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Vice President U Henry Van Thio to attend swearing-in ceremony of new Indonesian government

PAGE-2

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## PSDC, businesspersons hold 30<sup>th</sup> meeting, discuss updating export, import rules, policies



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the 30<sup>th</sup> regular meeting between businesspersons and Private Sector Development Committee at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

**T**HE Private Sector Development Committee, chaired by Vice President U Myint Swe, and businesspersons met in Yangon yesterday to discuss reforms, including bringing about changes in export and import rules and policies. The 30<sup>th</sup> regular meeting was held at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of

Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) in Yangon yesterday morning. In his address Vice President U Myint Swe said starting from December 2016 regular meetings with business persons had been held and up to the last meeting, the 29th, 358 difficulties and issues raised by businesspersons were sent back to relevant

businesses through the UMFCCI. Responses included matters that were resolved as well as 50 matters that were yet to be resolved. Of the 50, 24 were found to be permissible while 5 were found to be not in line with the policy and thus could not be permitted. The 21 remaining matters were still being looked into and will be

included for resolution through the Public Private Dialogue with the 5 work committees.

The Trade sector played an important role in the development of a country's economy. As private and public sectors were cooperating towards this end it was US\$ 33.53 billion in fiscal year 2017-2018 and US\$ 34.98 billion in

fiscal year 2018-2019. This was US\$ 3.879 billion more than the planned amount. Private sector participation in this was US\$ 29.309 billion or 84 percent.

Local investment amounting to K 17,772.686 billion including US\$ 9.214 billion was made in 1,315 businesses.

**SEE PAGE-4**

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## Vice President U Henry Van Thio to attend swearing-in ceremony of new Indonesian government



Vice President U Henry Van Thio meets with Myanmar Ambassador to Indonesia, Myanmar Permanent Representative to ASEAN, Myanmar military attaché, and family members of the Myanmar Embassy in Indonesia at Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Jakarta yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A Myanmar delegation led by Vice President U Henry Van Thio left Yangon by air for Jakarta, Indonesia yesterday morning to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the new Republic of Indonesia government.

The delegation led by the Vice President was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minis-

ter U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon mayor U Maung Maung Soe, Indonesian ambassador Dr Iza Fadri and officials.

The Vice President was accompanied by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye and officials.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio and party reached Jakarta, Indonesia at local

standard time 6 pm and was welcomed at the Soekarno-Hatta International Airport by Minister of National Development Planning of Indonesia Mr Bambang P.S. Brodjonegoro, officials from the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar Ambassador to Indonesia Daw Ei Ei Khin Aye, Myanmar Permanent Representative to ASEAN U Min Lwin and wife, Myanmar

military attaché Brig-Gen Phyo Zaw Soe and wife, and officials from the Myanmar Embassy, Myanmar Permanent Mission and office of the Myanmar military attaché.

Next the Vice President and party went by motorcade to the Mandarin Oriental Hotel and presented gifts and cordially greeted the Myanmar Ambassador to Indonesia,

Myanmar Permanent Representative to ASEAN, Myanmar military attaché, personnel and family members of the Myanmar embassy, Permanent Mission and Office of the Myanmar military attaché and the Myanmar community in Indonesia.

Afterwards the Vice President attended a dinner hosted by the Myanmar Ambassador. — MNA

## Experts discuss Gmail and Google Account Security at seminar at UMFCCI

UNION of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and US-ICT Council jointly organized “Gmail and Google Account Security Seminar” at UMFCCI Mingala Hall on the morning of 18 October. Myanmar was reported to have designated the month of October as Myanmar Cyber Security Month.

UMFCCI Vice President U Thaung Tin said, “US-ICT Council was formed by American IT companies and had signed a MoU with UMFCCI to help in the usage of IT in economic sector. Today’s event was part of the MoU.”

The event was held to inform

about security in using Google products such as Gmail, Google Search, Google Map, Google Translate and Youtube that were widely used in Myanmar.

At the event Google Public Head of Thailand Mr. Jirawat Poomsrikaew explained about creating Google Account, maintaining personal data, security system and Cyber Security followed by a question and answer session.

The event was attended by UMFCCI Vice President U Thaung Tin, officials from Google and US-ICT Council for Myanmar and interested persons. — UMFCCI

(Translated by Zaw Min)



The Gmail and Google Account Security Seminar being convened in Yangon on 18 October. **PHOTO: GNLM**

## Myanmar-Nepal Joint Statement issued on the occasion of the State Visit of the Rt. Hon. Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, to Myanmar

(16-20 October 2019)

1. At the invitation of His Excellency U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Right Honourable Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of Nepal, paid a State Visit to Myanmar from 16 to 20 October 2019. She was accompanied by a high-level Nepali delegation comprising of the Honourable Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs and high ranking government officials.
2. This visit, the first by a Head of State to Myanmar in the past 39 years, reinforces the bonds of friendship and the tradition of high-level interaction between leaders of the two countries. It is also a historic, important milestone in the bilateral relations reflecting the hallmark of the close and friendly ties between the two countries.
3. A ceremonial welcome was accorded to President Bhandari at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 17 October, 2019. Following the ceremony, President U Win Myint and President Bhandari held a bilateral meeting where both leaders had cordial discussions and exchanged views on the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation as well as closer collaboration in regional and multilateral spheres. President U Win Myint hosted a State Banquet in honour of the visiting Nepali President and her entourage.
4. Her Excellency Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar called on the President Bhandari on the same day. They held discussions in a friendly atmosphere, exchanging views on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of common interest. The State Counsellor and the President of Nepal also witnessed the signing of the following Memoranda of Understanding:
  - i. Tourism Cooperation between Myanmar and Nepal;
  - ii. Cultural Cooperation between Myanmar and Nepal
5. During the meetings, the leaders extolled the commonalities, culture and traditions which have established close affinities between the two peoples and countries. Both sides discussed matters pertaining to the enhancement of bilateral cooperation, particularly in the areas of tourism, trade and investment, transportation, industry and culture. Noting the existing potential for investment, the two sides agreed to work together to facilitate the promotion of bilateral trade and investments.
6. On the same day, Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, also called on the President of Nepal.
7. Myanmar reaffirmed its readiness to render support for the success of the Nepali Government's "Visit Nepal Year (2020)" and for the National objective of "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali".
8. Bearing in mind that the establishment of diplomatic relations will mark the 60th anniversary in 2020, both sides agreed to commemorate the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Myanmar and Nepal by jointly hosting a series of events in both countries.
9. The leaders also acknowledged with great pleasure the role of Nepali diasporas in Myanmar in forging the existing bonds of friendship between Myanmar and Nepal by integrating well into Myanmar society, sharing in a peaceful, happy and harmonious life.
10. The two sides reaffirmed their commitments to work closely, not only in the bilateral context but also in regional and multilateral fora, including BIMSTEC and the United Nations, based on shared views on a number of issues of common interest.
11. While in Myanmar, the delegation led by the Nepali President visited cultural and historical sites of significance and met with the people of Nepali origin.
12. President Bhandari expressed her deep appreciation to President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho for the warm welcome and exceptional hospitality extended to her and the Nepali delegation during their stay in Myanmar.

Nay Pyi Taw  
20 October 2019

## Senior General inspects construction status of Thatta Thattaha Maha Bohdi Pagoda



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party visit to the Thatta Thattaha Maha Bohdi Pagoda under construction in Buddha Garden compound near Pan Kwe Village in Shan State on 18 October.

**PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

In the morning of 18 October, Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and party paid homage to the Thatta Thattaha Maha Bohdi Pagoda under construction in the Buddha Garden compound near Pan Kwe Village, 15 miles southeast of Kengtung in Shan State (East).

First, the Senior General and party inspected the sculpting of Buddha images in the

Buddha Garden compound and the view point and also inspected the construction of the Thatta Thattaha Maha Bohdi Pagoda and the planted flowers.

They then paid homage to the Abaya Raza Muni Buddha image and offered flowers and water. The 108 ft. high Thatta Thattaha Maha Bohdi Pagoda is built exactly like the Maha Bohdi Pagoda in Gaya, India and is being constructed with

donations made by Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, Air Force) families and donors.

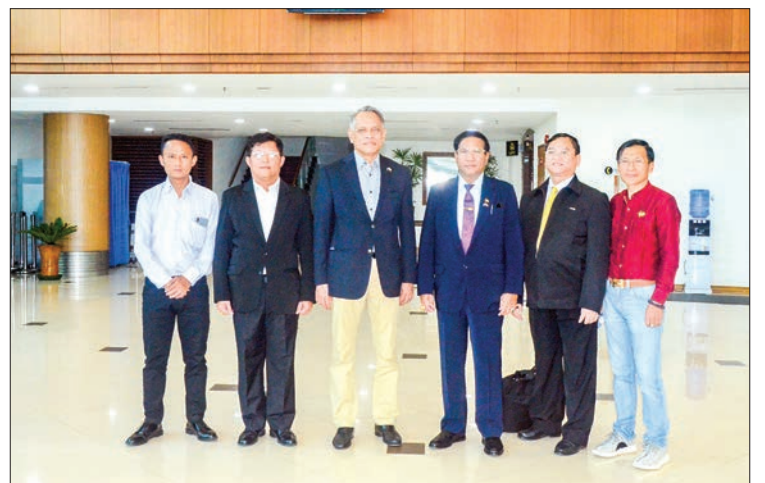
Yesterday morning the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and party released fishes into the Kyaing Phaung Creek in Kengtung Towns as good deed according to news released by Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services — MNA

*(Translated by Zaw Min)*

## Deputy Minister U Tin Myint arrives back from Australia

A delegation led by U Tin Myint, Deputy Minister for the Office of the Union Government, that went to Sydney and Canberra cities in Australia from 12 to 19 October to study power-sharing between central government and state governments arrived back in Yangon yesterday. The delegation was welcomed by officials at the Yangon International Airport. — MNA

*(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*



Deputy Minister U Tin Myint and party pose for a group photo at the Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo opens the new Mandalay District Court building in Mandalay yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

### Union Chief Justice attends opening of Mandalay District Court Building

UNION Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo opened a new Mandalay District Court building in Mandalay Region yesterday morning. At the opening ceremony, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Zaw Myint Maung, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Kyaw Oo, Mandalay Region High Court Chief Judge U Soe Thein and mayor Dr Ye Lwin cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the new district court building.

Next, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo pressed a button to unveil the signboard of the district court building and inspected the new building with the Region

Chief Minister and officials.

Afterwards, Mandalay District Judge U Kyaw Kyaw Oo and Diamond City Company Limited Chief Engineer U Tin Maung explained about the new building and transferred documents related to the new building to the District Judge. After the opening ceremony, the Union Chief Justice accompanied by the Ministry of Construction, Department of Buildings Director General inspected the construction of Mandalay Region High Court Building.—MNA(Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo and party inspect the Mandalay Region High Court building. PHOTO: MNA

## PSDC, businesspersons hold 30<sup>th</sup> meeting, discuss updating...

#### FROM PAGE-1

As complaints were made against illegal imports through the border area illegal trade control and prevention groups were formed in nine regions and states resulting in 944 arrests of an estimated Kyat 14.6145 billion worth of illegal imports. The Office of the President had formed the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee and based on illegal trade eradication index arrangements were made to form work committees, sub-committees and special work groups and to draw up an illegal trade eradication strategy.

