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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VI, No. 222, 14th Waning of Tazaungmon 1381 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Monday, 25 November 2019

State Counsellor arrives in Busan to attend ASEAN- ROK Commemorative Summit



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives red carpet welcome on her arrival at Busan Airport yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, at the invitation of President Moon Jae-in, will attend the 30th anniversary of the Korea-ASEAN Dialogue Relations and the 1st Mekong-ROK Summit in Bu-

san, the Republic of Korea.

The State Counsellor and her entourage were seen off at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Lt-Gen


Aung Win Oo, Deputy Chief of Mission Minister Counsellor of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea (ROK) in Myanmar Mr Jung Yung Soo and officials.

During the visit by a special flight, the State Counsellor is

accompanied by Union Ministers Dr Aung Thu, U Kyaw Tin; Deputy Minister Dr Min Ye Paing Hein, Vice Mayor of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Ye Min Oo and departmental officials.

Union Minister U Min Thu and party also took the same flight to attend the 2nd ASEAN-Korea Ministerial Roundtable and Exhibition on Public Service Innovation.


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Union Information Minister arrives back from China

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint and the delegation members concluded a five-day visit to Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in south-west of People's Republic of China for a media tour and arrived back in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

On 23 November, the Union Minister and party visited Guilin City, and took a cruise ship along Li Jiang river with tourist attractions to Yangshuo town where they looked around the displays of rural cultures by cars.

On yesterday morning, they got a high-speed bullet train from Guilin to Guangzhou from which they flew back to Yangon.

At the Yangon International

Airport, they were welcomed back by officials from the Ministry of Information and the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar. The delegation members of Director-General U Ye Naing from the Information and Public Relations Department, Chief Editor U Aung Naing Oo from the Myanmar Alin Newspaper, Assistant Director U Aung Win from the Myanmar Radio and Television, Senior Researcher U Aye Maung Kyaw from Myanmar Studies Group and Research Assistant U Saw Pyae Hmu from the Myanmar Motion Picture Promotion Division also took the same flight in coming back home.

—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint and party welcomed by officials from the Ministry of Information and the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Youth Integrity Camp 2/2019 conducted to develop corruption free culture



U Aung Kyi, Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission, delivers the speech at the Youth Integrity Camp 2/2019. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Youth Integrity Camp 2/2019 is being conducted in Mandalay, and it is jointly or-

ganized by the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Ministry of Education with the technical

assistance of UNODC.

Its opening ceremony was held at the Shwepyithar Hotel in Mandalay, and Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi delivered a speech.

The five-day camp is attended by 127 trainee teachers and students from 12 universities and colleges in Mandalay, Meiktila and Monywa.

The Union Minister said the ACC has developed a handbook for teachers at primary and secondary levels to educate students about anti-corruption knowledge and integrity, and the programme will be extended to the upper and higher education levels with the assistance of experts on related subjects.

He also remarked the lack of morals is the root cause of political, economic and social

problems, and that teachers play key role for education and ethical development of students.

Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission also explained the reasons of camps for the Youth Integrity, saying to recognize the role of youth participation in implementing anti-corruption strategy and to develop integrity principles for young persons.

He also remarked that integrity is essential for building strong institutions in a country to prevent favoritism of authorities, instead of public interest.

The camp is aimed to lay a foundation for reducing opportunities and behaviours that can lead to corruption in every society in developing the culture of public integrity, to create a society that opposes corruption, and

to develop accountable practices in the communities.

U Zarni Aung, the Minister for Electricity, Energy and Construction, appraised the camp which can help to build a corruption-free administration required for a clean government and good governance.

Ms Marie Pagie Cauchois, the Country Manager of UNODC in Myanmar, explained the importance of integrity, anti-corruption and poverty reduction for the capacity building of the youth, and she concluded the state organizations need to conduct youth development programmes. She also assured the Youth Integrity Camps could help the young people to improve their dignity in respective roles.—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Yangon Region cabinet ministers receive SSEAYP national leaders

THE ministers from Yangon Region government received the national leaders of 46th Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP) led by Administrator Mr Shigeki Yamamoto at their office in Yangon yesterday.

Yangon Region Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forest and Energy U Han Tun and SSEAYP Administrator Mr Shigeki Yamamoto made greet-

ing remarks at the meeting.

Afterwards, Minister U Han Tun and the SSEAYP national leaders exchanged gifts, and posed for commemorative photos. Also present at the meeting were Department of Higher Education's Director-General, rectors, deputy directors-general, pro-rectors and officials, and officials from the SSEAY Program.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Ministers of Yangon Region government hold talks with the national leaders of 46th Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program led by Administrator Mr Shigeki Yamamoto in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor arrives in Busan to attend ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit

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The State Counsellor and party arrived in Busan at 5:25 pm local time.

They were welcomed by Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Lee Tae-ho and officials, Myanmar Ambassador to ROK U Thant Sin Maung and wife Nang Myat Soe, Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lee Sang-hwa and officials and their family members of Myanmar mission in ROK, together with the guard of honour of ROK at the Gimhae Air Base in Busan. The State Counsellor and party then proceeded to the Lotte Hotel for the stay, where Myanmar people in Korea welcomed them at the entrance of hotel. — MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi seen off at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport yesterday by Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe and officials. PHOTO: MNA



The 4th Oral and Maxillofacial Trainees Conference in progress in Yangon on 23 November. PHOTO: MNA

H&S Union Minister attends gala dinner of 4th Asian Oral & Maxillofacial Trainees Conference

THE gala dinner to mark the 4th Asian Oral and Maxillofacial Trainees Conference was held at the Sedona Hotel on 23 November evening. Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe attended the dinner and made a speech, with suggestions to the Myanmar Dental Association and the Myanmar Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery to share the video records on the discussions

at the conference to the medical doctors in Regions and States.

He also confirmed the introduction of a result-oriented integrated network course at the Universities of Dental Medicine commencing the first semester which will begin in December. President of Myanmar Dental Association Professor Dr Thein Kyu and President of Asian Association of Oral and

Maxillofacial Surgeons Dr Tian Ee Seah, and President of Myanmar Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Professor Dr Kyu Kyu Swe Win made their remarks. The conference was attended by the oral and maxillofacial surgeons from Japan, China, Korea, Singapore, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Tapei. — MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)



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subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the Global New
Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at
No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan
Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light
of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No.
00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnlmdaily@gmail.com
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/TheGNLMTHE GLOBAL
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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.7th Adventure Bagan Temple Marathon attracts 500 runnersSOME 500 runners participated
in the Seventh Adventure Bagan
Temple Marathon held at the
east gate of Htilominlo Temple
on 23 November, in a bid to en-
courage sport tourism.The runners included some
300 athletes from Myanmar and
over 200 runners from 34 foreign
countries.Mandalay Region Minister
for Planning and Finance
U Myat Thu, Director-General
of Hotels and Tourism U Maung
Maung Kyaw and other officials
opened the race.The Bagan Temple Mar-
athon is organized by Den-
mark-based Albatros Travel
and Myanmar Voyages Tourism
Company in Bagan in Novem-
ber every year. Since the first
race in 2013, there have been
2000 participants from Myan-
mar and abroad.

