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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Swa Chaung Dam flood victims receive 175 new houses



Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein and an official of the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs' Association - MCEA open the signboard of new Kyuntawsu village in Yedashe Township, Bago Region yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

**B**AGO Region Government and the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association handed over 175 houses to the flood victims in new Kyuntawsu village in Thinewa village-tract of Yedashe Township, Bago Region, yesterday morning.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio attended the handover ceremony held at the new village which was established to replace the old one submerged in floodwater due to collapse of a spillway at Swa Chaung Dam last year.

The ceremony was also attended by Union Ministers Dr Aung Thu, Dr Win Myat Aye,

Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein, Deputy Minister Dr Tun Naing and U Soe Aung, departmental heads and officials.

Union Ministers Dr Aung Thu, Dr Win Myat Aye, Chairman of MCEA U Shein Win, Pyithu Hluttaw MP in Yedashe Township U Kyi Naing Moe, Regional Hluttaw MP Dr Kyaw Kyaw cut the ceremonial ribbon of the village entrance archway, and the Vice President, the Chief Minister and an official of MCEA opened the village signboard and sprayed it with scented holy water.

The Vice President and party then planted Eugenia, Mesua ferrea, Star-flower and

Green-velvet plants, before they viewed the new houses for the flood victims.

At the handover ceremony of 175 houses, Vice President U Henry Van Thio expressed thanks to the Bago Region government for 13 houses, and MCEA for 162 houses at the new Kyuntawsu village.

Last year, the damage of spill way at Swa Chung Dam caused severe effects in Bago Region which has already suffered floods from heavy rains, sweeping houses away from the village. The National Disaster Management Committee responded with immediate measures on rehabilitation works

such as providing construction materials for residential houses and monasteries, seeds for paddy cultivation and other crops and removing sediments from the agricultural lands.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio also said that Myanmar was vulnerable to natural disasters due to its geographical conditions, and that the country was cooperating with regional and foreign countries in natural disaster managements. Myanmar has also enacted the Natural Disaster Management Law in 2013. Under this law, the National Disaster Management Committee was formed and it was chaired by the Vice President to

manage its working committees at township, district and State/Region levels.

The country has also adopted the Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction (MAP-DRR). Its sub-paragraph 1-4 of Pillar 1 has stated the need to make assessment of dam safety and reservoir, critical infrastructure and vital government and lifeline buildings in Myanmar.

The Vice President also called for the officials scrutinizing and checking the strength of infrastructures to avoid more losses, and people participating in preparedness measures for ensuring a disaster-resistant community. **SEE PAGE-3**

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### Joint Committee on Amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 53/2019



Meeting 53/2019 of the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

MEETING 53/2019 of the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Committee Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Chairman of the Joint Committee Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Joint Committee Secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe, Joint Secretary U

Htay Win Aung (a) U Pyone Cho and members who were Hluttaw representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—MNA  
(Translated by Zaw Min)

### Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein attends the Joint Bill Committee meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting yesterday afternoon at the meeting hall of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw D Building over the Basic Education Bill that caused a controversy between the two

Hluttaws. The meeting was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Joint Bill Committee Chairman U Tun Tun Hein, deputy chairmen, secretary, joint secretary and members of Joint Bill Committee, officials from Ministry of Education, Union Attorney General Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—MNA  
(Translated by Zaw Min)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Office of the President  
Order 43/2019  
4th Waxing of Tazaungmon, 1381 ME  
31 October 2019

#### Appointment of Deputy Ministers

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 234 (a), (d) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 16 (b), sub-section (9) of Union Government Law, the following persons have been appointed as Deputy Ministers for the Ministries shown against each of their names.

- (1) U Khin Maung Win Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
- (2) U Tin Latt Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Hotels and Tourism

Sd/ Win Myint  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Office of the President  
Order 42/2019  
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#### Appointment of Chief Justice of Bago Region High Court

In accordance with the provisions stated in the Article 308, sub section (b), sub-sub section (4) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, sub-section (b) under Article 82 of Union Government Law, Article 44 of Union Judiciary Law and Article 17, sub-section (d) of Region or State Government Law, U Maung Maung Aye has been appointed as Chief Justice of Bago Region High Court.

Sd/ Win Myint  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

### Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives Hong Kong University Associate Professor

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung received Hong Kong University Department of Asian and International Relations Associate Professor Dr Renaud Egretreau at Amyotha Hluttaw Building yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting matters relating to conducting research on the role of the Hluttaw in transition to democracy and legislative work processes were discussed.—MNA  
(Translated by Zaw Min)



Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung meets with Hong Kong University Department of Asian and International Relations Associate Professor Dr Renaud Egretreau in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA



Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses the ceremony to hand over new houses to flood victims at the Kyuntawsu village in Yedashe Township, Bago Region, yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

### Swa Chaung Dam flood victims receive 175 new houses



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects the construction of new spillway of the Swa Chaung Dam in Yedashe Township yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

FROM PAGE-1 Next, the Bago Region Chief Minister explained the construction of new Kyuntawsu Village, and the Chairman of MCEA presented about the new houses for the flood victims. Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye gave 2,000 units of uniforms for school children, and the Chairman of MCEA also provided sets of furniture for the village, followed by words of thanks by a local. The Vice President and party then proceeded to the briefing hall of Swa Chaung Dam to inspect the construction of a new spillway and irrigation system of the dam. The new spillway is an iron reinforced concrete structure with 447.2 ft in length and 531.5 ft in width. The volume of flowing water will have 80,000 cubic meters, and the whole construction project is expected to take about 2 years.—MNA  
(Translated by Aung Khin)

### Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman receives Norway Ambassador

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi received Norway Ambassador Ms Tone Tinnes and party at Anti-Corruption Commission Office guest hall yesterday noon. During the meeting works conducted on resolving bribery and corruption in public service sector, educational programme on developing integrity and straight for wardness conducted by the commission and status of setting up the Corruption Prevention Units (CPUs) and works conducted by the CPUs were discussed.—MNA  
(Translated by Zaw Min)



Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi meets with Norway Ambassador Ms Tone Tinnes yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



## MoE, Danish Parliament PAC delegation discuss cooperation in education

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi received Danish Parliament Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Chairman Mr Henrik Thorup Gamst and his party at the Education Minister Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, the Union Minister expressed thanks to the Danish people and government for its assistance in educational reforms in Myanmar and ensuring success, as the Ministry of Information is making efforts to provide educational opportunities to all through its basic principles of reducing school drop-out rates and non-discrimination in the education sector.

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi also noted the effectiveness of Danish assistance under the Capacity Develop-

ment CFund-GDF in building programmes and issuing the teachers-parents guide books, saying that Danish funding has been very effective in assisting in educational reforms in Myanmar.

He also expressed the ministry's willingness to cooperate in the School-Industry Partnership-SIP programme as part of the 2020-2030 National Education Strategy Plan.

