and folk traditions. Global Geoparks therefore engage in a range of activities to celebrate these links. Many Global Geoparks have strong links to the arts communities where the synergy released by bringing science and the arts together can yield surprising results.

## Women

UNESCO Global Geoparks have a strong emphasis on empowering women whether through focussed education programmes or through the development of women's cooperatives. Global Geoparks are a platform for the development, nurturing and promotion of local cottage industry and craft products. In some Global Geoparks women's cooperatives also provide an opportunity for women to obtain additional income in their own area and on their own terms. They can, for example, operate accommodation services for visitors.

## Sustainable Development

Even if an area has outstanding, world-famous geological heritage of outstanding universal value it cannot be a UNESCO Global Geopark unless the area also has a plan for the sustainable development of the people who live there. This may take the form of sustainable tourism through, for example, the development of walking or cycling trails, training of local people to act as guides, encouraging tourism and accommodation

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the Global New  
Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at  
No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan  
Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light  
of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No.  
00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnlmdaily@gmail.com  
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**Registrations for Taunggyi Tazaungdaing hot air balloon contest to open on 1 Oct**

REGISTRATIONS for the Taunggyi Tazaungdaing hot air balloon competition will begin from 1 October, according to the Shan State Traditional Hot Air Balloon Experts' Association.

Registrations can be made at the Kan Shat ward administrator's office from 1 to 5 October, and at Shan State Traditional

Hot Air Balloon Experts' Association chairman Dr. Than Win's house from 6 to 24 October.

After registration, the authorities will fix the competition date with drawing of lots on 26 October at the Kan Shat ward administrator's office.

"The terms and conditions

or the rules of the competition are the same as last year. We try to celebrate this event by making it more attractive year after year," said an official from the association.

The Taunggyi Tazaungdaing festival and hot air balloon competition are held annually. The famous hot air balloon

competition will be held from 4 to 12 November, according to the Shan State government.

A total of 414 hot air balloon launching teams participated in the contest in 2018, on board 81 Ngar Mee Gyi, 42 Sein Nar Pan, and 291 day balloons.—Aye Cho ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

**Yangon water buses suspended for month-long upgrade**

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon water bus service has been suspended for one month from 27 September to 30 October on account of a major upgrade, according to U Ngwe Phyo Paing, the manager of the Yangon water bus service.

The water bus services are being suspended to allow the upgrade of one jetty, which was damaged in the monsoon season, the Thanylin jetty, and the water vessels, he said. As part of the upgrade, water vessels will also be imported so they can be operated in the Nga Moe Yeik creek, permission will be sought for the construction of the Nga Moe Yeik jetty, and payment machines will be installed on the water vessels, he added.

"Water bus operation is being suspended because of a massive upgrade. The water buses have been in use for two years. So, we need to upgrade the vessels as well as the jetty. Once we receive 18 new water vessels, we will replace the old vessels with the new



Yangon water buses dock at the jetty in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

ones," said U Ngwe Phyo Paing.

"The Yangon water bus service is being suspended only for the purpose of upgrading. Upon completion of the upgrade, which will take over one month, we will be able to provide better services

to passengers," he added.

Yangon water buses started running on October 7. They were launched by the Tint Tint Myanmar Company, which is running the service with 11 motor vessels. The buses ply from

Bothtaung jetty to Insein Jetty, and ferry around 100,000 commuters per month.

The Yangon water bus service is also operated daily for pilgrims and riverine cruise tours. ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

**Negotiations on to ensure Alipay, WeChat use CBM payment gateway**

By Nyein Nyein

NEGOTIATIONS are under way to make sure transactions on the WeChat Pay and Alipay services — which are used by Chinese tourists visiting the country — pass through the payment gateway of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM), said Naw Pan Thinzar Myo, the Yangon Region Minister for Kayin Ethnic Affairs.

