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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VI, No. 178, 14<sup>th</sup> Waxing of Thadingyut 1381 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Saturday, 12 October 2019

## Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker opens road, meets with locals in Myawady, Kayin State



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Kayin State Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Nan Thuzar Win, Hluttaw representatives and officials cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the new concrete road in Myawady, Kayin State yesterday. **PHOTO: HTAIN LIN AUNG**

**A**MYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than attended a concrete road opening ceremony to mark the 64<sup>th</sup> Kayin State Day yesterday morning, and met with villagers at Htichaya Village.

The road opening ceremony was started at Thukha road in Myawaday Town at 9 am, with a song sung by Myawady Township Development Affairs

personnel, ethnic dances, Myanmar dances and Kayin Don Dance performed by local students.

Next, Township Development Affairs Executive Officer U Saw Robert Htoo, Kayin State JMCS (State level Cease-fire Joint Monitoring Committee) Vice Chairman Saw Pho Doe and Township Development Committee member U

Sein Thaug provided sector wise explanation on works conducted.

Afterwards, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than; Kayin State Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Daw Nan Thuzar Win; Kayin State minister for Planning, Finance and Development Affairs U Than Naing, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Sein Bo,

State Hluttaw representative U Aik Kyan Kham and U Thant Zin Aung and District Administrator U Tezar Aung cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the new Thukha Road.

After Kayin State Minister for Planning, Finance and Development Affairs U Than Naing presented cash prizes to groups performing entertainment dances and

Myawady Township Development Affairs Committee Chairman U Than Shwe presented road opening commemorative flags to the road opening ceremony attendees, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and officials inspected that newly opened concrete road.

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Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than meeting with local people from Htichaya Village in Myawady District. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker opens road, meets with locals in Myawady, Kayin State

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Following the road opening ceremony Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker met with locals from Me Palae Village Tract Htichaya Village. At the meeting Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker spoke of being elected and assigned by the people and performing the assigned duties with the principal of serving the people, feeling the added responsibility while being proud and honored for being assigned these duties, responsible not only for the township but also the entire country and to fulfill the requirement of the people.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker

coordinated on the responses of the sector wise officials toward the discussions and issues raised by the constituents.

Later, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker provided cash donation to Me Palae Village Tract Htichaya Village library and Zayat Phyu Kon Village library. Relevant departmental officials then presented cash supports to 63 handicapped persons from Me Palae Village Tract and presented household form 66/6 to the people.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker also inspected the status of constructing Htichaya Village library. — Htain Lin Aung (IPRD)

(Translated by Zaw Min)

## Myanmar Endoscopic Surgical Society organizes 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference

WITH the central theme of “Exchanging experience, upgrading care”, the Endoscopic Surgical Society (Myanmar) is holding the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference that is participated by the experts from Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, India, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

The opening ceremony of the two-day event took place at the Novotel Yangon Max Hotel yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe made an opening remark and said that the conference will be helpful to the medics of new generation in learning new technologies and development in medical fields.

He also said the ministry encourages to expose medical professionals to international medical knowledge and to join foreign medical universities online for studying abroad.

The Union Minister also urged professors and medical

experts to train the medical practitioners from township and station hospitals for improving capacities in basic medical operation and the use of anaesthetic.

He also suggested to share the knowledge from the conference to the medical doctors in respective State/Region hospitals, to organize medical conferences at State/Region levels and to adopt frameworks and roadmaps that are realistic to the existing human resources, equipment and financial status of the country.

He also highlighted the safety measures of patients, which include history of disease, diagnosis, treatment and recovery processes.

The Union Minister also pledged the ministry will support in the development of endoscopy and other medical fields.

Professor Dr Rai Mra, the President of Myanmar Medical Association, and Professor Dr

Thein Myint, the President of Endoscopic Surgical Society (Myanmar), delivered welcoming speeches at the event.

The Union Minister also paid surprise visits to North Okkalapa General Hospital and Yangon General Hospital to in-

spect the facilities and medical treatments.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe visits North Okkalapa General Hospital in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



**PHOTO: WIN MYINT (IPRD)**

## China-made motorbikes come under scrutiny in Nattalin, Bago Region

OFFICIALS of the Consumer Affairs Department have invited complaints from sellers and consumers against low-standard China-made motorcycles in Nattalin, Bago Region.

Motorcycles which do not

meet the required standard have affected sales of quality motorcycles in the market.

During an inspection yesterday, officials urged sellers to compile a list of weak points, in terms of the quality of the

motorcycles.

They also urged sellers and customers to sign a sales agreement to avoid complaints from either side after the sale is completed. — Win Myint (IPRD)

(Translated by TTN)



## Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Tachikawa Camp, Jindaiji Temple

A Myanmar Tatmadaw goodwill delegation to Japan led by Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited Tachikawa Camp and Jindaiji Temple west of Tokyo on the morning of 10 October.

The Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and party first went to Tachikawa Camp, a national disaster command center of Japan Self-Defence Force, where the camp commander Colonel Yoshiura and party welcomed them and explained about the camp history, security matters, natural disaster relief and rescue matters in the briefing hall. The Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief raised questions and held discussion on natural disaster prevention and conducting training exercises.

Next, the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and party visited Japan's own design helicopters, pre-deployed helicopters for natural disaster relief and rescue works, air-defence preparations and conducted aerial ob-



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing observes Tachikawa Camp in Tokyo yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

servation to Yokohama port city by helicopters.

Afterwards, the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and party were hosted to a luncheon by

Tachikawa Camp commander Colonel Yoshiura at the camp mess hall.

From there the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and party

went to the historical Jindaiji Temple on the outskirts of Tokyo where the head monk Mr Chodo Kanshun explained about the history of the temple. The Tat-

madaw Commander-in-Chief made, a cash donation to the temple and toured the temple.

Later in the day, the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief met with Minister for Defence of Japan Mr Taro Kono at the Ministry of Defence.

At the meeting status of Myanmar going down the multi-party democracy path; efforts of Tatmadaw toward achieving internal peace; support provided by Japan toward this as well as standing for Myanmar in the United Nations; requirement of all nations to cooperate, exchange news and information to prevent and mitigate the effect of natural disaster and severe climates caused by global warming as well as to prevent terrorism; and increasing cooperation and relation in all sectors including defence, education and trade were cordially discussed according to news released by Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Office. —MNA

*(Translated by Zaw Min)*

## SWRR Minister meets UNHCR Director of Bureau for Asia and Pacific



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye meets with UNHCR Director of the Bureau for Asia and the Pacific Mr Indrika Ratwatte at UN Office in Geneva yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION MINISTER for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (SWRR) Dr Win Myat Aye who was attending the 70<sup>th</sup> plenary session of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva, Switzerland met with UNHCR Director of the Bureau for Asia and the Pacific Mr Indrika Ratwatte at UN office in Geneva yesterday morning.

At the meeting matters relating UNHCR's wish to co-

operate in increasing its Quick Impact Project (QIP) works in Rakhine State; providing education, health care and job opportunity for displaced persons in Rakhine State and to provide freedom of movement; providing accurate information to displaced persons in camps in Bangladesh, Cox Bazar where they are having concerns about returning; conducting repatriation in village wise or in group of nearby villages for the repatriation process to be successful and to ease the process;

importance of distributing and sharing accurate information speedily in Cox Bazar and to include representatives from Rakhine State in conducting such works on the ground; and the status and resources from ASEAN countries Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia available to assist in repatriation were discussed.

In addition to this detailed discussion with UNHCR Resident Representative in Myanmar on future work programme of resettling displaced persons according to national strategy on resettling IDPs and closing down temporary camps in States and Regions where there were displaced persons; status of displaced persons to Bangladesh returning on their own volition and arrangement; status of works on resettling displaced persons in Kachin State conducted by a group led by SWRR Deputy Minister; required programmes to successfully conduct returning of displaced persons; and cooperating according to memorandum of understanding was also conducted. —MNA

*(Translated by Zaw Min)*

## Ethnic Affairs Union Minister receives Chinese delegation

UNION MINISTER for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin received Mr Yu Fei, the Deputy Inspector of Ethnic and Religious Affairs Commission of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China, and party in his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed religious freedom of ethnic people, bilateral ties in economic and social affairs, teaching of ethnic culture and literature, law and regulations

for ethnic rights and poverty alleviation, strategic plans for ethnic rights and mutual economic interests of Myanmar and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

On 10 October, the Chinese delegation also held talks with officials from National Museum in Yangon about conservation of traditional heritages of ethnic people, organizing exhibitions, development plans and restoration of intangible cultural heritages. —MNA

*(Translated by Aung Khin)*



Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin meets with Mr Yu Fei, Chinese Deputy Inspector of Ethnic and Religious Affairs Commission of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



# Yangonites crowd Yekyaw Thadingyut Festival

THE annual Yekyaw Thadingyut Festival is taking place from 10 to 14 October this year in Pazundaung township, Yangon, and a large number of people are thronging to enjoy lights, foods and amusement at the festival which comes alive since afternoon.