In the men's event, Naing

Lin Tun from Bagan won first
prize, with Kyi Soe from Ba-
gan winning second prize. In
the women's event, Ma Cher-
ry Khaing won first prize and
Laura Zwaantje Jantina Nijburg
from the Netherlands won sec-
ond prize.In the men's Half Marathon
race, Htay Ko Ko won first prize
and Naung Jar won second
prize. In the women's Half Mar-
athon race, Nicola Jane Wan Yer
from Hong Kong won first prize.In the men's Full Marathon
competition, M. Heiner Bufe of
Germany won first prize and
Ernesto Ciravegna from Italy
won second prize.In the women's full mara-
thon, Nivola Cooper won first
prize.As the youngest runner,
Moe Thit Lu, aged eight years,
participated for his second time,
while 76-year old U Saw MaungU Saw Maung Maung Htwe, aged 76, (Centre) celebrates after crossing the
finish line at 7th Adventure Bagan Temple Marathon in Bagan. PHOTO:
THET LWIN TOEMaung Htwe was the oldest run- year. — Thet Lwin Toe ■
ner for the seventh consecutive (Translated by Ba Htoo)

Smart car park to have colored zones with different tariffs: YCDC

By Nyein Nyein

THE smart car park in down-
town Yangon will feature red,
yellow, and green zones, and a
different tariff will be charged
for parking vehicles in each
zone, said U Lin Khaing, head
of the Yangon City Development
Committee's Roads and Bridges
Department."The car parking fee will
depend on the color of the zone.
It will range between K500,
K300, and K200 per hour," said
U Lin Khaing.The YCDC had invited Ex-
pressions of Interest (EOIs)
from private companies for the
smart car park project, and 26
companies had submitted their
applications to the YCDC. Of
them, the EOIs submitted by six
companies for the construction
of a smart car park in Yangon
have been passed, and the firms
have been asked to file tenders
for the project by 29 November,
according to the YCDC."The smart parking will
collect parking data using ad-
vanced technology. Our tenderevaluation teams will decide
how to complete the bidding,"
said U Lin Kyaing.Yangon Mayor U Maung
Maung Soe pointed out that an
open tender or a public tender
will be approved for the project.
"Areas for smart parking will be
announced," he said."Smart parking areas and
streets and roads will be notified
through the media. The project
is open to all qualified bidders.
We will systematically select
the winner who will complete
the project," U Maung Maung

Soe added.

"The smart parking sys-
tem will start in six downtown
townships of Yangon, and the
project will proceed to other
townships", said Daw May May
Thwe, YCDC member."Earlier, the YCDC collect-
ed car parking fees through in-
formal methods, such as the
contract system. During the
government transition period,
that system was abolished,"
said officials.(Translated by Ei Myat
Mon)

Over 181,000 narcotic tablets confiscated in four townships

POLICE seized over 181,000
narcotic tablets in four town-
ships on Saturday, according to
Myanmar Police Force.

A combined team includ-

ing police from anti-narcotic
drug squad no.6 of Katha seized
25,350 stimulant tablets and a
mobile phone from the mo-
torcycle driven by Nay MyoRein and Baukpa on board
at mile post no (1/1) on Htig-
yaing-Kyaunggon road in Indaw
Township.Similarly, the police arrest-
ed Zaw Dan Aung (a) Ko Zaw
who driving a Nissan Saloon
car in possession of 1.05 kilos
of heroin and 52, 650 stimulant
tablets, together with a mobile
phone at the same place.Police from anti-narcotic
drug squad no.25 of Taunggyi
also seized 87 stimulant tablets
while they searched the house
of Tin Naing Min in Thida Street
in Ottan Ward, Yaksawk Town.
In connection with the case, the
house of Nay Ye Lin (a) Ko Ye
was searched and 1,960 stimu-
lant tablets were seized.

Anti-narcotic police from

Tachilek also searched the
house of Ma San San Aye at
Lwesaton Village of Wanlon Vil-
lage-tract in Tachilek Township
and seized 2,000 stimulant tab-
lets and 540 Thai Bahts.Police from Monghsat also
searched the Revo car driven
by Yabar near Lwelpayin (2)
Village of Satone Village-tract
on Monghsat-Tachilek road
in Monghsat Township, and
confiscated 100,000 stimulant
tablets approximately worth
K 100 million.Police filed charges against
them under the Anti-narcotic
Drugs and Psychotropic Sub-
stances Law.—GNLM(Translated by Kyaw Zin
Tun)Suspect named Yarbar seen with confiscated drugs and vehicle.
PHOTO:MPF

Drop in paddy rate pulls down rice price even as government draws purchase plan

PADDY price is on the decline even as the government is drawing up guidelines for the procurement of the crop at the basic price. In view of this, millers have held up processing rice, bringing down the supply of rice at the Bayintnaung market and Muse gate, and cooling prices.

“With the border demand decreasing, the price of rice is likely to remain on the low side,” according to Bayintnaung Commodity Depot.

The price of paddy dropped below K400,000 per 100 baskets in early November. At present, it is pegged at around K450,000 per 100 baskets. To purchase paddy at the basic price, the regional government is waiting for rules and regulations, which will be set by the government. As a result, millers are waiting for the right time for processing as rice price is cooling in the Yangon market.

On 15 October, the government fixed the basic price of paddy (low-quality variety) at K500,000 per 100 baskets (one basket is equivalent to 46 pounds) for this year’s monsoon paddy and the 2020 summer paddy. The government has pledged K15 billion for purchasing paddy, in case the market price falls below the basic price.

“The Bago Region government has asked for K8 billion to purchase paddy. To set the rules and regulations regarding that, we will call a meeting soon. Afterwards, we will pay the subsidy to them. However, we will figure out a way so they can repay it. The Ayeyarwady Region government has sought around K5 billion. The existing fund is adequate to make the allocations. It is available so they can buy paddy, if the market price falls below the basic price,” said U Aung Htoo, the



Workers loading a truck with rice sacks at the Botahtaung Jetty in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Deputy Minister for Commerce.

At present, the Bago, Ayeyawady, and Yangon region governments have asked the leading rice procurement committee to buy paddy at the set floor price, he said.

The concerned region and state governments are preparing plans to purchase paddy if the price drops below the basic price.

However, discussions on disbursing the funds allocated under the government purchase plan, rules, regulations, and payment terms are still under way, the minister added.

The agricultural management group and paddy purchase groups formed by the leading committee will initiate the purchase plans in remote places, where it is hard to trade paddy

at the basic price. The plans are being drafted at present. The Myanmar Rice Federation and warehouse businesses will also cooperate in the plans.

Growers are facing financial hardships due to low price offered at harvest time, coupled with high input costs, said a grower from Yedashe Township. —Ko Htet ■

(Translated by EMM)

Investment forums to be held in Shan State, Taninthayi Region this year

By Nyein Nyein

INVESTMENT forums will be held in Shan State and Taninthayi Region this year, said U Thant Sin Lwin, director-general of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

“The objective behind the investment forums is to explore potential investment opportunities in the state and region. The forums will also act as a bridge between local businessmen and foreign investors. They are also aimed at attracting investors,” he added.

The Shan State Investment Forum will be held on 26 and 27 November at the Royal Taunggyi Hotel, Taunggyi to promote investments in the tourism and agricultural sector in the state, said U Thant Sin Lwin.

The forum is being organized by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC), the Shan State Investment Committee (SSIC), and is supported by Deutsche Gesellschaft für In-

ternationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

Meanwhile, the Taninthayi Investment Forum will be held on 6 and 7 December and it will present investment opportunities in the tourism and fishery sectors in the region.

Between 1 October and 16 November in the current fiscal year, foreign direct investment of US\$529.18 million flowed into the country, including expansion of capital by existing enterprises, as per data provided by the Myanmar Investment Commission. The MIC has set an FDI target of \$5.8 billion for the current financial year

The DICA has been apprising local and international investors of the latest developments such as the recent enactment of the new Myanmar Investment Law and new investment opportunities. Under the new Myanmar Investment Law, those investing in undeveloped regions will be given tax exemptions as an incentive.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Maritime trade up \$216 mln as of 15 Nov

THE value of Myanmar’s maritime trade for the period between 1 October and 15 November in the 2019-2020 fiscal year totaled US\$3.3 billion, an increase of over \$216 million compared with the year-ago period, according to data provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

Compared with the same period in the 2018-2019 fiscal, imports fell by \$50.8 million, while exports registered a significant increase of \$266.8 million. During the previous fiscal, maritime exports were valued at

\$1.37 billion, while imports were registered at \$1.93 billion.