Mr Henrik Thorup Gamst, the leader of the delegation, also discussed future tasks for educational cooperation.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun and officials.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi holds talks with Danish Parliament Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Chairman Mr Henrik Thorup Gamst in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

## Union Minister for Construction attends stake driving ceremony of Gyaing (Kawkareik) Bridge



Union Minister U Han Zaw, State Chief Minister Daw Nang Khin Htwe Myint and Japanese Ambassador Mr Ichiro Maruyama press a button to drive a Stand Pipe of the bridge pile in Kawkaik. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Construction U Han Zaw attended a stake and pile driving ceremony for Gyaing (Kawkareik) Bridge held

at a pondal near the bridge yesterday morning.

At the ceremony Union Minister U Han Zaw said the

East-West Economic Corridor Development Project was implemented with JICA's ODA loan and upgrading of Mawlaikya-

ine-Kawkareik portion of the East-West Economic Corridor will increase the vehicle travel between Myanmar and its neighboring countries developing the transport sector.

Upgrading of the Gyaing (Kawkareik) Bridge, Gyaing (Zathappin) Bridge and Ataran Bridge on the East-West Economic Corridor will not only develop Mon State and Kayin State but also support the development of the country's basic infrastructure as well as socio-economic development. Myanmar engineers will also be able to study and learn extradosed bridge construction and latest bridge design technologies, said the Union Minister.

Following this Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nang Khin Htwe Myint and Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr Ichiro Maruyama also delivered

speeches and JICA Myanmar Office Chief Representative Mr Masayuki Karasawa explained about the project work.

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw transport, construction and communication committee chairman U Saw Moe Myint and officials drove stakes of Gyaing (Kawkareik) Bridge at designated places.

Afterwards, Union Minister U Han Zaw, State Chief Minister Daw Nang Khin Htwe Myint and Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr Ichiro Maruyama pressed a button to drive a Stand Pipe of the bridge pile.

Gyaing (Kawkareik) Bridge is an extradosed four lane bridge that can withstand 60 ton load per vehicle. The total project cost is 6.8 billion Japanese Yen and the construction will be completed in 2021.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

## Union Attorney-General receives Danish PAC Chairman

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received Danish Parliament Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Chairman Mr Henrik Thorup Gamst and his party at Union Attorney-General (UAG) Office yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting matters relating to the duties and responsibilities of UAG Office, projects

conducted by UAG Office, coordination works on rules of law and justice, legal support, cooperation work and future work processes conducted under an MoU signed between UAG Office and Danish embassy on 1 December 2016 were openly and cordially discussed.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo meets with Danish Parliament Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Chairman Mr Henrik Thorup Gamst at Union Attorney General (UAG) Office yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

## Global MIL Week 2019 celebrated in Yangon

THE 8<sup>th</sup> Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week 2019 was organized at the Shwe U Daung Hall of the News and Periodicals Enterprise on Thein-byu Road in Yangon yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint delivered an opening speech at the ceremony which was also attended by representatives of the Myanmar Press Council, the Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation, UNESCO and partner organizations.

The Union Minister said that the yearly Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week was initiated in 2012 by UNESCO, and the theme for this year is "Media and Information Literate Citizens: Informed, Engaged, Empowered". He also said the flow of information is very fast at present, and there are some remarks that the spread of fake news by using modern technologies can tarnish democracy.

The Union Minister said the participation of citizens is



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint delivers an opening speech at the ceremony of the 8<sup>th</sup> Global Media and Information Literacy Week in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

very crucial for democracy; and democracy is a form of public government participated by the public, and that their effective participation could turn out democracy in full essence.

He also remarked these people need to have access to relevant information about the country; they need experiences of critical thinking; the young people should have analytical skill which

can be developed by knowledge and information from media.

The Union Minister also said the Global Media and Information Literacy Week should be celebrated with regular seminars and educative programmes. He also called for prevention of local or global fake news with correct thoughts, works and attitudes.

Then, media experts discussed the kinds of literacy that

should be prioritized in Myanmar; matters to be cautious about using social media and online media, and possible consequences due to the lack of media and information literacy.

Executive Director of Myanmar Book Center and its philanthropic arm the Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation Dr Thant Thaw Kaung, Project Officer of UNESCO Myanmar

Project Office Daw Naing Naing Aye and Executive Director of Myanmar ICT Development Organization Daw Htike Htike Aung took part in the discussion.

The Global Media and Information Literacy Week was celebrated from 24 to 31 October, with the educative campaigns on media and information literacy among the public.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## e-Government implementation working committee holds 4<sup>th</sup> meeting

THE working committee for implementation of e-Government held its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Ministry of Transport and Communications yesterday morning.

Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Min Thu, the chairman of working committee, suggested the implementation of decisions from the previous meetings should be closely monitored by its secretary; the third meeting of working committee could seek an approval from the steering committee for migration of international standard Unicode font system; the working committees and sub-committees are to maintain momentum for migration plan.

A scrutinizing committee was formed on 25 October 2019 to hire an advanced-private data center according to the decision of the third meeting of e-Government steering committee. The scrutinizing committee will report its functions to the steering committee.

The working committee and sub-committees will have to link with relevant departments and organizations to provide assistance for technology; human resources and cybersecurity to the steering committee that is implementing the processes included in the e-Government Master Plan. He



Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Min Thu presides over the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting for implementation of e-Government in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

also said the working committees and sub-committees are responsible for providing assistance in addressing difficulties and challenges of departments and organizations for better and more reliable online public services.

The Union Minister finally suggested the participants at the meeting to prepare for the reports and identify difficulties and challenges to be discussed in the upcoming steering committee meeting.

Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, the vice chairman of working committee, said that implementation of e-Government is

aimed for providing good services to the public, and to speed up the administration processes among State/Region governments and Union government.

He also asked to hire chief information officers for successful implementation of e-Government and to set up a department to manage the processes.

Acting Director-General U Sai Saw Lin Tun of IT and Cyber Security Department under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the secretary of working committee, presented implementation of decisions made in the third working committee.

Then, officials from working committees and sub-committees discussed installation of video conferencing system at the district offices, promulgation of cybersecurity law, categorizing data policy; duty assignments for CIOs, formation of e-Government departments at government offices, the Union Ministries and State/Region governments and collecting data for the cost of e-Government beginning 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, the chairman of working committee for e-ID system, discussed additional information

about the e-Government, and Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung coordinated the discussions.

