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President U Win Myint accepts Letters of Credence of Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia



President U Win Myint welcomes Mr Chhouk Bunna, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia, at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

MR CHHOUK BUNNA, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his Letters of Credence to U Win Myint, President

of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Present on the occasion were U Kyaw Tin, Union

Minister for International Cooperation and Director-General U Min Thein of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to call for release of hostages arrested by AA armed group

THE 14th regular session of second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held its fourth-day meeting yesterday, condemning AA armed group for the detention of Amyotha Hluttaw MP U Hwei Tin from Chin State Constituency 11, civil service staff and civilians.

The Hluttaw agreed to discuss the emergency motion tabled by Pyithu Hluttaw MP Dr Hla Moe from Aungmyethazan constituency for the unconditional and immediate release of these hostages.



MP Dr Hla Moe.
PHOTO: MNA



MP Dr Myat Nyana Soe.
PHOTO: MNA



MP Dr Sein Mya Lay.
PHOTO: MNA

Release of hostages arrested by AA armed group

In his emergency motion, MP Dr Hla Moe from Aungmyethazan constituency said Myanmar is in the process of national reconciliation for internal peace in heading to the establishment of a democratic federal union, and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has also taken record on the establishment of a union based on democracy and federal system.

The Government, the Hluttaws and the Tatmadaw are negotiating with the relevant organizations to end internal armed conflicts. However, Amyotha Hluttaw MP U Hwei Tin from Chin State Constituency 11, who was coming back to Nay Pyi Taw to attend the 14th regular session second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, was abducted by AA armed group on 3 November 2019, together with five Indian citizens who are working at Paletwa-Zorampu project, their two interpreters and two motorboat drivers on their way from Paletwa to Kyawktaw township along the Kalatan river.

MP Dr Hla Moe also said although other hostages had been released, U Hwei Tin has remained detained for 11 days on November 13. It was reportedly known that the AA group abducted other civilians and civil service staff. It is nonsense and unreasonable for AA armed group to insist the arrests were made due to security reasons.

He added that the illegal acts of armed group are undermining the efforts and future goals of the government and the people, and that he urged the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to discuss the unconditional and immediate release of U Hwei Tin and other hostages.

MP U Maung Maung Law, the secretary of Amyotha Hluttaw and Hluttaw Rights Committee, from Sagaing Region constituency 9 expressed his support to the emergency motion and his condemnation on the detention of hostages.

Then, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced to discuss the emergency motion with the unanimous approval of MPs, and to enlist the names of MPs who want to discuss the motion.

The fifth-day meeting of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will convene on 15 November.— Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Education bill was passed

Dr Myat Nyana Soe, the Secretary of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee, tabled motions over the controversial education bill between the two Hluttaw, and the MPs discussed them before the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved it with the agreements of Ministry of Education and the Bill Committee.

The MP then discussed the 15/2019 Report on the findings and recommendations of the Joint Public Accounts Committee on in the implementation of construction projects with the funds of 2018-2019 fiscal year for the Basic Education Department under the Ministry of Education.



MP U Kyaw Thung.
PHOTO: MNA



MP U Kyaw Shwe.
PHOTO: MNA



MP Daw Mar Mar Khaing.
PHOTO: MNA

Anti-Corruption Law for blacklisted companies in school construction projects

MP Dr Sein Mya Lay from Dala constituency tabled a motion to apply Anti-Corruption Law in taking legal actions against unethical quality control officers and construction companies that breached rules and regulations in the projects, in addition to putting them into the blacklist.

She also said to take actions against the school heads who ignored the quality of construction projects in conspiring with the contractors.

U Kyaw Thung, MP from Sagaing Region constituency 1 also discussed the systematic tender selection process for school construction companies as a total of 2,881 projects failed to realize although the projects have been passed for 2018-2019 fiscal year.

The 15/2019 Report of JPAC was also discussed by MP U Kyaw Shwe from Yambye constituency, MP Daw Mar Mar Khaing from Thaton constitu-

ency, MP U Oo Hla Saw from MraukU constituency, MP U Myint Naing from Rakhine State constituency 5 and MP U Sein Myint from Myingyan constituency.

ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI)

The MP also discussed the topic presented by the President for Myanmar to sign the establishment of ASEAN Centre for Active Ageing and Innovation (ACAI) which aims to prepare for an ageing society and the continuing need to promote the well-being of the elderly in the region.

MP U San Myint from Ayeyawady Region Constituency 3 discussed the reasons for this center in serving as a knowledge centre on active ageing and innovation for the elderly people in the region.

MP U Saw Victor Khaleik from Thandaunggyi Constituency discussed the importance of local and regional cooperation in supporting the ageing people and supported that Myanmar needs to sign the agreement on the establishment of the centre.

MP Dr Sein Mya Aye from Dala constituency, MP U Kyaw Thung from Sagaing Region constituency 1, MP U Khin Cho

from Hlaingbwe constituency, MP U Myint Oo from Magway constituency, MP Dr Thet Thet Khaing from Dagon constituency, MP Dr San Shwe Win from Yekyi constituency, MP U Win Win from Minbu constituency and MP U Ye Lwin from Ahlon constituency discussed the topic.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe agreed to implement the recommendation of MPs to sign the agreement for the establishment of ACAI. And the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved it.

Activities of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission from January to 24 September 2019

The MPs also discussed the report on activities of Myanmar National Human Rights Commissions from January to 24 September this year.

MP U Khin Cho from Hlaingbwe constituency discussed the importance of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in arrests, continuous and close monitoring on human rights situations at prisons, detention centres, factories, hard labour camps and refugee camps, and actions against those who failed to follow human rights.

President U Win Myint accepts Letters of Credence of the Ambassador of Czech Republic

MRS HANA MOTTLOVA, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented her Letters of Credence to U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Present on the occasion were U Kyaw Tin, Union

Minister for International Cooperation and Director-General U Min Thein of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

President U Win Myint (Left) accepts the Letters of Credence presented by Mrs. Hana Mottlova, the newly-accredited Ambassador of Czech Republic in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister U Win Khaing receives Norwegian ambassador



UNION MINISTER for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing received Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Tone Tinnes at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed Norwegian assistance to Myanmar in the areas of hydropower technologies, drawing grid code in power distribution, environmental and social management and English proficiency trainings under the Programme Phase (II) of Norwegian Water

Resources and Energy Directorate—NVE (2019-2023), development of oil and natural gas sector under the Oil for Development (OFD) Programme, training programmes for human resource development and cooperation in natural resources management.

They also held talks on data collections in electricity and energy sectors, data storage and sharing, exchange of analysis on environmental impacts and safety measures, ongoing and long-term and short-term plan for electricity generation in Myanmar, hydropower projects implemented by Norway and oil and natural gas sector.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister Dr Tun Naing, U Khin Maung Win and officials.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Minister U Win Khaing meets with Norwegian Ambassador Ms Tone Tinnes at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

National committee discusses draft action plan to address conflict-related sexual violence

THE National Committee on Prevention and Response to Conflict- Related Sexual Violence discussed its draft action plan at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, the chairman of the committee, made an opening remark on the coordination meeting of the committee, saying that his committee developed the action plan, and it was updated with the recommendations of relevant departments and organizations before it was drafted in line with

the suggestions of UN organizations.

The Director-General of Social Welfare Department explained the draft plan, and the attendees discussed it.

The National Level Action Plan (draft) was prepared based on three UN Security Council resolutions and the six priority areas for cooperation in the Joint Communique on Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence which Myanmar signed with the United Nations on 7 December 2018.

The President's Office



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye poses for a photo with attendees at the meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

formed the National Committee with the five assignments to draft the action plan for implementing

the joint communique.

The draft action plan will also be submitted to the Presi-

dent's Office for its approval.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

UEC, IDEA jointly organize “Training to Enhance Electoral Capacity”

THE Union Election Commission (UEC) and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) jointly organized the “Training to Enhance Electoral Capacity” for the 2020 General Election at the Grand Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the opening of the three-day training, UEC Chairman U Hla Thein said his commission was arranging for successfully holding the 2020 General Elections in accordance with the five norms: free, fair, transparent, credible and reflecting the will of the people.