During the October-November period in the current fiscal, the value of trade through the border gates was estimated at \$1.29 billion, an increase of \$371.85 million amid tight confiscation of illegal, untaxed goods, and trade suspension by Myanmar’s main trade partner, China.

Meanwhile, the country’s total external trade crossed \$4.59 billion, which was higher than the \$4 billion recorded in the year-ago period.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other products, while it imports capital goods, consumer goods, and raw industrial materials.

The country currently has nine ports involved in sea trade. The Yangon Port is the main gateway for Myanmar’s maritime trade, and includes the Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port. — Mon Mon

(Translated by EMM)



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Tatmadaw True News Team holds press conference

THE Tatmadaw True News Team held a press conference at the Defence Services Museum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, on the issues of armed clashes with TNLA group in northern Shan State, seizures of arms and ammunition, activities of AA armed group in Rakhine State and confiscations of narcotic drugs in respective commands.

It was attended by Chairman of Tatmadaw True News Team Maj-Gen Soe Naing Oo, Vice Chairman Maj-Gen Tun Tun Nyi, Secretary Brig-Gen Zaw Min Tun and senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), along with reporters from local news agencies, daily newspapers, journals, local TV news agencies and locally-based for-

eign news agencies.

Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary explained the moves of TNLA, seizures of arms and ammunition from Homein Village and surrounding area in Hukhin Village-tract, Namhsam Township, armed clashes with AA group in Rakhine State, mine explosions of AA, killing of innocent civilians, the Defence & Security 2019 and the ADMM-Plus (VIP Programme) attended by Commander in Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the official visit of Deputy Commander in Chief of Defence Services Vice Senior General Soe Win to Thailand, and confiscations of narcotic drugs at the respective military commands from 1 January to 20 November 2019.



Tatmadaw True News Team reply to queries raised by reporters from media at the press conference held at the Defence Services Museum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Colonel Aung Khin Thein from the Office of the Judge Advocate General detailed proce-

dures of court martial. Later the Tatmadaw True News Team replied to queries

raised by reporters from news agencies. — MNA (Translated Aung Khin)

Bloomberg formally announces US presidential candidacy

NEW YORK — Michael Bloomberg confirmed Sunday that he is running for president, joining the crowded field of Democrats seeking to take on his fellow New York billionaire, President Donald Trump.

His 11th-hour entry highlights the fluid nature of the Democratic contest just three months before the first primary.

"I'm running for president to defeat Donald Trump and rebuild America," Bloomberg, 77, said on his website as a \$30 million Bloomberg ad campaign hit US airwaves.

The announcement ended weeks of speculation that the former New York mayor was preparing for a run at the White House.

He had prepared the groundwork for a possible bid for the

Democratic nomination in recent weeks by registering as a candidate in primary voting states and filing paperwork with the Federal Election Commission.

"We cannot afford four more years of President Trump's reckless and unethical actions," the billionaire businessman said.

"He represents an existential threat to our country and our values. If he wins another term in office, we may never recover from the damage," Bloomberg added.

With a personal fortune of \$50 billion, Bloomberg's candidacy will likely shake up the open race, with 17 candidates already vying to be the Democratic nominee to take on Trump next year.

Former vice president Joe Biden leads the race ahead of left-wingers Elizabeth Warren

and Bernie Sanders, with moderate Pete Buttigieg in fourth place, according to national polls.

Bloomberg is poised to run as a centrist and analysts suspect that he could take away some of the support enjoyed by fellow moderate Biden.

Some believe that his "self-made man" image and support for fighting global warming makes him the best challenger for Trump.

Others on the left of the party who favor Warren or Sanders see him as the sort of billionaire they would like to tax heavily to reduce inequality.

"As a candidate, I'll rally a broad and diverse coalition of Americans to win," Bloomberg said in his statement, adding that he would "stand up" to Trump's "bigotry."

Bloomberg touted some of his achievements as New York mayor, including getting the city back on its feet after the September 11, 2001 attacks -- he was first elected in January of the following year, taking over from Rudy Giuliani -- and banning smoking in restaurants and bars.

He said he was best placed to take on Trump on the issues of gun violence and climate change.

Last week he apologized for his longtime support of controversial "stop and frisk" policing policy that disproportionately targeted black and Latino New Yorkers during his time as mayor.—AFP



Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg has confirmed he is running for president. PHOTO: AFP

Hong Kong investments in Myanmar top \$277 mln in Oct

THREE Hong Kong-based companies pumped in US\$276.98 million into Myanmar in October, the first month of the current financial year, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Hong Kong topped the list of investors in October and was followed by China, which invested an estimated \$8.66 million in four projects. Foreign direct investment (FDI) of \$292.128 flowed into Myanmar in October. Investments also flowed into the country from Japan and Thailand.

Between 1 October and 16 November in the current fiscal year, foreign direct investment of \$529.18 million flowed into the country, including expansion of capital by existing enterprises, according to DICA.

The total figure includes investment of \$14.3 million in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, under the Special Economic Zone Law.

The DICA intends to reach its FDI target of \$5.8 billion in the current fiscal year.

South East Asian coun-

tries see investment potential in Myanmar on account of cheap labour and business opportunities. Thus, larger entities are likely to enter the country, said U Thant Sin Lwin, director-general of the DICA.

"We see much investment potential for large companies. We are prioritizing responsible businesses and so, we are taking special care while screening investment proposals," he said.

Large investments are likely to flow into the oil and gas, agriculture, mineral, manufacturing, and industrial estate sectors, he added.

The economic interaction between Myanmar and Hong Kong has been increasing rapidly. Hong Kong has emerged as the third largest investor in Myanmar, after Singapore and China. Between 1988 and October, 2019, 199 enterprises from Hong Kong brought in foreign direct investment of \$8.48 billion into Myanmar, according to official data on existing enterprises provided by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.—GNLM (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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UAE eyes new frontiers with law to regulate space tourism, mining



The UAE sent Hazzaa al-Mansouri into orbit this year. Now it hopes to develop space mining and tourism. **PHOTO: AFP**

DUBAI—The United Arab Emirates, which sent its first astronaut into space this year and has plans to launch a probe to Mars, is looking at other new frontiers -- space tourism and mining.

But first, says the chief of the Emirates Space Agency, there needs to be regulation.

Within a few months the UAE will enact its first space law, he said, designed to attract investment and regulate the activities and services of companies operating in the country.

"It was approved by the government and now is in its final stage of issuing," the space agency's director general Mohammed al-Ahbab told AFP.

The UAE, whose colossal skyscrapers and mega-projects put it on the world map, hopes otherworldly new industries could be the key to its economic future. The country already has the most diverse economy in the oil-reliant Gulf, but the

once-booming property, tourism and trade sectors that have made it a regional powerhouse have sagged in recent years.

So now it is looking beyond Earth itself, with typically grand ambitions for a country whose cities rise out of the desert.

- Industries of the future -
The new law, drafted by the agency, would address future space tourism or mining projects.

"We think it's going to come to (fruition) within the next 10 years," Ahbab said of the sector.

"There is no project today because the technology is not yet there, but we're looking ahead of time and putting together those regulations."

In March, the space agency signed a memorandum of understanding with Richard Branson's space tourism company Virgin Galactic for cooperation on various plans, including potential tourism flights.—AFP ■

Wildfires in Oregon's Blue Mountains to become more severe: Study

WASHINGTON—A recent study suggests that with the impact of climate change in Oregon's southern Blue Mountains wildfire will become more frequent, extensive and severe.