The 4<sup>th</sup> working committee meeting was also attended by its members of Deputy Ministers U Khin Maung Tin, U Aung Hla Tun, U Kyi Min, U Thar Oo, Dr Ye Myint Swe, U Aung Htoo and U Hla Maw Oo, Member of Union Civil Service Board U Win Maw, Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Tin Tun, cabinet members of State/Region governments, officials from working committees and sub-committees, the patron of Myanmar Computer Federation and the invited guests.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



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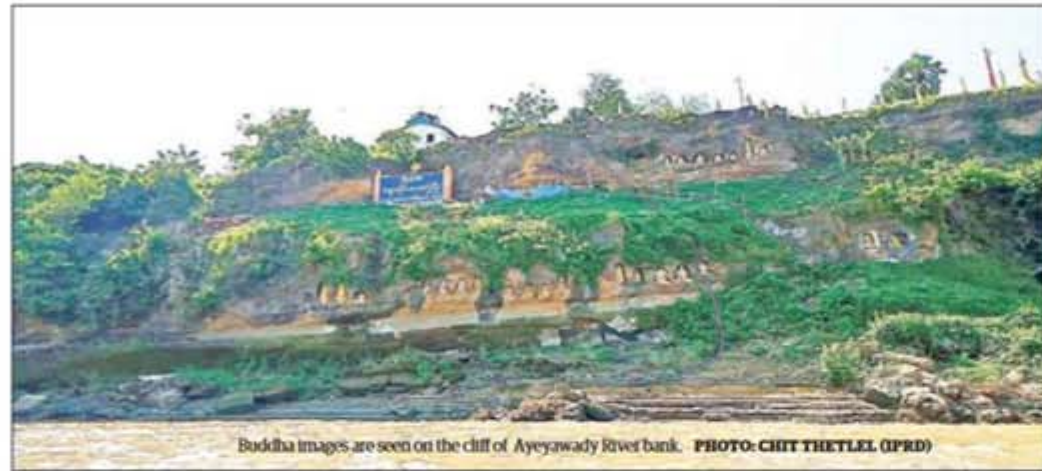
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## Visitors throng to Akauk Taung through Htonebo jetty



Buddha images are seen on the cliff of Ayeeyawady River bank. PHOTO: CHIT THETLE (IPRD)

VISITORS flocked to Akauk Taung in Kyangin Township, Hinthada District, Ayeeyawady Region on Monday morning.

The Akauk Taung is located on Patheingyi-Monywa Highway Road near Htonebo Town, which is the native town of Thakhin

Mya, and visitors can reach there by both car and ship. It is 16 miles far from Kyangin Town, and most pilgrims go to the region using marine transportation. Visitors choosing marine transport can see countless Buddha images on the

cliff of the Ayeeyawady River's bank.

Akauk Taung has several well-known pagodas and temples, including the Shwenzintin pagoda, Naungtawgyi pagoda, Naungtawlay pagoda, thousands of Buddha images on the

cliff, Nagatwin, a waterfall, and Nyaungkoepin, among others.

The Htonebo jetty usually operates 50 boats per day, which are always crowded with pilgrims. —Chit Thetle (IPRD)

(Translated by La Wonn)

## MNA building receives blue heritage

THE 34<sup>th</sup> commemorative blue plaque was installed on 31 October at the Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) building on Strand Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region.

The ceremony was attended by U Phyo Min Thein, the Chief Minister of Yangon Region, and officials.

"If the blue plaque is installed at this building, youths, tourists, and travelers will know the history of the building, and take pride in the con-

servation of the building," said the chief minister.

The MNA building was built in 1915. After independence, the Union of Myanmar Air Transport Group bought the building in 1949 at a cost of K700,000. The company was rechristened Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) in 2014.

During the colonial period, the MNA head office building was used by the Bombay Burma Trading Corporation, which mostly exported Myan-

mar timber.

Yangon Heritage Trust (YHT) founder Dr. Thant Myint Oo said that the Bombay Burma Trading Corporation has a contentious place in Myanmar history. "The installation of the blue plaque does not accommodate them. We just want to commemorate the history of the colonial times," he said.

The Bombay Burma Trading Corporation Limited, usually referred to as the Bombay

Burma Trading Company, was formed in 1863 by the Wallace Brothers. Although they were allowed to extract timber from upper Myanmar by King Mindon, difference arose over the matter during the rule of King Thibaw. The issue sparked the third Anglo-Myanmar war, and the annexation of the Konbaung Dynasty by the Bombay Burma Trading Corporation. —Zarni Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## MTE extracts 10,432 tons of timber from Kachin State forest in 2018-2019 FY

THE Myanma Timber Enterprise (MTE) extracted 10,432 tons of timber in the 2018-2019 financial year from Kachin State forest, said U Toe Toe, manager, Myitkyina Timber Extraction Area.

"Although the MTE targeted to extract 11,000 tons of hardwood in 2018-2019 FY, it produced only 10,432 tons of timber from Kachin State forest resources," he said at a meeting related to Myitkyina timber extraction area, held on 29 October at the general

administration office, Mohryin Town, Kachin State.

The meeting was attended by State Huttaw representative U Tin Aye, Amyotha Huttaw representative U Min Hswa Naing, District and Township Management Committee members, Township Forest Officer and officials, CSOs, and mediapersons.

At the meeting, the MTE official explained the process related to timber production in the forest reserves, the management of the timber

produced, hardwood production in the 2018-2019 fiscal, hardwood production target for the 2019-2020 financial year, and handing over of the timber from the Myitkyina logging Area to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

The meeting attendees asked if the timber produced from Myitkyina logging area was sold under the tender system.

"We sell the timber seized from the Myitkyina logging

area under the tender system to saw mills annually. There are a total of 18 legal saw mills in Mohryin Town," said U Win Khine Phyo, the head of the Mohryin Township Forest Department.

"We plan to grow hardwood in 2021 for timber extraction without adversely affecting the natural environment. We could not produce timber in other regions," said U Toe Toe. —Lu Aung (Katha)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## Growers in Chin State profit from high onion prices

GROWERS in Chin State are planning to extend onion cultivation in the winter as the crop fetched a high price in the monsoon harvest season.

Earlier, the price of onions stood at K500 per viss (one viss equals 1.6 kg). But in October, the price soared to K2,000 per viss.

"The onions grown in the Chin Mountain and Kalsay region are exported to foreign markets every year. The acreage under onion plantations decreased after Chin State suffered a natural disaster in 2015. The Indian market has also imposed a quota on onion imports and the export market has declined due to lower demand from the Indian market. China, Thailand, and Bangladesh imported onions from Chin State in the first week

of September and the growers are benefiting from planting onions. Some commodity depots are selling onions on a manageable scale," said a grower from Kyoethonepin village.

Onions from the Chin mountain and Kalsay are mostly exported to Tamsu, China, Thailand, and Bangladesh. Onions from Kalsay region are currently being sent to Monywa, Mandalay, Kani, Hormalin, Khamti, Mawlaik, and Phaunggyin markets.

"As onion is one of the main kitchen ingredients, its prices have hit a high. The price of onions has climbed to over K1,000 per viss in the Kalsay market because of high demand from Mandalay and Monywa markets," said a depot owner from Kalsay Town.