He then spoke about the needs of higher quality and capacity for the chairpersons and members of the sub-commissions and staff to competently perform their tasks in accordance with laws, bylaws and regulations.

The course comprises ten chapters, including formation of coordination committees, voting and vote counting, early voting, raising public awareness, election observers management,

the role of the township, ward/village-tract sub-commissions, and work instruction for heads, deputy heads and members of polling stations, the UEC Chairman said.

About 300 trainees will attend in three batches, and each three-day batch will include about 100 trainees.

Currently, the compilation of the nationwide primary voters list was completed. But, the complete and accurate voters' lists will be obtained if the compiled voters' lists are updated in accordance with work procedures.

As there is about a year remaining to hold the 2020 General Elections, there are continuous tasks are to be done. If the tasks are performed in a punctual manner, the whole process will be much smoother, he added.

He then spoke about the needs of unbiased fairness in implementing the works of the sub-commissions to be correct and accurate, and in accordance with election laws and bylaws.

U Hla Thein also urged the trainees to systematically learn



Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein addresses the opening ceremony of the “Training to Enhance Electoral Capacity” for the 2020 General Election in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

the lessons as it is a teacher training course, and interestingly note their practical experiences and knowledge to redeliver the lessons they learned without difficulties to the election sub-commissions and members of polling stations in their local places.

Afterwards, Mr Mark McDowell, the Resident Representative of International IDEA's Myanmar Office, made a remark. The first day of the course then continued after commemorative photos had been taken.

A total of 104 trainees from the region/state, district and

township level sub-commissions attended the first-day training.

Also present at the opening event were Union Election Commission (UEC) members and officials from the UEC office, officials from the International IDEA. —MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

National Lit, Sarpay Beikman Manuscript awards for 2018 announced

THE Ministry of Information has announced the recipients of National Literature Awards and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards for 2018 and authors U Tin Maung Myint and U Htun Aung Chein were awarded the Lifetime Achievement awards.

The 54-member National Literature Award Selection Committee also reviewed books published for the first time in 2018 and has released a list of winners.

National Literature Award recipients:

Author Juu won the novel category with ‘That-tando-phyint-yet-pwe Chit-thu-ye-chone-hlwar-sar-ouk’ (Juu Publishing House). MyitKyoe Inn won the short stories category with ‘Hmyaw-lint-chin-go Mhyar-dat-nya-nay’ (Mahar Publishing House). Ko Than Tun won the poem category for ‘Nyint-pon-pyaw-thu’ (Hnit Kala Myar Publishing House). Ma Than Than (Mahn Thaketo) won the sar-padetha category with ‘Lay-myaing, sarpay-thati-phyint shin-than-thu’ (Wisdom House Publishing House).

Wai Yan Bhome won the translation (fiction) award for translating William Golding’s Lord of the Flies (GantawWutyi

Publishing House). Mya Win (Philosophy) won the general knowledge (science) category for ‘Zawgyi-ei-yatha-pyinnyar-sar-ouk’ (Pathagan Publishing House).

Maung Kyay Yay (U Myint Thein) won the general knowledge (applied science) category for ‘Myay-auk-yay-hnint yay-ayay-sar-su-myar’ (Seik Ku Cho Cho Publishing House). Aung Myint Oo (MahaWeikzar) won the political literature category for ‘Myanma-naing-ngan-yey-thamine-htae-ga Pyithu-Yebaw’ (LawkaThit Publishing House). Kyaw Zwa Moe won the English literature (general knowledge) category for ‘The Cell, Exile and The New Burma’ (New Myanmar Publishing House). Min Chan Mon won the aesthetic literature (essays) category for ‘Thit-ywat-paw-gaPyar-yay-satt-myarYathae-essay-susii-hmu’ (Shinma Taung Publishing House).

The Lifetime Achievement Award is accompanied by K5 million while the rest of the National Literature Awards are accompanied by K 2.5 million for each recipient.

SarpayBeikman Manuscript Awards:

In the novel category, first

prize went to Kay (Thaung Tan Pyar) prize for ‘Thitsar-tin-hmint Char-kae-ya-taw-mya’, second prize to Yun Myat Hmun Shan for ‘Yay-sar-de-myt’, and third prize to Maung Nay Chi (Pyay) for ‘Thu-doe-law-ka Thu-doe-bawa Sar-mu-myar’.

In the collected short stories category, first prize went to ThutiAwbar (Sin Paung Wae) for ‘Thit-souk-san-kyaungAparwin Achar-wut-htu-toe-myar’, second prize to Nay Soe Thar for ‘Aweikzar-to-paung-chouk’, and third prize to Kyaiksakaw Khin Soe for ‘Ma-ngo-par-net Amay-yel Nae-Achar-wut-htu-toe-myar’.

In the collected poems category, first place went to Maung Han Tint (Pin Laebuu) for ‘Sein-si-taw-myt-hnint Achar-kabyar-myar’, second place to Khat Hlaing Kyaw for ‘Nyint-tone-yan-kharalingar-kabyar-myar’, and third place to Ahtawar Soe (Mandalay) for ‘Sar-pwint-wutt-hmone-kabyar-sar-mu-myar’.

In the general knowledge (arts) category, second place went to May Myanmar for ‘Nar-mae-hnint Myanmar’, and third place to Maung Khun Nwe (Inlay) for ‘Taw-win-laphet Nat-

thit-ywat’.

In the general knowledge (science) category, first place went to Ko Htoo (Tharyar Myaing) for ‘Poe-zar-ponehnate-lote-nganathat-mway-wun-kyaungathat-pyinnyar’, and third place to Maung Aung (Mway Ku) for ‘Rural Economic Development and increasing cattle, poultry and swine breeding’.

In the sar-padetha category, first prize went to Htet Khine for ‘Saydanar-lann-ga-shauk-kel-par’, second place to Min Shin Aung (Twantay) for ‘Rama-zat-htaw-gaYaykyaw-Maung-Maung’, and third place to Nay Aung Thu (Kanni) for ‘Kanni-kayee-thae’.

Second prize for Myanmar culture and art category went to Zaw Lwin Oo (Hinthada) for ‘Ta-naw’.

First prize for children’s literature went to Maung Lun Myaing (Pin Laebuu) for ‘Walone-saung-saungPann-paung-gatay Kalay-kabyar-myar’, second prize to Pulaw Sein Nanttar for ‘Thar-su-buu-kalakyabyar-myar’, and third prize to Nyunt Win (Natalin) for ‘Thati-lainmar Tin-twe-yadanar Kalay-wut-htu-toe-myar’.

Second prize for youth literature went to Tin Lin Zaw for ‘A-nya-taya-kyuntaw’ and third prize to Nite for ‘Thamee-hinttar-to-pay-sar’.

Second prize for plays category went to Ngwe La Min (Magway) went for ‘Nay-kau-ng-par-del’ and third prize to Maung LweEik for ‘Khit-thit-GatameeSarmu-myar’.

First prizes are accompanied by K 1 million, second prizes get K 700,000, and third prizes garner K 500,000. The selection was made by a 27-member committee of experts from different professional fields.

Winners are urged to contact the Literature Award Administration and Support Committee at 01-381449. They must bring two 5x8 inches colour photos and two passport-size colour photos along with a brief personal summary to the committee’s office within one week of this announcement. The address of the committee is an No. (529/531), Merchant Street, SarpayBeikman Building, Yangon.

The rewards themselves will be conferred during a ceremony in Yangon on 27 November 2019 (Wednesday).—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Local, foreign investments invited only after disclosing power supply status: DICA

By Nyein Nyein

WE are inviting local and foreign investments only after providing information about the current status of power supply in the country, said U Thant Sin Lwin, director-general of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

At present, about 20 local and foreign investors have come to DICA for discussing investment, and we have disclosed the status of electric supply prior to inviting them, he said.

“As per the State’s statement on the electricity sector,

there will be adequate electric supply in 2023. For now, the government is doing its utmost to provide power to homes, public places, and businesses. However, we are not misleading investors with wrong information. We have always notified them of the status of electric supply in the places where they wish to make investments,” said U Thant Sin Lwin.