The vendors displayed their goods along Yekyaw road and some portions of Bogyoke road, Botahtaung road and Upper Pazaungdaung road where traditional foods are available during the festival.

Torrential rain caused closures of many roadside shops in the first night, but the festival was packed with many revellers as there was no rainfall in the second night.

While some famous artistes and celebrities entertained the public, temporary playgrounds have attracted to the children who were brought by their parents to the festival.

U Aung Naing, the Ward 9 Administrator of Pazundaung Township, said, "We are trying to promote this annual festival with developing idea. And that we invite all the people to visit Yekyaw Thadingyut Festival."

Member of Myanmar Po-



Yekyaw Thadingyut Festival is seen crowded with the visitors on second Day. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

lice Force and Auxiliary Fire Brigade were found taking security measures together with the helps of local people and security cameras. Meanwhile,

the ambulance service is put on standby at the festival.

Stage shows and Anyeint shows will be staged from 12 to 14 October.

The annual festival started small stages of performance on Witt Kyaung, Yuzana and Zizawa streets in Ward 8 of Pazundaung. This festival has been held for

over 50 years, except between 2002 and 2010, and it resumed in 2011.— Pwint Thitsar

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Mandalayers filled with pleasurable excitement in Thadingyut holidays



Saw Cho Thar.



Ma Mi Mi May Thwin.



Daw Nay Nay Aung.



Ma Min Min Tun.



Thazin Pwint Phyu.



Ko Aung Phyo Kyaw.

MYANMAR is celebrating Thadingyut festival as public holidays have been announced from 11 to 15 October this year. Locals from Mandalay voiced their feelings how to pass times during the holidays.

**Saw Cho Thar (Poet)**

I will go back to my mother's home in Yangon to pay respect her as usual. As we have a five-day holiday this year, I could meet with my friends to recite our poets together. I will take the train for the visit.

**Ma Mi Mi May Thwin (Mandalay City Develop-**

**ment Committee)**

I will leave for Dawei by car tonight together with my colleagues from the office. We will try to relax there with swimming, eating seafood and campfire. We will visit pagodas on the way back home. I believe this holiday could surely make our trip pleasurable.

**Daw Nay Nay Aung (Mandalay Region Film Promotion Division)**

As we have the five days for Thadingyut holiday, our family will visit the parents in Ayadaw Township in Sagaing Region.

We expect to reach there by full-moon day. We will visit the homes of our friends and close relatives. I hope we could fully enjoy the taste of country environment.

**Ma Min Min Tun (The University of Medical Technology, Mandalay)**

I am determined to spend Thadingyut festival efficiently as we have five days this year. I will teach the children at the Dhamma School in Mogok Meditation Centre on the fullmoon day in the daytime, and will enjoy lantern procession festival

at night. I will visit PyinOoLwin, Kandawgyi Garden and 7 Mile Recreation Camp with my family.

**Thazin Pwint Phyu (UAB Bank, Mandalay)**

Our family will visit Kyaikhtiyo pagoda to join Nine-Thousand Oil Light Festival, and then will proceed to Kyaikami Yele pagoda. We will also experience walking along the pleasant strand road in Mawlamyine. On the way back, we will conclude our holidays at Maha Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay.

**Ko Aung Phyo Kyaw (Sub-Printing House, Mandalay)**

The extension of Thadingyut Holiday up to the five days is an opportunity to make meritorious deeds or recreation. For me, I will stay at home for reading books and watching TV. I will visit Maha Muni Buddha Image on the fullmoon day to donate gold foils. In that night, I will go to the nearby pagodas to offer oil lights.—Min Htet Aung (Man Sub-printing House)

(Translated by Aung Khin)



# Myanmar gears up to sign pact on promotion, protection of investments with Hong Kong

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR is preparing to sign an agreement with Hong Kong for promotion and protection of investments, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Myanmar has signed similar bilateral agreements since 1998 with the Philippines, Viet Nam, China, Laos, Kuwait, Thailand, India, Japan, Indonesia, the US, South Korea, Israel, and Singapore. Myanmar is now in the process of discussing the investment agreement with Hong Kong, and the two nations will sign an agreement very soon, said officials.

Signing a bilateral agreement on the promotion and protection of investments can build strong mutual trust

among investors and promote business operations, said Daw Tin Aye Han, the deputy director-general of the DICA.

“Regarding the agreement on the promotion and protection of investments, if the country’s laws are enforced strongly, investors will trust the host country to make an investment, and we, therefore, don’t need to sign an agreement. However, the signing of an agreement means generally making a deal stronger. If there is an issue between the two countries, we can solve it according to the agreement. Some countries are weak in laying a legal framework compared with developed Western countries. So, those countries prefer to enter into a strong agreement and sign a treaty,” said Daw Tin Aye Han.

“Last month, Myanmar signed a bilateral agreement with Singapore, its biggest investor, for the promotion and protection of investments. So, Singapore can be said to make more investments in Myanmar,” said U Aung Naing Oo, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

Although Myanmar has signed bilateral agreements with other countries to attract more investments, the agreement on the promotion and protection of investments with EU, which was signed in 2014, was suspended in 2017 because of political issues in Myanmar. No negotiations have been made yet on the issue, said officials.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

# Myanmar, Thailand border trade crosses \$4.1 bln in 2018-2019 FY



File photo shows cars passing through the Myawady Border trade zone. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

MYANMAR-THAILAND bilateral trade between 1 October and 30 September in the 2018-2019 financial year exceeded US\$4.1 billion, an increase of \$2.4 billion from the 2017-2018FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

In the 2018-2019 fiscal, exports were registered at \$2.96 billion and imports were valued at \$1.14 billion. In the previous FY, bilateral trade totaled \$1.71 billion, with ex-

ports pegged at \$460 million and imports recorded at \$1.25 billion.

Myanmar delivers goods to Thailand through the sea route as well as seven border gates. The border trade camps opened between the two nations are Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Htikhee, Mawtaung, and Maesai.

Myanmar primarily exports fishery products, such as crab, fish, and shrimp, as

well as onions, sesame, dry tea leaves, coconut, and turmeric, while it imports consumer goods, cosmetic machinery, food products, agricultural equipment, and track cars from Thailand.

The trade value at all border checkpoints in the 2018-2019 fiscal exceeded \$10.21 billion, up \$1 billion from the previous FY.—Zwe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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**Myanmar Daily Weather Report**

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2019)

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy over the Central Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 12 October, 2019:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Chin States, fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Regions, (Northern and Southern) Shan and Rakhine States, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago and Yangon Regions, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Continuation of rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 October, 2019:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 October, 2019:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12 October, 2019:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND:** Likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Regions.



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**ACTING CHIEF EDITOR**Aye Min Soe  
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

**SENIOR TRANSLATORS**Zaw Min  
Zaw Htet Oo**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,  
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),  
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),  
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Hay Mar Tin Win,  
Ei Myat Mon  
Kyaw Zin Lin  
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**Nyein Nyein Ei,  
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar  
Kyaw Zeya**COMPUTER TEAM**Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,  
Ye Naing Soe, Hnin Pwint,  
Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin,  
Thein Htwe, Nyi Lin Thu**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01)8604529,  
Fax - (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,  
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,  
Hotline - 09 974424848  
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.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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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

**International visitors flock to Dala Township in high season**Tourists enjoy riding trishaws to explore places in Dala Township. **PHOTO: NAING LIN KYAW (DALA)**

**TOURIST** arrivals in Dala Township, located on the southern bank of Yangon River, are increasing gradually in the high season, with visitors showing a keen interest in observing the livelihoods of local residents and exploring tourist spots.

The tourists are arriving at the township via Dala port.

A total of 18 Hong Kong tourists and one tour guide recently explored the wards, historic pagodas, farmlands, recycled handicrafts showrooms, and other manageable businesses in Dala Township on trishaws.