Pickup truck loaded with sacks of onion at a wholesale market in Chin State. PHOTO: CHINDWIN THARLAY

Farmers in Kalsay Town normally earn their living by cultivating onions on a manageable scale in order to earn an extra income. Additionally, the resi-

dents of Sirywar, Spingyi, Setawgyi, Kyaungtike, Taungphilar, and other villages are cultivating onions. The people in the Chin mountain have come to culti-

vate onions on a commercial scale, and most of the onions are produced in villages in Falam Township. —Chindwin Tharlay (Translated by La Wonn)

## Chili plantations flourish in Seikpyu on back of high prices

WITH the Seikpyu Township Forest Department carrying out teak and chili plantation in Kazunma forest area on the Seikpyu-Saw-Kanpetlet road in Magway Region, chili growers in Seikpyu Township said they are earning a good income due to chilis fetching a high price in the market.

The shifting cultivation project began in Seikpyu Township in 2008, and growers have earned good profits from the project. Apart from teak, growers are cultivating

other crops, including paddy, various kinds of beans, castor plant, and chili. The growers are also earning their living through farming and pursuing other careers.

Among the different plantations in Seikpyu Township, the cultivation of chili has been the most successful. The retail price of fresh chili is K5,000 per viss (one viss equals 1.6 kg) at present, while the wholesale price is set at K4,000 per viss.

Chilis are cultivated in the

rainy season.

Growers can earn K32,000 per month from chili plantations. Chilis have to be plucked twice a month, with yields ranging between 35 and 45 viss per harvest. Growers can earn a living although the production of chilis normally reduces in the summer season. Residents of Magway Region are likely to purchase chilis because pesticides are not used in those plantations. —Soe Lin Naing (IPRD)

(Translated by La Wonn)



Chili plantation in Seikpyu Township. PHOTO: SOE LIN NAING (IPRD)

## Over 11,000 buyers apply for Yangon government-owned land in 3 weeks

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Region government recently announced the sale of land plots for setting up industrial businesses and public housing, and between 7 and 29 October, it received about 8,000 applications for the plots, said U Than, the Joint Secretary of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

The plots of land owned by the Yangon Region government will be sold in three phases.

In Phase 1, land-use applications for 800 land plots in Hliththaya, Shwepyitha, and four Dagon Myothit townships were sold on 7 October at the office complex of the General Administration Department (Eastern District), and the number of applicants reached 11,000 as of 29 October, said U Than.

Over 180 plots from the Myaungtagar Industrial Zone will be sold in Phase 2, and, over 9,000 acres, previously marked as agricultural land, in East Dagon and Dagon Seikdan townships, will go under the hammer in Phase 3, he added.

The Land Management Committee will screen the applications and sell the plots to selected individuals and organizations for setting up businesses and housing projects.

"As the land is being sold by the regional government, it will have a full guarantee," said Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe.

The plots that are slated to be sold were previously seized by the government, and compensation had not been awarded to their original owners. Therefore, to compensate the original farmland owners, the lands are being sold again, according to officials.

At present, there are over 3,000 cases with the Yangon Region government's Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands. The Compensation of K6.9 billion was awarded to farmers on 28 September. In the 2019-2020 fiscal year, compensation of K21 billion would be provided to the original farmland owners. The applications for the plots have to be submitted by 8 November. (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)











# German govt in the dock over farmers' climate case

BERLIN — A Berlin court began hearing on Thursday a case brought by three farmers against Chancellor Angela Merkel's government over its failure to meet climate protection targets, the first such legal challenge in Germany.

Citing cattle stressed by heatwaves and huge crop losses due to extreme weather swings, from lasting droughts to torrential rains, a fruit-grower and two livestock farmers backed by environmental group Greenpeace are seeking to force the government into action.

"We are suing to get the government to keep to its targets and implement its measures," co-plaintiff Franziska Blohm, whose family manages an organic fruit farm near Hamburg, told AFP ahead of the hearing.

The aim of the exercise is not to obtain "damages or anything similar," she stressed.

"We feel that our livelihoods are threatened. We are afraid that if we don't do something, the fruit farm won't survive. The government must now show the way," she said. Another



Climate change has become a global rallying cry, with Germany notably seeing large demonstrations such as the Extinction Rebellion protest in Berlin on 10 October. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

plaintiff, dairy farmer Heiner Luetke Schwienhorst voiced optimism as he arrived at the

court hearing. "I'm very positive and I think we can win," he told AFP, cheered on by about 30

Greenpeace activists who were holding a rally outside the courthouse.—AFP ■

# Mekong levels at lowest on record as drought and dams strangle river

BANGKOK — The once-mighty Mekong river has been reduced to a thin, grubby neck of water in stretches of northern Thailand — record lows blamed on drought and a recently completed dam far upstream.

The \$4.47 billion Thai-owned Xayaburi hydro-electric power plant went into operation this week in Laos after years of warnings over the potential impact on fish flow, sediment and water levels on a river which feeds tens of millions.

Along parts of Thailand's northeastern border at Loi, the kilometre-wide (3,300-foot) river has shrivelled to a few dozen metres, with boulders and bedrock encroaching muddy pools of water.

From above, the encroaching

banks of Laos and Thailand are now a thread of water apart, restricting fishing grounds to a slim channel.

Fishermen blame a combination of this year's weak monsoon and the Xayaburi dam, around 300 kilometres (185 miles) to the north.

"I don't want any more dam construction," said fisherman Sup Aunkaew, who tossed a meagre catch into his boat, adding that the fish spawning habits have been "confused" by the unseasonally low water levels.

"But we can't really oppose their plans if they want to do it."

Landlocked and impoverished Laos has set its sights on becoming "the battery of Asia", with 44 operating hydro plants

and 46 more under construction many on key tributaries of the Mekong, according to monitor International Rivers.

The Mekong River Commission (MRC), a body governing regional water diplomacy, said the water levels from June to October are the lowest in nearly 30 years.

In Nong Khai, which faces the Laos' capital Vientiane, the water dropped to around one metre (3.2 feet) on Tuesday, several times shallower than average, the MRC said.

Measurements across the river "are significantly below the minimum levels for this time of year and are expected to decrease further", it said in a statement to AFP. "The concern is for the upcoming dry season."—AFP ■



Aquaculture offers hope to struggling fishermen in the Moroccan city of Mdq. PHOTO: AFP

# Aquaculture offers lifeline to floundering Moroccan fishermen

RABAT — With fish stocks declining in the Mediterranean, struggling Moroccan fishermen are hoping to turn to aquaculture as a way to secure their future.

"We don't get anything from the sea anymore, we're paying for the mistakes of our fathers," said Mohamed Bouajra, a fisherman in Ras Kebdana, a port town near Morocco's eastern border with Algeria.

But aquaculture offers a "glimmer of hope for escaping poverty", he said.

In Ras Kebdana, the Al Amal cooperative for independent fishermen is banking on the development of an offshore mussel farm to maintain future livelihoods.