Additionally, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy is also participating in discussions to provide information regarding power supply in the designated project areas.

“We always seek the opinion of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy regarding investment proposals. For example, if the ministry informs us that a particular place would get access to electricity in 2020, and if an investor is looking to invest in a business that relies on power in that particular area, we give them a timeframe so they know by when the area will get access to electricity. Companies are also considering all necessary matters regarding investment, depending on market conditions. Regarding electricity, we cannot give any guarantees. We can only

provide information about the actual status of power supply,” said U Thant Sin Lwin.

Additionally, Myanmar has established a land bank to deal with land-use problems that can hinder investment, said U Thant Sin Lwin.

“Land bank is a tool that makes it easier to process data about land. Local and foreign entrepreneurs can select a location to make investments and process matters with the related ministries. The government has released the procedures for that,” he added.

“Myanmar is the largest na-

tion in South East Asia by area, and the country has many vacant lands for industrial businesses. However, I admit that land-use problems are obstacles to investment. The Myanmar Investment Law also covers land types and land acquisition rules and regulations for investors,” said U Thauung Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

At present, the ministry is endeavoring to promote investments and liberalize time-consuming processes.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Agro exports up \$60 mln in 2019-2020FY



Farmers harvesting green peas in a farm. PHOTO: SOE LIN NAING

MYANMAR’S exports of agricultural products between 1 October and 1 November in the current fiscal year crossed US\$264.47 million from \$204.7 million in the corresponding period of the 2018-2019FY, which is an increase of \$59.749 million, according to trade figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

In the exports sector, the agriculture industry showed the best performance, along with the natural gas sector. The chief items of export in the agricultural sector were rice and broken rice, pulses, corn, and rubber. Fruits and vegetables, sesame, dried tea leaves, sugar, and other agro products were also exported to other countries.

Myanmar agro products

are primarily exported to China, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. However, the export market remains uncertain due to unsteady global demand.

Myanmar faces slower access to market information, which sometimes poses obstacles in the market. Moreover, the country has poor logistics and warehouse infrastructure, which leads to degradation in the quality of fruits, said an official from the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association (MFVP).

According to the Myanmar Rice Federation, quality control and food safety are key to the promotion of exports. Therefore, improved agricul-

tural practices need to be developed.

Additionally, the country requires specific export plans for each agro product, as they are currently exported to external markets based upon supply and demand. Contract farming systems, involvement of regional and state agriculture departments, exporters, traders, and some grower groups, are required in order to meet production targets, said an official from the Agriculture Department.

The Commerce Ministry, on its part, is working to help farmers deal with challenges, such as high input costs, procurement of pedigree seeds, high cultivation costs, and erratic weather conditions. —Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Sino-Myanmar trade regular despite China’s ban on some goods

IN spite of China restricting the importation of certain goods from Myanmar, the Muse 105th mile trade zone is seeing regular trade, according to trade officials.

Export items such as finished jade products, minerals, rice, corn, various sesame seeds, onion, ginger, dried chili, rubber, peanut, eel, crab, watermelon, and muskmelon are being supplied to the Muse market, with 300-400 trucks entering the market daily.

The goods are being exported to China through the Muse trade zone, while machinery, motorcycles, solar panels, steel, iron, zinc, tiles, bicycles, handsets, agricultural equipment and machines, fertilizers, pesticides, and food products are flowing into the Muse gate from China. About 200-300 trucks are transporting the imported goods across the country. About 600-700 import-export trucks are entering the Muse gate every day, said officials.

The rent for 22-wheeled trucks is pegged at K1.7-1.8 million for taking goods from Muse to Mandalay and K2.7-2.8 million for transporting goods from Muse to Yangon, while 12-wheeled trucks are charging over K1 million for carrying goods on the Muse-Mandalay route and K1.8 million on the Muse-Yangon route. The transportation fee charged by six-wheeled apple trucks is

K600,000.

“We are seeing a steady inflow of trucks from the two countries. China has restricted some goods due to their policy. We may turn to Thailand for corn exports in future,” said U Nanda, who is in charge of the Muse trade zone.

“Regarding Muse-Mandalay, a major trading route for Myanmar, the truck drivers face risks due to fighting which broke out earlier along the route.

They have to enquire about the condition of the roads and take safety measures for transporting goods on the route,” he added.

The value of Sino-Myanmar border trade through the Muse gate soared to US\$421.23 million between 1 October and 1 November in the current fiscal, registering an increase of \$133.23 million compared to the corresponding period of the previous FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Both exports and imports climbed in the current fiscal year, with exports totaling \$266.94 million and imports valued at \$154.28 million.

Last month, border trade between Myanmar and China stood at \$421.23 million at Muse, \$4.278 million at Lweje, \$57.3 million at Chinshwehaw, \$20.35 million at Kanpikete, and \$1.2 million at Kengtung. — Thant Zin, Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Union SWRR Minister receives UN Special Envoy



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds talks with Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General to Myanmar Ms Christine Schraner Burgener in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye received Ms Christine Schraner Burgener, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General to Myanmar, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister explained the 'National Strategic Plan to Resettle IDPs and Close Down Temporary Relief Camps' has been finalized and will be officially launched on 19 November. He said the first phase of the strategic plan will take place in Maungtau Township, Rakhine State. The Union Minister explained they have designed 37

projects for the three areas of cooperation with ASEAN, and they discussed seven projects that have been prioritized. He said they cooperated with UNDP since 2017 to produce a brief report on the joint survey on Rakhine State.

The two sides also discussed the possibility of the Special Envoy's Office staff to visits Rakhine State, a visit to Cox's Bazar with ASEAN and Myanmar representatives, securing the anti-violence against women law, and disseminating repatriation information to the people in Cox's Bazar.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Deputy Attorney-General attends China Forum on International Legal Cooperation

MYANMAR delegation led by Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint attended China Forum on International Legal Cooperation in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province, from 9 to 11 November.

It was also attended by the President, the Vice President and the members of China Law Society, officials from Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, committee members of Guangzhou city, Guangzhou legal organization, international chief judges, attorneys general and judges, law professors, legal experts and law firm experts and international

investors.

The forum discussed investment laws on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), commercial laws and regulations, international cooperation in protection of intellectual property, and rules and regulations for companies and international enterprises.

At the forum closing ceremony, Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint also talked about the advantages and economic opportunities of the BRI which was initiated by Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping and agreed by over 150 countries and international organizations.—MNA



Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint attends China Forum on International Legal Cooperation in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province, from 9 to 11 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

Medical professionals honour fellow award-winning writers



The roundtable discussion for health promotion held at the Myanmar Medical Association, Yangon, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Writer's Society of Myanmar Medical Association (MMA) held a ceremony to honour

award-winning writers and a health promotion discussion at the MMA building in Mingalar

Taung Nyunt Township, Yangon, yesterday.

Firstly, MMA Central's

Secretary Dr Htin Aung Saw delivered the opening address and Chairperson of the Writer's Society Dr Tin Tin Win (Juu) delivered an address as well.

Next, officials from the society and MMA conferred awards on 2017 National Literature Award recipient Dr Khin Letkyar, 2018 Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award recipient Ko Lwin Bo (Mae Say), Tun Foundation Literature Award and Pakkoku U Ohn Pe Literature Award recipient Dr Khin Maung Lwin (FAME), Dr Tin Shwe Literature Award recipient Dr Yi Yi Hla (Yu Waddy Khin Oo), and Thuta Swel Sone Literature Award recipients Dr Aung Gyi, Dr Ye Myint Kyaw (Lingar Ye Kyaw), Dr Sein Lwin (Sein Lin - Surgical and Cancer Specialist), Dr Khin Maung Lwin and Dr Khin Yu Swe

(Mee Eain Shin Dr Nightingale).

Next, Dr Khin Maung Lwin spoke words of gratitude and all attendees took a documentary photo.