A total of 26,074 tourists visited Dala Township on board

the Cherry ferry between January and September this year, while 581 tourists visited the township in the first 10 days of October, according to Daw Khin Khin Nu, the manager of Pansodan Port.

With many tourists flocking to Dala Township in the high season, trishaw pullers are

earning well in the high season compared with other seasons. There are about 100 trishaws that are currently serving international visitors, said U Than Htay, the chair of the Township Trishaws Control Committee. —Naing Lin Kyaw (Dala)

(Translated by La Wonn)

**Municipal police to get tough on begging in Yangon city**

By Nyein Nyein

**THE** Security and Disciplinary Department of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) has been tasked with controlling beggars around the city of Yangon, said Police Colonel Thet Lwin, the head of the department.

"Currently, we have informed the township municipal committees to control beggars in Yangon because they are begging in crowded areas and intersections and on buses, and presenting papers stating they

are in need of help," he added.

"We are controlling the beggars wherever we find them. And, we are sending them to Wahnet Chaung. But, we can keep them for only one or two weeks because their family members come and take them out. We cannot arrest them or take legal action against them. This is a vicious circle. Now, we have asked the township municipal committees to inform the municipal police whenever they see beggars," he added.

"Although the YCDC municipal police sends them to care

centers, they revert to begging when they get back home. They are not dropping the begging habit because they can earn money easily. According to the law, the YCDC can only control beggars. However, beggars can be imprisoned under the Police Act. The Yangon Region police are weak in taking legal action against beggars," said Police Colonel Thet Lwin. According to the Security and Disciplinary Department of the YCDC, there are 1,250 persons — 228 adult males, 381 females, 489 boys, and

152 girls — engaged in begging in Yangon. The department has seized K1.7 million from them, as per data collected between 1 January and 15 September, 2019.

The YCDC staff are controlling beggars and classifying them into groups by age. The YCDC is sending beggars to the Wahnet Chaung, Shwegondine child development centre, Thanlyin youth training school, Hnet Aww San youth training school, and Htaukkyant women's training school. (Translated by Hay Mar)

**Police seize illegal drugs in Tachilek, Myinmu**

**POLICE** from Myinmu arrested a suspect in possession of 4,032 stimulant tablets, together with K30,100 and a mobile phone near the independence monument in Myinmu Township on 10 October. The suspect is identified as Myint Lwin (a) Non Stop.

On the same day, police from Tachilek also confiscated 1,997 stimulant tablets while they

searched the motorcycle driven by Sai Oak and Kyaw Htet Aung (a) Apoint onboard in Golf Course Street, Wan Kaung Ward in Tachilek. Police filed charges against the suspects under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, according to Myanmar Police Force. —GNLM

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Kyaw Htet Aung (a) Apoint and Sai Oak. **PHOTO: MPF**



# Voices of people on holiday

News by Kyaw Han  
Photo by Aye Than

FOLLOWING are the voices heard at Yangon-Mandalay express way 115 miles rest station and Pho Kyar Elephant Camp from public servants and people who were going on a vacation during Thadingyut holidays.

## Ma Tin Zar Win (company employee)

I left Yangon to visit my parents in Myaing. I'm paying respect to my parents and the elders. During a five-day holiday, I can return to my parents as well as visit some pagodas too.

## Ma Theint Theint Maw (garment factory worker)

I work in a garment factory in Mingaladon Industrial Zone. As it was a five-day holiday I'm visiting my parents in Myaing. Afterwards I'll pay homage to pagodas in Pakokku with friends from Myaing. As I bought my express bus ticket in advance, I had no problem. But some who try to buy it in short notice were unable to get it. (Thadingyut) Holiday last year was only three days. This year it was five days. So I have enough time to visit my parents and also pay homage to elders back home. Such long holidays are convenient to do good deeds as well as to go on a pilgrimage.

## U Ko Ko Maung (Staff officer, Agricultural Mechanization Department)

My duty station is Mandalay. I'm returning to my family in Yangon to pay homage to the elders during the holiday. Also plan to take family to where they want to go too. As I'm free only in such long holiday, the time will be given to the family. I have no other programme except to visit Mawlamyinegyun.

## Daw Ni Ni Khine (school teacher)

I'm from Bago and going to Toungoo to attend a course. Once I arrive in Toungoo, I plan to visit pagodas nearby before attending the course. As I'm attending a course during the holiday, I wouldn't be going anywhere else.



Ma Tin Zar Win (company employee).



Ma Theint Theint Maw (garment factory worker).



U Ko Ko Maung (executive officer, Agricultural Mechanization Department).



Daw Ni Ni Khine (school teacher).



U Aung Win Htay (tour guide).



U Thein Myint (traveller).



Daw Kaythi Oo (company employee).

## U Aung Maung (retired assistant lecturer)

I retired after working in Yankin Education College. Now I'm going to Kachin State Myitkyina to attend a ceremony paying homage to teachers. I'm sure workers and public servants will be happy about the long holiday as the majority was working in duty stations that are not their home towns. May the leaders of the country be happy together with the people during this holiday.

## U Kyaw Kyaw Bo (traveller)

I came from Pyin Oo Lwin with my family and was visiting Pho Kyar Elephant Camp. Afterwards we'll go to Toungoo. From there, we'll go to Chaungtha. On the way back, we'll go to Yangon. Last year we went to Taunggyi. This year, as the holiday was long, my family can go to more places and relax. We'll also get some new experiences.

## Tun Tun Win (traveller)

I came to visit Pho Kyar Elephant Camp after hearing about it from friends who were here before. I look forward to watching the elephant given a bath at noon. From here, I'll go to Toungoo and on to Chaungtha.

## U Zaw Oo (Mahout)

At the moment there's only a few visitors coming to the camp. But soon, the place will be crowded as visitors come on weekends and long holidays. There are 13 elephants in our camp. The elephant will perform many things like playing balls, walking on a log and standing up on their hind legs.

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Visitors enjoy riding an elephant at Pho Kyar Elephant Camp on 11 October. PHOTO: AYE THAN

## U Aung Win Htay (tour guide)

During this holiday I plan to guide tourists to ethnic villages to Kayah State, Taunggyi, Nyaungshwe and Inle. As a tour guide, I'm always travelling. This month there were quite a number of visitors visiting Kayah State. Now I'm going to fetch my nieces who are attending school in Yangon as their schools closed for ten days.

## U Thein Myint (traveller)

I'm travelling to Taunggyi and Inle with my family and departed from Hlinethaya. The whole trip will be about five days. As my sons and daughters were also office workers, we plan to go on this trip during the holiday.

Our family hadn't been able to travel as a family for quite a long time. This will be the family's second trip to Inle. We plan to go on to Pindaya too.

## Daw Kaythi Oo (company employee)

Holiday last year was only three days, so I couldn't go too far and only went to nearby places. This year the holiday was five days so I left Yangon to visit Taunggyi, Inle and Pindaya. This region had a lot of places to visit and the long holiday will allow me to visit all. If the holiday was short, we couldn't go too far. May all be happy and may there be peace in the country.



# Road safety is first during Thadingyut holiday

**T**HE five-day Thadingyut holiday began on 11 October with a rush of travelers. Highway bus tickets were sold out even before the holiday started, and Myanmar Railways had to run special trains to ease traffic.

Sagaing, Mandalay, Bagan-NyaungU, Taunggyi, Inle, PyinOoLwin, Kyaikhtiyo, Hpa-an, and Mawlamyine have been popular destinations among holidaymakers this season.

On holidays, most vehicles are on the roads, with holidaymakers hastening to their destinations.

As a result, roads, including the new and old Yangon-Mandalay highways, are busy with traffic. In some areas, motorcycles, which account for half the road accidents in Myanmar, are also plying on the roads, but some road users are not wearing helmets.

Reckless driving, under the influence of alcohol, over-speeding, defective vehicles, and inclement weather are being blamed for most traffic accidents. Deaths and casualties from traffic accidents have continued to increase around the world.

At present, there are over 1.9 million vehicles registered across the country, and about half of them are registered in Yangon.

We must make preparations and take measures to reduce road accidents during the five-day holiday. Nationwide, motorcycle accidents accounted for 49 per cent of the total mishaps in 2018, and claimed 2,376 lives and left 12,985 injured.