Researchers from PSU, North Carolina State University, University of New Mexico and the US Forest Service looked at how climate-driven changes in forest dynamics and wildfire activity will affect the landscape through the year 2100.

They used a forest landscape model, LANDIS-II, to simulate forest and fire dynamics under current management practices and two projected climate scenarios, reported the study published in -- Ecosphere. They found that even if the climate stopped warming now, high-elevation species such as whitebark pine, Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir will be largely replaced by more climate- and fire-resilient species like ponderosa pine and Douglas fir by the end of the century.—ANI ■

Man shot dead by New Zealand police after 15-hour hostage

WELLINGTON—The New Zealand police shot dead a man who held children hostage for 15 hours at a property in Bellevue, North Island, on Sunday (Nov 24).

According to the New Zealand police, local police were called to a property in Oriana Crescent, Tauranga, at around 12.25am local time, after a man threatened his partner with a knife.

The woman escaped and called the police from a neighbour's house. Three children

were still in the house with the man. The police arrived at the property and found the man holding a large machete to the throat of one of the children. The man then retreated into a wardrobe with that child and a second child.

The police withdrew immediately and managed to help the third child escape safely.

As the hours dragged on, medical personnel saw concerns grow for the two children remaining in the house due to a lack of food and the possibility of

dehydration from the high temperature in the part of the house where they were barricaded.

The police entered the property soon after 3pm local time, where they were confronted by the man. He was shot and pronounced dead at the scene.

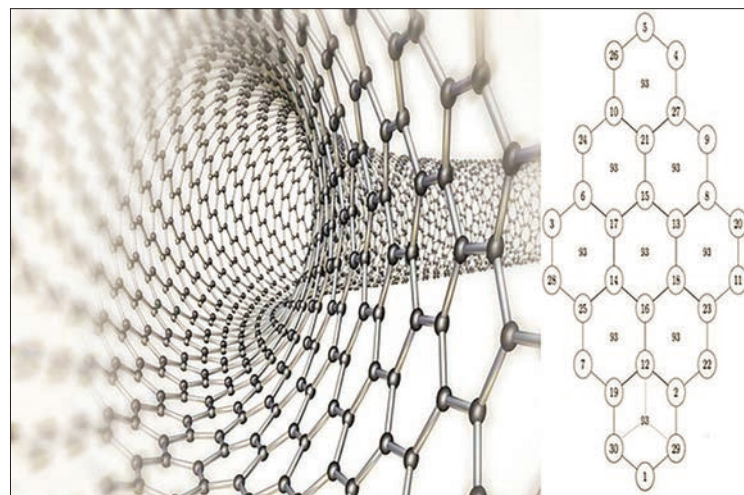
The two children who had been taken hostage were safe and uninjured.

Further investigation of the incident was going on and the man's death would be referred to the coroner, said the New Zealand police. —Xinhua ■

Old newspapers can be used to grow carbon nanotubes: Study

WASHINGTON—Old newspapers are the solution towards providing a cheap and green solution for the bulk production of single-walled carbon nanotubes, suggest researchers.

Carbon nanotubes are tiny molecules with incredible physical properties that can be used in a huge range of things, such as conductive films for touchscreen displays, flexible electronics, fabrics that create energy and antennas for 5G networks. The new study, published in the -- MDPI Journal C -- details the research experiments carried out in producing carbon nanotubes which could have the potential to solve some of the problems



Representative image. **PHOTO: ANI**

associated with their large scale production such as the high cost of preparing a suitable surface for chemical growth and the diffi-

culties in scaling up the process, as only single surface growth processes have been previously available.—ANI ■

Lebanon anti-graft protesters march for nature too

BEIRUT—Surrounded by sweeping pines, lemon trees and bean stalks, hundreds of Lebanese protesters march along, chanting against a planned dam that would drown the valley under their feet.

Unprecedented protests

about corruption in Lebanon since October 17 have given new life to activism against the controversial structure planned for a lush valley south of Beirut.

Since the start of the year, the future construction site in the Bisri Valley has been cor-

doned off and several trees uprooted to make way for work to begin. But emboldened by the anti-graft protests, nature lovers have since November 9 ignored the gates and barged through them, hoping to save what remains of their country's ravaged ecosystem. Environmental activists in Lebanon say they have their work cut out.

They cite overflowing landfills, a polluted coast, quarries gnawing into mountains and state neglect compounding forest fires that hit the country last month before the mass protests began. Standing on a shack roof near the Bisri Valley, environmental activist Bassam Zeineddine encourages hundreds of fellow hikers who have come to show their support for the dam protest.—AFP ■



A protester strides past towering trees during the anti-dam march in Lebanon's Bisri Valley on November 22, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Endless task that needs boundless energy, enthusiasm

SINCE 2018, the country has been implementing the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) 2018-2019, which includes a number of reforms programs for the growth of multiple sectors, apart from the economy. The MSDP, one of the most important strategic plans of Myanmar, regards the private sector as the main driver of job generation, especially for young adults. As the country has already adopted a market-oriented economic system, the reforms programs of State-owned businesses lend support to the private sector development strategy.

The current economic environment of the nation calls for the promotion of micro industries and small and medium-sized enterprises as they are vital sources for job and income generation for a majority of the country's population. On its part, the government is working on creating high-quality jobs and making structural changes through its economic digitalization program. Furthermore, it is inviting and encouraging innovations and initiatives from every corner.

The current economic environment of the nation calls for the promotion of micro industries and small and medium-sized enterprises as they are vital sources for job and income generation for a majority of the country's population.

The last few years have seen the country promulgating two important laws – the Myanmar Investment Law and the Myanmar Special Economic Zone Law. Both laws offer tax incentives and protection and rights to investors. Apart from clearly interpretable laws and rules, the broader establishment of an investor-friendly and stable business environment is also a crucial factor for robust economic growth of the country. Understanding this necessity well, the government has been allowing relaxation of laws and rules in the respective sectors.

Thanks to these endeavors, the country is witnessing significant growth in economy and investment and increase in job opportunities. Myanmar now ranks 165th on the World Bank's Doing Business 2020 index, up from 171 in the previous year. The index, released on 24 October, also shows that the country scored 46.8 on it, which is 3.3 higher than the previous year's mark. The country has also made strides in several areas and is among the top 20 reformers for the year.

This has been a significant success for the country, and a result of the cooperation between the government and the private sector. But, we should not stop there. We must continue our task of facilitating the functions of government departments and reducing unnecessary procedures and formalities.

So, we all must strive for further development of the national economy through reforms programs, digitalization, inclusive involvement, and public-private cooperation. National development is an endless task that needs boundless energy and enthusiasm.



Join Hands to End Violence Against Women and Girls

TODAY is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, which marks the start of the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. The diplomatic missions of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden call on all stakeholders in Myanmar - men and women alike - to participate in ending violence against women and girls.

Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread human rights violations across the world. It bears devastating costs for the survivors and their families, and affects all levels of society. Gender-based violence runs on a spectrum, which includes harassment, sexual assault, rape, human trafficking, intimate partner violence and death. Regressive gender norms and biases, ineffective laws, policies and social institutions all contribute to its persistence. These challenges are pertinent in Myanmar, as they are in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

During this year's 16 Days campaign, survivors, activists, as well as women's networks and organisations in Myanmar and across the world are rallying around the slogan "Generation



Equality Stands Against Rape". Worldwide, an estimated one in three women will experience abuse or sexual violence in her lifetime. Myanmar is no exception. Women and girls of ethnic minorities and displaced peoples are extra vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence due to their double victimisation, as both women and girls as well as members of these vulnerable groups.

Yet, victims of gender-based violence rarely come forward and seek justice. This is due to

a lack of trust in or simply the non-availability of violence response services as well as the fear of stigma. In situations of armed conflict and intercommunal violence, which exacerbate violence against women and girls, women may also fear deeply for their families and community members. Conflicts affect women and men long after the cessation of hostilities, and interventions to end violence against women and girls are essential to building peace and security.