The World Bank's Doing Business Website posted on 27 September 2019 that Myanmar was among the top 20 improvers lists in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index 2020. The website mentioned that Myanmar progressed in the five sub-indices of Dealing with construction per-

mits, starting a business, registering property, enforcing contracts and protecting investors. Doing Business 2020 report will be published on 24 October. Some improvements and reforms were under observation and were not included as points. Although the government had conducted reforms, the private sector was not aware of it immediately. This lack of responses resulted in no points being obtained. All were urged to cooperate and participate towards easing and developing Doing Business work processes.

Relevant departments for progress and development of 2021 Ease of Doing Business Ranking need to change the laws, rules, procedures and policies to be in line with the times and were using modern technologies to reform and change. Departments and private businesses need to know the reforms and changes implemented by the government

and success could be achieved only if there were strong cooperation between the government and the private sector. All were urged to establish businesses that benefit business persons, low income people and the government and work towards increasing responsible investments in the country.

Associations and entities participating in today's meeting were urged to discuss openly the difficulties they face with the relevant Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers and officials who were in attendance, said the Vice President.

Next, Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint explained about works conducted by the ministry on export and import laws, policies, rules and regulations and increasing export.

Afterwards UMFCCI President U Zaw Min Win explained about the status of implementing

decisions made at the past meetings, public-private discussions held for private sector development, increasing export and status of sector wise works.

Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry Chairman U Khin Han, Myanmar Fisheries Federation Vice Chairman Dr Toe Nanda Tin and general secretary U Win Kyaing, Myanmar Automobile Manufacturers and Distributors Association Vice Chairman U Zaw Htike Aye and joint secretary Dr Kyaw Kyaw Aung then explained about sector wise difficulties faced and provided discussions and suggestions.

The Vice President, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Yangon City Development Committee joint secretary and officials provided comments and suggestions to ensure coordination based on suggestions made.

The meeting came to close after a concluding speech by the

Vice President.

Also present at the meeting were:

Vice-Chairman of PSDC and Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint; Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaug Tun; Deputy Ministers U Aung Htoo and U Win Maw Tun; UMFCCI President U Zaw Min Win, Vice Presidents and central executive committee members; chairmen, vice chairmen and officials from 5 work committees; Deputy Mayor of Yangon and Yangon City Development Committee joint secretary; permanent secretaries, directors general and department heads; chairmen, vice chairmen and officials from Yangon Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Fisheries Federation and Myanmar Automobile Manufacturers and Distributors Association.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

# Nepali delegation led by Prez Bhandari tour Yangon

YESTERDAY morning a Nepali delegation led by President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal Mrs Bidya Devi Bhandari who was on a State Visit to Myanmar attended a donation ceremony of 30 Buddha images of various mudras that were to be donated to the Lumbini museum in Nepal. The Nepali delegation was accompanied by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and officials. The donation ceremony was held at the Sitagu International Buddhist Academy in Pinlon Ward, Dagon Myothit (East), Yangon and the Buddha images were donated by the Sitagu Sayadaw Ashin Nyanissara.

At the donation ceremony Sitagu Sayadaw Ashin Nyanissara and Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko delivered speeches of greetings.

Next, Sitagu Sayadaw donated the Buddha images to the Nepali President and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal Mr Pradeep Kumar Gyawali said words of thanks. A commemorative group photo was then taken.

Afterwards, the Nepali President and party visited Bogyoke Museum in Bahan Township, Yangon where Department of Archaeology and National Museum Director General U Kyaw Oo Lwin provided explanations.

Later in the afternoon the Nepali President attended the Myanmar-Nepal bilateral trade cooperation event jointly conducted by Myanmar-Nepal

Chamber of Commerce and Myanmar-Nepal Friendship Association.

At the event Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal Mr Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, U Kyaw Myaing, Senior Advisor from the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies, and Dr Thant Myint-U from the U Thant Museum and Chairman of the Yangon Heritage Trust gave brief talks about Myanmar-Nepal bilateral trade and friendship matters and responded to questions raised by members of the audience.

From there the Nepali President and party accompanied by Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe and officials visited the Shwedagon Pagoda. Pagoda Trustee Board alternate chairman U Than Zaw provided explanations about the pagoda with the aids of photographic records.

The Nepal-Myanmar Friendship Lumbini Photo Exhibition opening ceremony was then held at Chanthagyi Hall on the platform of the Shwedagon Pagoda. Nepali Minister for Foreign Affairs, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture and Yangon Region Chief Minister opened the photo exhibition by cutting the ceremonial ribbon. The Nepali President lighted an oil lamp for the photo exhibition and then observed the photos exhibited.



Sitagu Sayadaw Ashin Nyanissara donates the Buddha images to Nepali President Mrs Bidhya Devi Bhandari and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal Mr Pradeep Kumar Gyawali at the Sitagu International Buddhist Academy in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

In the evening President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal Mrs Bidya Devi Bhandari attended a dinner hosted by the Nepali Embassy at Wyndham Grand Yangon Hotel in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

The dinner was attended by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Region government ministers, Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, officials from the Nepali Embassy,

ambassadors and officials from foreign embassies in Myanmar and invited guests.

The dinner began with the playing of the national anthems of Myanmar and Nepal. Next the Nepali Ambassador Mr Bhim Krishna Udas and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal Mr Pradeep Kumar Gyawali delivered speeches of greetings.

After cultural dances and songs of Myanmar and Nepal were performed, dinner was served.

Earlier in the morning Min-

ister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal Mr Pradeep Kumar Gyawali accompanied by the Nepali Ambassador Mr Bhim Krishna Udas visited the Maha Wizaya Pagoda in Dagon Township, Yangon where Yangon mayor U Maung Maung Soe and officials greeted them.

The Nepali Foreign Minister then observed the 16 wood carving paintings donated by the King and Queen of Nepal in 1985 and donated US\$ 2,100 to the pagoda. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint and party arrive back at Yangon International Airport from the Republic of Korea yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Union Information Minister arrives back from ROK

THE delegation led by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint arrived back in Yangon yesterday after attending the 'ASEAN-Korea Train' programme in Seoul, the Republic of Korea.

The 'ASEAN-Korea Train' programme was jointly organized by ASEAN-Korea Centre and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of ROK to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN-Korea dialogue.

The Union Minister was accompanied back by Deputy Permanent Secretary U Myint Kyaw, Head of International Relations Department of Yangon University Professor Dr Chaw

Chaw Sein, Executive Committee member of UMFCCI Dr Soe Tun, Actor Myo Htut Naing (a) Khar Yar from Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, Member of Ayeyawady Region Youth Affairs Committee U Myo Thura Ko Ko and Mandalay Region Youth Affairs Committee Thant Lwin Oo (a) Su Sha Shin Thant.

The delegation was welcomed by Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Mr Lee Sang-hwa and officials from the Ministry of Information at the Yangon International Airport.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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## Yangon International Airport passenger traffic up 6.5% in nine months, driven by new routes

The apron area of Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

PASSENGER traffic at Yangon International Airport, the main aviation gateway of Myanmar, climbed to 4.60 million in the first nine months of 2019, an increase of 6.5 per cent compared to the year-ago period, according to an announcement on Friday by Yangon Aerodrome Company (YACL), the operator of the airport.

During the same period last year, passenger traffic at

the airport was recorded at 4.32 million.

The YACL said the increase was due to the addition of new routes – mainly to cater to the Chinese market.

In the last 12 months, YIA has added two routes with three new airlines. International passengers accounted for 70 per cent of the total air passenger movement in January-September compared with 67.5 per

cent in the year-ago period. Domestic passenger movement declined marginally by 1.7 per cent in the January-September period compared to a year ago.

However, domestic ATM declined 12.5 per cent, due in part to local carriers upgrading their fleet to bigger aircraft as well as a considerable number of flights being canceled by the national airlines.

YIA currently serves 35 international airlines connecting to 33 cities in 12 countries in Asia and two countries in the Middle East. A year ago, the YIA served 31 airlines connecting to 31 cities in 15 countries.

China, Thailand, and Japan were the countries that chiefly contributed to the increase in YIA's international passenger movement.

YIA has been actively targeting other markets for the expansion of its international routes with the recent addition of IndiGo Airlines which is offering daily flights from Kolkata, India to Yangon, and Kunming Airlines connecting Kunming, China to Yangon.

"The increase in YIA's international air traffic underscores the efforts of everyone in Myanmar. YACL will continue to improve safety, efficiencies, and customer service at YIA in support of the state policy for visa-free and visa-on-arrival services to promote Myanmar's tourism industry. We have also increased marketing efforts to boost tourism growth," said Mr. Ho Chee Tong, the chief executive officer of the YACL. — GNLM

## Siyin Chin community holds first harvest festival in Yangon

THE Siyin Chin community celebrated its traditional harvest festival, for the first time, yesterday in Yangon.

About 300 ethnic Siyin Chin gathered at the event at Hlaw-gaw Park.

"This is the first such event in Yangon. This event has been held to mark the harvest festival in Chin State," said U Manh Kham Pon, the secretary of the Siyin Chin Association.

Siyin is one of the 35 tribes of Chin. About 5,000 Siyin Chin

people are residing in Yangon, while over 10,000 are living across the country.

At the event, the Siyin Chin offered prayers and performed traditional dances and ate lunch together. The festival is aimed at strengthening the unity of the Siyin Chin people, not only in Siyin area, but also across the country, helping each other, and conserving the traditional heritage of the ethnic people, according to the event's organizers.—Myint Maung

The Siyin Chin people celebrate their traditional harvest festival in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG**

## Over 7 tons of teak confiscated in Katha, Sagaing Region

OVER 7 tons of teak was seized in two separate raids on 18 October in Katha, Sagaing Region, according to the Katha Township Forest Department.

Officials and rangers from the department discovered 19 teak logs hidden in the Shweli

River near Paintaw Village in the township.

On the same day, the rangers also confiscated another 27 teak logs of different sizes in the same river near Wattu Village in Katha Township. Officials are investigating the two cases.—Lu Aung (Katha)

Township Forest Department officials seize illegally smuggled timber in Katha on 18 October. **PHOTO: LU AUNG (KATHA)**

## FDI likely to increase in current fiscal, especially in offshore oil blocks: Minister

By Nyein Nyein

FOREIGN investments are likely to increase in the current financial year once proposals for offshore oil exploration and minerals extraction are scrutinized and approved, said U Thaung Tun, the Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

He made the remarks at the 30th regular meeting of the Private Sector Development Committee with Myanmar entrepreneurs, held on 19 October at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Yangon.

“We only granted foreign investments amounting to US\$4.2 billion in the 2018-2019FY. In view of our political situation this year, some of the foreign investors are reluctant to invest in Myanmar. Although we have already received many proposals, we expect that we will receive record investment next year, especially in offshore oil blocks. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is likely to flow into the country once we scrutinize the proposals for off-



Myanma Foreign investments: offshore oil blocks and minerals are likely to increase in the current financial year. PHOTO: PTTEP MYANMAR ASSET

shore oil blocks and minerals,” said U Thaung Tun.