Another cooperative at Mar Chico lagoon, some 40 kilometres (24 miles) west, runs a red algae farm to supply pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries.

Aimed at preserving fish stocks and complementing fall

are part of an ambitious national plan launched in 2009 called Blue Morocco. While the number of fishing boats in Ras Kebdana has tripled since the 1990s, "there are no more fish", said Bouajra.

Now in his 60s, Bouajra recalls the good days when fishing from his wooden boat would bring in 400 dirhams a day (\$41).

Today, he said he is lucky to make 40 dirhams: "You can't live on that."

Figures from Morocco's department of maritime fishing confirm the decline. Catches in the eastern Oriental region dropped from 14.7 tonnes to 7.4 between 2012 and 2017.

Along the rest of Morocco's Mediterranean coast, catches declined 30 per cent, alarming authorities.

Depleted fisheries are a financial concern, as exported seafood brought 22 billion dirhams in 2017 (\$2.6 billion), about half



PHOTO: AFP

ermen, these two pilot projects

of total exports.—AFP ■

# Eastern members breached EU law by refusing refugees: court advisor

BRUSSELS — The Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland likely broke EU law by refusing to take in asylum-seekers at the height of the refugee crisis in 2015, the top EU court's legal advisor said Thursday.

The opinion issued by the European Court of Justice's advocate general, Eleanor Sharpston, does not determine what the court will end up deciding in the ongoing case, but her advice is often influential.

"By refusing to comply with the provisional and time-limited mechanism for the mandatory relocation of applicants for international protection, Poland,

Hungary and the Czech Republic have failed to fulfil their obligations under EU law," she found, according to a statement given by the court.

Poland hit out at the assessment, with a government spokesman saying "the most important objective... is to ensure the security of citizens," according to the country's PAP news agency.

Warsaw acted "in the interest of Polish citizens and in the defence against uncontrolled migration," said the spokesman, Piotr Mueller.

In 2015, as Europe struggled with an influx of asylum-seekers,

many of them from war-torn Syria, the European Union announced a temporary mechanism to relocate thousands of refugees from the hardest-hit countries of Italy and Greece to other parts of the bloc.

But the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland refused, triggering a complaint against them by the European Commission. Sharpston decided the three countries' arguments invoking security concerns were insufficient because they still had the right to bar individuals deemed a threat, and a "spirit of mutual trust and cooperation must prevail".—AFP ■



The migrant crisis the EU faced in 2015 ended up being addressed by a deal with Turkey the next year that greatly reduced the number of arrivals. PHOTO: AFP

# UK election campaign hots up on Brexit day that never was

LONDON — Prime Minister Boris Johnson sought Thursday to blame the opposition Labour leader for his failure to deliver Brexit, as both men stepped up campaigning on the day Britain had been due to leave the EU.

Johnson is riding high in opinion polls ahead of the 12 December election but risks a backlash over failing to keep his "do or die" pledge to take Britain out of the European Union on 31 October.

"Today should have been the day that Brexit was delivered and we finally left the EU," the Conservative leader said in a statement.

"Despite the great new deal I signed with the EU, it shows that the EU has been unwilling to allow that to happen — insist-

ing upon more dither, more delay and more uncertainty for families and business."

Pro-EU campaigners breathed a sigh of relief that Britain had been given a stay of execution to avoid a Halloween Brexit nightmare, after stark predictions of chaos and disruption.

Johnson had vowed he would rather be "dead in a ditch" than tolerate another extension to the tortuous process, which began in 2016 after a knife-edge public referendum.

But he was forced to ask the EU to delay Brexit until January 31 after MPs in the House of Commons refused to approve the withdrawal terms he had struck with Brussels.

Labour leader Corbyn laid the blame squarely at Johnson's door, ridiculing the prime minister's past remarks.

Johnson "said that he would rather be dead in a ditch than delay beyond today, but he has done that and that failure is his fault," Corbyn said.

"This wasn't meant to be a Brexit day, it was meant to be a Brexit day that never was," the veteran socialist said.—AFP ■



PHOTO: AFP



Qamishi has been out of regime control since 2012, when Damascus withdrew its forces to fight rebels and jihadists elsewhere. PHOTO: AFP

# 'Best bad option': Syria Kurds brace for regime return

DAMASCUS — In Qamishi, the de-facto capital of Syria's embattled Kurdish minority, the future looks uncertain and shoppers at the market say they have no good options left.

"What sores me most is that nothing is clear. Nobody knows where this region is headed," said Saad Mohammad, a 35-year-old shopkeeper with a degree in Arabic literature.

Syria's Kurds have largely stayed out of their country's civil war since 2011, but set up their own institutions across almost a third of Syrian territory after regime forces redeployed to fight rebels and jihadists elsewhere.

That ended as a Turkish attack earlier this month forced them to seek the regime's protection, dashing their dreams of lasting autonomy.

A complex Russian-Turkish ceasefire deal struck last week has left Qamishi's Kurds uncer-

tain about their future.

"Will the regime return? Will the Russians and Turks deploy? Or maybe the Americans will come back?" he said at his clothes shop in the city.

I don't understand any of this."

For Mohammad and millions more, life in Kurdish-held parts of northeastern Syria, home to more than two million people, has changed dramatically in recent weeks.

The withdrawal of US forces from Syria's northern border, widely seen as a betrayal of Washington's erstwhile Kurdish allies.

"The US pullout had a big effect on us — it made people sick with worry," said Mohammad.

The withdrawal allowed Ankara to capture 120 kilometres along the length of the frontier after a weeks-long cross-border invasion.—AFP ■



## Saudi's new tourism industry faces huge training challenge

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia has opened its doors to tourists, but faces huge challenges to train an estimated one million staff needed to operate the sector, according to the head of one forthcoming mega-project.

The ultra-conservative kingdom announced in September that it would

offer tourist visas for the first time, relaxing rules that had largely restricted visits to business travellers and Muslim pilgrims.

But despite a slick global advertising campaign, Saudi tourism infrastructure is still scant—in contrast to its ambitions to welcome 100 million visitors by 2030.

The Red Sea Project, to be built across an archipelago of 90 islands and stretching into nearby deserts and mountains, will open for business in 2022, its CEO John Pagano said at a major investment forum in Riyadh.

"The challenges are going to be related to investing in our people, train-

ing the workforce that we need for the future," he told AFP on the conference sidelines.

"A million people will be working in the tourism sector, so we need a country-scale initiative to train tourism professionals."

The first phase of the mega-project off the Saudi port city of Jeddah envisages 14 luxury hotels built on five islands, with resorts in the mountains beyond.

Unlike other destinations around the Red Sea, led by Egypt and Israel, Saudi Arabia is opting for a luxury tourism model along the lines of the successful industries in Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

"We are going to limit the number of visitors because over-tourism is a major cause of environmental damage," Pagano said.