Continuing with the programme, Dr Tin Tin Win explained the reason for organizing the discussion and Sayar Lin (Medicine-1) acted as moderator while the panel discussion was engaged by Dr Ye Myint Kyaw, Dr Soe Min, Dr Phyo Thiha, Dr Nilar Thein and Dr Myat Thiri Maung.

Asked about the panel discussion, Dr Nilar Thein (Mya Kyar Ngone), who is also Vice Chairperson of the Writer's Society, said they mainly discussed what medium to disseminate information on health to the public and to raise awareness on the matter.—Min Thit (MNA) (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

11/15.16.17 November

Everyday Treat @ The Central



Buy 1 Get 1
Free Ice-cream
@ Remicone
15
Friday



Wyne Su
Khaing Thein
ရွှေကျောင်းသူ
Album Signing
16
Saturday



Buy 6 Get 1
Cupcakes
@ Dirty Little Secret
17
Sunday

"The event might be adjusted regarding daily program arrangement."



thecentralboulevard

Corner of Kabar Aye Pagoda Road
and Kanbe Road, Yankin Township,
Yangon, Myanmar.

DEVELOPED BY
 MARGA
LANDMARK

Harnessing soft power of literary fiction to build democracy

In general terms, the main purpose of reading is to expand our knowledge of the world and learn about worlds that we never thought existed.

Reading expands our outlook on life and enriches our knowledge about the world. As we get to know about how people living far from us live and think, we begin to understand and sympathize with them, and vice versa.

People read both fiction and literary fiction genres. A genre can be described as a category of literature, and includes

mystery, suspense, science fiction, or horror. Generally, genre fiction tends to give higher importance to entertainment, and hence, it tends to have more mass appeal.

Literary fiction, on the other hand, gives more weight to meaning than entertainment. Literary fiction also aspires towards art. In its broadest sense, literary fiction is fiction that attempts to communicate ideas, concepts, or feelings that transcend the structural elements of the story, for instance, the plot, the characters, the setting. Literary fiction makes us understand ourselves and others.

It teaches us not only subjects we were taught, but also about life, living, and existence. The power of arts, or the soft power, enshrined in literary fiction can make our people physically and

mentally developed. If people are not mentally developed, a fully developed state is yet to be realized.

The literary sector has not yet reached a satisfactory level in Myanmar, and therefore, we need to encourage this sector.

Promoting literary fiction means promoting understanding among diversities, which is also a basic concept of democracy.

With its diversity of ethnicities and cultures, our country is a developing country that has just started on its path to development. Everyone, each society and organization, has their own strengths, weaknesses, and advantages.

Different people have different opinions about the purpose of literature. Some tend to think of literature and arts as specific subjects on their own that have nothing to do with political or social affairs. Literature, especially literary fiction, concerns both politics as well as social affairs.

Literary fiction can change and develop our life. It has the power to change the hearts and minds of readers.

Hence, all ethnic youths must improve not only their literature, but work on other fronts, too, for their future as well as the future of the country.



To tackle diabetes, strengthen primary health care and empower families

By Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia



Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh.

DIABETES is a significant threat to public health across the WHO South-East Asia Region. An estimated 91 million people in the Region suffer from diabetes. Around 49 million – more than half – are unaware they have it. Undiagnosed or poorly controlled type 1 or type 2 diabetes can lead to heart, kidney, nerve or eye damage. It can also lead to premature death,

which in the Region accounts for just under 50% of all deaths caused by noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). Preventing and controlling NCDs is one of the Region's eight Flagship Priorities.

As part of the Region's primary health care approach to tackling diabetes, families must be empowered to act. Families have an important role in creating awareness of the risks of diabetes, including overweight and obesity. They can also instill healthy habits such as physical activity that help prevent diabetes, including its early onset, which in the Region is high. In addition, family members are often the first to identify diabetes' signs, symptoms, risks and complications. When complemented by access to quality primary health care, families are an important asset in the battle against diabetes.

The Region's Member States are taking decisive ac-

tion. All countries have developed national multisectoral NCD action plans. Each plan contains specific interventions to tackle diabetes. Their roll-out has occurred alongside Member State efforts to strengthen primary-level NCD services, which will also help the Region achieve its Flagship Priority on universal health coverage. Several opportunities exist for the Region to sustain and accelerate its progress and achieve the '25x25' and Sustainable Development Goal targets. Each of them should be grasped.

First, all families should have access to educational resources on diabetes. This can be done via social and behavioral change campaigns that highlight the family unit's role as a first line of defense. Campaigns should also outline how families can work together to develop healthy habits. This is particularly important given most diabetes cases are type

2, meaning they can be avoided by healthy eating and adequate physical activity.

Second, access to healthy environments should be increased. The creation of green spaces and outdoor gyms will facilitate exercise and the weight management it brings. So too will efforts to reformulate unhealthy food and drinks and enhance people's ability to make healthy choices. Though these measures go beyond the health sector, health authorities should act as nodal agencies, working across sectors to find high-impact solutions that also reduce health care costs.

Third, all families should have access to quality primary health care. Primary-level services must be equipped to detect diabetes, including the high and rising incidence of pre-diabetes. A reliable supply of quality medicines and medical products that can help manage cases should be on hand. Each of the inter-

... all families should have access to educational resources on diabetes.

This can be done via social and behavioral change campaigns that highlight the family unit's role as a first line of defense.

ventions outlined in the Colombo Declaration on accelerating the delivery of NCD services at the primary level, which the Region adopted in 2016, must be fully implemented.

The Region's efforts to halt the rise of diabetes by 2025 and beyond must continue. It must also be scaled up. On World Diabetes Day, WHO reiterates its commitment to supporting Member States tackle diabetes via a multisectoral, primary health care approach that em-

powers families. Together we must fight diabetes. Together we can win.

WHO's South-East Asia Region comprises the following 11 Member States: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste.



Laws, Rules, Regulations, Orders and Directives

Lokethar

MANY laws have been enacted by the Hluttaws since their formation after the multiparty elections in accordance with the Union Constitution. Many of the laws are new, replacing the old ones from the time of the pre-democracy Government. Some are amendments of existing laws to make them more relevant to the changing political, economic and social situation. In the new laws, whether entirely new or new in the sense that they replace existing laws, the date of coming into force of the laws is either mentioned in the law itself or announced by the competent authority. If the new law is to replace an existing law then the new law takes over according to

the stipulation in the new law that the old law is withdrawn or is no longer in force.

In the new laws enacted by the Hluttaw, the last Section usually carries two Sub-sections; one empowering the Ministry which administers the law to make necessary Rules and Regulations with the approval of the Government; another Sub-section empowering the Ministry, Department or Agency enforcing the law to issue Orders or Directives relating to implementation of the Law. Also, the new law may have provisions by which Rules and Regulations made under the previous law would still be in force as far as they do not go against any of the provisions of the new law.

By "Rules and Regulations" is meant the guidelines or instructions for the effective implementation of the law. The "Rules" of course, have to be drawn up within the scope of the concerned law. It so happens that "Rules" under many new laws enacted by the Hluttaw have not yet been published. This may have been due to the complexity of making new Rules, as drawing up the Rules may involve technical matters for which expertise, other than

... the implementation of some relevant matters prescribed in the Law can be enabled to be undertaken by Orders and/or Directives issued by the competent authority in spite of the fact that the Rules have not as yet been published.

local expertise may be needed. Another reason is that the person or persons charged with drawing up the Rules may not be knowledgeable enough about making Rules. Sometimes some of the draft rules they make may be beyond the scope of the particular sections of the law (I believe, in legal parlance, it is termed *ultra vires*). Hence the "Rules" to be submitted to the Government for its approval have to be screened by a competent body. This also may take some time as there is bound to be a backlog of draft rules that need their attention.

The result of "Rules" under the Law being not yet published has been interpreted by many that the law is not yet in force. As mentioned earlier, the law

may, in fact, be in force. Hence, as I understand it, the implementation of some relevant matters prescribed in the Law can be enabled to be undertaken by Orders and/or Directives issued by the competent authority in spite of the fact that the Rules have not as yet been published. For example, the Policy or Guiding Bodies for the implementation of the Law, prescribed in the Law may be formed even if the "Rules" have not yet been published. In fact, as I understand it (and I stand being corrected), "Rules" may be made piecemeal and published in the Official Gazette as the Law is being enforced.