“The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations is inviting investors to conduct business in a responsible and accountable manner. If those businesses enter Myanmar, it would

be beneficial for our country. We are already implementing the Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan (MIPP), which was drawn with the assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA),” he added.

Under the MIPP, the country

has set a target of attracting over \$200 billion in FDI within the next 20 years, said U Thaung Tun.

“Moreover, the Investment and Foreign Economic Relations Ministry is working to update the policy. So, Myanmar’s economic sector will develop significantly in

the next fiscal,” he added.

According to an ADB report released a few days ago, Myanmar expects GDP to grow by 6.6 per cent next year. The World Bank has forecast a growth of 6.8 per cent. The Myanmar Investment Commission is targeting \$5.8 billion in FDI in the 2019-2020FY. Although the MIC had set an FDI target of \$5.8 billion in the 2018-2019FY, but only \$4.5 billion came in, less than a billion dollars.

During the period from 1988 to the end of September, 2019, around 1,837 foreign enterprises from 50 countries around the world were permitted to invest a total of \$81.8 billion in 12 sectors. The countries with the highest investment rates are Singapore, China, and Thailand, and they largely flowed into oil and gas, electricity, and manufacturing sectors.

Myanmar received \$9.4 billion in foreign direct investment in the 2015-2016FY, \$6.6 billion in the 2016-2017FY, and \$5.7 billion in the 2017-2018 FY. (Translated by Hay Mar) ■

## India buying Myanmar beans at low price despite high demand

By Nyein Nyein

ALTHOUGH India is buying Myanmar beans to meet domestic demand, the prices it is offering are low, said U Min Ko Oo, the secretary of the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

“India, the main buyer of Myanmar beans and pulses, has announced an import quota of 150,000 tons for mung beans this year. With the demand for mung beans from India rising during their bean production season, India is purchasing more Myanmar beans to meet the needs of the market. However, the orders to buy mung beans have to be made with the permission of the Indian government,” he added.

“Despite the high demand, India is purchasing Myanmar beans only at low prices. We found that bean farming in some states of India has been adversely affected by flooding and torrential rains.

In this regard, India has already announced an import quota of 150,000 tons for mung beans. Now, in October, their import quota system has been



Traders evaluate quality of the various kinds of bean at the warehouse in Mandalay. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING (MANDALAY)

suspended, and they have invited merchants to submit orders to buy mung beans with the permission of the Indian government. They are purchasing mung beans like last year. When India is in need of beans, it changes its policy. Last year, India was faced with the same problem. Anyway, the price of Myanmar beans has increased in the local market.

But, the price of beans in the Indian market has decreased by US\$250 per ton compared to the Myanmar market,” said U Min Ko Oo.

“While the price of beans has increased to \$650 per ton in Myanmar, the price is over \$800 in the Indian bean market. India is used to changing its policy when they need the beans to import into their country. If they

still purchase under the import quota system, our country will suffer losses in trade because we will not get a fair price,” he said.

In order to prevent losses to local farmers because of the unreliable and unpredictable policy of India, the government had requested that India purchase Myanmar beans through the government-to-government channel. However, India has not made any response yet. India is only purchasing Myanmar beans under the import quota system, he added. If India is still practicing the quota system, Myanmar, which mainly imports beans to India, needs to be careful in bean production, according to the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

“The association and the government cannot say which bean should be grown and which should not. We can only explain the real situation,” said U Min Ko Oo.

Currently, new mung beans are fetching over K100,000 per ton in the local market. (Translated by Hay Mar) ■

## Local fuel oil price rises again

LOCAL fuel oil price, which had been stable for a few weeks, is on the rise in the market.

On 18 October, the price of Octane 92 and 95 was up K10 per liter, while the price of diesel had increased by K15 per liter.

During the Thadingyut holiday from 11 to 17 October, Octane 92 was priced at K835 per liter, Octane 95 at K925 per liter, diesel at K930 per liter, and premium diesel at K940 in the Yangon local fuel oil market.

On 18 October, the global market was unstable and that impacted the local fuel oil market, according to a local fuel oil station owner.

Myanmar imports 90 per cent of its fuel oil, while 10 per cent is produced locally.

The country gets fuel oil primarily through Singapore, with monthly imports of 200,000 tons of gasoline and 400,000 tons of diesel. There are 2,000 fuel stations and 50 oil importer companies in Myanmar.—GNLM (Translated by Hay Mar) ■

# New health policy key to promoting healthcare standard

**T**HE changing situation in the political, economic, health, and other sectors demands that the existing National Health Policy, which was written in 1993, be updated so it can be in tune with the times.

A new health policy is being drafted, and it is targeted to be complete next year.

The new policy must give priority to raising health awareness, prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases, school health, safety of patients, and health research.

Besides, the new policy must encourage grooming medical practitioners who follow ethical practices, ensure cooperation between the private and government sectors, promote physical exercise, and development of healthcare services.

Most importantly, to be in harmony with global goals, the strategies of the new policy should be in line with the country's sustainable development goals (SDGs) and Myanmar Health Expectation-2030.

In the new health policy, providing everyone access to healthcare services, following a people-centered approach and coordination to harmonize the different principles of the policy must be given special attention. Learning healing policies of neighboring countries is also a must.

In spite of many surveys and research being conducted on the country's healthcare system, practical implementation is still weak in the public health sector.

Although surveys and research have indicated the requirements that need to be fulfilled in the sector, it is still hard to find the ways and means to achieve public healthcare development.

The ultimate goal of the Myanmar National Health

Plan (2017-2021) is to be able to provide basic healthcare services at a low cost in any area by the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

To reach that goal, the National Health Plan envisages cooperation with healthcare organizations, private healthcare services, non-governmental organizations, ethnic healthcare teams, development partners, and healthcare programmes.

Rural health centres need urgent help in terms of refresher training for staff who have devoted a significant number of years in healthcare services.

Practical implementation in the public health sector should be encouraged with surveys and research on the country's healthcare system.

Most importantly, to be in harmony with global goals, the strategies of the new policy should be in line with the country's sustainable development goals (SDGs) and Myanmar Health Expectation-2030.

# Has investing in Myanmar gotten safer?

By Shin Min

*"We are striving to make investment processes genuine and contracts stronger while reducing public losses and environmental impact."*

**U Win Thein Zaw** (Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw Committee on Investment and Industrial Development)

**T**HE Investment and Industrial Development Committee of the Pyithu Hluttaw was formed on 24 February, 2016, by Notification No. 30/2016 during the 11th-day meeting of the First Pyithu Hluttaw. The committee operates on a one-year term and has been extended three times so far.

The committee has seven tasks, five mandates and three entitlements. It was first formed with 15 Hluttaw representatives and after undergoing replacements and additions of members, it currently has 18 members and 2 Tatmadaw representatives as observers.

U Win Thein Zaw, Pyithu Hluttaw MP for Salin constituency, currently chairs the committee and is aided by its secretary U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo, Pyithu Hluttaw MP for Hlaing constituency.

### The Industrial Zone Bill

According to U Win Thein Zaw, the committee had to assess five committees and is working towards enacting the industrial zone bill. They worked closely with the Ministry of Industry, the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission and the Office of the Union Attorney-General. They also held meetings with industrial business owners.

The committee is also working to draft an industrial enterprise bill. "It's no walk in the park to draft laws," said U Win Thein Zaw. "You have to coordinate and discuss with all stakeholders. Then when you do have a draft, you have to submit it to the bill committee," he explains.

### Investments past & future

In addition to industrial laws, U Win Thein Zaw's committee also works for the betterment of the investment sector. They hold talks with interested investors from both home and abroad. He remarks that sometimes they get to work with the government, and sometimes they don't.

Investors bring with them challenges and it's not always smooth sailing to resolve them.



MP U Win Thein Zaw



MP U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo

Investments are still business in nature and can't be implemented immediately. Everybody wants progress to march quickly but the truth is that it has to be a gradual process, laments U Win Thein Zaw.

He tells us that investment activities done in the past did not have transparency and it's a challenge in itself to go back and fix them now. "Sometimes we don't know what the content of the contract entails," he says.

But he says what's done is in the past and that: "We are striving to make investment processes genuine and contracts stronger while reducing public losses and environmental impact."

U Win Thein Zaw says there are lessons to be learnt from the past and the important thing is the committee works towards preventing the public and national loss and minimizing loopholes. Assisting the legislation process

The Pyithu Hluttaw Office has tasked the Committee on Investment and Industrial Development to assist the legislation process for six laws. They are The Private Industrial Enterprise Law (Law No. 22/1990), Prevention of Hazard from Chemical and Related Substances Law (Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 28/2013), The Boiler Rule (Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 39/2015), the Industrial Design

Law (Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 2/2019), the Trademark Law (Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 3/2019), and the Patent Law (Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 7/2019).

The committee has finished reviewing the industrial zone bill and is working towards converting The Private Industrial Enterprise Law into simply the industrial enterprise law.

### Help in other sectors

While supporting the development of the two sectors in its name, the Committee on Investment and Industrial Development also assists in the development of science, technology and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and transitioning the entire country from manual to mechanical agriculture.

Secretary U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo, Pyithu Hluttaw MP for Hlaing constituency, tells us that they also engage in discussions concerning laws related to investments. He said the committee has perused the industrial zone bill over 16 committee meetings, 15 meetings with the Ministry of Industry, 8 meetings with the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, 8 meetings with the Office of the Union Attorney-General, and 2 meetings with industrial enterprises.

He tells us that his committee

He said they will strive to apply the same valid guidance on investment activities and to offer it in a transparent manner for public viewing.

### Completed tasks

The Committee on Investment and Industrial Development has done a lot during the Second Pyithu Hluttaw. So far, it has conducted 3 introduction meetings, 11 coordination meeting, 10 external meetings, 34 meetings for joint budget review No. 12, 42 meetings with the Joint Bill Committee, 28 meetings to discuss the draft bill with the industry ministry and a meeting on the Myingyan-Pinpat Project

nomical Relations to handle investment activities with better guidance. "To be frank, we have no problem handling information and matters concerning the industrial sector," said U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo. "But the ministry is newly formed and we haven't gotten in contact yet."

### Technical assistance

Yangon currently has Nyaung Hna Pin Industrial Zone, Htantabin Industrial Zone and Hlegu Industrial Zone, although U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo's committee doesn't have complete information on them yet.

He said they have about 150,000 micro-businesses run-



The Pyithu Hluttaw Committee on Investment and Industrial Development meeting is underway in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: KAY KAY

submitted the bill to the Pyithu Hluttaw on 18 August this year after going through the 41 meetings mentioned earlier. The Pyithu Hluttaw approved the bill and the committee's report on it on the 3rd of September last month. His committee also cooperates on reviewing the industry ministry's budget as joint review group No. 12.