Discussion, learning from the experiences of survivors, is needed in order to develop comprehensive approaches and understanding required for tackling the issue. The role of the government in supporting and facilitating this process is essential. Changing the way we think about gender norms and stereotypes; building nonviolent social norms; and engaging men and boys, are similarly essential. The full enjoyment of human rights for women and girls must become a reality; this includes

combating all forms of violence and discrimination that restrict their freedom and possibility to participate fully in every aspect of society.

Through our development cooperation with government and civil society actors in Myanmar, the Nordic countries supports initiatives to advance such discussions and transformation. We see promising results through greater awareness of gender-based violence at the community level, increased number of male leaders role modelling gender equality, and increased provision and uptake of violence response services, for example.

During the 16 Days campaign, women's networks and organisations in Myanmar continue their rallying for the adoption of a national Prevention of Violence Against Women (PoVAW) Law compliant with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which Myanmar ratified in 1997. The adoption of the PoVAW Law is a crucial opportunity for the government of Myanmar to effectively combat violence against women. This law should also consider the rights and needs of ethnic and religious minorities

and women living in conflict-affected areas.

Legislation is indeed important, as it is an expression of the essential values embraced by society. Legislation must exist not only on paper but be implemented in coordination with all relevant stakeholders, which include law enforcement agencies, health care professionals, teachers, and civil society. This we know from experience in our own countries.

Today, on the 25th of November, we reiterate our call to the authorities of Myanmar to adopt and enact comprehensive legislation to protect women and girls from violence, and call on all stakeholders in Myanmar, men and women alike, to participate in ending violence against women and girls.

The heads of the Nordic diplomatic missions in Myanmar: Ms. Riikka Laatu, Ambassador of Finland Mr. John Nielsen, Ambassador of Denmark Ms. Tone Tinnes, Ambassador of Norway Ms. Frida Zaric, Head of Section Office Yangon, Embassy of Sweden



Conferences, Meetings, Symposiums, Seminars and Workshops

By Lokethar

IN Myanmar, many Conferences, Meetings, Symposiums, Seminars and Workshops on topics and subjects, which are of interest to the people, are being held. (They are referred to as "events" in the rest of this article). In most of the events, the speakers include local and foreign experts, highly qualified and with wide experience. Most of these events are knowledge dissemination and brainstorming sessions. Perhaps opening up such events to the public could enable those interested in acquiring and/or sharing knowledge which could possibly be of use to those concerned. After all learning has been accepted as being a lifelong process. These events are also a means of acquiring lifelong learning outside of the "Formal Education" system. "Lifelong" in my opinion; is until that age of an individual, when due to some disabling physical and health reasons it is not possible anymore

for him/her to acquire and use new knowledge. Some people seem to make assumptions that beyond a certain age (of their own reckoning), working, learning new things or expressing opinions on certain matters may not be productive. That goes against the rights of the individual as well as the concept of lifelong learning. One cannot make generalized judgements based on assumptions about a person's learning ability and his/her capacity to contribute to society. It varies with individuals.

Getting back to the point I am trying to make is that, perhaps the events, unless they are about confidential or sensitive matters, should be open to the public. After all the slogan "together with the people" should be applicable to get opinions and suggestions from the people. Those persons interested in the theme or subject matter

Perhaps some of these events which are of interest to professionals and others from among the public, could also be held in Yangon or Mandalay or in other major cities, so as to be accessible to a wider general public.

of the events should be able to attend; even if in the capacity of an "observer". Many such events held in foreign countries are open to all. Organizers of such events usually charge the participants for the information and printed learning material as well as for coffee, snacks and lunches that the other "official" participants get free (included in the organizer's budget). Perhaps the authorities and/ or the private partners concerned could consider doing the same.

A point I would like to make here is that, in Myanmar most of these events are held in a Convention Centre or a hotel in Nay Pyi Taw and the participants are usually composed of government officials, the representatives from the business enterprises, INGOs and NGOs from various parts of the country. Perhaps some of these events which are of interest to professionals

and others from among the public, could also be held in Yangon or Mandalay or in other major cities, so as to be accessible to a wider general public.

If the events are related to ASEAN, which mostly Government nominees and experts from the various ASEAN Member States attend, then of course it's more convenient for such events to be held in Nay Pyi Taw as suitable accommodation and transportation facilities will be readily available for the attendees, including those participants who fly in to Nay Pyi Taw for the event. However, if such events do not involve a large number of participants, they could, by way of a suggestion, be held in the Capital Cities of the States and Regions by turn. It would be a "change of scene" for the participants. It would also mean good exposure for the State or Region, it's environment and it's people.

မဂ္ဂဇင်းတိုင်းသောကြားအချိန်အတွက် စီစဉ်ပေးပြီး မြန်မာ့အလင်းနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်သွယ်ရေး ဘဏ္ဍာရေးဦးစီးဌာနနှင့် မြို့နယ်စီမံခန့်ခွဲရေးကော်မတီတို့ ပူးပေါင်းစီစဉ်ကျင့်ပေးသော မဂ္ဂဇင်းတိုင်း မြန်မာ့အလင်း မဂ္ဂဇင်းတိုင်း မဂ္ဂဇင်းတိုင်း (သစ်ပေါင်းဖြည့်) ၂၀၁၉ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင်လ ၁၀ ရက် (သောကြာ)၊ ၀၈:၄၅ နာရီ (၉) နာရီမှ ၂၀၁၉ (၉) နာရီအထိ ပညာရေးအဖွဲ့ဝင်များနှင့် ပူးပေါင်းစီစဉ်ပေးသော မဂ္ဂဇင်းတိုင်း မဂ္ဂဇင်းတိုင်း

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 24th November, 2019) BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the South Bay and a few cloud over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal. FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 25th November, 2019: Weather will be generally fair in Naypyitaw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Rakhine and Kayin States and partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (2-4) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts. OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of decrease of night temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Chin State. FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25th November, 2019: Generally fair weather. FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25th November, 2019: Partly cloudy. FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 25th November, 2019: Generally fair weather.

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

Hiroshima survivors tell pope of attack 'hell'

HIROSHIMA—Survivors of the nuclear attack on Hiroshima told Pope Francis on Sunday of the “scene of hell” after the bombing, as the pontiff hit out against the use of the weapons.

The pope began his four-day trip to Japan with stops in Nagasaki and Hiroshima, where he paid tribute to those affected by the two bombs dropped by US forces in 1945 at the end of World War II. In Hiroshima, Francis met several survivors of the attack, who echoed his calls for the world never to forget the atrocity of the bombings.

Yoshiko Kajimoto was 14 years old when the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, killing at least 140,000 people. “When I went outside, all the surrounding buildings were destroyed. It was dark as evening and smelled like rotten fish,” she told the pope at the Peace Memorial in the city.

Her eyes closed tight and her voice trembling occasionally, she described people “walking side



Pope Francis held emotional encounters with survivors of the nuclear attack. PHOTO: AFP

by side like ghosts, people whose whole body was so burnt that I could not tell the difference between men and women.”

“No one in this world can imagine such a scene of hell,” she

added, recalling the days of white smoke that hung above the city as the victims were cremated.

Kajimoto found her father three days after the attack, but he died 18 months later from ra-

diation exposure.

She told Francis her mother suffered illnesses from the atomic bomb for 20 years, and described her own battles with stomach cancer and leukaemia.—AFP ■

Mann Ki Baat: PM Modi announces launch of ‘Fit India School rankings’

NEW DELHI—In his 59th edition of the Mann Ki Baat radio program, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday announced the launch of ‘Fit India School grading system’ in schools across the country.