Use of quality helmets can reduce the risk of death, and awareness about using quality helmets must be raised among the people.

Meanwhile, it has been found that a majority of passengers on highway express buses do not wear seatbelts, while those who want to wear them are unable to do so as most buses do not have fully functioning passenger seatbelts.

Our people, especially road users, should abandon the habit of putting on a seatbelt or wearing a helmet only when traffic rule enforcers carry out a surprise check.

Failure to wear helmets and seatbelts can lead to unnecessary injury or even death.

All stakeholders must work to ensure express buses have proper functioning seatbelts, and exact suitable punishment from those that do not.

We must perform checks not just at central terminals, but also in the smaller terminals. Awareness campaigns needed to be conducted with greater momentum and swift action needs to be taken against those who fail to comply with the rules and standards.

We must not lose sight of the goal to reduce the death toll in traffic accidents by 50 per cent in 2020 from the toll recorded in the base year of 2013.

Failure to wear helmets and seatbelts can lead to unnecessary injury or even death. All stakeholders must work to ensure express buses have proper functioning seatbelts, and exact suitable punishment from those that do not.

# Today's Earthquakes

By Hla Hla Aung (Myanmar Earthquake Committee)

**M**YANMAR recently experienced some earthquakes across the country, measuring from 3.0 to 5.0 Richter scale. There has been a growing concern about the seismic waves. It cannot be predicted when this natural disaster will happen. Why did the seismic events occur very often from 2106 to 2019? The relevant organizations have conducted earthquake drills and educational talks to prevent huge losses in the quakes. Many people have gained earthquake knowledge. The works such organizations

are greatly appreciated. Capable persons need to contribute to developing Myanmar into a quake-resilient country.

### Analysing the type of earthquakes

Earthquakes happened very frequently these days. Most of them centred along Rakhine Mountains in western Myanmar with the ranges from 4.0 to 5.0 magnitudes at a depth between 70 km and 200 km, along Sagaing fault, Shan hills (including southern, northern and eastern Shan state)

with the ranges from 3.0 to 4.0 magnitude at a depth between 0 to 40 km (mostly common at 10 km). It has been considerable events of the subduction zone earthquakes which occurred when India Plate is thrust beneath Burma Plate.

Some significant earthquakes of these types happened with 4.7 magnitude at 93.5 km depth in the northernmost part of northwestern Myanmar on 26 August 2019, with 4.7 magnitude at 54.7 km depth in Thandwe on 18 August 2019, another one with 5.3 magnitude at 40.3 km

depth almost at the same time on the same day, and with 4.8 magnitude at 98.9 km depth at northwest of Chauk Township on 6 August 2019. These three quakes occurred one after another in eight and 10 days intervals.

These subduction zone earthquakes happened very often. Earthquakes in YeU on 31 August 2019 and Mawlamyineyun on 11 September 2019 were the types of back-arc seismicity related to subduction zone earthquakes.

When heavy India Plate

thrust beneath less heavy Burma Plate, a compression resulted in normal fault, lateral strike-slip fault and thrust fault, then occurred the basin-inversion earthquakes.

### Importance of effective preparedness measures

As the subduction occurred at 95 degree longitude of central Myanmar, the earthquake happened in YeU. In reviewing these five quakes, the shocks of India Plate and Burma Plate in short interval turned into deep earthquakes and shallow earth-

quakes.

A total of 63 earthquakes happened in the half of 2018. The figure has spotlighted subduction zones become active. However, no scientists could conclude that the frequent earthquakes are a sign of strong earthquake in the future or the results of active subduction zones. Therefore, it is important to take effective preparedness measures to minimize the effects of earthquakes and to mitigate the losses.

(Translated by Aung Khin)

# Holidaymakers flock to Chaungtha beach during Thadingyut Festival

Interview by Thi Thi Min/Min Thit (MNA)  
PHOTO: NAY LIN

**M**ANY holidaymakers have opted Chaungtha as they feel the beach is more convenient for them.

Chaungtha is a well-known beach of Ayeyawady delta. The number of visitors has significantly increased this year. Since the beginning of this holiday, thousands of people have crowded this area, including Pho Kalar island, White Sand island, Brother and Sister Rocks beach and Elephant Camp.

The followings are the interviews with the happy and joyous visitors there.

### Ma Thet Thet Moe Oo (Tailor Garment Factory in Hline-thaya, Yangon)

I come here with my friends from the work. Some of our colleagues went back their homes, while some others go on pilgrimage. Our group has 18 women. We



Ma Thet Thet Moe Oo.



Holidaymakers enjoy the beautiful beach of Chaungtha. PHOTO: NAY LIN

are visiting Phokalar island by motorboat. It is more pleasant with beautiful scenic views than Chaungtha beach.



U Kyaw Thu.

### Ma Khin Cho Zin (Hmawbi Township, Yangon Region)

We are enjoying Thadingyut



Daw Khin San Oo.

holidays. Our group has 11 persons. We will stay here one night. We have swum at the beach as we arrived here this morning. We come to Phoelakar island by motorboat. We will then proceed to the Brother and Sister Rocks. Chaungtha beach is very pleasant so we visit here every year. The beach is safe for swimming.

### Daw Khin San Oo (Primary Teacher, Kaung Myat Thar Private School)

We are visiting Brother and Sister Rocks during our holiday trip to Chaungtha beach. We will make a night stay at the beach be-

fore going back home tomorrow. In previous Thadingyut holidays, we visited Loikaw, Kyaikhtiyo and Inle. This year we have chosen Chaungtha. We have brought the children from our school. Our group has over 30 persons, and we are from Yangon.

### Ma Chit Su Naing (Pre-school Teacher in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region)

Our group has a total of 15 persons, including teachers and family members. We will visit Phoe Kalar island. Our school has been closed for six days. We can take relax at Chaungtha beach.

The official public holidays have five days. We have opted this trip with the preference of majority. The day trip is arranged by our headmistress.

### U Kyaw Thu (Administrator of Chaungtha beach)

We have requested more police forces for the security of visitors to Chaungtha beach. The regional government has assigned 30 police personnel who will be joined by the local administrative body, the departmental staff, community elders and members of fire brigade department. Local authorities will also patrol everywhere day and night for the security of visitors.

### U Naing Aung (Staff Officer, Directorate of Hotels and Tourism in Chaungtha beach)

There are 13 hotels with the total capacity of 850 rooms along the beach. These rooms are known to be fully booked for 11, 12 and 13 October, while reservation has been made for 60 per cent of the rooms. The remaining rooms are expected to be occupied with additional visitors.

On the other side of motor road, there are 586 rooms of hotels and guesthouses. About 2930 have occupied some of these rooms. Some remaining vacant rooms will be filled with next comers. The number of visitors has significantly increased this year.

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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## Ethiopia PM Abiy wins Nobel Peace Prize for mending ties with Eritrea

OSLO — Hailed as a visionary and reformer, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for his efforts to resolve the long-running conflict with neighbouring foe Eritrea.

Abiy was honoured “for his efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation, and in particular for his decisive initiative to resolve the border conflict with neighbouring Eritrea,” the Nobel Committee said.

The award is seen as a welcome boost for Africa’s youngest leader as he faces worrying inter-community violence ahead of a parliamentary election in May 2020. “I was so humbled and thrilled when I just heard the news,” Abiy told the Nobel Committee in a phone call posted online on the Nobel Prize website.

“It is a prize given to Africa, given to Ethiopia.” Abiy also said he hoped it would inspire other African leaders to “think it possible to work on peace-building processes”. Since taking office in April 2018, the 43-year-old has aggressively pursued policies that have the potential to upend society in the Horn of Africa nation and reshape dynamics beyond



Eritrea's President Isaias Afwerki (l) and Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (r) disembark from an airplane upon arrival at Juba International Airport in South Sudan on 4 March. PHOTO: AFP

its borders, after years of civil unrest. On 9 July, 2018, following a historic meeting in Eritrea’s capital Asmara, Abiy and Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki formally ended a 20-year-old stalemate between the countries in the wake of the 1998-2000 border conflict.

Abiy swiftly released dissidents from jail, apologised for state brutality, and welcomed home exiled armed groups.

### ‘Winds of hope’

His actions have sparked optimism in a region of Africa marred by violence. “I have said often that winds of hope are blowing ever stronger across Africa.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is one of the main reasons why,” UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said. — AFP ■

## Five stabbed at Manchester shopping centre

LONDON — Counter-terror police were on Friday probing a mass stabbing at a shopping centre in northwest England that left five people injured and needing hospital treatment.