With sincere wishes for the "Rule of Law" to be upheld.



ဧရာဝတီတိုင်းဒေသကြီးအစိုးရအဖွဲ့၏ စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုဖြင့် မြန်မာ့အလင်းစာတိုက်မှ ထုတ်ဝေသော သတင်းစာ

အခြေခံပညာရေးနှင့် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၏ အထောက်အကူပြု

မင်းသိန်းဝင်း

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မင်းသိန်းဝင်း

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 13th November, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair over the North Bay and partly cloudy over the Andaman sea and a few cloud elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 14 November, 2019: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Upper Myanmar area.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 November, 2019: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 November, 2019: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14 November, 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 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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Hpakant bus operators: Suffering losses due to unregistered vehicles

BUS operators running services from Hpakant to other towns in Kachin State said they are suffering losses due to unregistered vehicles providing the same services in the area.

“We pay taxes to the government, besides a license fee and other additional fees. Some cars are running the service illegally without a license. They are also not following traffic rules and procedures and taking away passengers from us,” said Ma Khin Hnin Wah Khaung, in charge of Sanyatee gate.

“Illegal transportation services are a big concern for us. The fare is set at K3,000 for particular trips, but illegal operators are charging lower fares to get passengers from us. They are hurting us tax



Lonexhin Highway temporary Bus Station in Hpakant Township. PHOTO: TAR LIN MAUNG (IPRD)

payers,” she added.

U Aung Thu, chair of the Hpakant Township Private Vehicle Supervisory Committee, said: “We can control only those bus operators who are listed members under the committee. Only the authorities can regulate un-

registered vehicles.”

On 27 September, the state government took action against two bus lines found offering services using unregistered vehicles. The businesses were suspended for three months.

There are 74 registered bus

lines running small, medium, and large vehicles from Hpakant to Myitkyina, Moekaung, Moenyin, Bhamo, and other towns in Kachin State.— Tar Lin Maung (IPRD)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myitstone crowded with holidaymakers during public holidays

MYITSTONE, or the confluence of the Maykha and Malikha rivers, in Myitkyina, Kachin State, attracted crowds of holidaymakers during the Tazaungdaing holidays, which started last Saturday and ended on Tuesday.

The Myitstone region is located near Tanphe Village, 25 miles from Myitkyina Town on the Myitkyina-Putao highway. Visitors traveling to the region by road can enjoy scenic views of mountains all along the route. With bamboo forest recreation camp, suspension bridge, wine garden, blue lagoon, Kachin Chauntha, and Jawbum, Myitstone area has become a popular destination among visitors during public holidays.

There is smooth transportation with concrete roads



People in Kachin ethnic traditional suits seen at the Myitstone Confluence in Myitkyina, southern Kachin State. PHOTO: WIN NAING (KACHIN)

and visitors can reach the area using any vehicle. Mountain views, untouched waterfalls,

Kachin ethnic costumes, and restaurants along the rivers are popular destinations in Kachin

State among visitors. —Win Naing (Kachin)

(Translated by La Wonn)

Online Child Protection Incident Reporting System introduced in NyaungU

THE Online Child Protection Incident Reporting System was launched at a ceremony held at 9 p.m. on 13 November at the Umbra Hotel in Wetgyi Inn Village in NyaungU Town.

The NyaungU District Administrator, U Soe Tint, chair of the District Child Rights and

Child Protection Committee, Daw Khin San Yee, director and head of Mandalay Region Social Welfare Department, officials from related departments and Plan International Myanmar, members of Youth Policy, and village administrators were present at the event.

After the website was launched, U Salai Thura Aung, Child Rights and Protection Project Manager from Plan International Myanmar, explained how the online child protection incident reporting system works, and U Nay Lin Aung, Online Child Protection

Incident Reporting Website and Mobile Application Engineer, provided information about the software.

Later, officials and attendees discussed child rights and protection affairs at the event.—Phay Lane (Bagan)

(Translated by La Wonn)

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

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

Korean Climate Change Center presents vehicles, equipment to DOA

THE Climate Change Center of the Republic of Korea donated the vehicles and related equipment to the Department of Agriculture under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation to help its distribution pro-

ject of efficient cookstoves. The donation ceremony was held at the Agriculture Extension and Rural Development Training Center in Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

Union Minister Dr

Aung Thu, Deputy Chief of Mission Minister Counselor of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea (ROK) in Myanmar Mr. Jung Yung Soo, and Executive Vice President Mr. Ryu Woon Hwan from the SK Telecom delivered speeches and the CCC Secretary General Ms So Hee Kim explained the donations of vehicles, laptops, projectors, portable power generators and mobile handsets.

The project is being implemented in six States/Regions of the country to be able to reduce the use of firewood in supporting environmental conservation while extending education on this issue to the rural people.

The efficient cookstoves could also reduce carbon emission from kitchens which traditionally use firewood and help for receiving carbon credit.

—MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Minister Dr Aung Thu presents an appreciation letter to Korean Climate Change Center Secretary General Ms So Hee Kim in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung to attend ASEAN Transport Ministers' Conf in Viet Nam

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung left Yangon for Viet Nam yesterday by air to attend the 25th ASEAN Transport Ministers' Conference and related meetings in Hanoi.

The meetings will be held from 14 to 15 November.—MNA
(Translated by GNLM)

The meetings will be held from 14 to 15 November.—MNA
(Translated by GNLM)



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung seen off by officials at Yangon International Airport before departs for Viet Nam. PHOTO: MNA

UEC Chair receives UN Special Envoy



UEC Chairman U Hla Thein meets with Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General Ms Christine Schraner Burgener in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein called on the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General Ms Christine Schraner Burgener at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed prepara-

tions for the upcoming 2020 General Elections and to organize it on a nationwide scale, promoting women participation, amending code of conduct for political party members and Hlut-taw representatives, plans to prevent hate speech and

fake news from circulating in the election period, inviting international election monitoring groups, and possible assistance in the electoral process.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The IDA N° of the financing agreement is No. Credit No.: 56870. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing towards eligible payments under the Contract W-3 for Construction of a Garage and under Contract W-4 for the construction of a Warehouse. DRD now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following construction works in Nay Pyi Taw and Pinyinmana:

Reference No.	Lot N°	Description
W - 3	1	Construction of a GARAGE for the New Office Building in Nay Pyi Taw
W - 4	1	Construction of a WAREHOUSE at the DRD premises in Pinyinmana
Employer		Department of Rural Development, Office No.(36), Nay Pyi Taw

The works are scheduled to start on 1 February 2020 with an estimated maximum duration of 90 days.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the email address below and clearly indicate the reference number(s) above. Eligible bidders having expressed interest will receive a free of charge electronic INVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ) which also includes the Conditions of Contract, Drawings, Bills of Quantity and Technical Specifications. No printed bidding documents will be made available or sent by DRD.

Interested Bidders that obtained the bidding documents will be invited to attend a pre-bid meeting including an information session on the bidding documents and templates to be filled out on Tuesday 3 December 2019 10:00 am. The pre-bid meeting also includes the possibility for the bidders to visit the construction sites.

Sealed quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest at the deadline of Tuesday 10 December 2019 at 10:00 am Myanmar time, after which no Quotations will be accepted. Bids will be evaluated bid by bid, taking into account discounts offered, if any, for combined bids. The contract(s) will be awarded to the Bidder or Bidders offering the lowest evaluated cost to the Employer for each individual or combined bids, subject to the selected Bidder(s) meeting the required eligibility and qualification criteria for each bid or a combination of bids as the case may be.

Bidding will be conducted through the Shopping Method as specified in "the World Bank's Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers dated January 2011 and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Department of Rural Development (DRD), Mr. Kyaw Swa Aung, DRD Director, Procurement and Logistics Section (procurement@ncddpmyanmar.org) and inspect the bidding documents during office hours Monday to Friday from 10.00 to 16.00 Hrs at the address given below.