The move would help monitor the flow of payments and could potentially generate revenue from tax. "We are currently allowing digital banking. Payments through visa, master and union pay are officially allowed in Myanmar. Transactions made on these cards go through the CBM payment gateway. Now, we want to ensure that money spent by Chinese tourists officially passes through the CBM. The bank is working on this," said Naw Pan Thinzar Myo.

"When Chinese tourists pay for hotel rooms, and buy souvenirs or meals in restaurants using WeChat and Alipay services, the funds need to flow through the CBM. Therefore, CBM officials have gone to China to negotiate with the two companies," she said.

"The country is losing tax revenue as most of the Chinese tourists are using WeChat and Alipay for making e-payments. We need to tackle this. Recently, Nepal banned China's Alipay and WeChat pay. We would also need to decide whether we should ban the services or find ways to generate tax revenue from them," she added.

"At present, Chinese tourists are opting for cheap tour packages offered by Chinese tour agencies, which are also known as zero dollar or zero budget tours. But, they were asked to buy jade

lots at set shops," she added.

Myanmar receives application fees of US\$50 from Chinese tourists for issuing visas. They are spending a minimum of \$60 per day. They usually choose cheap package tours in which money does not flow anywhere but zero-dollar tourism networks, which include hotels, restaurants, and retail shops connected to the Chinese tour operators. Nevertheless, the country receives commercial tax from those shops.

Most of the tourists entering the country are from China. Between January and July, 2018, over 600,000 tourist arrivals were registered in Yangon. The arrivals increased to over 800,000 in the corresponding period this year, according to the Yangon Region Directorate of Hotels and Tourism. Earlier, the hotels and tourism sector was regulated by

the Union government. With the implementation of the Myanmar Tourism Law 2018, the sector has been decentralized and more power accorded to the region and state governments, said Naw Pan Thinzar Myo.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein is the chairman of the region tourism committee, while Naw Pan Thinzar Myo is the deputy chairman. The committee also includes officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Yangon City Development Committee, the Union of Myanmar Travel Association, and Civil Society Organizations as members. ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



# MIC approves 6 investment proposals; to create over 1,000 jobs



Chairman of MIC U Thaug Tun addresses the Myanmar Investment Commission meeting in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) yesterday approved six projects in the live-stock, manufacturing, hotels and tourism, other services, and mining sectors.

The projects were approved at a meeting (16/2019) held at the MIC in Yangon. The six projects will bring in investment of US\$147.903 million and K2,000 million, and create 1,083 jobs for Myanmar citizens.

The meeting was attended by U Thaug Tun, the chairman of the MIC, Dr. Than Myint, the vice chairman, and 10 members of the commission.

From 1988 to the end of August, this year, a total of 1,806 foreign enterprises from 50 countries have been permitted to invest in 12 sectors, with the pledged amount totalling \$81,597.743 million. Singapore, the People's Republic of China, and Thailand have been the leading investors in Myanmar.

The top investment sector has been oil and gas, accounting for 27.48 per cent of the permitted foreign investment, followed by the power sector (25.95 per cent), and the manufacturing sector (14.01 per cent). —MNA ■

# UMFCCI holds talk on changing to Myanmar Unicode System

UNION of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and Myanmar Computer Federation (MCF) jointly conducted a talk on changing to Myanmar Unicode System at UMFCCI yesterday morning.

Government organizations and economic entities were implementing a simultaneous transition to international standard Myanmar Unicode Sys-

tem on 1 October and UMFCCI and MCF was holding the talk with an aim toward easing and smoothening the communications between businesses and relevant departments.