But he added that the Red Sea project alone promises to deliver 70,000 jobs and \$5.9 billion towards Saudi GDP annually.—AFP



Conservative Saudi Arabia has launched a drive to attract tourists to places such as UNESCO World Heritage site Madain Saleh. PHOTO: AFP

## Contract for up to 100 Mitsubishi jets with US airline canceled

NAGOYA — Mitsubishi Aircraft Corp. announced Thursday the cancellation of its contract to provide up to 100 units of Japan's first homegrown small passenger jet to Trans States Holdings Inc., which operates three regional carriers in the United States.

The Japanese manufacturer said its SpaceJet M90, which can seat about 90 passengers, "does not meet the requirements" of the American market, failing to comply with the US scope clause that limits the size of aircraft flown on regional routes, among other conditions.

Mitsubishi Aircraft said future discussions with TSH will focus on its SpaceJet M100 aircraft, which was newly introduced in June and meets the US scope clause requirements.

The design of SpaceJet M100 can be modified to accommodate between 65 and 88 passengers.

Scheduled delivery dates for the SpaceJet M90 had been pushed back five times to the middle of next year due to development

delays. Under a 2009 deal between the two companies, Missouri-based TSH placed orders for 50 passenger jets — then called the Mitsubishi Regional Jet — and tentative orders for another 50.

"When we estab-

lished our contract with TSH, the outlook for the regional market was very different. The scope clause has not been relaxed as anticipated," Mitsubishi Aircraft President Hisakazu Mizutani said in a press release.—Kyodo News ■



Mitsubishi Aircraft Corp.'s SpaceJet arrives in Le Bourget, near Paris, on 16 June, 2019, for the International Paris Air Show. PHOTO: KYODO

### MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouse and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2019 to 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2019 (Tazaung Taing Public Holiday), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

## China rolls out 5G services in race to narrow tech gap



5G mobile networks which provide high-speed mobile internet services, allowing users to download entire movies in seconds. PHOTO: AFP

BEIJING — China's three major state telecom operators rolled out 5G wireless technology Thursday, as the country races to narrow its technology gap with the US amid a bruising trade war.

China Mobile, the country's largest carrier, announced its 5G services were available in 50 cities — including Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen — with packages starting from 128 yuan (\$18) a month.

Rivals China Telecom and China Unicom are also offering services at comparable prices in major cities, according to notices on their websites.

The ultra-fast mobile internet service — which is 100 times faster than existing 4G networks — allows consumers to download full-length films within seconds, or use apps with virtual reality. The technology will also pave the way for driverless cars, further automation in factories, and allow users to remotely control appliances such as coffee makers and ovens via the internet.

China is expected to be a front-runner in the adoption of 5G services with over 170 million 5G subscribers by next year, according to estimates by China Telecom.

South Korea will be in second place with a predicted 75,000 users, followed by the US with 10,000, analysts at Sanford C. Bernstein said in a research note last week.

"China will promote the deep integration of new generation information technology and the real economy," said Chen Zhaosong, vice minister of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology at a technology conference Thursday.

"This involves accelerating the integration and application of 5G in industries, transportation, energy, agriculture, education and health," Chen said, according to a statement on the ministry's website.

Beijing has been pushing for a quick rollout of the technology, and China's state economic planner said in January that developing a 5G network was one of its "investment priorities" this year.—AFP

## Indian Kashmir formally ceases to be a state

NEW DELHI — India's Muslim-majority region of Kashmir was formally divided on Thursday, almost three months after losing its autonomy in a move that triggered violence and stoked tensions with arch-rival Pakistan.

The move, announced in early August when India imposed a lockdown and sent in tens of thousands of extra troops, saw Jammu and Kashmir cease to be a state and split into two new administrative territories ruled directly from New Delhi.

Speaking next to a colossal statue of independence hero Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in his home state of Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday hailed a "bright fu-



A soldier stands guard near Raj Bhavan, the official governor's residence, ahead of the swearing-in ceremony of first lieutenant governor of Jammu and Kashmir union territory, in Srinagar. PHOTO: AFP

ture" for the blood-soaked Hindu-Muslim region.

Local authorities in Kashmir, meanwhile, deployed

Police and paramilitary troops in bulletproof gear patrolled the streets in the densely populated old quarters of the main city of Srinagar and other towns across the volatile Kashmir Valley.

Kashmir was "the only place where terrorism killed around 40,000 people in the last three decades. So many mothers lost their sons... For how long could we have just kept watching the innocents die?" Modi said.

Split since 1947

"We are happy that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are moving towards a new future from today onwards. Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir today are taking steps for their bright future," Modi said.—AFP ■

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## At least 71 killed in Pakistan train fire

ISLAMABAD — At least 71 people were killed and dozens injured after cooking gas cylinders exploded on a train packed with pilgrims in Pakistan on Thursday, some dying after leaping from carriages to escape the inferno, authorities said.

Television footage showed flames pouring out of three carriages as people could be heard crying during the incident, in a rural area of central Punjab province.

Some of the passengers — many of whom were pilgrims travelling to one of Pakistan's biggest annual religious gatherings — had been cooking breakfast when two of their gas cylinders exploded, Ali Nawaz, a senior Pakistan Railways official, told AFP.

Many Pakistanis carry food on long train journeys, but gas cylinders are banned, and Nawaz said an inquiry had been ordered.

Dozens of people crowded along the tracks staring at the burning carriages, which had been disconnected from the rest

of the train, television images showed.

Firefighters rushed to the scene near Rahim Yar Khan district, extinguishing the blaze. Rescue workers and the army could also be seen, as bodies were

carried away covered in white sheets.

Muhammad Nadeem Zia, a medical superintendent at the hospital in Liaquatpur, the nearest town, told AFP 71 people had been killed and 44 wounded.

A rescue services official for the district, Adnan Shabir, gave a slightly higher toll of 73 dead.

Zia said that some of the victims were killed by head injuries sustained as they leapt from the moving train.—AFP ■



Some of the passengers — many of whom were religious pilgrims travelling to a congregation in the eastern city of Lahore — had been cooking breakfast when two of their gas cylinders exploded, officials said. © Pakistan's Punjab Emergency Service Rescue II22. PHOTO: AFP

## Taiwan seeks compensation from Japanese firm over deadly derailment

TAIPEI — The Taiwan Railway Administration said Thursday that it is seeking compensation from a Japanese trading firm over a derailment on the island that killed 18 people last year.

TRA said in a statement that it decided to seek NT\$611 million (US\$20 million) compensation from Sumitomo Corp. and Sum-

itomo Corp. Taiwan Ltd. for the design flaws in the Puyuma Express train that derailed in Yilan County, northeastern Taiwan, on 22 October last year.

The accident, which happened when the train was entering Hsinma Station, also injured over 100 people.

TRA said that a report it

commissioned a private consultant firm to conduct concluded that Sumitomo Corp. and its local subsidiary should be responsible for the design flaw of the air compressor and the wiring of the train's automatic train protection safety system.