The address referred to above is:

Department of Rural Development (DRD)
Attn: Mr. Kyaw Swa Aung, DRD Director, Procurement and Logistics Section
Office No. (36) Nay Pyi Taw, Republic Union of the Republic of Myanmar
Office telephone: +95(67)418637
e-mail: procurement@ncddpmyanmar.org

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Algerian energy law fuels anger on streets

ALGIERS — A draft law on Algeria's oil and gas sector has been met with hostility by an anti-regime protest movement that fears "the nation's wealth" is being sold off to multinational companies.

But experts say the pushback from the streets is not entirely justified, seeing it rather as a symptom of the distrust that dogs any decision taken by au-

thorities deemed "illegitimate" by opponents.

For nearly nine months Algeria — Africa's third-largest oil producer and a top 10 global gas producer — has been swept by an unprecedented popular movement challenging a regime in place since independence from France in 1962. The draft energy law, which has not been officially published, was

sent to Algeria's cabinet on October 14.

Since then, it has been added to the protesters' list of grievances with the ruling class, seen by demonstrators as "thieves" that have "plundered" the country's wealth. "You sold the country, traitors," demonstrators cried last week as lawmakers began discussing the draft law. The bill is expected to be put to

a vote on Thursday, roughly a month ahead of presidential elections also widely rejected by the street. Many Algerians suspect those in power of handing over natural resources to foreign companies with the new law, having already "squandered" oil revenues, said El Mouhoub Mouhoud, economics professor at Paris-Dauphine University.—AFP ■



The draft law on Algeria's energy sector has been added to protesters' list of grievances with the ruling class. **PHOTO: AFP**

Sahel gold boom boosting jihadist coffers: ICG

DAKAR (Senegal) — Sahel gold mines are providing a new source of funding for jihadists and other armed groups and attracting recruits for them in a region where state power is weak, according to a new International Crisis Group (ICG) report published Wednesday.

In Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, "armed groups have seized gold mining sites since 2016 in areas where states are weak or absent. Artisanal gold mining has boomed since the 2012 discovery of a Saharan vein stretching from Sudan to Mauritania," the ICG said.

Artisanal production currently accounts for almost half of overall regional output, reaching between 20 and 50 tonnes a year in Mali, between 10 and 30 in Burkina Faso

and 10 to 15 tonnes in Niger, for an overall annual value of between \$1.9 and \$4.5 billion.

With clandestine mining offering armed groups a source of substantial cash which could attract potential recruits, the ICG warned that "if left unregulated it risks fuelling violence and reinforcing transnational crime".

Despite the presence of international peacekeepers, the region has been wracked by jihadist violence which spread from northern Mali since 2012 to other countries.

The jihadist groups use various forms of trafficking to finance their activities while their mining activities can help train their members, notably in the handling of explosives.—AFP ■

Under-pressure West African dairy farmers swap ideas in France



Dairy farmers in arid portions of West Africa are nomadic, making developing business to fully meet demand difficult. **PHOTO: AFP**

SAINT-DIERY (France) — There is little that farmers in the Sahel need to know about the art of survival.

They nurture scrawny cows on the edge of the Sahara, scratching a living in the shadow of jihadist threats and of crushing competition from European imports. Their lives are very different from the dairy farmers of the em-

erald-green meadows of central France. The two unlikely groups came together when farmers and ministers from the arid Sahel visited the lush Auvergne region last month. The meeting brought a sense of camaraderie and the opportunity to share experiences, despite problems sharply at variance in type and scale.—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1019W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1019W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS
(S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V HAM RONG-08

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HAM RONG-08 VOY. NO. (19.2019) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of T.M.I.T-1 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES
(SINGAPORE) PTE, LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V OSLO TRADER VOY. NO. (944S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OSLO TRADER VOY. NO. (944S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (140 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (140 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (250W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (250W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Chinese-invested auto powertrain test center opens in UK despite Brexit uncertainty

BIRMINGHAM—A world-class auto powertrain test center, invested by China's Changan Automobile, was unveiled Tuesday in the British industrial city of Birmingham despite continuing uncertainty caused by Brexit.

Zhang Xiaoyu, director of Changan's Blue Core NE Powertrain Platform, said Birmingham was chosen as the start of the company's global powertrain research and development journey because the UK is the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution with an innovative spirit and an abundance of talent resources.

The test center is designed to test automotive



Brent Liu, Business Growth Director at Changan UK, addresses the Changan UK Test Center Opening and New Engine Unveiling Ceremony in Birmingham, Britain, on 12 November, 2019. PHOTO: AFP

powertrains, including engine and transmission. The center can be used to test Changan's engine products for conventional cars as well as power

systems for hybrid electric vehicles and pure electric vehicles.

Tim Pile, chair of Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise

Partnership, said Chinese investment has helped the region grow and created jobs needed for the renaissance of the region. —AFP ■

China retail giant Alibaba given OK for huge Hong Kong listing

BEIJING — Chinese online retail titan Alibaba has been given the go-ahead to list shares in Hong Kong, reports said Wednesday, in what could be the city's biggest IPO in almost a decade.

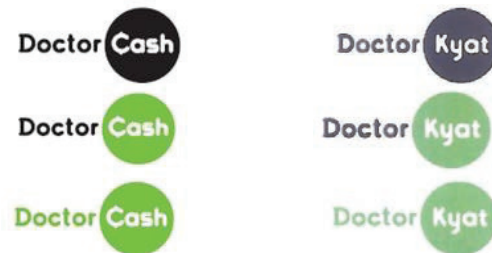
Approval for the sale will also give the city's financial authorities a huge boost as Hong Kong is battered by months of pro-democracy protests

that have tarnished its image for security and hammered the Hang Seng Index.

Asia's biggest company will kick off a weeklong roadshow from Wednesday as it looks to garner interest from institutional and retail investors, said Hong Kong's South China Morning Post, which is owned by Alibaba. —AFP ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Finvest Holding PTE. LTD., a company incorporated in 51 Tannery Lane, #03-01, Sharely Warehouse, Singapore (347798), is the current owner of the Trademarks described below, by virtue of the Deed of Assignment dated 12th October 2018 (Reg. No. 4/11197/2018) executed between Infinto PTE. LTD., (Assignor), and Finvest Holding PTE. LTD., (Assignee), whereby Assignor, the original owner had registered the Trademarks in Myanmar, assigned it to Assignee:



Reg. No. 4/16334/2015
(24 December 2015)

Reg. No. 4/16335/2015
(24 December 2015)

All in respect of "Financial services; insurance services; credit services; loan services; personal loan services; provision of commercial loans for small enterprises; micro loans; money deposit services; financial clearing services; pawn brokerage; capital investment; financial analysis; savings bank services; banking services" in Class 36.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use, or actual or colourable imitation of the said Marks shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw La Min May, H.G.P
For Finvest Holding PTE. LTD.,
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated 14th November 2019 lmm@kcyangon.com

Invitation for Bids

Date: 15 November 2019

Loan Agreement No: MY-P4 dated 5 September 2014 and MY-P21 dated 1 March 2017

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Yangon Mandalay Railway Improvement Project Phase I. The Bid is invited by Myanma Railways as follows:

Invitation for Bid	Description: Train Monitoring System Works	Issuing Date	Closing Date & Time	Non-refundable Document Fee
IFB No: MR/BD/ 106	Train Monitoring System (TMS) Works (From Pazundaung Station to Pyuntaza Station)	15 November 2019	17 January 2020, 2:00pm	USD 1000

Bidding will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement.