The attack happened at the

Arndale shopping centre in the heart of Manchester, where an Islamist extremist suicide bomber killed 22 after an Ariana Grande concert in 2017. “We can confirm that five people have been stabbed and taken to hospital,”

Greater Manchester Police said in a statement. “Given the location of the incident and its nature officers from Counter Terrorism Police North West are leading the investigation as we determine the circumstances,” it added.— AFP

## Iranian oil tanker hit by blasts, missile attack suspected: report

TEHRAN — An Iranian oil tanker was rocked by multiple explosions Friday while transiting through the Red Sea, in a suspected missile attack, local media reported.

The state-run Islamic Republic News Agency said the tanker owned by a state-run National Iranian Oil Co. “was hit by missiles” some 100 kilometers off the coast of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, with oil spilling into the sea.

“Fortunately, all crew on board are safe and sound and the ship is in a stable condition. Only the body of the ship has suffered damage and the crew of the ship is working to control



A picture taken in March 2017 shows the Sabiti docking at the platform of the oil facility in the Kharg Island. PHOTO: AFP

it,” it said.

The stricken vessel was identified as the Sabiti.

The semiofficial Iranian Students’ News Agency said there were as many as five explosions and two oil tanks were damaged.

Tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia have been running high since a September 14 attack by drones on two Saudi oil facilities that cut country’s daily production of crude oil by nearly half. Saudi Arabia and the United States have blamed Iran, though Tehran denies any involvement. Yemen’s Iran-backed Houthi rebels have claimed responsibility.—Kyodo News ■

## UN calls for greater heat protection for workers in Qatar

DOHA — Improved safeguards and working hours are needed to protect labourers in Qatar from the effects of heat and humidity, the United Nations said Friday, as it published new research.

The desert monarchy has come under fire for conditions faced by its hundreds of thousands of migrant workers, as it prepares to host the 2022 World Cup.

The risks of Qatar’s heat and humidity were again thrust into the spotlight at the recent World Athletics Championships in Doha when women’s marathon runners collapsed because of the conditions, despite the race being staged at midnight.

Humidity hovered around 73 percent and the temperature was 33 degrees Celsius (91 degrees Fahrenheit) for much of last month’s race.

The study, commissioned by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Qatar’s labour

ministry, praised measures taken to reduce the effects of heat on 4,000 workers at one World Cup stadium project.

It concluded that while the heat mitigation steps taken by the body responsible for delivering the football showcase were “moderately to highly acceptable”, other employers in Qatar could improve protections.

### Ban on working hottest hours

Of Qatar’s roughly 1.9 million workers, just 30,000 work directly on World Cup projects. The head of the UN agency’s Qatar project office, Houtan Homayounpour, said the project was working with the government to turn the study’s recommendations into “improved legislation”. Workers need to be able to set their own pace, he told AFP, in terms of “when to stop, when to have a break, when to drink water — it’s very important... They know best how they feel.”— AFP ■



The UN study praised measures taken to reduce the effects of heat on 4,000 workers at one World Cup stadium project. PHOTO: AFP



# China's Xi arrives in India for summit with PM Modi

NEW DELHI — Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived India on Friday afternoon for an informal summit with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on the first leg of his South Asia visit that will include a state visit to Nepal.

Their two-day informal summit in the southern state of Tamil Nadu is the second of its kind, the first having been held in the Chinese city of Wuhan in April last year.

Before holding talks Saturday in the historical town of Mamallapuram, the two leaders will tour the World Heritage site's ancient temples and monuments Friday afternoon and attend a cultural program followed with a dinner in the evening.

India's foreign ministry said the summit will "provide an opportunity for the two leaders to continue their discussions on overarching issues of bilateral, regional and global importance



Xi landed at the Chennai airport, where Tamil Nadu state Governor Patwarilal Purohit greeted him with a bouquet as a cultural group beat drums and blew horns. **PHOTO: AFP**

and exchange views on deepening India-China Closer Development Partnership."

Xi's visit comes after India voiced irritation with a joint statement issued after Xi's meeting

Wednesday in Beijing with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan amid heightened tensions

between Pakistan and India over the disputed territory of Kashmir.

The joint statement said the Kashmir issue, which has long been the main thorn in relations between India and Pakistan, should be "properly and peacefully resolved based on the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements."

In response, the India's foreign ministry issued a statement the same day reiterating that Kashmir "is an integral part of India."

"China is well aware of our position. It is not for other countries to comment on the internal affairs of India," it said.

Xi last visited India in September 2014.

He will visit Nepal at the weekend, making him the first Chinese president to do so after an interval of 23 years. — Kyodo News ■

## China exhorts UN member states to pay annual fees

BEIJING — China's Foreign Ministry on Friday urged member states of the United Nations to adequately fulfill their financial obligations as the world body faces "a severe financial crisis" on account of unpaid dues.

"As the second-largest financial contributor, China has paid in full its financial obligation to the United Nations," ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a regular press briefing.

On Tuesday, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres told the General Assembly in New York, "This month, we will reach the deepest deficit of the decade," adding that the organization now risks "exhausting peacekeeping cash reserves, and entering November without enough cash to cover payrolls."

"Payment of UN contributions on time, in full and without



File photo shows Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

conditions is a Charter obligation of all member states," Geng said. While 129 states out of 193 have now paid their regular annual fees, the United Nations was still missing 30 percent of its regular budget for the 2019 fiscal year at the end of September.

Geng also said that many countries have "expressed serious concern" about the United States being "in arrears for a long time." — Kyodo News ■

## Japan top court upholds damages over student tsunami deaths

TOKYO — Japan's top court has upheld a ruling awarding millions of dollars in compensation to families of children swept out to sea in the massive 2011 tsunami, officials said Friday.

In all, 74 children from Okawa Elementary School in the city of Ishinomaki drowned after being told to wait on school grounds with teachers, 10 of whom also died, instead of seeking higher ground.

The 29 plaintiffs — parents of 23 children who died in the disaster — argued their children would have survived if they had been evacuated in time.

The Sendai district court ruled in 2016 that two local governments should pay a combined 1.43 billion yen (\$13.7 million) to the plaintiffs.

That ruling was upheld in 2018 by the Sendai High Court, and on Thursday, Japan's Supreme Court rejected an appeal by the local governments, a court spokeswoman said.

"This is historic," the plaintiffs' lawyer Kazuhiro Yoshioka told AFP.—AFP ■

## S Korea's army says will cut force by 100,000 in three years

SEOUL — South Korea's Army said Friday it will cut its force by 100,000 in the next three years in the face of a shrinking population.

Seoul, a key Washington ally, conscripts able-bodied men for two years of service to defend the country from the nuclear-armed North and its much larger army, which invaded the South in 1950 backed by communist allies China and the Soviet Union.

The war ended three years later in an armistice, not a peace treaty, leaving the South and North technically at war and the peninsula divided along the Demilitarized Zone.

Troops will be cut down from the current level of 464,000 by 2022, the Army said in a report to MPs, according to the South's Yonhap news agency.

In line with the reductions, the number of Army corps will be down to six from the current eight by 2022 and divisions from 38 to 33 by 2025, the Army stated.

South Korea's combined force of 600,000 personnel is already much smaller than the North's nearly 1.3 million strong military (which includes 1.1 mil-

lion in its army), according to Seoul's 2018 defence white paper.

Analysts estimate Pyongyang also has between 20 to 60 nuclear warheads. To make up for the reduced manpower, the Army stressed it would develop "next-generation game changers" such as high-mobility flight vehicles and artificial intelligence systems, according to Yonhap.

The downsizing comes as the government struggles to boost the country's total fertility rate — the number of children a woman is expected to have in her lifetime — which dropped to 0.98 in 2018, far short of the 2.1 needed to maintain population stability.

Currently 51 million, the population is projected to fall to 39 million in 2067, when the median age will be 62.—AFP ■



FILE PHOTO: Troops will be cut down from the current level of 464,000 by 2022, the Army said in a report to MPs, according to the South's Yonhap news agency. **PHOTO: AFP**



# Diaz-Canel elected president of Cuba

HAVANA — Cuban leader Miguel Diaz-Canel was elected on Thursday to serve in the newly-created post of president of the Republic of Cuba.