The talk was attended by UMFCCI President U Zaw Min Win, Vice Presidents U Thein Han and U Thaug Tin, central executive committee members, UMFCCI members and personnel

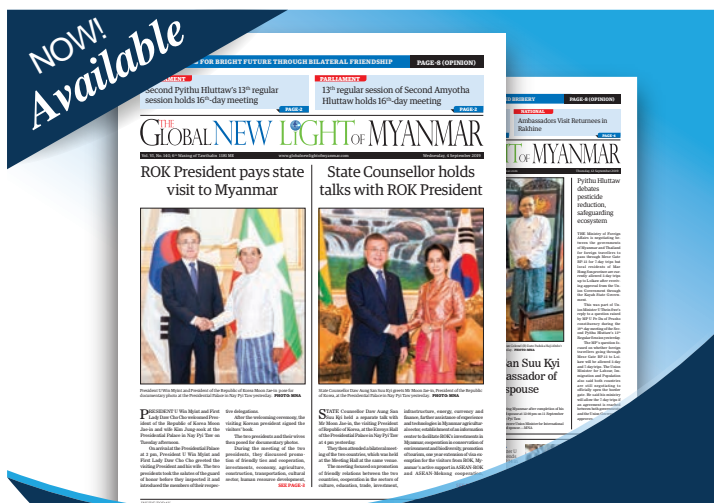
from sister associations of UMFCCI.

MCF Vice President Dr Tun Thura Thet and secretary U Zaw Tut explained about transition to Myanmar Unicode System. The Power Point explanation can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/2mONzML>.—UMFCCI ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)



UMFCCI President U Zaw Min Win delivers the speech at the talk on changing to Myanmar Unicode System in Yangon. PHOTO: ZAW MIN



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သတင်းစာများကို ကြိုဆိုသည့်အတွက် ဝယ်ယူဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

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# Myanmar, US-ASEAN business persons to hold meeting at UMFCCI in Yangon

A US-ASEAN Business Council delegation led by President & CEO Mr Alexander C. Feldman was reported to be visiting Myanmar from 30 September to 3 October 2019. The delegation is made up of 27 business persons from 12 companies – Abbot, Amazon, Bower Group Asia, Chervon,

Chubb, Coca-Cola, Diageo, Ford, Google, Jhpiego, MasterCard and Visa. Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) is arranging a business meeting with US-ASEAN Business Council Delegation from 4pm to 5:30pm on Monday 30 Septem-

ber 2019 at UMFCCI third floor meeting room. The meeting will be held with the aims for Myanmar and US cooperating in trade and investment and for business persons from the two countries to discuss about Myanmar market situation.—UMFCCI ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

# E-commerce platform spree.com.mm launched in Myanmar

THE SPREE.com.mm, an e-commerce platform for Myanmar, was launched on Friday. The website was launched by Spree in cooperation with companies such as Daung Capital, Get Ride, and Flymya and in partnership with KBZpay and Ninja Van.

The Spree is an online shopping website featuring products over 30 categories, including elec-

tric items, house ware, kitchenware, clothes, baby items, sports goods, and food.

Based in Yangon with offices in Singapore and Thailand, Spree has been launched in Myanmar in keeping with the global wave of e-commerce. The company stated it is committed to offering the best personalized shopping experience in Southeast Asia.

“At Spree, we understand that buying and selling products online should be easy and convenient, secure, and seamless. Our mission is to spread the joy of online shopping by connecting our customers from all corners of the region to quality products and services at the best prices possible,” the company stated. —GNLM ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)



## VP U Myint Swe attends meeting on eradication of child labour

FROM PAGE-4

Director-General of Factory and General Labour Laws Inspection Department U Nyunt Win, in his capacity as the joint secretary of committee, explained the implementation of decisions in the second coordination of national committee and the formation of eight working committees.

The chairpersons of these committees explained the respective works. Permanent Secretary U Tun Tun Naing talked about its Data Collection Working Committee, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung about Knowledge Dissemination and Capacity-Building Working Committee, Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun

about Education and Vocational Training Working Committee, Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint about Legal Affairs Working Committee, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung about Eradication of Most Seriously Treated Child Labour and Their Recovery Working Committee, Director-General U Aung Htay Win about Employment Opportunities Creating Working Committee, Director-General U Nyunt Win about Monitoring and Scrutinizing Working Committee and Fund-Raising and Finance Working Committee.