Showing results to the public U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo said his committee is well versed in matters related to the industrial sector. They are able to effectively guide it. But the investment sector is a completely different matter with weaknesses in it. While his committee isn't tasked with reviewing the investment law, he said it is a necessary law.

with the same ministry. **Drafting the industrial enterprise bill**

"In the coming 14th regular Hluttaw meeting, we will be working on the SME industrial enterprise law, business law, and adding in the category for micro to the term SME," said U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo. He said there is a large number of small (or micro) businesses in Myanmar and they are currently not legally represented, meaning they will not receive any benefits from the law. His committee will also attempt to draft the industrial enterprise bill in the coming parliamentary meeting.

The committee will be working closely with the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Eco-

ning on minor investments or capital and 30,000 SMEs. This is excluding the unregistered ones. The committee gives out two-ster loans and technical support. But the micro-businesses are left out since they legally don't exist. This is why the committee is working to include micro businesses into the existing law.

On a final note, the Committee on Investment and Industrial Development also works tirelessly to resolve public complaints. They have received 29 letters so far and have sent all of them to the concerned government department or agency with remarks.

(Translated by Pen Dali)



## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2019)

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2019:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing Region, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region and Shan State 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 (3-6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2019:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2019:** Partly cloudy.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2019:** Partly cloudy.

## 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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## Hnin Si Yin Kwin Foundation donates cash, foodstuffs for disaster-hit people



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye accepts cash K 50 million and the foodstuffs worth over K 9.8 million donated by the Hnin Si Yin Kwin Foundation for disaster-hit people yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

HNIN Si Yin Kwin Foundation donated cash and foodstuffs for disaster-hit people at the office of the Disaster Management Department in Yangon yesterday.

At the event, Director Maung Myo Min (Yin Twin Pyit) of the Hnin Si Yin Kwin Foundation first explained about their donation.

Afterwards, National Disaster Management Committee

(NDMC) Vice Chairman Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye accepted the cash K 50 million and the foodstuffs worth over K 9.8 million donated by the foundation, and presented them with certificates of honour.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye said that the budgets allocated by the government and the funds donated by people are sys-

tematically used after adding into the fund of National Disaster Management Committee.

To conduct restoration processes quickly, the coordinating committee on rehabilitation of disaster-hit regions has been formed, the Union Minister added.

He then expressed thanks for the donation.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

## More Barcelona violence feared as separatists call for new protest

BARCELONA (Spain) — Barcelona was bracing for fresh violence Saturday after nearly 200 people were hurt in a night of clashes with radical separatists hurling rocks and fireworks at police who responded with tear gas and rubber bullets. A radical movement of young separatists, Arran, called for a new demonstration “against repression” for 1600 GMT in central Barcelona.

The Catalan capital resembled a chaotic battleground Friday, the fifth consecutive day of protests over a Spanish court’s jailing of nine separatist leaders on sedition charges over a failed independence bid two years ago.

Emergency services said Saturday that 152 people had been injured in overnight clashes in Barcelona, with

dozens more hurt in the rest of Catalonia, taking the total to 182.

Authorities had already reported 500 injured since Monday even before the latest clashes erupted. According to the interior ministry, 83 people were detained in the overnight violence, in addition to the 128 arrests police had reported before Friday’s march.—AFP ■

## Italy’s Salvini flexes muscles with Rome rally

ROME (Italy) — Italy’s strongman Matteo Salvini holds a rally in Rome Saturday aimed at relaunching the Italian right and making a power grab for the capital.

Eight special trains and 400 coaches are ferrying in supporters from across the country for the “Italian Pride” demonstration, with the crowds also set for a speech from billionaire former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi.

Salvini, head of the far-right League party, pulled support from the previous populist government over the summer in a bid to spark elections he was convinced he could win to govern the eurozone’s third-largest economy alone.

That plan failed when his former coalition partner, the anti-establishment Five Star Movement, sealed a deal with the centre-left Democratic Party to form a new government.

But after suffering a blip, the League’s popularity has risen slightly again in opposition. — AFP ■

## 15 die in dam collapse at Siberian gold mine

MOSCOW (Russia) — Fifteen people were killed and another six missing after an illegally built dam collapsed at an artisanal gold mine in a remote Siberian settlement on Saturday, in the latest deadly accident to hit Russia.

The dam on the Seiba River in the Siberian region of Krasnoyarsk burst and flooded several cabins where workers lived, authorities said.

Icy and muddy floodwaters hit the cabins in a mining camp located near the village of Shchetinkino early Saturday morning as the workers were resting.

## Turkey, Kurds trade accusations even as Syria truce takes hold

RAS AL-AIN (Syria) — Turkish and Kurdish leaders accused each other of violating a US-brokered truce in northeastern Syria even as it appeared to be taking hold on its second day Saturday.

The deal announced late Thursday is intended to halt a Turkish-led offensive against Kurdish forces launched on October 9, on condition they pull out of a “safe zone” on the Syrian side of the border.

The offensive has killed dozens of civilians, mainly on the Kurdish side, and prompted hundreds of thousands to flee their homes in the latest humanitarian crisis of Syria’s eight-year civil war.

On Saturday, Turkey accused Kurdish forces of violating the truce. “The Turkish armed forces fully abide by the agreement” reached on Thursday with the United States, the defence ministry said in a statement.

“Despite this, terrorists... carried out a total of 14 attacks

in the last 36 hours,” it said, using its usual term for Kurdish fighters. The ministry said 12 of the attacks came in the battleground border town of Ras al-Ain, one in Tal Abyad and another in the Tal Tamr area.

Heavy weapons fell silent in Ras al-Ain after sporadic clashes on Friday evening, an AFP correspondent reported.

Turkish troops and its Syrian rebel proxies seized part of the town on Thursday, hitting a hospital.

Turkey wants to push Kurdish fighters away from its southern border by establishing a 30 kilometre (20 mile) deep “safe zone” on the Syrian side of the frontier.

A Britain-based war monitor said the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) had yet to start pulling back on Saturday.

“The SDF have not withdrawn until now from any point,” the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.—AFP ■



The Turkish offensive has killed dozens of civilians, mainly on the Kurdish side. **PHOTO: AFP**

reporters.

Investigators said they have opened a criminal probe into a breach of safety rules.

Sixteen victims received medical aid, and four of them were airlifted to a regional hospital. A team of doctors including a neurosurgeon were dispatched to the scene from the city of Krasnoyarsk, which is located some 4,000 kilometres (2,500 miles) east of Moscow.

Footage broadcast on national television showed the remote settlement surrounded by the woods and mountains, the ground covered in light snow.—AFP ■

A rescue-and-search mission will last through the night, said Alyona Aleksishina, spokeswoman for the regional branch of the emergencies ministry.

“It will continue despite everything,” she told AFP.

Six people were still missing, she said. Officials said the dam had been built in breach of safety rules and claimed that the authorities were not aware of its existence.

President Vladimir Putin ordered officials to provide assistance to the victims and identify the reasons for the accident, his spokesman Dmitry Peskov told

## IS militants killed in eastern Afghan operation

JALALABAD (Afghanistan)—Ten militants of the Islamic State (IS) outfit were killed in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province, provincial government said Saturday. "A total of 10 Daesh or IS militants were killed during an ongoing cleanup operation in Achin district within the past 24 hours. The operation will continue before the surrounding areas of the district are cleared of enemies," said the government. The security forces also destroyed the militants' three command and control centers, eight posts, two attack tunnels and one hideout since the raid started a couple of days ago. They also found and defused two landmines, according to the statement. The mountainous province, 120 km east of Kabul, has been the scene of clashes between security forces and IS militants from time to time, forcing thousands of villagers to flee to safer places.—Xinhua ■

## Nepal appoints Chinese actress Xu Qing as goodwill ambassador

KATHMANDU—Chinese actress Xu Qing has been conferred as the tourism goodwill ambassador for the Visit Nepal Year (VNY) 2020 campaign. At a special function in Kathmandu on Saturday, the Chinese actress was conferred the goodwill ambassador by Nepali Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Yogesh Bhattarai

for the promotion of Nepal's tourism. Addressing the ceremony, the minister said that campaign will now take a qualitative turn as a Chinese celebrity with a large number of followers on social media is now the goodwill ambassador for the campaign. In response, Xu thanked Nepal for the nomination and said, "I

am really happy to be part of this campaign."

The announcement comes at a time when Nepal is preparing to celebrate a year-long VNY campaign in 2020 with a target to welcome 2 million foreign tourists. China is the second largest tourism source market for the Himalayan country.—Xinhua ■

## Thailand to train inmates to become care givers to save medical costs

BANGKOK—The Thai Ministry of Public Health on Saturday told the media that it had rolled out new measures to teach and train inmates to become care givers to save medical costs. The Public Health

Ministry has joined hands with various agencies to offer training for selected inmates to look after their peers in the prison, said Sukhum Kanchanapimai, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Public Health.

"We will complete the guidelines for the selected inmates who will become care givers before the end of December this year," said Dr. Sukhum. The permanent secretary also said a budget would be set aside to provide

training for selected inmates to become care givers. All prisoners in Thailand should have access to quality health services, which cover health promotion and disease prevention, said Dr. Sukhum.—Xinhua ■

## Five young children killed in Russian fire

MOSCOW (Russia)—Five young children and two adults were killed when a fire ripped through a two-storey residential building in the central Russian city of Rostov early Saturday, authorities said.

The youngest child to have died was 15 months old and the oldest six, a spokeswoman for the emergencies ministry told AFP.

Three more people were hospitalised with various injuries, said Sergei Shokin, head of the Rostov municipal district. Rostov is located some 200 kilometres (124 miles) northeast of the capital Moscow. Officials did not immediately say what caused the fire but confirmed investigators were working at the scene. The Investigative Committee said it had opened a criminal probe.—AFP ■

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## Chile president declares state of emergency after violent protests



A bus burns in downtown Santiago. Protests over metro fare increases escalated into clashes with riot police, with subway stations torched and vandalized. **PHOTO: AFP**

SANTIAGO (Chile)—Chile's president declared a state of emergency in Santiago Friday night and gave the military responsibility for security after a day of violent protests over an increase in the price of metro tickets.

Throughout Friday, protestors clashed with riot police in several parts of the capital and the subway system was shut after attacks on stations in some of the worst violence the city has seen in years.

At least 16 buses were torched and a dozen metro stations totally destroyed.

Around midnight President Sebastian Pinera declared a state of emergency and appoint-

ed Major General Javier Iturriaga del Campo as head of national defense.

"The objective of this state of emergency is very simple but very profound: to ensure public order and peace for the inhabitants of Santiago," Pinera said in a statement.

The state of emergency is initially for 15 days and restricts freedom of movement and assembly. Due to the emergency, the National Football Association has suspended matches this weekend.

General Iturriaga said the military would patrol major trouble spots in the city of seven million but would not impose a curfew at present.

"We are not going

to restrict any personal freedom for now," he said.

Violent clashes escalated as night fell and the headquarters of the ENEL Chile power company and a Banco Chile branch, both in the city center, were set on fire and several metro stations hit with Molotov cocktails. The ENEL tower blaze was put out with no one injured, firefighters said.

Barricades were erected in several parts of the city and masked protestors armed with sticks and stones clashed with riot police, who repelled them with water cannon and tear gas.