Apart from seeking compensation for the two mechanical

flaws, TRA said it will continue to seek more compensation from the two companies for losses suffered by victims and their families.

An investigation conducted by the Executive Yuan, or the cabinet, concluded that two mechanical problems as well as human error contributed to the accident.—Kyodo News ■

### NEWS In BRIEF

#### N Korea fires 2 projectiles toward sea: S Korea

SEOUL — North Korea fired two projectiles toward its eastern sea on Thursday afternoon, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

The Japanese Defence Ministry said what appeared to be a ballistic missile was fired from North Korea, but that it was not expected to reach Japanese territorial land or sea.

The ministry also said it was also not expected to fall into waters within Japan's exclusive economic zone.

It represented the 12<sup>th</sup> projectile of any type fired by North Korea since May. North Korea last launched a projectile on 2 October when it test-fired a new type of submarine-launched ballistic missile called Pukguk-song-3 off the eastern port city of Wonsan.

Thursday's projectiles were launched from South Pyongan Province, according to the JCS.—Kyodo News ■

#### Philippines to address plight of country's online content moderators

MANILA — A government agency in the Philippines is starting to look into the plight of workers tasked with taking down sexual and violent content on the internet and other digital platforms in light of risks the job poses to a person's wellbeing.

The Department of Labor's Bureau of Local Employment intends to tackle the job of "content moderators" in cooperation with the so-called business process outsourcing industry employing these workers, and even with lawmakers, said its director, Dominique Tutay.

"Government should really have a policy on this," Tutay told Kyodo News, acknowledging that exposure to violent, terroristic, pornographic and other disturbing content could negatively impact a worker's psychological health.

"(This kind of job) really needs to be studied. And there should be preparations for that (kind of job). And there must be a policy," she said.—Kyodo News ■



### In Iraq protests, counting the dead is a dangerous job

BAGHDAD — One protester killed. Then five. Suddenly, more than 40. As Iraq's anti-government demonstrations turned



Anti-government protests in Iraq have left more than 250 people dead and 10,000 wounded since 1 October. PHOTO: AFP

bloody, a network of rights defenders and medics began documenting deaths to fill a gag order on casualty numbers. Remarkably, the watchdog at the heart of the effort is itself a government entity: the Iraqi Human Rights Commission, created in 2012 but now facing its most important — and politically sensitive — mission yet.

When protests erupted on 1 October, the first casualty report of one protester shot dead and 200 more wounded in the capital was released by the health ministry.

But as more reports came in of live rounds and alleged indiscriminate force used against protest-

ers across Baghdad and the south, the government clammed up. It released no further tolls, imposed an internet blackout and halted information-sharing with the commission.

"The ministries of health and interior stopped giving us numbers," said Faysal Abdallah, a journalist by training and commission member since 2017.

"So we started going to the morgues to get numbers of dead, the hospitals to learn of the wounded and the police stations for numbers of detainees," he told AFP.—AFP ■

Asleep in Jesus  
Naw Molly Moh  
Age (88) years

Daughter of (Saw Po Tu-Naw Daisy) and daughter-in-law of (Rev. Saw Aung Moh-Naw Sarah), residing at No. 13 (C), Zion Hill St., Nant-tha-gone Ward, Insein, beloved wife of Saw Gilkey Moh, beloved eldest sister of (Saw Robert), (Saw Tun Hla Aung Tu) Naw Joyce Accord, Dr. Saw Ba Tun Kyi Dr. Naw Katherine Thet Gyi, Saw Ba Hla Tin Tu Naw Peggy, (Saw Ba Ni), Naw Mazi Tu U Aung Lwin, Naw Mette Tu, (Naw Dorothy Moh Saw Tu Tu), Saw Harkie Moh-Naw Lormay, beloved mother of (Naw Thida Moh @ Gillian Thida Moh), Saw Rommel Moh-Naw Moo Eh Htoo, Saw Gilson Moh-Naw Barbara Moh, Saw Gilman Saw Moh @ Aung Soe Moe-Naw Alice Nu Htwar Yin, Saw Zar Ni Moh (Naw Lay Lay Thein), Saw Gilkey Moh Jr. Naw Lyn Lyn Ju, beloved grandmother of Saw Rommel Moh Jr., Naw Sandy Moh, Saw Mark Aung Moh, Saw Max Tu Moh, Naw Sandra Moh, Naw Sarah Moh, Saw Gilson Moh Jr., Naw Cindy Rebecca Moh, Saw Daniel Gilkey Moh, Saw Glenn Jonathan Moh, Naw Judyline Moh, Saw Rain Joseph Moh, Saw Gabriel Joshua Moh, Naw Julia Rose Moh, and Saw Shawn Nathan Moh, peacefully went home to be with the Lord on Oct 30, 2019 (Wednesday), 00:45 AM. The funeral service will be held on Nov 1, 2019 (Friday) 9:00 AM, at Ko Tha Phyu Memorial Hall, Karen Baptist Theological Seminary, Insein, after which the cortege will leave for Yeway Christian Cemetery for entombment.

Bereaved Family

### Twitter to ban political ads worldwide on its platform

WASHINGTON — Twitter said Wednesday it would stop accepting political advertising globally on its platform, responding to growing concerns over misinformation from politicians on social media.

Chief executive Jack Dorsey tweeted that while internet advertising "is incredibly powerful and very effective for commercial advertisers, that power brings significant risks to politics, where it can be used to influence votes to affect the lives of millions."

The move comes with Facebook under pressure to apply fact-checking to politicians running ads with debunked claims. Dorsey said the new policy, details of which will be unveiled next month and enforced from November 22, would ban ads on political issues as well as from candidates. "We considered stopping only candidate ads, but issue ads present a way to circumvent," he said.

"Additionally, it isn't fair for everyone but candidates to buy ads for issues they want to push. So we're stopping these too." Dorsey said the company took the action to head off potential problems from

"machine learning-based optimization of messaging and micro-targeting, unchecked misleading information, and deep fakes."

Twitter's move comes in contrast to the Facebook policy that allows political speech and ads to run without fact-checking on the leading social network.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has said political advertising is not a major source of revenue but adds that he believes it is important to allow everyone a "voice," and that banning political ads would favor incumbents.

Dorsey said he disagreed with Zuckerberg's assessment. "We have witnessed many social movements reach massive scale without any political advertising. I trust this will only grow," he added.

"This is the right thing to do for democracy in America and all over the world," 2016 US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton tweeted.

"What say you, @Facebook?" she asked, calling out the other social media giant. Twitter's chief financial officer Ned Segal said the move would have little financial impact.