- (1) The Eligible Nationality of the contractor(s) shall be Japan in case of the prime contractor.
- (2) In case where the prime contractor is a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of the lead partner is Japan, that the nationality of the other partners is Japan and/or the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and that the total share of work of Japanese partners in the joint venture is more than fifty percent (50%) of the contract amount.
- (3) The Myanma Railways, Ministry of Transport and Communications now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for Train Monitoring System (TMS) Works as described above. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the Standard Bidding Documents under Japanese ODA Loans for Procurement of Small Works.
- (4) A complete set of the Bidding Documents may be purchased and inspected by interested Bidders upon submission of a written application to the address below during office hours from 9:30 a.m to 4:30 p.m on Monday to Friday (except public holidays)

Managing Director,
Myanma Railways, Ministry of Transport and Communications
Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station Compound, PobbaThiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Telephone: +95-67 77024, Facsimile number: +95-67-677164
Email address: dgmplan.rail@mrt.gov.mm, dgm.planning.mr@gmail.com (not for submission but for clarification)

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO. (945W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO. (945W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (127N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (127N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (049N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (049N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTER ASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Abe cancels gov't-funded cherry-blossom event next year amid criticism

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has decided to cancel a controversial publicly funded cherry-blossom viewing event next year amid mounting criticism that he has previously used it to entertain his supporters, the top government spokesman said Wednesday.

As the opposition forces have taken issue with what they see as murky criteria for selecting guests to the annual event, held every April since 1952, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said the government will carry out a “comprehensive” review.

“Given there are various views on the cherry-blossom viewing event, we’d like to clarify the invitation criteria, make the process transparent and conduct a comprehensive review, including the budget and the number of invitees,” Suga said at a press conference.

He added the cancellation of the event next April was Abe’s own decision. Held at a Tokyo park famous for its cherry blossoms,



A cherry blossom-viewing party hosted by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden in Tokyo in April 2017. PHOTO: KYODO

the government-funded event is intended to honor people such as athletes and celebrities for their accomplishments.

It came under the spotlight

after revelations that Abe’s supporters were among those invited, raising questions about the use of taxpayers’ money.

Under his administration,

the number of guests and the amount of money spent by the government on the gathering have been on the rise.

—Kyodo News ■

One dead, six injured in suicide bombing at Indonesian police station

JAKARTA — A suicide bomber blew himself up at a police station in Indonesia on Wednesday, killing himself and wounding six others, according to authorities who described the 24-year-old attacker as a “lone wolf”.

The motive for the attack was not immediately known, but police stations have been frequent targets for radicals in the world’s biggest Muslim majority nation, which has long struggled with Islamist militancy.

The blast happened around 8:45 am local time (0145 GMT) at the police compound in Medan on Sumatra island during morning roll call. “For now, we believe he was a lone wolf,” national police spokesman Dedi Prasetyo told reporters in Jakarta.

“The anti-terror squad and forensics unit are still examining the crime scene,” he added.

At least six people were wounded in the blast, including four officers and two civilians, but their injuries were not severe, he added. The attacker — whose identification listed him as a student — wore an explosive device on his body, but Prasetyo did not say what kind of bomb was used.

A bloody corpse lying in the compound’s parking lot appeared to have been blown apart.

Police said the attacker was active on social media, while CCTV footage showed him entering the compound wearing a uniform worn by drivers of a popular ride-hailing service. —AFP ■



Indonesian police at their headquarters in Medan after the suspected suicide attack. PHOTO: AFP

S Korean court holds 1st hearing on “comfort women” lawsuit

SEOUL — The Seoul Central District Court on Wednesday held its first hearing regarding a lawsuit filed by South Korean former “comfort women” demanding compensation from the Japanese government, deciding not to immediately make a judgment on the validity of the case.

The case involving South Korean women forced to work at wartime Japanese military brothels was originally filed in December 2016, but no trial had been held as Japan kept dismissing a petition sent by the plaintiffs on grounds of “sovereign immunity.”

Under customary international law, a country cannot be sued in the courts of another country without its consent.

The district court, therefore, publicly announced the case so that it could have the same effect as delivering a petition, enabling the trial to be held.

“For this case to proceed, you would well know that the state immunity issue should be settled. The representing lawyers should be fully prepared to persuade regarding the issue,” a district court judge said in Wednesday’s hearing. —Kyodo News ■

NEWS In BRIEF

Uncertainty over fate of Western hostages, Taliban prisoners

KABUL — Two Western hostages of the Taliban, who are expected to be freed in a prisoner swap for three militants, will be released only when the insurgents “reach their destination”, a spokesman for the Islamist group said Wednesday.

The fate of the American and Australian hostages — both professors at the American University in Kabul when they were kidnapped in 2016 — remained unclear a day after Afghan President Ashraf Ghani announced the exchange. “When our captives reach their destination, the American University professors will be released,” Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told AFP on Wednesday. He did not specify what that destination would be. —AFP ■

Rights group condemns Seoul for deporting ‘killers’ to North

SEOUL — An international human rights group on Wednesday condemned Seoul for deporting two alleged North Korean mass murderers, saying they were being handed back to Pyongyang’s “extremely brutal” legal system in breach of international law.

Seoul expelled the pair last week after investigators determined they had murdered 16 crewmates on their fishing boat before dumping the bodies at sea and fleeing to the South on the vessel.

It was the first-ever deportation from South to North since the end of the Korean War.

Under Seoul’s constitution, all North Koreans are automatically considered citizens of the Republic of Korea, as the South is officially known, and those who reach its territory and express a desire to defect are routinely able to stay.

According to South Korean media reports, the two fishermen were blindfolded on their journey to the truce village of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone and only became aware of their fate when their masks were removed to reveal North Korean soldiers ready to take them into custody. —AFP ■

Netanyahu tells Islamic Jihad ‘stop these attacks or absorb more blows’

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Wednesday that Islamic Jihad militants in Gaza must stop rocket attacks or “absorb more and more blows” as an escalation of violence raged for a second day.

“They have one choice: to stop these attacks or absorb more and more blows. Their choice,” Netanyahu said at the start of a cabinet meeting, adding that Israel was not seeking a further escalation.

He reiterated his warning that “this could take time” and said Israel would respond to attacks “without mercy.”

The exchange of fire between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza began on Tuesday with an Israeli targeted strike killing an Islamic Jihad commander.

Israel said the commander was responsible for rocket fire



Flanked by cabinet members, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warns Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad it will have to “absorb more and more blows” if it keeps up its rocket fire into Israel. PHOTO: AFP

against it as well as other attacks and was planning more violence.

Gaza militants retaliated with barrages of rocket fire and Israel responded with air strikes targeting what it said were Islamic Jihad sites and rocket-launching squads.

A total of 18 Palestinians

have been killed so far. No one has been killed in Israel, though rockets have caused damage and sent residents rushing to bomb shelters. The army says some 220 rockets have been fired into Israel since Tuesday morning, with dozens intercepted by air defences.—AFP ■

Venezuela ex-intel chief missing in Spain ahead of US extradition: police

MADRID — Venezuela’s former military intelligence chief has gone missing in Spain just days after a court approved a request for his extradition to the United States on drug trafficking charges, police said Wednesday.

“They are currently looking for him,” said a spokeswoman for Spain’s national police, referring to General Hugo Armando Carvajal.

Judicial sources said police had gone to his house in Madrid after Friday’s court decision but could not find him.

In mid-September, Spain’s National Court had rejected a US extradition request, instead ordering the release of Carvajal, who served as intelligence chief under the late Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez.

His release followed five months in provisional detention after being arrested in Madrid in mid-April.

But the court reversed that decision on Friday after accepting an appeal from the public prosecutor’s office, although full details of the ruling have not yet been made public.

Speaking to AFP, Carvajal’s lawyer Maria Dolores de Arguelles said she had “not been informed” they were going to

rearrest him, adding that she did not know his whereabouts.

She had also not received the full transcript of Friday’s decision, which court sources said would be released in the coming days.

Known as “El Pollo” (the Chicken), Carvajal was stripped of his rank by the administration of President Nicolas Maduro after coming out in support of Juan Guaido as Venezuela’s acting president in February.

He then fled by boat to the Dominican Republic before relocating to Spain.

Carvajal has long been sought by US Treasury officials

who suspect him of providing support to drug trafficking by the FARC guerrilla group in Colombia.

In an indictment filed in New York in 2011, Carvajal was accused of coordinating the transport of more than 5.6 tonnes of cocaine from Venezuela to Mexico in 2006 that was ultimately destined for the United States.