Residents in many districts of Santiago banged their pots in a show of support for the protestors. —AFP ■

## British PM fights threat of further delay in Brexit debate

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Prime Minister Boris Johnson fought attempts Saturday to potentially further delay Britain's protracted departure from the European Union, as MPs debated his divorce deal less than two weeks before the Brexit deadline.

Parliament was holding its first Saturday sitting since the 1982 Falklands War to discuss the terms of a last-ditch divorce agreement Johnson struck with European Union leaders Thursday.

Opposition parties and Johnson's own Northern Irish allies have rejected the text, forcing frantic government attempts to try to win the support of wavering MPs.

The prime minister needs a clear vote

in favour of his deal on Saturday to avoid triggering a law requiring him to ask the EU to delay Brexit for the third time.

The Conservative leader says it is time to bring some closure to a tortuous process sparked by the 2016 referendum vote for Brexit, which has plunged Britain into political turmoil and divided the nation. But support is growing for an amendment to withhold MPs' approval unless and until legislation required to ratify the treaty has passed.

Its author, Oliver Letwin, a former Conservative minister, fears the ratification process may not be complete by October 31 -- risking an accidental "no deal" Brexit. —AFP ■

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Reg. No. – 5976/2016 in Classes 30, 35, 43

Reg. No. – 23494/2019 in Classes 30, 35, 43

**Class 30:** Tea and herbal tea; tea and herbal tea-based beverages; tea and herbal tea-based concentrates, with fruit flavoring; frozen confections with tea, herbal tea and/or fruit flavoring; ground and whole bean coffee; coffee, tea, cocoa and espresso beverages, and beverages made with a base of coffee and/or espresso; beverages made with a base of tea, powdered chocolate and vanilla; ready-to-drink coffee; ready-to-drink tea; frozen confections, namely, ice cream, ice milk, frozen yogurt, frozen soy based desserts; chocolate, candy and confections; soy-based beverages; baked goods, namely, muffins, scones, biscuits, cookies, pastries and breads; sandwiches; processed cereal-derived food product to be used as a breakfast cereal, food bar, or ingredient for making food; ready-to-eat cereal; rolled oats; grain-based food bars; ready-to-eat oat-based food bars; soy-based food bars; crackers; prepared or frozen meals not included in other classes consisting primarily of rice, grains, or pasta including meat, soy, poultry, seafood, vegetables, fruits, tofu, and/or cheese; sauces; sauces to add to beverages; dipping sauces; ready-made sauces; salad dressings, fruit sauces; vegetable sauces; food bars based on soy; aromatic preparations for use with food including flavoring syrups to add to beverages, such as with coffee, e.g. chocolate or caramel syrup; sugar, spice, honey.

**Class 35:** Administration of a customer loyalty program which provides registered customers with free and discounted menu items; Business administration; business management; franchising, namely providing technical assistance in the establishment and/or operation of restaurants, cafes, coffee houses and snack bars; retail services in the field of: coffee, tea, cocoa, packaged and prepared foods, electric appliances, non-electric appliances, housewares, kitchenware, clocks, watches, kitchen timers, stop watches, jewelry, books, musical recordings, mouse pads, wallets, billfolds, tote bags, purses, briefcases, book bags, valises and umbrellas, all made of cloth, plastic or leather, key fobs of leather, clothing, caps and hats, toys, including teddy bears, stuffed toys, plush toys, dolls and accessories therefor, Christmas ornaments; wholesale distributorships, wholesale stores and wholesale ordering services all in the field of: coffee, tea, cocoa, packaged and prepared foods, electric appliances, non-electric appliances, housewares, kitchenware, clocks, watches, kitchen timers, stop watches, jewelry, books, musical recordings, mouse pads, wallets, billfolds, tote bags, purses, briefcases, book bags, valises and umbrellas, all made of cloth, plastic or leather, key fobs of leather, clothing, caps and hats, toys, including teddy bears, stuffed toys, plush toys, dolls and accessories therefor, Christmas ornaments; mail order services and mail order catalog services, on-line ordering services and on-line retail store services all in the field of: coffee, tea, cocoa, packaged and prepared foods, electric appliances, non-electric appliances, housewares, kitchenware, clocks, watches, kitchen timers, stop watches, jewelry, books, musical recordings, mouse pads, wallets, billfolds, tote bags, purses, briefcases, book bags, valises and umbrellas, all made of cloth, plastic or leather, key fobs of leather, clothing, caps and hats, toys, including teddy bears, stuffed toys, plush toys, dolls and accessories therefor, Christmas ornaments; computerized on-line gift registry and ordering service.

**Class 43:** Restaurant, cafe, cafeteria, snack bar, tea house, coffee bar and coffee house, carry out restaurant, and take out restaurant services; catering services; contract food services; food preparation; preparation and sale of carry out foods and beverages.

Our client has secured registrations/ filed applications for the above marks worldwide including but not limited to USA, European Union, Jordan, Singapore, Morocco, Chile, Cambodia, Mexico, Canada, Denmark, Vietnam, Tunisia etc.

Our client has instructed us and wishes to bring to the notice of the trade and public that by virtue of extensive use as well as registrations/ applications, our client's aforementioned trademarks have acquired international fame, reputation, goodwill and are exclusively associated with our client. By virtue thereof **our client has exclusive rights to use the said trademarks and reserve its rights to initiate appropriate legal action against any party found using any of the said trademarks or any other deceptively or confusingly similar trademarks or name which is in violation of the rights of our client.**

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# Chin State sees infrastructural development

By Kyaw Htike Soe

The opening ceremony of Indian-funded suspension bridge over the Manipur River was held in Tiddim Township, Chin State. **PHOTO: IPRD**



**P**oor infrastructure, transportation network and fewer investments have impeded Chin's State development. Chin State remains the least developed regions in Myanmar. Located in western Myanmar along the border with India and Bangladesh, Chin State is a mountainous region that has hindered infrastructural development.

An Indian-aided suspension bridge crossing the Manipur River has been opened to public recently. The opening ceremony of the bridge was held at the construction site in Tiddim Township, Chin State. The deputy director-general from the Border Areas and National Races Development Department under the Ministry of Border Affairs, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, a lawmaker for Chin State parliament and the township administrator formally opened the bridge by cutting a ceremonial ribbon. The suspension bridge is 30 ft. long, 12 ft. wide and was built at a cost of Ks. 510 million financed by the government of India. Four border bridges will be built on the border between Myanmar and India and one of the planned bridges will be constructed in Dahkang Village, Tonzang Township in Chin State. Local people from both sides will be able to trade their products after the five bridges are constructed along the border between the two countries.

A rural suspension bridge is under construction in Kyeekha Town, Chin State to replace the old bridge. Construction of the suspension bridge began in January this year with an allotted fund in the fiscal year 2018-2019 and the project has been about 90 percent finished. The facility will be 110 ft. in length and 12 ft. in width and is being built with Ks. 88.825 million by a local private construction company. Once completed, residents from

nearby villages will be able to use the bridge in all seasons with greater ease, thereby contributing to socioeconomic development of the area. In addition it will also facilitate swift flow of goods and reduce transportation charges. Road transport will no longer be a headache for local people who once experienced travel delays and access barriers to other areas.

A staff apartment has been built by the Department of Urban and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction in Kyeekha Town, Falam District in Chin State. Construction of the building began in 2017 and was completed in 2018. The staff housing was built by Khup Tuang Co Ltd, a private construction firm, with Ks 215 million



A rural suspension bridge is being built in Kyeekha Town, Chin State. **PHOTO: IPRD**

allotted by the local government, according to the contractors. Kyeekha became an administrative-level town in 2012. Other governmental organizations such as the General Administration Department, Department of Immigration, Department of Education, In-

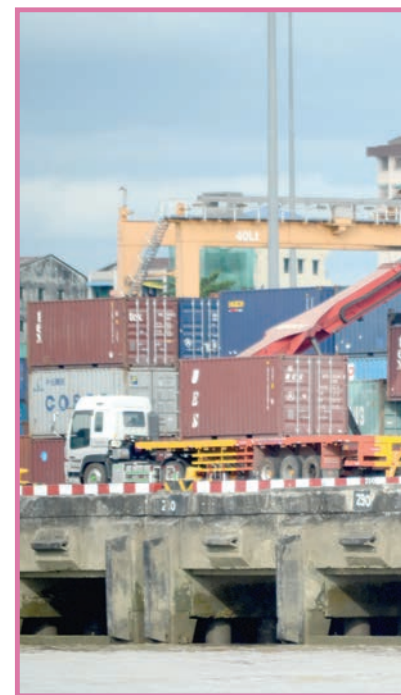
formation and Public Relations Department, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and police stations are based there.

The Electricity Supply Enterprise under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy has embarked on installation of a power transmission line to distribute electricity in Matupi Township, Chin State round the clock, according to an official from the ESE. A total of 228 concrete poles were being erected along the 50.5 mile long Mindat-Matupi power transmission line. So far, land preparation and concrete pavement tasks have been undertaken and a 66kV sub-power station is being built by a private company to distribute electricity to households in Matupi. He continued that the

township ESE engineer's office submitted a budget proposal to construct concrete poles and install power transmission lines to be able to supply electricity sufficiently in Matupi Township.

**Y**ANGON is a city where all modes of transports, air, land and sea can be used for transportation of goods and people. Due to this investments in Yangon were increasing day by day. Good ports are vital for international trade as trade rapidly increased due to the usage of container system in transporting goods. In the same way, storage areas to temporarily store the containers are becoming a vital requirement. That was why Thanlyin container yard to store containers was being planned.

In response to a question raised about the matter at Yangon Region Hluttaw on 18 September 2019 by Botahtaung Township constituency 1 Hluttaw representative U Aung Htoo, Yangon Region minister for electricity, industry, road and communication Daw Nilar Kyaw said arrangements



were made to construct a container yard, container truck and trailer park in Thanlyin.

The container yard, container truck and trailer park will be constructed on 24.588 acre wide land in Thanlyin. The land was under the management of Thanlyin Township Urban & Housing Development Department.

# An emerging container yard in Yangon

By Moe Myint Lin Let



A cargo ship lines the waterfront of the Yangon River port. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR



Ahlon International port terminal. PHOTOS: PHOE KHWAR

However, once the container yard, container truck and trailer park was constructed it will be managed by Yangon Region Transport Authority and leased to Myanmar Container Truck Association.

## Container yard and heavy vehicle depot an essential necessity

Yangon Port and Thilawa

Port plays the main role in Myanmar maritime trade. As maritime trade nowadays was conducted mainly by containers, a container yard and a heavy vehicle depot are not a luxury but an essential necessity.

## Inconvenient for the public

At the moment the container and heavy vehicle depot on Botahtaung Township, Strand

Road was right beside the living quarters of the public and was thus a cause of inconvenience for the public as well as for the container and heavy vehicle users and operators. Many complaints were being filed from the public living in Ward 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Botahtaung Township. As container trucks are big and trailers were long, it was not convenient for such heavy vehi-

cles, long trailers and 20 to 40 ft. containers to be parked on the road sides or near places where the general public live, work and commute.