Kayin state government's Immigration and Human Resources Minister U Min Ko Naing, Bago region government's Immigration and Human Resources Minister U Tun Tun

Oo, Mon state government's Immigration and Human Resources Minister U Tun Min Aung, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, and Ayeyawady region's Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung explained about the ongoing and the future plans under the first five-year short term of MNCCLC.

Union Ministers, as well as members of the committee, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Dr Pe Myint, Dr Aung Thu, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Dr Win Myat Aye, U Thein Swe, Nai Thet Lwin; Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Thu, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung; Chief Ministers Dr Khet Aung, U L Phaung Sho, U Myint Maung and U Lin Htut; and Permanent Secretary U Soe Han discussed

about the challenges being faced and efforts in fighting against child labour, human resource development, educational programmes, collection of accurate data on child labour, reduction of child labour, food efficiency and creation of job opportunities, education for all school-age children, efficient vocational education and skill building programmes, provisions in Child Rights Law 2019, prevention of most seriously treated child labours, fund affairs, anti-trafficking in persons, definition of child labour, and future plans for eradication of child labour.

U Zarni Thwe, the General Secretary of Agriculture and Farmers' Federation of Myanmar and Multi-Food Processing

Workers Union, discussed the designated zones for eradication of child labours to complete this programme within the scheduled period.

Director-General of the Factory and General Labour Laws Inspection Department U Nyunt Win, in his capacity as joint secretary of committee, sought approval for 12 points discussed in the third coordination meeting of MNCCLC.

The Vice President gave comments and suggestions to ensure coordination based on the discussions and after which he gave concluding remarks to bring the meeting to a close.

—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min/Aung Khin)

## Myanmar, China sign Exchange Letter on sports



Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai and Director-General U Myo Hlaing exchange the documents at the signing ceremony yesterday.

PHOTO: MNA

MYANMAR and China signed an Exchange Letter in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to provide training to Myanmar athletes in preparation for participating in the 30<sup>th</sup> SEA Games.

At the signing ceremony, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Mr Chen Hai and Deputy Minister for Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein gave speeches. After this, the Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai and Director-General U Myo Hlaing from

Sports and Physical Education Department signed Exchange Letter on sport and exchanged the documents.

According to the agreement, China would train 130 Myanmar athletes for 30 days ahead of the 30<sup>th</sup> SEA Games and would provide eight traditional dragon boats for rowing sport.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)

## Viet Nam's 74<sup>th</sup> National Day celebrated in Yangon



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung addresses the event to mark 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Viet Nam's National Day and 2nd anniversary of Viet Nam-Myanmar Comprehensive Cooperation in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

THE 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Viet Nam's National Day and the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Viet Nam-Myanmar Comprehensive Cooperation were commemorated at Melia Hotel in Yangon yesterday evening.

Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung and wife attended the event.

Firstly, the national anthems

of Viet Nam and Myanmar were played, followed by individual addresses from Vietnamese Ambassador Dr Luan Thuy Duong and the Union Minister.

They then took a documentary photo with attendees and the Ambassador entertained the guests at the dinner reception.

Also attending the event were Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw and wife,

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyto Min Thein and wife, Lt-Gen Min Naung from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and wife, Tatmadaw personnel, foreign ambassadors and charge de affaires based in Yangon, UN representatives and other invited guests.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Wild elephant destroys house in Taikkyi Township

A WILD elephant reportedly destroyed a house on Tuesday while searching for food at Mee-laung Kone village in Oakkan Town of Taikkyi Township in the northern district of Yangon

Region.

The elephant reportedly entered the village from a nearby forest. He destroyed a home owned by U Tin Tun while searching for food, and left the

village after eating two bags of rice. The total loss has been estimated at K100,000. The elephant did not harm any people or animals. —Zwe Htet Ko (IPRD)

(Translated by La Wonn)



# GEOPARKS: Conserving, educating and promoting sustainable development

FROM PAGE-9

providers to follow international best practice in environmental sustainability. But it can also be about simply engaging with local people and respecting their traditional way of life in a way that empowers them and respect their human rights and dignity. Unless a UNESCO Global Geopark has the support of local people it will not succeed. UNESCO Global Geopark status does not imply restrictions on any economic activity inside a Global Geopark where that activity complies with indigenous, local, regional and /or national legislation.