“In the Fit India Movement, schedules have been drawn for ranking schools in accordance with fitness. The schools that achieve this ranking will also be able to use the ‘Fit India’ logo and flag,” Modi said. The Fit India School rankings have been divided into three categories - The Fit India Schools, which is the first level

of ranking, Fit India School (3 star) and Fit India School (5 star).

The level of ranking will depend on how much importance the school gives to inculcating overall fitness among its students and teachers and infrastructural facilities available for fitness activities.

“Schools can declare themselves as fit by visiting the Fit India portal. Fit India three-star and Fit India five-star ratings will also be given. I appeal that all schools should enroll in the Fit India ranking system and Fit India should become innate to

our temperament. That it becomes a mass movement and bring awareness is what we must strive for,” the Prime Minister said.

The Fit India School ranking system has been drawn up by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in discussion with the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Speaking about the importance of the ranking system, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju said: “The ranking system will help parents understand if a school attaches importance to fitness activities or not.”—ANI ■

Record turnout in H.K. district elections amid political crisis

HONG KONG—An unprecedented number of voters turned out Sunday in the first public elec-

tions since mass pro-democracy demonstrations plunged the city into a months-long political crisis

and economic recession.

The district council elections are expected to serve as a barometer of public opinion of the increasingly violent protests, which China claims are only supported by a minority of radical separatists. By 12:30 p.m., about 31 percent of the 4.1 million eligible voters had cast ballots, compared with the nearly 15 percent turnout in the last election in 2015, Registration and Electoral Office figures showed.

Less than an hour after polling began at 7:30 a.m., officials urged voters to wait patiently while some voting stations were overwhelmed with long queues.

Aside from a lingering stand-off between radical protesters and police at a university in Kowloon, no anti-government demonstrations were reported in the city. The turnout in the first hour of polling was nearly four times higher than in 2015, as rumors circulated online that polling stations could close early due to possible violence.

Pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong, whom the government barred from running in the election for his advocacy of self-determination for Hong Kong, was among the early voters along with the city’s leader Carrie Lam.—Kyodo ■



Lengthy queues snaked out of polling stations across the territory in the election for 18 district councils. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS In BRIEF

5.9-magnitude quake jolts New Zealand, felt by thousands

WELLINGTON—A 5.9-magnitude earthquake hit North Island, New Zealand, on Sunday morning and was felt by thousands of people. More than 5,000 people reported feeling the earthquake which happened offshore around 5:34 a.m. local time on Sunday. There is no report of human casualty yet. The earthquake, which struck out at sea about 50 kilometers north-west of Te Kaha, Bay of Plenty in the North Island of New Zealand, was initially rated as 5.3-magnitude but has been upgraded to 5.9-magnitude. The depth of the earthquake is 115 kilometers down the sea. GeoNet, which monitors seismic activity in New Zealand, said deeper quakes such as this were often widely felt, especially on the East Coast of North Island.

At about 7:30 a.m., the agency said it had reviewed the quake and upgraded it from a 5.3 to a 5.9. It reminded people to “drop, cover, and hold on” in the event of an earthquake.—Xinhua ■

China’s system of socialist rule of law contains richer implications: law expert

BEIJING—Law expert Mo Jihong with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences explained the rich implications of “the system of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics.” Calls were made for the expression to be upheld and improved at the fourth plenary session of the 19th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee. The system of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics, unlike the Chinese socialist system of law, which more refers to a static system of laws and regulations, has five sub-systems, including a system of laws, a system of law enforcement oversight, as well as a system of Party rules and regulations, Mo said.—Xinhua ■

Johnson unveils manifesto for Brexit Britain

LONDON — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson unveils his Conservative Party's manifesto on Sunday, pledging to move on from Brexit and austerity in a bid to secure a general election victory.

Having taken over a minority administration in July and been unable to speed his EU divorce deal through parliament, Johnson is seeking a clear victory at the December 12 snap election.

He sees Britain's third general election in four-and-a-half years as the only way to break the Brexit logjam.

Having got the Brexit date delayed three months from October 31 to January 31, opposition parties backed his call for an early general election.



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson sees Britain's third general election in four and a half years as the only way to break the Brexit logjam. PHOTO: AFP

Johnson is promising to bring back his Brexit deal to parliament before December 25 if the centre-right Conservatives

are returned to power. "As families sit down to carve up their turkeys this Christmas, I want them to enjoy their fes-

tive-season free from the seemingly unending Brexit box-set drama," Johnson said ahead of the launch. "The Conservative manifesto, which I'm proud to launch today, will get Brexit done and allow us to move on and unleash the potential of the whole country," he said.

'Oven-ready' Brexit deal

The main plank of the Conservative manifesto is the Brexit deal Johnson negotiated with Brussels in October. He claims the treaty is "oven-ready" and good to go — as long as he can get a majority.

He insists the deal will allow Britain to regain control over its laws, money and immigration policy.—AFP ■

Two dead, one missing after rainstorms drench south France

PARIS — Two people lost their lives and one more was missing Sunday after historic levels of rain drenched the south of France, provoking major floods that are only now starting to recede, officials said.

One corpse was found in the village of Muy, just north of France's Mediterranean coast, close to where a rescue dinghy had capsized on Saturday evening with three members of the fire brigade and three civilians aboard, the local authorities in the southern Var region said.

One of the civilians had been reported missing.

The second body, of a man in his 50s, was found in the village of Cabasse in a car, said the local authorities, without giving further details.

Meanwhile, another man, in his 70s, was still missing in the village of Saint-Antonin-du-Var after going out during the night amid heavy rain. Searches are continuing.

The Alpes-Maritimes and Var regions have since Friday been hit by torrential rainstorms that also caused huge waves in seaside areas. The senior official for the Var region, Jean-Luc Videlaire, told AFP that the rains had been of "historic" intensity, adding that the damage will be "considerable".

He said that water levels were now going down but added that the situation was "far from returning to normal".

In some areas of the Var region, the equivalent of two or three months of rain fell in just 24 or 48 hours.—AFP ■



The Alpes-Maritimes and Var regions of southern France have been hit by torrential rainstorms that also caused huge waves in seaside areas. PHOTO: AFP



A Basij militia commander said the unrest sparked by the fuel price hike amounted to a "world war" against Iran that had been thwarted. PHOTO: AFP

Iran vows to punish 'mercenaries' behind street violence

TEHRAN — Iran vowed Sunday to severely punish "mercenaries" arrested over a wave of street unrest sparked by a fuel price hike, as much of the country came back online after a week-long internet blackout.

Authorities say calm has been restored and have announced plans to hold a pro-government demonstration to condemn the "rioters" at Tehran's Enghelab Square on Monday afternoon.

The protests first flared on November 15, hours after a surprise announcement that petrol prices were being raised by as much as 200 per cent with immediate effect.

Highways were blocked, banks and petrol stations set on fire and shops looted as the demonstrations turned violent and spread to dozens of urban centres across the country.

Citing law enforcement offi-

cers, Fars news agency said on Sunday that 180 ringleaders had been arrested over the street violence, which it has blamed on enemies abroad.

"We have arrested all stooges and mercenaries who have explicitly made confessions that they have been mercenaries of America, of Monafeghin and others," said Rear-Admiral Ali Fadavi, deputy commander in chief of the Revolutionary Guards.

Monafeghin is a term Iran uses to refer to the People's Mujahedeen of Iran (MEK) opposition in exile group, which it considers a "terrorist" cult.

The government said the fuel price hike would allow it to provide welfare payments to the needy in Iran, where many have struggled to make ends meet since the US reimposed sanctions after withdrawing from a landmark nuclear deal.—AFP ■

NEWS In BRIEF

Romania's pro-EU president expected to win run-off vote

BUCHAREST — Romanians voted Sunday in the second round of presidential elections that are expected to return incumbent Klaus Iohannis to office, confirming the pro-European trajectory of the eastern EU member state.