That was why a container yard, container truck and trailer park will be constructed in Thanlyin Township to easily transport containers to and from Thilawa Special Economic Zone as well as to other facto-

ries and shops in Yangon and other part of Myanmar and for container trucks and trailers to park.

According to Myanmar Container Truck Association, the planned location in Thanlyin had enough space for 800 container trucks and trailers to park.

## Increasing numbers of containers

As mentioned earlier, containers are an essential necessity of today's maritime trade as well as for land transport of goods. According to figures released by Myanmar Port Authority, Yangon ports consisting of Asia World, Hteedan, Myanmar Industrial Port, Ahlon International Port and Botahtaung Bo Aung Kyaw Port handled 1.43 million TEUs during fiscal year 2017-2018.

On top of this Thilawa Port also handled 157,755 TEUs during fiscal year 2017-2018. A recent expansion of Thilawa Port had a 1,000 meter long berthing space with a land space covering 185 acre allowing annual handling of about 450,000 TEUs.

As there'll be significant increase in the annual TEU handling, there'll be more requirements for container trucks, trailers as well as container yard and heavy vehicle parking spaces.

## Designated place for containers, trucks and trailers

In this situation – Yangon – the economic capital of Myanmar will see an increasing role played by containers, container trucks and trailers in movement of goods and products. And due to this fact, a designated place for containers, trucks and trailers to park is an essential requirement to maintain the increasing trade and investment momentum.

A container yard, container truck and trailer park that will support the economic development of the country will soon appear in Yangon. At the same time, it will no longer be a hazard or a necessary evil that block the road and causes inconvenience to the public.

*Translated by Handytips*

## AFF Futsal Championship 2019: Myanmar announces final player list

THE Myanmar national futsal team has announced the names of 16 players who will participate in the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) Futsal Championship, which will be held from 21 to 27 October in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. Myanmar futsal team head coach U Htay Myint has selected 16 players for the tourney from a list of 20 players.

Kyaw Htet Aung from the Myanmar Imperial University F.C. and Zwe Pyae Sone from the GV Athletic F.C. have been selected as goalkeepers.

Of the remaining 14 players, eight have been selected from the Myanmar Imperial University F.C., five from the Victoria University F.C., and one player from the GV Athletic F.C.

The players from Myanmar Imperial University F.C. are Ko

Lwin, Kyaw Soe Moe, Naing Ye Kyaw, Pyae Phyo Maung (2), Pyae Phyo Maung (3), Khin Zaw Lin, Kyaw Kyaw Tun, and Hlaing Min Tun. The players from Victoria University F.C. are Myo Myint Soe, Nyein Min Soe, Aung Zin Oo, Wai Zin Oo, and Naing Lin Tun Kyaw, and Kaung Chit Thu has been chosen from GV Athletic F.C. Team Myanmar underwent special training yesterday on the turf of the Phu Tho Stadium in Ho Chi Minh City under the guidance of head coach U Htay Myint.

Myanmar has been pooled in Group A with Thailand, East Timor, and Cambodia. Team Myanmar will play their opening match for the AFF Futsal Championship 2019 against East Timor on 21 October; Cambodia on 22 October; and Thailand on 23 October.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Myanmar futsal players at a special training session in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam ahead of the AFF Futsal Championship 2019. PHOTO: MFF FUTSAL

## Tokyo Olympic women's qualifiers final round: Myanmar falls in tough group



The Myanmar national women's football team was placed in Group A. PHOTO: MFF

THE Myanmar national women's football team will face Asian football powerhouses South Korea and North Korea in Round 3, or the final round, of the Tokyo Olympic women's football qualifiers.

The official draw for Round 3 of the Asian Qualifiers was held on Friday at the AFC headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The eight participating teams were divided into two groups, A and B.

Myanmar was placed in Group A with strong teams — South Korea, North Korea, and ASEAN football country Viet Nam. The Group A matches will be hosted by South Korea.

Meanwhile, Group B comprises China, Australia, Thailand, and Chinese Taipei.

Group B matches will be hosted by China.

The final round qualifiers for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics women's football event will be held in early February 2020.

Four teams — the two best teams from each group — will advance to the play-offs stage, which will be held in March, 2020. The play-offs will feature away and home plays, and the two best teams will directly advance to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic women's football competition, according to the AFC.

The women's football competition at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics will commence on 22 July, 2020 — two days before the Games' official opening ceremony.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## Everton beat West Ham to ease pressure on Marco Silva

LONDON — Everton climbed out of the Premier League relegation zone on Saturday with a well-deserved 2-0 victory against West Ham that eased the pressure on Marco Silva.

The Portuguese boss described the match at Goodison Park as a "must-win" game following four straight league defeats and a goal from Brazil forward Bernard in the 17th minute set his side on their way.

Everton dominated the match and had multiple chances to extend their lead but were forced to wait until injury time to score their second, through late substitute Gylfi Sigurdsson.

Victory in Saturday's early kick-off lifted Everton to the

relative safety of 12th in the table, one place above struggling Manchester United, ahead of the later fixtures. "It was a fantastic performance," Sigurdsson

told BT Sport. "We had a lot of chances, especially in the second half. You never know when it's 1-0 — you always want to get more.—AFP ■



Bernard (centre) scores for Everton against West Ham. PHOTO:AFP

## Messi, Suarez, Griezmann all on target as Barcelona dispatch Eibar

MADRID — Barcelona's 'MSG' is finally up and running as Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Antoine Griezmann all scored in a ruthless 3-0 victory over Eibar on Saturday.

Griezmann's place in the newly-formed attacking trident has not been secure this season but the Frenchman opened the scoring at Ipurua before teeing up Messi and then playing the

crucial pass for Suarez to make it three. An authoritative Barca display thrusts them to the top of La Liga, for a few hours at least before Real Madrid play Real Mallorca, and dismissed suggestions the players might be affected by Friday's postponement of the Clásico due to protests in Catalonia.

Violence in the city of Barcelona and disruptions at El Prat airport meant Ernesto Val-

verde's side chose to alter their pre-match routine and embark on a 589-kilometre bus trip to the Basque County on Friday.

And all the while, discussions continued over the Clásico against Real Madrid, which had originally been scheduled for next Saturday at Camp Nou but was postponed on Friday and is expected now to go ahead in December.—AFP ■

# Thadingyut Lighting Festival



By Phyu Min

BA (English); Dip in ELTM;  
Dip in English.

**T**hadingyut Lighting Festival marks the end of Buddhist Lent. It is also called the Rain Retreat. It is held for three days starting the full moon day. The Thadingyut lighting festival is held nationwide every year.

Buddhist people believe that more than 2,500 years ago, the Buddha ascended to the Tavatimsa, the Celestial Abode and spent the three-month vassa period to preach the Abhidamma discourses to his mother from a previous existence, who had been reborn in Tavatimsa as a god named Santusita. On the full moon day of Thadingyut, the Buddha descended back to the human realm from Tavatimsa.

It is said that Sakka, the king of celestials, created the magnificent ruby stairway for the Buddha. On the right and left side of the ruby stairway, the gold stairway and the silver stairway were created for the Bramas and gods. The Buddha descended to the earthly realm from the ruby stairway, accompanied by the bramhas and gods on the right and left side.

The people of human abode set out lights at homes and streets to help guide and welcome the Buddha and to celebrate his return. It has been celebrated since the time of Buddha.

In this way, laypeople emulate the gesture of gratitude that Buddha paid to his mother in Tavatimsa. The laypeople make visits to the elders, parents and

teachers to present gifts and to give thanks at Thadingyut. They pay homage and ask for their forgiveness of sins that they may have committed to them by action, speech and mind. The elders, parents and teachers not only forgive their sins but also give back their affection, sympathy and blessing.

In fact, Thadingyut is associated with paying homage not only to the Buddha and his teachings but also to the order of monks, parents, teachers and the elder relatives.

On the full moon day of Thadingyut, the people, young and old alike keep Sabbath. Pagodas and monasteries are packed with pilgrims. At night, all the pagodas, buildings, houses, streets and parks are beautifully decorated with candles, paper lanterns and colourful electric lights. All people enjoy themselves during the festival.

In conclusion, Thadingyut is not only the time for meerymaking but also for doing good deeds. For these reasons, the Thadingyut Lighting festival is one of the most enjoyable festivals of the year.







# BOOK: Getting to know the Genuine Friend



By Thu Naung Kyaw  
(Hledan)  
Dip. in English (YUFL)

**A** cliché that highlights the very fundamental characteristic of human beings is that they are social beings. An individual can be in every possible relationship with other people in his or her society. As the effectiveness of technology advances, it is no longer necessary for people to be in the same country to be able to interact with one another. Accordingly, with the high-tech communication facilities, two individuals residing at the opposite corners of the world can make friends under favourable conditions.

It is undeniable that friends naturally influence our emotions. For example, sometimes we might find it too hard to heed our parents' advice and want to refuse it sternly. But when the same suggestion issues from our friends, we usually get to change the tune and easily accept it. It mostly occurs to young people. However, it is of great importance to have the sense to identify whether one is a friend or frienemy on the grounds that some friends may play a positive role by contributing to our success while others would negatively affect our lives.

The first and foremost tip to lead a blessing life, as preached by the Lord Buddha, is 'not to associate with fools/good-for-nothings. Now, how important it is to have a genuine friend can be recognized. Basically, a typical friend tends to direct us to the wholesome path and to defer us from derailing without caring about being hated.

As far as I am concerned, friends can be classified into living individuals and non-living materials such as books. Despite being non-living, the latter are not less important and beneficial than the former. In some cases, they even turn out to be more reliable than their counterparts. Of course, there are many a time when the intended message conveyed by the saying 'Books are men's friends' dawns upon me. However, the benefits of reading (books) have been underrated by reason of their passive impact, and many people are still losing the mood to pick them up.

The first-ever book that helped me turn over a new leaf when I was 21 was 'The Primary Objective of Being a Human', i.e. the literal translation of the title. The author of that book was Ashin Zawana (Myittashin, Shwepyitha). He wrote a great many books that underlined the importance of good characters and moral courage based on historical and religious events. Besides, I read such books as 'The Amazing Power of Sila', 'The Amazing Power of the Triple Gems', and many others, all written by the same author.

The second author whose books educated me in the area of morality is Yawainwe (In-ma), the third Ashin Sandadika (Shwe Parami Tawya) and the fourth Sayadaw U Jawtika, every one of whom being a monk-cum-writer. The first two were popular among the young readers, then, 'Achit Nae Vipassana' (Love and Vipassana), 'Bawa Daing Son Tway Chin Par Thalar' (Would you like to get

together in every existence?) and Mingalar Atway Myar (Blessed Thoughts), all written by Yawainwe (In-ma), used to be my most favourite books in my early twenties. Likewise, Ashin Sandadika's book such as 'Nyein Aye Thaw Bawa Paing Shin' (The Liver of A Peaceful Life), which I had received from a charity giving event, gave me a break from being such a touch-me-not person for good, and I would like to recommend that youths of today read it and seek to practice what the venerable author suggests.