The election took place at an extraordinary legislative session of the National Assembly of People's Power, the single-chamber parliament.

Currently serving as president of the Council of State and Ministers, Diaz-Canel received 579 votes in favor from the 580 deputies present in the election, and he will be in office through 2023.

In his first speech as president, Diaz-Canel said his priority will be to continue to strengthen

the economy to ensure a better future for all Cubans.

Salvador Valdes Mesa, 74, was elected vice president. He is currently first vice president of the Council of State and Ministers and a member of the politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC). Earlier, legislators voted to have Esteban Lazo continue as president of the National Assembly and Council of State.

The extraordinary session, held at Havana's Convention Center, was attended by the first secretary of the PCC, Raul Castro. Since September 18, the members of the National Candidacy Commission have been consulting with lawmakers over



Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel meets with Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev (out of frame) at the Revolution Palace in Havana, on 3 October, 2019. PHOTO: AFP

potential candidates. A new electoral law passed in July, in keeping with a revised Constitution adopted on April 10, gave the National Assembly three months to elect its president, vice president and secretary, the 21 members of the State Council, and the country's president and vice president.

The new Constitution also calls for the election of a prime minister, and Diaz-Canel has three months to appoint someone to the post. The 605-member National Assembly, considered Cuba's highest governing body, meets regularly twice a year and holds extraordinary sessions as needed. — Xinhua ■

# EU and UK bid to save Brexit talks before key summit

BRUSSELS — British and EU negotiators met Friday in a last-ditch bid to restart talks on an orderly Brexit, amid "promising signals" that a deal could still be possible just days before a key EU summit.

British minister Stephen Barclay and EU negotiator Michel Barnier met for two hours behind closed doors in the Brussels headquarters of the European Union, one day after talks between Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his Irish counterpart Leo Varadkar.

As they met, the president of the European Council and host of next week's Brussels summit Donald Tusk warned that Britain has yet to come forward with a "workable, realistic proposal" for a Brexit deal. "A week ago I told Prime Minister Johnson that if



Ireland's Prime Minister, Leo Varadkar and Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson say they can see a "pathway" to a Brexit deal, but EU diplomats warn the road ahead is long. PHOTO: AFP

there was no such proposal by today, I would announce publicly that there are no more chances, because of objective reasons, for a deal during the incoming Euro-

pean Council," he said.

"However, yesterday, when the Irish taoiseach and the UK prime minister met they both saw, for the first time, a pathway

to a deal. I have received promising signals from the taoiseach that a deal is still possible," Tusk said, during a trip to Cyprus. —AFP ■

# Colombian peace process moves forward through challenging period: UN envoy

UNITED NATIONS — The top UN envoy in Colombia said Thursday that the peace process has continued to move forward through a challenging period.

Two years after the successful conclusion of the laying down of arms by former Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels, the vast majority of former fighters remain engaged and committed to the peace agreement,

said Carlos Ruiz Massieu, the UN secretary-general's special representative and head of the UN Verification Mission in Colombia.

Thousands of former fighters are pursuing academic studies, receiving vocational training, participating actively in cooperatives, and are employed in activities related to the peace agreement.

More than 3,500 former



Carlos Ruiz Massieu (Front), the UN secretary-general's special representative and head of the UN Verification Mission in Colombia, attends a Security Council meeting on the situation in Colombia, at the UN headquarters in New York, on 10 October, 2019. PHOTO: XINHUA

combatants are involved in collective and individual productive projects, ranging from agricul-

tural ventures to clothing manufacturing to eco-tourism, he told the Security Council. —Xinhua ■

## NEWS In BRIEF

### Kyrgyz ex-leader a no-show at trial after summer of turmoil

BISHKEK — Kyrgyz ex-president Almazbek Atambayev, who faces a litany of accusations including organising murder and civil unrest, failed to appear Friday at the opening of his trial, his lawyer said.

The 63-year-old former ally of President Sooronbai Jeenbekov was detained by police during a summer of political turmoil in the volatile Central Asian country but has refused to cooperate with investigators or the court in Bishkek.

He has been charged with corruption over the release from jail and flight to Chechnya of one of the ex-Soviet nation's most notorious mob bosses during his presidency in 2013. Atambayev faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted. The preliminary hearing of the case was closed to the public. Lawyer Sergey Slesarev said Atambayev, who is being held in a pretrial detention facility in Bishkek, "refused to take part in the show", leading the court to adjourn until Monday. —AFP ■

### Heavy fighting as Syria Kurds hold off Turkish assault

QAMISHLI — Fighting raged in northeastern Syria on Friday as Turkish forces and their proxies tried to seize key Kurdish-held towns on the third day of a long-threatened offensive.

The Syrian Democratic Forces — the autonomous Kurds' de facto army — scrambled to repulse multiple ground attacks along a roughly 120 kilometre (75 mile) long segment of the border. "There is heavy fighting between the SDF and the Turks on different fronts, mostly from Tal Abyad to Ras al-Ain," the Syria Observatory for Human Rights said. The Britain-based war monitor said the Turkish forces and their Syrian proxies — mostly Sunni Arab former rebels — were using air strikes, heavy artillery and rocket fire. "The SDF are using tunnels, trenches and berms" in their defence operations, the Observatory said. Kurdish counter-attacks overnight led to the retaking of two of the 11 villages they had lost since the start of the Turkish-led assault on Wednesday. —AFP ■



# Olga Tokarczuk, Peter Handke win Literature Nobels

STOCKHOLM — Polish writer Olga Tokarczuk on Thursday won the 2018 Nobel Literature Prize, which was delayed over a sexual harassment scandal, while Austrian novelist and playwright Peter Handke took the 2019 award, the Swedish Academy said.

Experts had predicted the Academy would go to great pains to steer clear of controversy with its pick of laureates, as it seeks to restore its reputation tainted by the scandal.

But Handke, 76, was quickly seen as a divisive

choice for his pro-Serb support in the Balkan wars.

Tokarczuk, 57, considered the most talented Polish novelist of her generation, was honoured “for a narrative imagination that with encyclopaedic passion represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life”.

She told Swedish Radio she “couldn’t believe” she had won, and was pleased to share it with Handke, “my favourite writer”.

“It’s a very important award for Central Europe.

It’s an honour and a source of pride,” Tokarczuk told AFP by telephone while on her way to a reading in Bielefeld, Germany.

Handke meanwhile told reporters outside his home near Paris that he was “astonished” to be honoured, terming it a “courageous” move by the Academy. Tokarczuk’s books portray a polychromatic world perpetually in motion, with characters’ traits intermingled and language that is both precise and poetic. Her first novel, “The Journey of the Peo-

ple of the Book,” released in 1993, chronicles a failed expedition to find a mysterious book. The daughter of a school librarian, she won the Booker International Prize along with her translator Jennifer Croft for her 2007 novel “Flights”, whose English version came out in 2017.

Her 900-page “The Books of Jacob”, which the Swedish Academy hailed as her “magnum opus”, spans seven countries, three religions and five languages, tracing the little-known history of



The Polish writer Olga Tokarczuk will receive the Nobel Literature Prize 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Frankism, a Jewish messianic sect that sprang up in Poland in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Released in 2014, its pages are numbered in reverse in the style of Hebrew books. The Academy called it a “remarkably rich panorama of an almost ne-

glected chapter in European history.”

An environmentalist with long, dark dreadlocks, she is also a political activist who does not shy away from criticising Poland’s right-wing Law and Justice (PiS) government.—AFP ■

## Three dead in China bridge collapse

BEIJING — Three people were killed and two injured in eastern China when a highway overpass collapsed and crushed cars below it, local officials said Friday.

Videos posted online showed a large section of the bridge in Jiangsu province swaying before falling on top of moving vehicles on Thursday night.

One clip posted on Twitter-like Weibo showed the bridge narrowly missing a small three-wheel car, whose driver leapt out and ran away.

Other images showed crushed cars, with only their front sections or headlights visible under a huge

block of grey concrete.

A preliminary investigation showed the collapse had been caused by an overloaded truck, the Wuxi city government said in a statement on Weibo.

Three vehicles — including one that was parked and unoccupied — were crushed, and three people in the two other cars were killed, according to the statement.

Five vehicles were on the bridge deck, including two trucks.

The collapse also left two people injured, the statement said.