If convicted, Carvajal could face between 10 years and life in prison, the US Justice Department said in April following his arrest. Carvajal has denied any “links to drug trafficking and the FARC”, Spanish judicial sources said at the time.—AFP ■



Hugo Carvajal, left, served as military intelligence chief under the late Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez. PHOTO: AFP

Jeanine Anez: stand-in president vowing to ‘pacify’ Bolivia

LAPAZ — Conservative senator Jeanine Anez was unknown to many Bolivians before she stepped out beaming and waving a Bible on the balcony of the government palace.

A longtime critic of her leftist predecessor Evo Morales, she stepped into the power vacuum left when he suddenly fled the country to escape a violent crisis.

Now all eyes in the country are on Anez, a 52-year-old lawyer from the northeastern region of Beni, bordering Brazil.

As second deputy speaker of the Senate, Anez was sworn in by her allies after all the other officials in line to act as interim president had fled.

Fresh from being sworn in, she posed with a purple Bible in her hand and the green, yellow

and red presidential sash across her shoulder, waving to supporters with a broad smile.

A proud Christian, she immediately made a point of marking herself out from Morales, a socialist who had done away with religious oaths of office.

At one point she raised above her head a big old leather-bound copy of the Gospels. “God has allowed the Bible to come back into the (presidential) palace. May he bless us,” she said. She cast herself as the only one in a position to

lead the country out of its crisis, sparked by claims that Morales rigged his re-election last month. “According to constitutional order, it is my role to take up this challenge with the sole aim of calling new elections,” she said in televised comments.—AFP ■



Jeanine Anez vowed to ‘pacify’ Bolivia after weeks of protest. PHOTO: AFP

‘Don’t move!’ Greek coastguards rescue migrants in Aegean

SAMOS (Greece) — “Sit down! Don’t move! Be quiet!” The crew of the Greek coastguard patrol boat jumps to life as they pull nearly 50 migrants from a rubber dinghy close to the island of Samos.

They spotted the migrant dinghy about 90 minutes into their run from the island of Samos, their 18-metre patrol boat aided by the radar of a larger Greek coastguard vessel nearby.

For about an hour, the Greeks repeatedly hailed the Turkish coastguard to intercept the dinghy: “Please react!”

There is no response, so the Greeks move in. From a distance, just a handful of people can be seen sitting on the sides of the

dinghy, but it soon becomes clear that it is packed with dozens of people huddled back-to-back.

By the time the patrol reaches the migrants — just inside Greek territorial waters — armed coastguards from the larger vessel are already there, barking instructions: “Stay calm!”

There are men, women and nearly a dozen children, some of them toddlers, among the 48 on board. Though the sea is calm and a full moon affords good visibility, the crew know to be wary.

“The wind somehow always picks up when we are about to make a rescue,” says the boat’s veteran engineer Evangelos, who goes through about 10 cigarettes during the mission.—AFP ■

2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers: Myanmar to play Tajikistan today

THE Myanmar national football team will play against the Tajikistan national team today in a crucial Group F match of the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifiers at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay.

The press conference for the match was held yesterday at the Pull Man Mingalar Mandalay Hotel in Mandalay.

The head coaches and key players of both teams attended the ceremony. Speaking about the upcoming match, Myanmar national football team head coach Antoine Hey said that he was happy to meet team Tajikistan again. He said he trained team Myanmar three weeks ago, not for only

the match against Tajikistan, but for the next world cup qualifiers group match.

The coach has selected 23 players out of 35 for the national squad. The head coach said that team Myanmar has been well-trained physically and tactically.

He said he believed that Myanmar players now have more confidence to destroy the previous bad results in the qualifiers.

Hey also asked Myanmar fans to encourage the team and said the players would do their best for the crucial match. Head coach of the Tajikistan national football team, Usmon Toshev, said that the match against Myanmar would be really inter-

esting, and he claimed that he would try for a good result. The head coach added that the team which played better would get more chances. He also said that the match would be a difficult one as team Myanmar is a fast and strong team.

Usmon also said that his team had prepared their best. Team Tajikistan has come to Myanmar not just for football, but for learning about Myanmar's lovely culture and living standards, and they are feeling happy in Myanmar, he added. The match between Myanmar and Tajikistan will start at 5 p.m. (Myanmar Standard Time) today.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Myanmar national football team head coach Antonio Hey speaking at a press conference ahead of the 2022 FIFA World Cup Group F qualifier match between Myanmar and Tajikistan. **PHOTO: MFF**

Spain's record scorer Villa retires after 19-year career

TOKYO — Star striker David Villa, Spain's top goalscorer, Wednesday announced he will retire next month, ending a glittering career in which he won the World Cup, European Championships and Champions League.

The 37-year-old Vissel Kobe striker said he will call it a day at the end of the 2019 J-League season after a 19-year career that took in Barcelona, Atletico Madrid and Valencia while accumulating 98 caps for his country.

"I have decided to end my professional career and that I have decided to retire," Villa told reporters in Kobe, his voice occasionally breaking with emotion.

"I've been thinking about this for a long time. This is the result of discussions I had with my family and people around me... I wanted to retire from football, not be forced to retire from football," he said.

Villa will become an investor in Queensboro FC, a new franchise based in the New York district of Queens that will play

in the second tier of US football.

"Even though I will no longer be on the pitch, I will continue to be involved in football in other ways and will continue to contribute to the football world," he said.

Villa played in three World Cups and was a member of the Spanish side that lifted the trophy in 2010 and won the European Championships in 2008, though he missed out on the 2012 triumph through injury. He scored 59 times for Spain, a national record.

His club honours include the 2010-11 Champions League, the 2011 UEFA Super Cup, 2011 Club World Cup and two La Liga wins in 2010-11 and 2012-13 with Barcelona.

Villa scored the third goal for Barcelona at Wembley in the 3-1 win over Manchester United in the 2010-11 Champions League Final.

He won a third La Liga with Atletico Madrid in his one season there in 2013-14 after leaving Barcelona.—AFP ■

Community Champion Football Clinic organized in Yangon



Youths take part in the Community Champion Football Clinic yesterday on the artificial turf of the National Football Academy in Yangon. **PHOTO: MFF**

A Community Champion Football Clinic — a sports program that provides information about the harmful effects of drugs and aims to combat drug use by promoting football — was held yesterday on the turf of the National Football Academy in Yangon.

The program was supervised by the Myanmar Football

Federation (MFF) and the Embassy of United States.

MFF president U Zaw Zaw, the US Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr. Scot Marcial, young athletes interested in the program, football coaches and instructors from the United States and Myanmar, and invited guests attended the ceremony. As part of the program,

youth played football and were offered instruction by coaches from the United States and Myanmar.

At the opening ceremony for the program, MFF president U Zaw Zaw said: "Football is more than sports. Now, we have a collaboration between two countries, which can support our communities and societies. We believe that football can create better societies and help people live better lives."

U Zaw Zaw also asked children to stay away from drugs and said everyone must encourage and help those who are suffering from drug abuse. Then, Mr. Scot Marcial expressed his heartfelt thanks to the MFF for their help in organizing the program.

Community Champion Football Clinic Programs will also be held in Mandalay on 16 November and in Taunggyi on 19 November, according to a statement issued by the MFF.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Chelsea win battle to sign Australian women's football icon Kerr

LONDON — Australian striker Sam Kerr will test herself at the top level of European football after impressing in her homeland and the United States as she joined Chelsea on Wednesday.

The 26-year-old Matildas captain — who scored five times in this year's World Cup as the Australians reached the last 16 — signed a two-and-a-half-year

contract with the Women's Super League club.

Kerr, who has been a mainstay at Perth Glory since 2014 while also playing for Chicago Red Stars in the United States, will be available for selection from January.

According to a report in the Sydney Morning Herald last week it is believed Kerr — who also

attracted interest from Lyon, Bayern Munich and Real Madrid — will earn worth more than £467,000 (\$600,000) a year, not including potential bonuses.

However, Kerr — the all-time leading scorer in the Australian and American leagues — said she felt Chelsea were a team that had laid a solid base for winning silverware.—AFP ■



Finest hour: David Villa kisses the World Cup after Spain's victory in 2010. **PHOTO: AFP**