Such inspirational books as '21 Ya-su Thar Shwe-u' which the author/translator Kyaw Win admitted to being inspired by 'The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People' by Stephen R. Covey, and 'Do you have time for success?' by Julio A. Melara, and 'Teamwork' by John C. Maxwell, and many other short stories well account for that to some extent I could have established a set of positive personality traits in me. The biographies of the world leaders enormously inspire me to diminish my attitudes towards the current or anticipated challenges. They made their way through ranks up to the throne of victory. It did not run smoothly at all. Those recipes for success they devised were drummed into me until I could train to have fortitude in adversity, integrity in dishonesty, and so on. In addition, things that used to be seen as blight are now sheer bliss to me. Everyone knows that the entire world is fraught with negativities. So if we keep on clinging to them, the undesirable consequences will certainly become of us. Almost all the iconic successful people are sanguine about their future or everything around them. They do not let the garbage-like negativities ruin their promising abilities. They make every possible attempt to manage to steer things towards success. And, it should be aware that most of them are avid readers.

As the number of books of different genres mounts up, I feel like I am getting different from myself several years ago; I find myself more flexible, easy-going, resourceful, mindful, and optimistic to a large degree. Thanks to the books, I do not have to learn about things the hard way. Reading is not something to be bragged about but proud of. A person who reads a lot does not have to show off his or her passion for reading. The visitors can know how literate or knowledgeable he or she is when they see the books of various disciplines, through what he or she talks about, or how it is done.

Some people metaphorically praise about reading in that a person who reads has an extra brain, or considerably superior intelligence than others who do not. Although books do not have mouths, they can speak a lot - voice-



less-ly. Usually, a good reader is so engrossed by the book that he or she might feel as if the author was around telling him or her of what is included in it. I ever felt the same while I was reading the book 'Noutsone Se-la Myat Buddha' (The Last Ten Months of the Holy Buddha) written by Maha Gandharon Sayadaw. Another advantage is that although human friends are not present, readers do not feel lonely because of the good company of books. It does not matter whether someone is around them for chit-chat but they would probably shudder to think that there will be no books to read in the leisure time. People from different strata of life have been up to their eyes, making attempts to foster their standards of living, to ensure that they have decent meals in sight and to keep abreast with their rival businesses or to beat them. Hence, most of the time, to have a human friend right beside you is scarcely possible; books are the only rule in that case. Nowadays, books can be obtained in two different types, conventional and electronic. Electronic books (E-books) can be read on mobile phone screens and be brought along with the readers. As for me, I would just as soon read a conventional book, in which I can take notes, underline or highlight the points that satisfy me as I wish. Besides, I can pick it up where I left off the next day. My passion for reading has mounted up from day to day, and hardly a day goes by without a book or an article. To sum up, reading or books have conducive effects on my daily life indeed. That books can derive a huge backlog of benefits has been profound and well-proven by a large number of public speakers and successful icons. Thus, I hope this piece of writing stimulates the readers to make friends with books.



# Feature: Myanmar damsel turns passion for custom art into profession

By Khin Zar Thwe

PHOTOS: U AUNG/ XINHUA

**N**GE Nge, a young Myanmar artist, has been in the custom art field for more than three years when she turned her passion into profession.

The childhood hobby of drawing and painting helped Nge Nge discover her passion and later she started doing custom artwork by painting on her accessories such as bags and shoes.

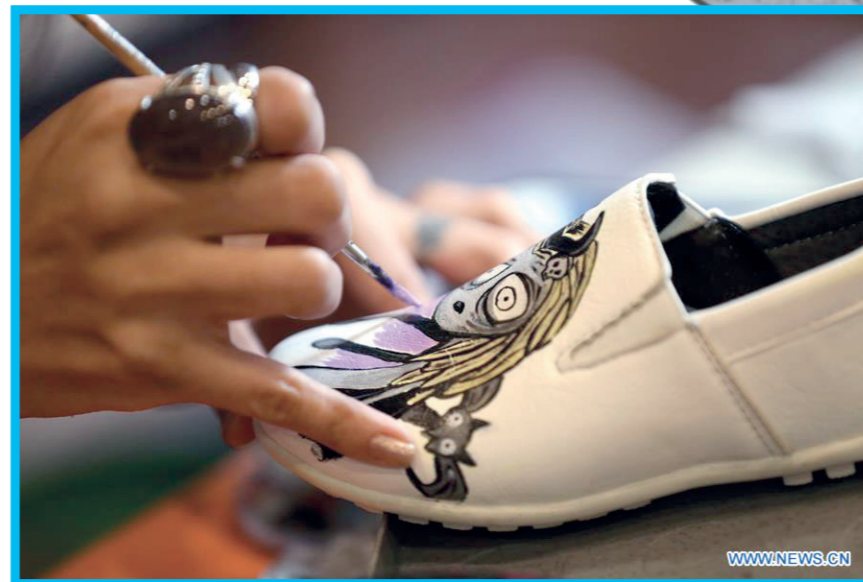
"My artworks were recognized by people after I posted some photos of my personal accessories painted by myself on Facebook. By doing so, my close friends started asking me to create custom items for them," Nge Nge told Xinhua.

Her hard work and passion finally paid off. She started getting orders placed by strangers from her Facebook page "Nge's Customized Art" over one year ago.

"The more orders I get, the more I feel responsible as I must produce perfect artwork and I have to handle the pressures of deadlines by customers as well as their satisfactions."



Artist Nge Nge paints on shoes at her workshop in Yangon, Myanmar, Oct. 2, 2019.



and they cover from woman's flats to men's sneakers.

"She gives diligent care on her work and I love her artworks as they meet my satisfaction. Now, I have placed three orders at hers to draw my favorite band name, logo and an artist on clothes, shoes and bag so far," Hnin Nu Lwin, one of Nge Nge's customer, told Xinhua.

"My inspirations don't come from a specific artist. I don't want my artwork to be influenced by other artists' vibes, but I study and admire every artist' work from both home and abroad," Nge Nge said.

Nge Nge's customized art journey was not that smooth and her journey was stopped for a while in the past as she had some difficulties relating to the raw materials.

After a short break, she gave her talent a shot and honed her skills again with better artwork and quality creations, changing her materials from marker pens to acrylic paint.

Nge Nge mentioned that she normally does not turn down customers' order, even though she knows some orders are way difficult for her to deal with, and this become her weakness. She said she has not received any bad comments or feedback from her customers.

At present, her customized art business may run in small scale, but it is like a small paradise for Nge Nge who said "I have no pressure as I'm doing what I love."

"What I love about the custom art is that it can make people feel that they are the owners of personalized or limited items which exist only for them," she said.

"Some customers don't tell me what they want me to draw on their things. They let me draw anything I want, so I have to study what kind of people they are, what they would like before drawing something related to them," Nge Nge said.

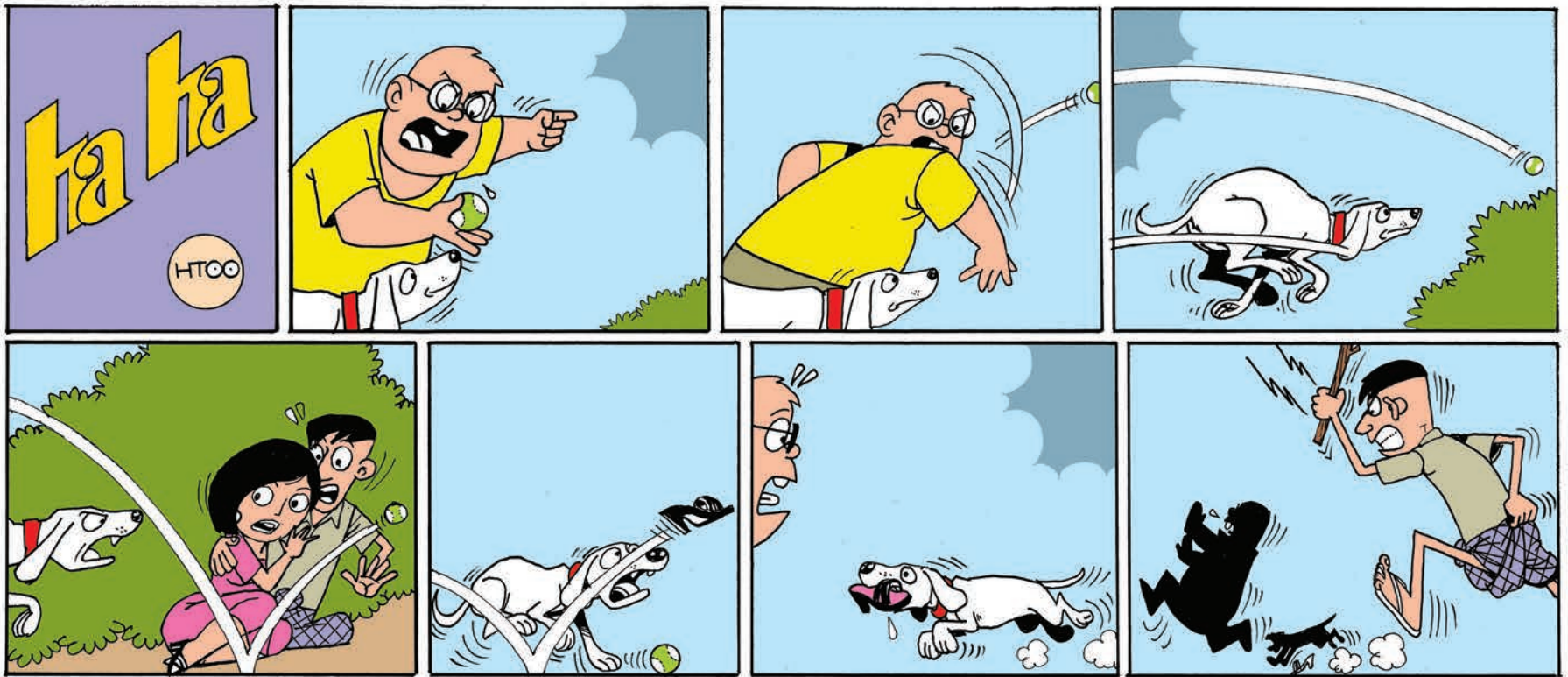
Most of the orders placed by the customers are their favorite cartoon characters and flowers pattern paintings on their accessories - phone covers, footwear, shawls, clothes and bags, and Nge Nge set the affordable prices for her artwork as her customers are mostly female office staff.

She prefers drawing and painting sceneries on things, but not to be stuck in one style. "I'm trying to spread my net wide, expanding my skills by painting varieties of styles - from sceneries to cartoon characters."