Construction and road accidents are not uncommon in China.—AFP ■

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

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

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

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

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# Heritages of laterite culture

Maung Tha (Archaeology)

**A**RCHITECTURAL works, sculptural works and religious monuments made of laterite can generally be dubbed as laterite culture. Professor G.H. Luce firstly used the word “laterite culture” as examples for Kyaikhtihsaung Pagoda and its walls decorated with reliefs of elephant and horse troops in Zokthok Village, Bilin Township, Mon State. Myanmar dictionary defines laterite is mixed with clay and rust.

Iron and aluminum from laterite convert themselves into oxide in mixing with oxygen from atmosphere. So laterite can be seen as reddish. It can be called unburned brick because of hardening in meeting with air.

Laterite can be seen in Mon State, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon regions. Kyontu near Waw of Bago Region, and Htamalon and Padagyi in Thanlyin and Kyauktan townships of Yangon Region are significant laterite regions. I remembered the long roads in Kyaiklat of Ayeyawady Region were paved with laterite. In fact, laterite is clay transformed into hard and compact stone, so it can be used in paving the roads as well as buildings. Statues can be made of laterite. Hence, laterite was used in making statues, pagodas, stupas, umbrellas and walls. That was why the regions where laterite was produced flourished laterite culture. Ancient laterite works and various forms of reliefs made of laterite in modern designs can be seen in Myanmar.

Students from post-graduate diploma course of Archaeology Department from Yangon University and some outstanding trainees made trips to some regions in Bago Region and Mon State to study laterite culture. They paid visits to Kyontu of Waw Township in Bago Region and Kyaikkatha, Winka, Zokthok and Thaton of Mon State.

## Kyontu

Ancient Kyontu pagoda mound is located two furlongs

on right side of Yangon-Mawlamyine Road, one mile from Waw in Bago Region. The pagoda precinct of Kyontu located on eastern bank of Bago-Sittoung Canal, northeast of Waw, can be seen from Yangon-Mawlamyine road.

Two pagodas Naungdawgyi and Naungdawlay were situated on Kyontu pagoda mound. The collapsed Naungdawlay Pagoda was renovated in around 2012. In this regard, the pagoda was built of brick on the laterite lower structure. Researchers as-

sumed Kyontu was a region of Mon State flourishing laterite culture. (Now these pagodas do not have original works due to renovation.)

eter and four inches in thickness were found from the precinct of Kyontu pagoda. The statues decorated with dancers and music players encircled by dots in double circles. Broken baked statues are kept at the prayer hall of Kyontu Pagoda. Moreover, a pair of laterite lion statues in same sizes was found from the lake. These lion statues are five feet and seven inches high each and are kept under shelter near the lake.

A brick with finger lines with 15 inches in length, 7.5 inches in

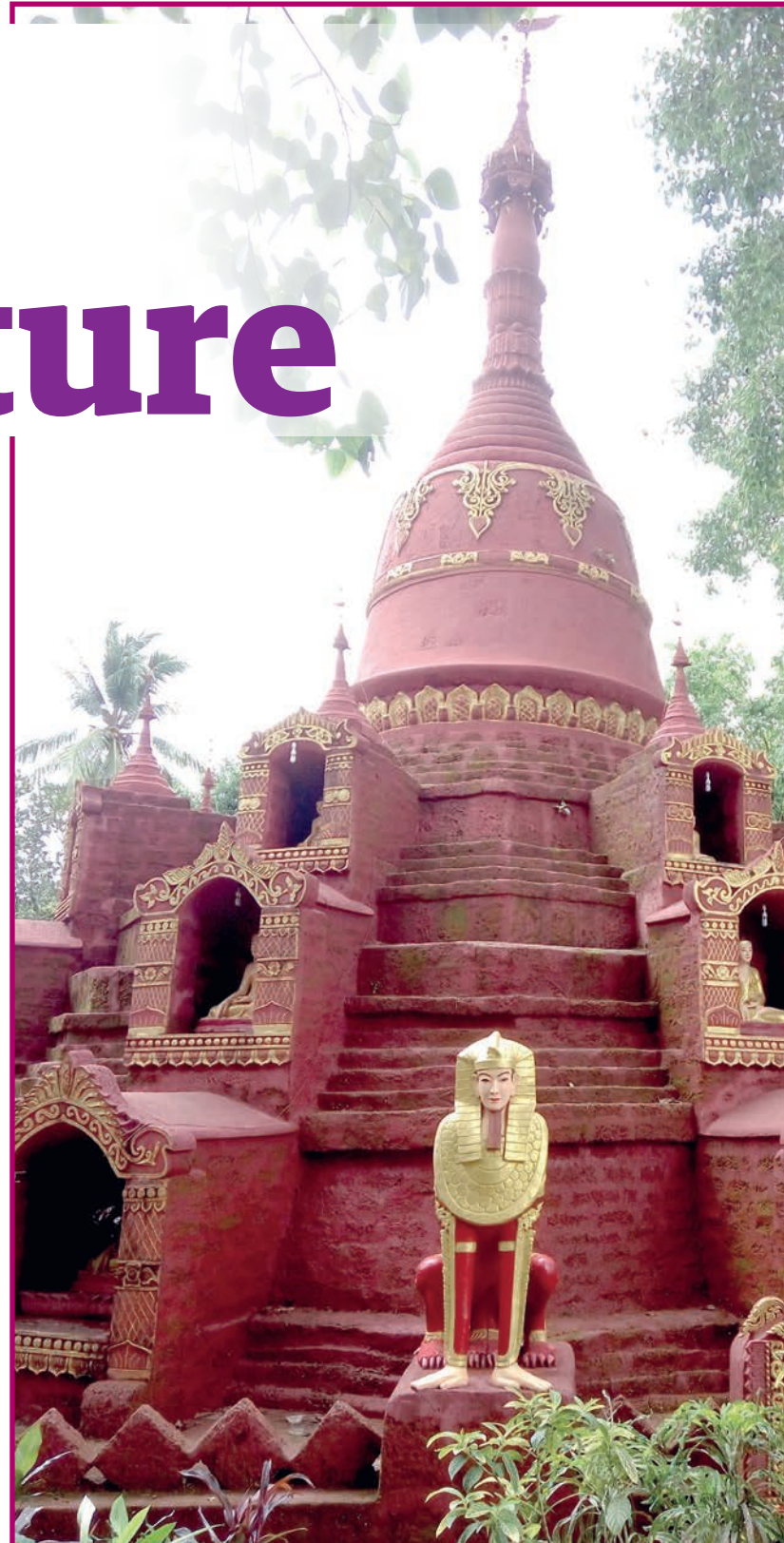


A statue made of laterite. PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)

width and 2.5 inches in thickness, one more brick with 18.5 inches in length, nine inches in width and 2.5 inches in thickness and another one with 15.5 inches in length, 8.5 inches in width and three inches in thickness were also salvaged from the lake. These bricks are under maintenance of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum. Generally, these bricks with finger lines were assumed as bricks in Pyu era. The bricks with finger lines found in Kyontu

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Naungdawlay Pagoda on the Ancient Kyontu Pagoda Mound. PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)



Mote So Ma Cave. PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)





MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)



were seen with three crossing finger lines, finger lines in length, three hemisphere shape finger lines at each end, and vertical finger lines in central parts.

Broken bricks with finger lines are kept together with broken baked statues at Dhammayon in front of two Kyontu pagodas. Laterite culture researcher U Maung Maung Lwin explained these baked earthen statues may be works in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> AD centuries.

### Kyaikkatha

Kyaikkatha is located between Kyaikto and Moppalin, on the eastern bank of Sittoung River. Yangon-Mawlamyine railroad crosses the walls of Kyaikkatha. The eastern part of railroad is named Kawsan Village, the western Kyaikkatha Village. The two villages are combined as Kyaikkatha Village-tract.

Forestry Commissioner U Aung Myint himself discovered the ancient city Kyaikkatha in January 1981. The Archaeology Department carried out excavation at ancient Kyaikkatha city in 1986.

Before entering Kyaikkatha Village, Department of Archaeology maintains a cave namely Moksoema Cave where a Mon queen took a shelter after Thaton city had deteriorated. It is man-made cave in a laterite hillock. Interior parts are formed with partitions for safety location. Researchers reviewed Moksoema Cave may be a station for ancient infantry troops due to findings on close locations to the walls and systematic preparations to defend the enemy.

It is 80 feet long and 20 feet wide. The entrance to the cave is two feet and three inches wide. A local said there was a bed made of laterite in the large room of cave but now there is nothing.