## Local and indigenous Knowledge

UNESCO Global Geoparks actively involve local and indigenous peoples, preserving and celebrating their culture. By involving local and indigenous communities, Global Geoparks recognize the importance of these communities, their culture and the link between these communities and their land. It is one of the criteria of UNESCO Global Geoparks that local and indigenous knowledge, practice and management systems, alongside science, are included in the planning and management of the area.

## Geoconservation

UNESCO Global Geoparks are areas that use the concept of sustainability, value the heritage of Mother Earth and recognize the need to protect it. The defining geological sites in UNESCO Global Geoparks are protected by indigenous, local, regional and /or national law and management authorities, in cooperation with the appropriate agencies, which allow for the necessary monitoring and maintenance of these sites. Appropriate protection measures for each site are set out in individual site management plans. The management body of a UNESCO Global Geopark will also not participate directly in the sale of geological objects such as fossils, minerals, polished rocks and ornamental rocks of the type normally found in so-called "rock-shops" within the area, and many actively discourage unsustainable trade in geological materials as a whole. It does not refer to material for normal industrial and household use which is sourced by quarrying and/or mining and which will be subject to regulation under national and/or international legislation.

Based on the information of wildlife sanctuaries and national parks, conserved

by Forest Department, Geopark Establishment Committee under Myanmar Geosciences Society proposed 10 potential Geopark areas in Myanmar. The potential areas are Hkakaborazi, Putao, Indawgyi lake, Twintaung, Mount Popa, Inley lake, Pindaya cave, Mount Zewgabin, Myan Aung Kyun and Balue Kyun. Of all, Mount Popa is the most suitable and eligible area to begin the first geopark in Myanmar. Therefore, MGS Geopark Establishment Committee, by the permission of Forest Department and Chief Minister of Mandalay Region, commenced inventory of geosites on 9th December 2016. The term "Geosite" is used to describe outstanding, unique or representative sites of monumental character that can be highlighted because of their particular scientific, ecological or aesthetic value. Geosites can record the geological history of each area and therefore have an exceptional significance. An inventory of geosites provides a basic management tool which enables the effective planning of scientific, geo-conservation, educational and geo-tourism initiatives.

An inventory is much more than a simple list of places of geological interest.

It involves a selection of sites that together represent the geology of the local area, and it also includes a quantitative analysis of the different parameters that will help plan their management in the future.

With the above views in mind, the Government has formed the first National Geopark Committee, chaired by Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation on 28th August 2019 so as to supervise and to promote National Geoparks and UNESCO Global Geoparks. The National Geopark Committee has formed the National Geopark Working Committee, chaired by Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation for establishing National Geoparks towards UNESCO Global Geoparks in potential areas. We are confident that the MGS's Geopark Programme in collaboration with Forest Department, Geology Departments of various Universities, Department of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration and UNESCO Global Geopark Network under able leadership of Union Minister U Ohn Win will succeed in foreseeable future.



## WORLD NEWS

# Japan, EU vow infrastructure cooperation in counter to China

BRUSSELS — Japan and the European Union signed on Friday a deal to jointly promote quality infrastructure in Eastern Europe and Africa, in a veiled counter to China's expanding global ambitions through its Belt and Road infrastructure project.

In the document inked by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, the two sides pledge to fully take into account "partners' needs and demands and paying utmost attention to their fiscal capacity and debt-sustainability" when investing in transport, energy, and digital and data infrastructure.