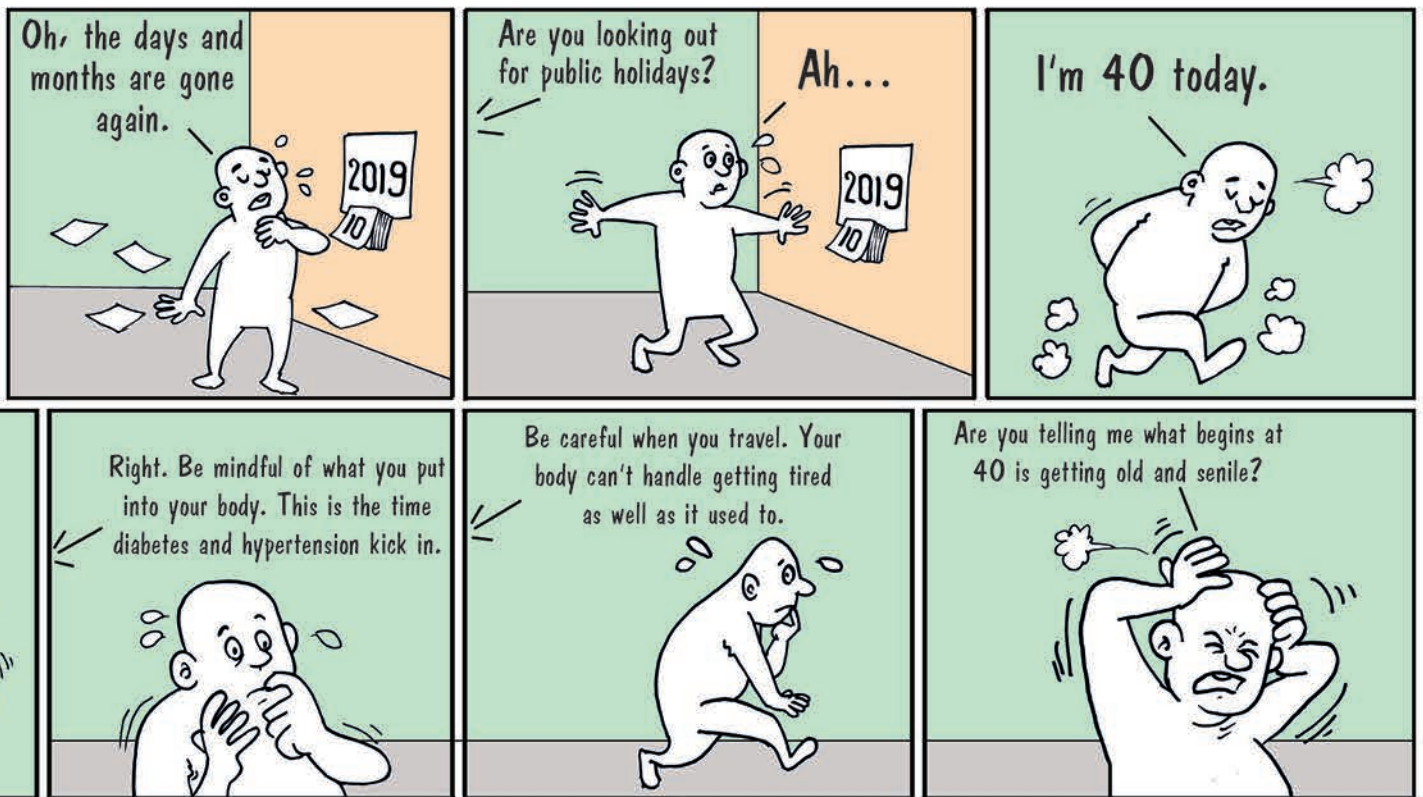
Nge Nge is training herself to polish her skills in portrait drawings on things as many customers are asking her to draw the portraits of artists they adore. "I'm not really confident with drawing portraits," she said.

Mainly using acrylic paint, her hand-painted shoes are most demanded by the customers

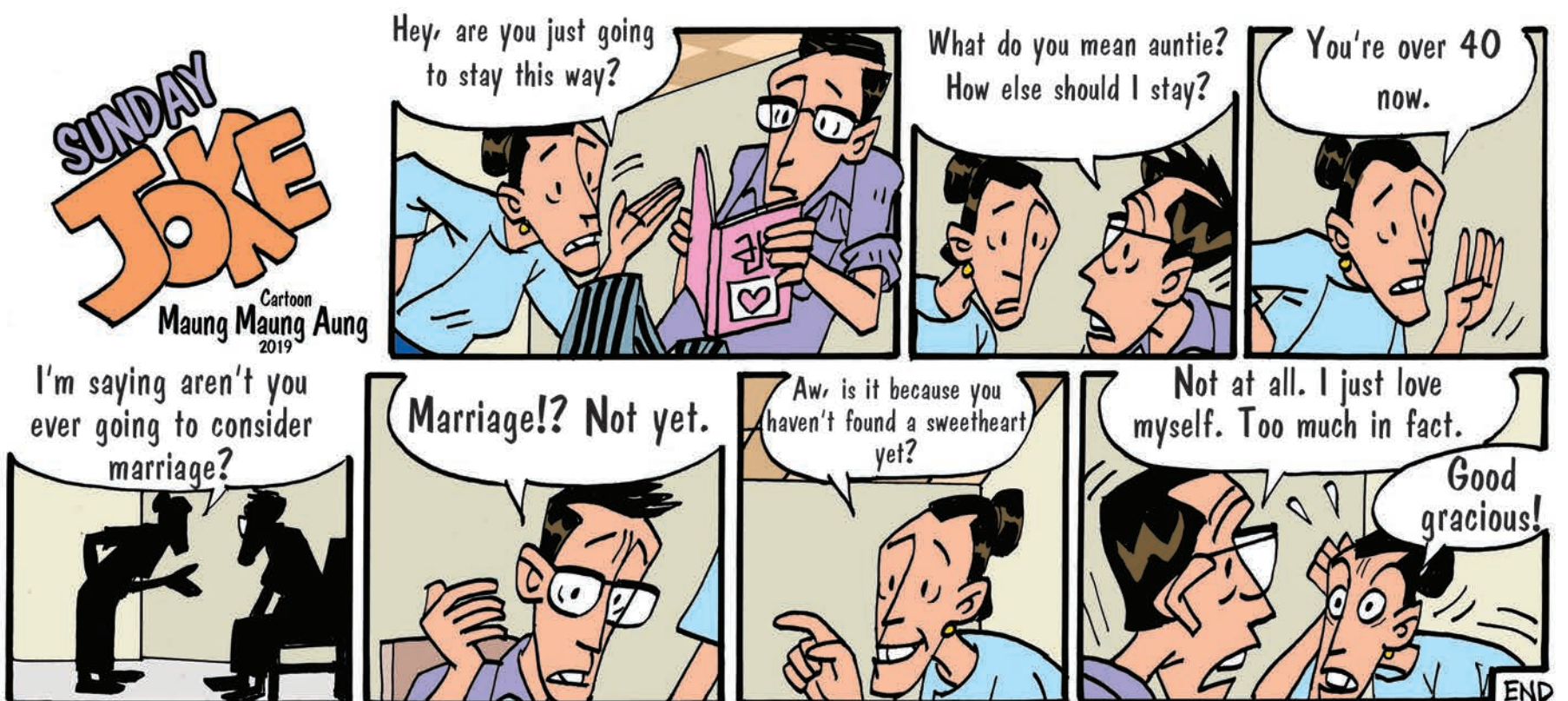
# SUNDAY COMICS



**PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE**  
Cartoon  
Maung Shwe Win



**SUNDAY JOKE**  
Cartoon  
Maung Maung Aung  
2019



# Vulnerability can be reduced by Human's capacity



By S. Shwe Lin Yaung  
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The time was about the end of July, 2016. I was in my native town named Kyaunggon. It is a small town but hustle and bustle one in Ayeyawady Region like the other towns in the Region. As its communication is very convenient due to the geographical situation which lies beside Yangon-Pathayin Express way, it is always alive day in day out. Once, its general transportation relied upon the waterway of Daga River which flows through the town for many decades. Daga River is now in its retirement except here and there small motorboat transportation. However, Daga River threatens the whole township area with flood in recent rainy seasons. Since the roads appeared one after another like a network motorways in Ayeyawady Region during the military administration starting from late 1988, It made the exists of rain water of delta region into the sea-mouth blocked.

The consequence is that many townships including Kyaunggon encounters flood, a kind of natural disasters, almost every year. If there is much rain in the rainy season, the wards in the town and the two-third of the villages in the township are often affected by the severe flood. This has happened for many years except the year in which monsoon was not strong. In that year, the monsoon came late as usual and so in the middle of the rainy season, the people of our town are threatened by the flood. The Strand

Road was completely devoured by the rising water from Daga River. The wards from the edge of the town were under water early. Were all of us going to suffer from the flood without any response?

We are human beings. The responsible personals of the town are intelligent as well as heart. They read books. They search general knowledge. They including town elders collectively made several meetings to find the solution through several intensive meetings. Finally, they found a solution. 'Lann Tha Maing', a water gate situated at the border line of Kyaunggon, and Panntanaw Township was the source of the problem. The water level in Kyaunggon township is about six inches higher than that of Panntanaw Township. There were many fishermen in Panntanaw Township. For the sake of their own benefit, they made the water gate blocked every year. Finally, the responsible personals from two townships made coordinated meeting and solve the difficulty of the problem.

Here, I would not like to emphasize the flood of our town but the English words 'Disaster' and 'Vulnerability'. The vulnerability of the disaster exists every year. The amount of destruction depends upon the vulnerability. If the people from the town are not any potential and suffer from the disaster meekly, the amount of destruction will be great. If the planning and management are good enough ahead of time,

the amount of destruction will be less.

What we can conclude is that vulnerability of the disaster will ever exist season after season as well as year after year. The amount of effect also depends upon our potentiality of capacity. The sure one is that if we are poor in capacity, we will severely suffer from it. The more we concert effort in improving our potentiality of capacity, the less the vulnerability of disaster. For instance, we protect our valuable properties using the safes; we wear quality helmets while riding the motorbikes; we wear seat belts while driving cars; etc. The stronger and more powerful our knowledge, our mindset, our intelligence, our capital and our forwardness to the others, the less harm we will face with. The abundance of harm indicates that there is surely the inferiority in something. It surely misses in something, whether in management or in forwardness.

Then, what should we be going to do? The only and sole answer is to improve our potentiality of capacity. It is said, "Without public participation, environmental protection is an impossible mission. Environmental awareness and public participation play an import role in environmental protection." We will not gain success in the conservation of nature, in reducing the harm of natural disaster and continual development of the whole ecosystem without the publicly active participation. It is said that nationwide

enrichment of public knowledge of environment and high faith as a culture in environmental conservation are the fundamental importance. In order to strengthen such attitudes, the courses should be opened and trained in schools, colleges, towns and societies.

In fact, it is the time to be spread of Green Schools, Green Communities, Ecological Cities and Recycling-Based Cities that have been established in some countries across our country. If so, we can hope that the capacity to make the environment better gradually appears and the measures in conservation and protection of nature and reducing the natural disaster can be effectively decided and managed.

Nowadays, that our lives have already been in the insecure bosom of nature can be vividly seen. We have not been daring to rely upon our air, our water, our soil and our available food without a single doubt for a decade. We have been getting to the sea of worry because of landslides, floods and extreme heat or ultra violet rays in every change of seasons and years. It is more and more vivid that the safety of our lives is entirely associated with that of our environmental nature. If our environmental nature is not secure, our lives will also be the same. Therefore, I would like to present that the safety of our environmental nature can be obtained only with the managing the situation in reducing the vulnerability.



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, or by email to [dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com](mailto:dce@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