Phaya Tahtaung mound is situated in Malotchaung Village, one mile from Kyaikkatha. We saw 42 mounds each along both sides of road to Phayahtaung Mound or Phaya Tahtaung Mound. Each mound is 15-20 feet high. It can be assumed that small pagodas were built on each mound in the past. Now, a total of 14 gilt pagodas on the mounds.

A building in a shape of Dhammayon was built near the pagoda on the mound. After clearing the bushes near the building, we saw Buddha images made of laterite. Moreover, we saw other laterite statues in the bushes. Among them, two Buddha images made of laterite are situated back to back. One of the two is 33 inches high, 16 inches broad in width and 20 inches in breadth. The remaining one is 23 inches in breadth. Both images are in shape of Pyalammanasana called dangling position of legs similar to that of the Buddha

image built by Queen Shin Saw Pu in Kyaikmaraw. However, the images did not have heads. That is why the Buddha images with dangling position of legs existed in laterite cultural era in Myanmar.

### Walls decorated with reliefs of elephant and horse troops

The laterite walls significantly decorated with reliefs of elephant and horse troops are located two furlongs southwest of Kyaikhtihsaung Pagoda in Zokthok Village of Bilin Township.

The ancient laterite wall is 420 feet long and 10 feet high. The left ending of the walls was 31 feet and eight inches thick of laterite. A total of 15 plots of laterite reliefs were carved on the walls. Each plot is created on 3.5 square feet area. Each plot is formed with two laterite pieces as high reliefs. Despite calling elephant and horse troops, the plots depict lion and elephant

reliefs. Each plot is separated with vases with lotus flowers.

The extended walls bear horse reliefs. Horse reliefs at the left end of the walls are not original works, said Associate Professor Dr Maung Maung Lwin of Archaeology Department from Mandalay University. Frog, fish and turtle statues were made of laterite on the mound in east of elephant and horse troop reliefs but no one know the purpose of carving.

A lake was seen near the walls decorated with elephant and horse reliefs. Locals said the lake was an area of extracting laterites to be used in building the walls. Similar large pits where laterite was extracted can be seen as lakes near the laterite pagodas similar to Kyaikhtihsaung Pagoda, Kyaikkatha Pagoda and Thaton Shwesaryan Pagoda.

Whatever it maybe, laterite images, pagodas and walls are



Students and outstanding trainees looking around the site. PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)



Students from post-graduate diploma course of Archaeology Department from Yangon University and some outstanding trainees pose for documentary Photo. PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)

ancient objects bearing historical images of laterite culture. They are firm evidences for new generations to conduct researches. However, it needs to preserve laterite works without strengths of resilience as stones against impacts of raining and flooding.

Translated by Than Tun Aung

Reference:  
*Myanmar's ancient cities from satellite photos (U Aung Myint)*  
*Svannabhumi Research (U San Win)*  
*Papers on Svannabhumi laterite culture (Maung Maung Lwin)*





## Myanmar-Thai traditional lethwei challenge to be held at Kyaikkhami

THE Myanmar-Thai traditional lethwei challenge will be held on 15, 16, and 17 October at the site of the Kyaikkhami Yele Pagoda festival in Kyaikkhami Town, Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State.

The main bout will feature Myanmar's Phyan Thwe

and Thailand's Toeto. In another match, Myanmar's Aung Paing (Nagar Man) will face Thailand's Phar Mee Chaing.

More matches have been scheduled between Saw Shwe Lay (Do Yoe Yar) and Lin Htet Aung ( Taung Kalay), Thura

Moe (Thaton) and Yar Hoo Pha Lon ( Htoo Myittar Htoo), Negro (Pa Nga) and Ye Htet Soe (Thaton), and Chit Sue Nge and Saw Soe Oo (Shwe Barlar).

The lethwei challenge will take place at 11 a.m. from 15-17 October. —Kyaw Khin ■

## 2022 World Cup Qualifiers: Myanmar lose to Kyrgyzstan 0-7

MYANMAR was defeated by Kyrgyzstan 0-7 in the second round of the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers on Thursday at the Dolen Omurzakov Stadium, Bishkek City, the home ground of Kyrgyzstan.

The goals for Kyrgyzstan were scored by Bernhardt at the 5th, 10th, and 87th minutes, Shukurov at the 20th and 71st minutes, Alykulov at the 26th minute, and Kichin at the 45th minute.

In the first leg of the second round of the 2022 FIFA World

Cup qualifications, Myanmar also played against Mongolia on 5 September and Japan on 10 September. Myanmar lost all matches.

Team Myanmar will next play against Tajikistan on 19 November at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay.

Myanmar, Japan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Mongolia have been placed in Group F in the second round of the qualifiers. Each team will play one another in two legs in the round.

The second leg matches for

Myanmar will be against Mongolia on 19 November, Japan on 26 March, 2020, Kyrgyzstan on 31 March, 2020, and Tajikistan on 9 June, 2020.

There are eight groups competing in the second round of the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualification. The eight group winners and the four best runners-up will advance to the third round.

The FIFA World Cup is scheduled to take place between 21 November and 18 December, 2022 in Qatar. —Kyaw Khin ■

## Vardy's wife receives death threats after Coleen Rooney's leak allegations



Rebekah Vardy receives death threats over leak allegations. PHOTO: AFP

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Rebekah Vardy says she has received death threats even aimed at her unborn child since Wayne Rooney's wife Coleen accused her of leaking stories.

Seven-months pregnant Vardy, a reality TV star married to former England striker Jamie Vardy, told Friday's Daily Mail she has received abuse via social media since Rooney went public with her accusations on Wednesday.

Rooney, 33, said she had a suspicion of who might be the source of the leaks and blocked everyone apart from an Instagram page belonging to Vardy from seeing her stories.

The wife of England's record goalscorer told her 1.3 million Twitter followers she had worked out Vardy was the culprit after she had posted a series of false stories, some of which made it into The Sun.—AFP ■

## Federer loses cool and follows Djokovic out of Shanghai



Roger Federer's trademark cool evaded him as the new generation of men's tennis stars took centre stage in Shanghai. PHOTO: AFP

SHANGHAI (China) — Roger Federer's trademark cool spectacularly deserted him and he was given a point penalty as he followed Novak Djokovic out of the Shanghai Masters quarter-finals on Friday.

Alexander Zverev defeated the usually unflappable Swiss 6-3,

6-7 (7/9), 6-3 in a dramatic match that saw Federer twice hit the ball out of the court in anger and row with the umpire.

The sixth-ranked Zverev, 22, faces Matteo Berrettini in the semi-finals on Saturday after the Italian defeated Austria's Dominic Thiem in straight sets.

Former number one Federer evaded questions about the umpire afterwards, shrugging his shoulders and firing back at one reporter: "So you can write something on Twitter, yeah?"

"Next question."

The 20-time Grand Slam champion saved five match points

to force a deciding set, but he then became engaged in a continual war of words with the chair umpire.

His point deduction came at 3-0 and 30-15 down in the third set, as the 38-year-old threatened to unravel and he pinged another ball towards the crowd.

Federer said that he "played alright", but was effusive about the rise of Zverev, Daniil Medvedev and Stefanos Tsitsipas, all in the semi-finals in Shanghai.

"The young guys are knocking on the door big time, it's exciting, it's great," he said.

Zverev has 11 career titles, but only one arrived this year.

"It was a match to turn my year round a little bit," he said, adding that he thought Federer played better when he was riled.

'Scared'

Tsitsipas said that he scares the "Big Three" after the young Greek stunned world number one Djokovic in their quarter-final.

The 21-year-old has now

defeated Djokovic, Federer and Rafael Nadal this year to burnish his fast-growing reputation.

On Saturday though he faces the red-hot 23-year-old Medvedev — who he has never beaten.

Tsitsipas recovered from losing the opening three games in just seven minutes to shock the reigning champion Djokovic 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Calling it the best comeback of his nascent career, the seventh-ranked Tsitsipas said he had dreamt of beating the "Big Three".

But rather than being intimidated by them, Tsitsipas said: "I honestly feel like they are more threatened than I am and that makes me more relaxed on court.

"I know I just have to hang in there and be able to be more aggressive.

"Once you get aggressive and they see you going for it, I might even say they get scared."

It was a double celebration for Tsitsipas, who also confirmed his place in the prestigious season-ending ATP Finals.—AFP ■