With Chinese-financed, opaque infrastructure development leaving some central Asian and Balkan countries with heavy debt, critics say President Xi Jinping's signature project is intended



European Council President Donald Tusk (right) and European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker (center) with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzō Abe in Brussels in May last year. PHOTO: AFP/JOHN THYS

to draw countries deeper into Beijing's economic orbit. "Japan and the EU endeavor to ensure synergies and complementarity between their respective cooperation on connectivity and quality infrastructure with partner third countries and coordinate action, notably in the regions of

the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Indo-Pacific, as well as in Africa," the document said. Japan and the 28-member union intend to ensure "transparent procurement practices," as well as "free, open, rules-based, fair, non-discriminatory and

predictable regional and international trade and investment," it said. Abe was visiting Brussels for talks with Juncker, an outgoing commission president who is set to be succeeded by Ursula von der Leyen, a former German defense minister, on 1 November. —Kyodo News ■

Trade Mark Ads Call Thin Thin May. 09251022355,09974424848

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY. NO. (1918 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY. NO. (1918 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-09-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE  
Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SEOUL VOY. NO. (937S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC SEOUL VOY. NO. (937S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28-09-2019 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)  
PTE LTD  
Phone No: 2301185



# Characteristics of Bronze Age in Myanmar

Marn Thit Nyein  
(Archaeology)



A portion of the Bronze Age cemetery uncovered by archaeologists in Sagaing Region. PHOTO: THU THU WIN -MANDALAY (DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY)

## Origin of human in Myanmar's Bronze Age

Cultural evidences in Bronze Age are difficult to be searched from the habitation areas where the Bronze Age humans settled at that time. Stone Age humans in Myanmar survived for their lives by residing in caves, hunting and residing inside the caves in natural areas such as jungles and mountains. Gradually, Stone Age humans moved to one place to another in search-

ing greener pastures for their suitable habitation sites so as to carry out agriculture and livestock breeding tasks. In open season, they lived near rivers and creeks in plains. They built their shelters with the use of bamboo and timber logs. At a time when they were skillful in the art of smelting, they made bronze weapons using the moulds which were found in Myin Oo Hle region in Myanmar. That is why it can be seen that Bronze Age humans

could make their weapons in their areas for their use.

## Habitation site of Bronze Age humans

Based on data of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum, the Bronze Age regions were located in plains, especially in central parts of Myanmar. It seemed that Bronze Age humans constructed their buildings made of timber and bamboo. As these buildings disappeared in many years due to causing damage and decay naturally, evidences on habitation site in Bronze Age could not be found. As a significant point, Bronze Age humans were seemed to have belief in concept of afterlife. It was because that those humans systematically buried the dead bodies in the single place along with utensils of the dead, according to the research in excavating the graveyards of Bronze Age.

## Lifestyle of Bronze Age humans

In observing the point that Bronze Age humans selected the place for burying the dead bodies, it can be reviewed that those persons in pre-historic

era lived the aforesaid areas for a long time but in a short time. They were assumed to collectively live in the single place together with same relatives under the advanced social structure which fostered the leader system as well as the administrative system. The excavation could put records on the evidences that those humans ate various kinds of animals. As evidences on bones were assumed as thigh bones of barking deer or cows buried together with fossils and urns of humans, it can be estimated that pre-historic humans ate non-farming animals such as bark deer and deer in addition to farming animals such as cow.

## Agriculture and Livestock Breeding

Cow was bred as farming animal in West Asia some 6,000 years ago. China started breeding of these farming animals since 3,400 years. Goats and sheep were bred in West Asia about 7,000 years ago. Except dogs which helped humans hunt wildlife, cows, goats and sheep were bred as farming animals.

In fact, although the



PHOTO: MOI



They started pre-urbanization processes in Samon River Basin of central Myanmar. Three groups departed from Samon River Basin. One of three groups moved to Hanlin region, another group to Beikthano region and the third one to Sri Kestra region. Afterwards, they strived for establishment of urban organizations.

the Bronze Age were mostly located on the highlands and slope areas where the ground level was slightly higher than the plains. Parts of earthen pots and pieces of bones in addition to small beads were found on those mounds due to impacts of climatic conditions as well as acts of humans.

tics in the Bronze Age, dead bodies of Bronze Age humans were buried at the designated burial sites in a systematic manner. Generally, the burial sites were situated on the mounds. It was assumed that humans in the Bronze Age established the villages for their settlement. However, archaeologists cannot search

sites in the Bronze Age but also the sites of making bronze weapons were found.