Thirty years after the fall of communism, the centre-right former physics professor is running against Social Democrats (PSD) leader and former prime minister Viorica Dancila, whose government collapsed last month in a no-confidence vote.

"It's a choice for the wellbeing of Romania. We're waiting for a revolution, for things to get better. But we are waiting for this, and nothing comes our way," Stan Mihai, a 76-year-old pensioner who voted in the capital Bucharest, told AFP.

In the first round of voting on November 10, Iohannis won 38 per cent of the vote, ahead of 13 other candidates. Dancila came second with 22 per cent.—AFP ■

Bolsonaro's son faces probe over 'ghost employees'

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazilian prosecutors have started a new investigation into the eldest son of President Jair Bolsonaro over suspicion he embezzled public money by hiring "ghost employees," officials said.

The Rio de Janeiro Prosecutors' Office said in a statement Saturday they were investigating Flavio Bolsonaro — a 38-year-old senator — in relation to "the employment of ghost employees" from his cabinet.

The events in question date to the period he was regional deputy of the State of Rio.

Flavio's father, the far-right president Jair Bolsonaro, took office on a promise of eradicating corruption but has been repeatedly hit by scandals involving his son.

At the beginning of the year another investigation initially focused on Flavio's former bodyguard and driver, a policeman named Fabricio Queiroz.—AFP ■

Tiny German oil firm strikes black gold on the Rhine

RIEDSTADT (Germany)—Outside the small town of Riedstadt, near Frankfurt, a bright green derrick pumping oil from deep underground marks a rare rural German site where that is still a profitable business.

As Berlin battles to reach climate neutrality by 2050, minnow Rhein Petroleum sees a niche for its unusually pure crude during the transition phase, although its output is dwarfed by the more than two million barrels a day still consumed by Europe's top economy.

Manager Carsten Reinhold holds up a flask of the lukewarm, dark liquid the pumps have been heaving up from 1,500 metres (5,000 feet) below ground

since last year.

Low in sulphur, such "light and sweet" crude oil resembles the so-called Brent reserves found in the North Sea.

"It would be a shame to burn it all up" to fuel road traffic, Reinhold says, as this type of oil is especially suited to manufacturing industries, feeding into chemicals, pharmaceuticals, textiles and even blades for wind turbines.

A tanker truck passes by twice a week on average to siphon 33,000 litres (8,700 gallons) from the site's metal storage tanks, some of it from the firm's other drilling site in Bavaria.

It brings the oil to a refinery 80 kilometres (50 miles) away.—AFP ■



Rhein Petroleum's oil well in Riedstadt, western Germany produces a "light, sweet crude" well suited for manufacturing chemicals, pharmaceuticals and textiles. PHOTO: AFP

Britain election maintains uncertainty for Japanese firms

LONDON—The likely re-election of Prime Minister Boris Johnson will not end the Brexit uncertainty for Japanese firms who are also worried about the impact of his "hard Brexit" vision for the country, according to trade experts. Polls indicate Johnson's Conservative Party will win a majority in December's general election, leading to Britain's formal departure at the end of January and then negotiations on a free trade agreement.

Johnson says the trade deal has to be in place by the end of next year, leading to fears of another no-deal cliff edge for Japanese firms which, along with the rest of British industry, have been hampered by parliamentary deadlock on the way ahead since the 2016 referendum result.

Trade experts believe the deal will instead take several years to negotiate and, in the long run, will create more trade frictions and costs than was envisaged under Johnson's predecessor. Theresa May's plan, which envisaged closer customs and regulatory cooperation, was considered a softer form of Brexit.—Kyodo ■

Tesla cybertruck orders near 150,000 just days after chaotic launch



Tesla shares plunged 6.1 percent following the Cybertruck's bumpy launch. PHOTO: AFP

LOS ANGELES—Tesla's new electric pickup truck has secured almost 150,000 orders, the company's chief executive Elon Musk boasted on Twitter, just two days after its big reveal went embarrassingly wrong.

The billionaire Tes-

la co-founder floundered on stage in California on Thursday when the vehicle's armored glass windows cracked in a demonstration intended to prove their indestructible design.

Shares in the company plunged 6.1 percent fol-

lowing the truck's bumpy launch and several lackluster reviews. But on Saturday Musk tweeted that Tesla had already received 146,000 orders from prospective owners. "146k Cybertruck orders so far, with 42% choosing dual,

41% tri & 17% single motor," he wrote. The demand comes despite the product receiving "no advertising & no paid endorsement".

The industrial-looking Cybertruck is covered in the same steel alloy Musk plans to use for his SpaceX Starship rocket and will be able to go from 0 to 100 kilometers (62 miles) per hour in about three seconds, the Tesla chief executive claimed in his presentation.

He said the entry-level model will have a starting price of \$39,900 and a 400-kilometer (250-mile) range, while a deluxe option will be able to travel twice the distance and will sell for \$69,900.

No date has been given for its release, but analysts said it would not be ready before the end of 2021 at the earliest.—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY. NO. (637 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY. NO. (637 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1033 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (1033 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-11-2019 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1112 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1112 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-11-2019 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HORIZON 9 VOY. NO. (23)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HORIZON 9 VOY. NO. (23) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-5 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 MITSUI O.S.K KANKAI LTD
Phone No: 2301178

US meat producers want a slice of vegan market

NEW YORK—The growing craze for vegetarian versions of juicy burgers and sausages has created such a buzz that even traditional meat producers are trying to get in on the action.

The big players are trying to capitalize on the success of products from companies like Beyond Meat and Impossible Burger.

JBS, the world's largest beef producer, has been marketing a soy burger in Brazil since the summer, which contains beets, garlic and onions and is similar to a rare ground beef.

The largest US meat

producer, Tyson Foods, in June launched a new line of plant-based proteins and meat-vegetable blends called "Raised & Rooted."

And competitors Hormel Foods, Perdue Farms and Smithfield have unveiled similar initiatives to take a slice out of this new market.

"Our food culture is changing at a rapid pace," said Bryan Kreske, brand manager at Hormel Foods.

There is an "increasing curiosity and motivation to try great-tasting, alternative protein sources like plant-based proteins while decreasing their con-



Agri-business giants are branching out with plant-based meat alternatives to try to capitalize on the new trend. PHOTO: AFP

sumption of animal-based protein."

Regardless of whether it is the start of a new trend, or a passing fancy, the agri-food giants do not want to miss the opportunity.

Rather than target vegetarians, they are going after the 95 percent of consumers who eat meat.

But unlike the upstart alternative meat companies, which cite the carbon footprint of raising cows and other livestock, traditional players have a harder time using environmental or animal rights arguments to promote their products.—AFP ■

Bad debt disposals by Japan's regional banks double in 1st half

TOKYO—Bad debts written off by Japan's regional banks doubled in the six months to September from a year earlier, reflecting the slow recovery of the country's local economies, according to data recently compiled by an investment bank. Of 78 listed regional banks in Japan, 77 had disposed of non-performing loans totaling 105.8 billion yen (\$974 million) during the period, including loans which the banks set provisions against, Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities Co. said.

The data excluded Suruga Bank which posted an unusually large loss a year earlier due to write-offs of massive murky loans for building investment-purpose shared houses. The banks' financial results for the term also showed that 56 of them saw their net profits fall, including two which fell into the red. The regional banks are suffering the double whammy of sluggish local economies hurting the businesses of their borrowers and the Bank of Japan's ultraeasy monetary policy squeezing spreads in lending.—Kyodo ■

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Daw La Min May, H.G.P

For Santen Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.,

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Level 8A, UFC Tower, Corner of Mahabandoola Road &

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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 25 November 2019

lmm@kcyangon.com

CALL FOR ANDALAS UNIVERSITY (UNIVERSITAS ANDALAS/UNAND) SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS - INDONESIA ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/2021

Andalas University (Universitas Andalas/UNAND) in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Yangon, offers scholarship to Myanmar nationals. The University is located in Padang, West Sumatra, Indonesia. The scholarship aims to encourage more beneficial cooperation between Indonesia and Myanmar.