Twitter CEO and co-founder Jack Dorsey announced the short message platform would bar all political ads as part of an effort to curb misinformation. PHOTO: AFP

"Since we are getting questions: This decision was based on principle, not money," he said. "As context, we've disclosed that political ad spend for the 2018 US midterms was (less than) \$3M."—AFP ■

### Roads blocked in Lebanon as protests enter third week

BEIRUT — Demonstrators kept up their road-blocks across Lebanon on Thursday, as their unprecedented protest movement



Lebanese army soldiers clash with protesters as they attempt to reopen the main highway that links the cities of Saida and Beirut near the town of Ijeh, south of the Lebanese capital Beirut, on 30 October, 2019. — AFP

demanding systemic political change entered its third week. Traffic came to a standstill on major highways, as protesters erected metal barricades.

They waved through security and medical personnel, in a scene that has become routine since a proposed tax on calls via messaging apps first drew protesters onto the streets on 17 October.

"I don't want to stand down," said Tarek Madhoun, 38, who was blocking a road in central Beirut.

The protest movement has swelled into a popular drive to remove a political elite which has remained largely unchanged since a devastating civil war ended three decades ago.

Euphoric protesters experiencing a rare moment of national unity

and a complete overhaul of Lebanon's sectarian-based politics. Bowing to street pressure, Prime Minister Saad Hariri submitted his government's resignation on Tuesday.

The announcement led to an easing of the two-week-old lockdown, with some main roads briefly reopening.

Banks had been due to reopen on Friday but protesters stayed on the streets, keen to use one of the only forms of leverage they have to press their demands.

On Wednesday, Aoun promised a "clean government", saying the protest movement "paved the way for big reforms". Forming a government in Lebanon can take

Beirut. "But we still have many more demands... including a technocratic and independent government, a new electoral law and a new parliament."

Embattled President Michel Aoun is due to deliver a speech at 8:00 pm (1800 GMT) marking the third anniversary of his election as head of state.

On Wednesday, Aoun promised a "clean government", saying the protest movement "paved the way for big reforms".

Forming a government in Lebanon can take an end-party leader seeking to protect their own communal interests.—AFP ■

### Myanmar Football Federation wins AFC Dream Asia Awards 2019



Myanmar Football Federation president U Zaw Zaw receives the AFC Dream Asia Award 2019 on behalf of the federation in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. PHOTO: MFF

Myanmar Football Federation president U Zaw Zaw and a delegation attended the awards ceremony. U Zaw Zaw accepted the first prize on behalf of the MFF.

The MFF got the award for its efforts in using football as a tool for social development under three categories for AFC Member Associations — inspiring, developing, and aspiring, according to the AFC.

While Myanmar won the gold medal, the Hong Kong Football Association took the silver medal, and the Bangladesh Football Federation received the bronze medal at the AFC Dream Asia Awards.

Last year, the Myanmar Football Federation empowered communities across the Southeast Asian nation through football. The MFF donated neces-

saries to social organizations, organized healthcare volunteering and donations in collaboration with the Ayeyawady Foundation, lent support to resettlement efforts for flood and earthquake victims in Laos and Indonesia, held grassroots football festivals for children, and donated sports accessories in Myanmar.

The MFF also held the MFF Charity Cup 2019, the MFF-MNL Awards Night, and a tree planting drive for environmental conservation in Yangon.

Along with the award, the AFC also gave US\$15,000 to the MFF for future Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) work, in conjunction with the AFC.

The MFF has now won the AFC Dream Asia Awards twice. It won the award for the first time in 2013.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

THE Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) won the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Dream Asia Awards 2019 at a ceremony held on 30 October in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

### AFC U-19 Women's Championship 2019: Myanmar lose 1-5 to China

THE Myanmar U-19 women's national football team suffered a 1-5 loss against the China U-19 team in their second Group B match of the AFC U-19 Women's Championship 2019 yesterday at the Institute of Physical Education (IPE) Stadium in Chonburi, Thailand.

In their opening matches on 28 October, Myanmar faced a 5-0 loss against Japan, while China were edged out by South Korea with a score of 2-1.

Team Myanmar's loss had revived China's hopes of reaching the final stage of the tournament. Myanmar, on their part, had suffered two defeats and stood no chance of advancing to the finals.

Although there was much difference in terms of their abilities, both teams made an effort to showcase their defense and attack style at the match yesterday. Team China got their opening goal at the five-minute mark. The goal was scored by Yao Mengjia.

Team Myanmar nearly drew level at 36 minutes, but captain San Thaw Thaw's kick was neatly deflected by China goalkeeper Zu Mengdi.

The score remained unchanged at 1-0 for the rest of the first half, with Myanmar putting up a strong defense and attack. Myanmar started the second half strongly, nearly scoring the equalizer at 47 minutes, but China goalkeeper Zu Mengdi was quick to repel Nwe Ni Win's header from inside the box.

In the later minutes, China remained active and managed to penetrate Myanmar's massive defense. Yang Qian scored second and third goals for team China at 52 and 63 minutes. Next, China got a penalty kick at 70 minutes due to aggressive play by some Myanmar defenders inside the penalty area of team China.

The penalty was scored by Wang Linlin and was the fourth goal for the team. Team Myanmar, however, fought back and scored a consolation goal at 73 minutes through San Thaw Thaw's excellent strike from the top of the box.

But, just before the match ended, China landed one more goal, taking their score to 5-1. The goal was scored by Han Xuan. In the last Group B matches, Myanmar will next play against South Korea, while Japan will take on China on 3 November.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Myanmar's Captain San Thaw Thaw (red) vies for the ball with players from China (yellow) during yesterday's Group B match of the AFC U-19 Women's Championship 2019 at the IPE Stadium in Chonburi, Thailand. PHOTO: AFC

### Premier League considers ban on heading for youths amid dementia fear: reports

LONDON — The Premier League has written to its clubs to tell them they are considering whether to ban some academy players from heading a football amid dementia fears.

According to British media reports on Wednesday, Premier League chiefs have emailed all

lished and titled 'Football's Influence on Lifelong Health and Dementia Risk' found footballers were three-and-a-half times more likely to suffer from degenerative brain conditions than the general population. The research looked at 7,676 Scottish footballers born

Association considering a ban on children under 12 heading the ball and former player Lenny Johnrose, who was diagnosed with motor neurone disease in March 2017, called for children aged 14 and under to be banned from heading.

The United States is the only country that has implemented a similar ban. Children aged 10 and under are not allowed to head the ball in games or prac-

tice, while there are limits placed in training sessions for 11-to-13 year olds. In the wake of the study, led by consultant neuropathologist Dr Willie Stewart of Glasgow University, Premier League interim chief executive Richard Masters is looking into the latest findings. If any groups should be banned from heading. The FA's independently

chaired medical and football advisory group does not yet believe there is enough evidence at this stage to make changes to the way modern-day football is played, at any level of the game.

It has reissued best practice coaching advice in youth football, which advises limiting repetitive heading practice and using age-appropriate balls and softer items like balloons or sponge balls.—AFP