It can be observed that daily lifestyle, believes, social economic forms and settlement types of Bronze Age humans were found in excavation of respective sites.

Bronze Age culture in Myanmar

Bronze Age was the time of extending agricultural tasks, any evidence was not found for estimation on cultivation of crops they grew. It was assumed that those humans carried out cultivation tasks together with livestock breeding tasks. At the same time, trading of goods might be developed among them. Thus, it was assumed that as the situation led to the advanced cultural stage, the transit period between the two cultural stages would not be longer.

In changing the cultural stages, humans used the utensils of previous culture in the early period of new culture era. With regard to the evidences, Stone Age weapons and bronze wares were found together in excavation in Ywagongyi region in 2009 and bronze weapons and iron weapons were unearthed together in excavation in Kanthitkon region in 2008.

### Establishment of urban organizations

Experts assumed that early Myanmar humans in the pre-historic era lived in scattered areas as small villages.



A complete human skeleton. PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS

According to the findings from the archaeological excavations, the burial mounds in

### Characteristics in Bronze Age

In respect of characteris-

these sites. Burial sites or settlement areas of Bronze Age humans were close to small creeks and streams. Those humans were seemed to engage in agriculture and livestock breeding tasks. And, they were skillful in making handiworks such as earthen pots, beads and weapons.

It was assumed that as they had a custom of burying bones of dead persons together with their foods, they might believe in concept of afterlife. They made bronze weapons in the stone moulds. They might be under management of the head. Moreover, they might have developed inter-village relations. They had traditions that the dead bodies were buried together with bronze weapons, packs of bronze wires, bronze bracelets, stone rings and stone bracelets, various types of strings of stone beads, strings of earthen beads, strings of bone beads, earthen pots and bowls in addition to foods and utensils in the Bronze Age. Not only burial

Some criticized that Myanmar did not have Bronze Age culture stage with comprehensive evidences and Bronze Age cultural characteristics. Now, such analysis is absolutely wrong. The results in excavation of Bronze Age evidences jointly conducted by experts and officials from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum and foreign experts under the Myanmar-French cooperation proved the Bronze Age culture. Hence, Myanmar could take pride of finding its evidences on Bronze Age culture among the global countries. It is sure that more and more excavations would continue searching of evidences on settlement culture of Bronze Age humans in the various regions of flourishing Bronze Age culture in Myanmar in coming years.

Translated by  
Than Tun Aung



### OAI1 : aerial view and archaeobotanical sampling



PHOTO: HLA MOE



## Maldives International Challenge: Thet Htar Thuzar reaches semifinals

MYANMAR badminton icon Thet Htar Thuzar has advanced to the semifinal stage in the Maldives International Challenge 2019 by beating Canadian star Brittney Tam by 3-2 in the quarterfinal of the tourney, held yesterday at the Ekuveni Sports Stadium in Malé, Maldives.

Brittney is currently 47th

in world badminton ranking, and Thet Htar Thuzar is 73rd. Hence, the quarterfinal match was not an easy one for Thet Htar Thuzar.

Yesterday, Thet Htar Thuzar successfully beat Brittney by 3-2 (21-19, 14-21, 21-9).

In the previous group match, Thet Htar Thuzar beat Sri Lanka's Thilini Pramodika

Hendahewa by 21-9, 12-21, and 21-8.

In another group match, Thet Htar Thuzar defeated India's Vrushali Gummadi by 21-14 and 21-14.

Thet Htar Thuzar had entered the quarterfinal of the tourney by beating Bulgaria's Linda Zetchiri by 21-8 and 21-11.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Myanmar badminton star Thet Htar Thuzar. PHOTO:THET HTAR THUZAR'S FACEBOOK PAGE

## Arsenal boss Emery defends decision to make Xhaka captain



Granit Xhaka (left) has been named Arsenal's new captain. PHOTO:AFP

LONDON — Arsenal manager Unai Emery hopes to change “outside” perceptions of Granit Xhaka after naming the Swiss midfielder as the Gunners' new

club captain. Xhaka has skippered Emery's men in all six games he has played so far this season following the departure of Laurent Koscielny to Bordeaux.

However, Emery had held off on naming a permanent captain until he took a vote from his players, with Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Hector Bellerin, Alexandre Lacazette and Mesut Ozil making the rest of a five-man leadership group. Xhaka, 27, has been fiercely criticised for his performances since joining the club in 2016 and was booed off by Arsenal fans when he was substituted during last weekend's clash with Aston Villa. “First he's mature, he has experience,” said Emery on Friday. “We are living under pressure, under criticism, as a coach, as a player, as a club.

“But really the most important thing is to stand up each moment, go ahead with his qualities, with his behaviour, with his commitment. “In the dressing

room the players voted him as the first (in the leadership group). I know, I spoke with him, we want to change that opinion outside. That respect he has inside is very, very important. “Sometimes he makes mistakes. But the most important thing is to analyse, to learn and correct those mistakes.”

Arsenal were trailing 2-1 to Villa when Xhaka was withdrawn before going on to win the game 3-2 despite being down to 10 men.

Many fans would like to see Xhaka dropped for a central midfield pairing of Matteo Guendouzi and Lucas Torreira and Emery said the captaincy will not influence his team selection.

“The performance is giving me the next first XI, the next players to play, not the captains,” added Emery.—AFP ■

## MFF aims for improvement in Myanmar football standards

THE Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) has set a high target for improvement in the standard of Myanmar football, according to a meeting held on 26 September at the headquarters of the federation in Yangon.

The meeting was attended by MFF chairman U Zaw Zaw, MFF vice chairman and the owner of Yadanarbon F.C., Dr. Sai Sam Htun, the technical director of the MFF, Mr. Eric Abrams, the owner of Shan United F.C., U Khun Naung Myint Wai, and members of the executing committee of the football federation and the Myanmar National League.

During the meeting, officials of the MFF discussed the advancement of Myanmar's football standards, including overhauling some junior Myanmar football teams, focusing on international friendly matches for Myanmar national football teams, and choosing new and talented players across the country by organizing selection ceremonies. They also discussed plans to hold the Under-16 football league in the near future and organize more Grassroots Football Festivals for Under-14 players.

Officials also discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the current Myanmar football teams and their condition. The meeting concluded after officials reviewed the recent international matches of the national men's and women's football teams and analyzed the Myanmar football team's upcoming international matches at the Asian and ASEAN level.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## Lampard expects Chelsea kids to rise to top four challenge

LONDON — Frank Lampard insists Chelsea are on course to finish in the Premier League's top four despite their spluttering start to his reign.

Lampard's side are languishing in 11th, 10 points off early leaders Liverpool, after winning just twice in their first six league matches.

However, they are just three points adrift of fourth-placed Arsenal and level on points with traditional top-six rivals Manchester United and Tottenham.

“No, of course not,” Lampard told reporters on Friday, when asked if he was concerned about Chelsea's prospects of qualifying for the Champions League.

“Look at the other teams around us. Arsenal, Man United. We understand we're in and amongst it. “Having seen the young players, I'm as confident as I was before. We want to be competitive and get into the top four.” If Chelsea are to climb the table, Lampard will need his gamble on the club's promising youngsters to pay off.

The Blues all-time top scorer spent 13 years at Chelsea as a player. He coached Derby last season but left to return to Stamford Bridge. He believes the current crop of Blues youngsters are the best in his time at the club.

Tammy Abraham, who has scored seven times this term, and Mason Mount have been the



Chelsea manager Frank Lampard is confident his young team are on the right track. PHOTO:AFP

most high-profile of the academy graduates.

But Fikayo Tomori has also established himself, while

the highly-rated Callum Hudson-Odoi returned from injury to score in the League Cup win over Grimsby on Wednesday.—AFP ■