UNAND, established in 1956, is the oldest university outside of Java Island and the fourth oldest university in Indonesia. Its main campus in Padang covers 500 ha area. In 2009, UNAND ranks 11th of the best universities in Indonesia and it has a selective admission policy based on entrance examinations and students' past academic record and grades. Currently, the university owns 15 faculties and 8 Postgraduate Programs; and is a home to almost 25000 students.

The Postgraduate Programs includes 6 Master's Degree Programs, namely Bio-Technology, Counselling and Development Communication, Area and Rural Development, Environmental science, Integrated Management of Natural Resources, and Housing and Residence Development; and two Doctorate Degree Programs, namely Agricultural Science and Development Studies.

Myanmar nationals are encouraged to apply for the Master's Degree scholarship.

Eligibility for the Scholarship

A. Applicants should:

1. Be nationals of Myanmar;
2. As it is for Master's Degree Scholarship, applicants should be under 35 years;
3. Provide a Curriculum Vitae;
4. Provide a copy of university certificate of graduation and have a GPA at least 3 out of 4;
5. Have at least a TOEFL Score of 550 or IELTS score of 5.5;
6. If the required documents are in Myanmar Language, provide an authenticated English translation of each document by the authorized institution.

B. The Scholarship Package

1. Return economy airfare between Myanmar and Padang, Indonesia;
2. Tuition fees and basic medical insurance;
3. Indonesian Language Course;
4. Monthly stipend to cover living expenses equivalent to local living cost;
5. Accommodation;
6. Visa application expenses; and
7. Support for thesis expenses.

C. How to apply

Provide all the required documents and submit them to the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia not later than 6 February 2020. Once fulfilled, the Embassy in cooperation with UNAND will contact the applicants to share information on how to proceed.

For more information, please contact Ms. Sylvia Masri, First Secretary for Information and Socio-cultural Affairs, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Yangon.

Tel: (951) 254465, 254469, 229750, ext. 105

Fax: (951) 254468

E-mail: pensosbud@kbriyangon.org

LLEFT my home town more than 40 years ago. The last time I went there was more than 11 years ago. My home town Kyaiklat was in Ayeyawady Region Pyapon District. Kyaiklat also had a well known Pali name Dhamma Pala. Dhamma means “teachings of Buddha” and Pala means “maintaining or preserving.”

During the colonial era, Ledi Sayadaw U Nyanadaja wrote his famous poetic prose Nwa-myitta-sa (Affection to cow) encouraging Buddhists not to kill cattle and eat beef and later he led a successful beef boycotts. Ledi Sayadaw came to Kyaiklat on Myanmar Era (ME) 1264 (1902) and preached about non-killing and consumption of beef. The entire town folks follow the Sayadaw’s sermon according to the town’s other name of Dhamma Pala resulting in municipal cancelling cattle slaughterhouse license in

Kyaiklat because there was absolutely no consumption of beef.

Kyaiklat was also made famous by its town folks consisting of Maha Gita (Great Classic Music) U Pyone Cho, movie director U Thukha, writer Dagon Taya and musician Sein Bo Tint.

Collapsing pagoda or Kyaiklat

According to Ministry of Home Affairs records and Myanmar encyclopedia, Kyaiklat starts as a village established in 1840 by ethnic Mons who migrated from Bago Region and other parts of Ayeyawady Region. There was a 9 yard high pagoda on the river bank west of the village. Due to river bank erosion the pagoda collapsed into the river. In Mon language, Kyaik Loid means collapsing pagoda and as time goes by the word became Kyaiklat and that was where the name of the town came from.



Tilawka Marazein Buddha Image. PHOTOS: MAUNG THA (Archaeology)

Kyaiklat, my home town

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)



All had accepted the fact that the name Kyaiklat came from the word literally meaning collapsing pagoda but there were several versions on which pagoda that collapsed. The first was between No. 6 road and No. 7 road on Bogyoke Street in the present day Kyaiklat Town. The second was in Ward 5, formerly known as Pho Taw Gon. Both had pagoda that had collapsed.

Finally on the eastern most part of Kyaiklat, at a river confluence that was locally called “Chun Htate” also had a pagoda that had collapsed. This was where boats to Maubin, Dedaye, Twantay, Pyapon, Bogale, Wakema and Mawlamyinegun anchored to wait for tide and wind.

Whichever pagoda was the source of the town’s name, the name Kyaiklat inarguably came from the word “collapsing pagoda.”

Kyaiklat region in the history

In 1861, the village became a town and town commissioner Mr Maxwell and secretary U Sein Hto plotted the town plot. It was

a small town that was only 1.22 mile wide situated on Pantaput Creek in the delta area of Ayeyawady River. Kyaiklat Township covers an area of 274.312 sq. mile and had six wards, 87 village tracts with 421 villages. It was bordered by Dedaye Township in the east, Wakema and Mawlamyinegun townships in the west, Pyapon Township in the south and Maubin Township in the north.

In 1875 Kyaiklat Township and Maubin Township were included in Thongwa District. When Pyapon District was formed in 1903, Kyaiklat came under it. Kyaiklat town committee was formed in 1900 and municipal board was formed. On 27 May 1905, the municipal authorities designated Kyaiklat as a town officially.

Kyaiklat Township despite being surrounded and criss-crossed with creeks and rivers was 16.53 ft. above sea level and was rarely flooded or inundated. However, heavy winds and storms in 1972, 1976, 2006 and 2008 causes numbers of deaths to people and livestock as well



as causing some material damages.

The region receives more than 100 inches of rain annually, paddy was the main agriculture product while coconut, betel nut, banana and mangoes were also produced. As it was a top rice producing township, the township had 43 major rice mills as well as 202 small scale rice hullers or rice huskers. Rice produced was sent to Yangon



Standing Buddha image.

transporting goods while people mostly travelled by road.

The township had one technical science school, nine high schools, 29 middle schools and 179 primary schools. Kyaiklat Town had a 50-bed hospital while the township had one station hospital and 41 rural health clinics.

Of the total of 523 pagodas in the township, Tilawka Marazein, Sandamuni and Standing Buddha Image in Kyaiklat Town were the most famous. Sandamuni Buddha image was sculpted on 1st Waxing of Nattaw ME 1281 (22 November 1919). Donor U Tun and Daw Su from Shwe Tha Chaung Village on the opposite bank of the river brought over sculptors from Mandalay to sculpt the Buddha image. The sculpting of the Buddha image took about a year. After the donors passed away, the Buddha image was renovated three times with the last renovation conducted on 9 September 1997.

The 27 ft high Standing Buddha Image on the other hand was sculpted from a single teak log with a diameter of 14 ft 3 inches. The teak log was found drifting in a creek in 1885 and two donors, U Kan Htoo and U Kya Phu fetched wood sculptor U Lun and his team from Mandalay to sculpt it into a standing Buddha image. The process was said to have took about four years. The Standing Buddha Im-

age was placed in Shan Kyaung monastery compound.

out to help again in renovating the pond's embankment in 1971 and the pond was still in use as a drinking water pond. Kyaiklat Town given the name Dhamma Pala by Seventh head of Shwekyin Religious Order (Sect) was a peaceful town in Ayeyawady Region. It now had become a place of visit for Yangonites who made a day return visit by car. Kyaiklat town folks who were working or migrated to other towns usually came back to their home town on National Victory Day. This was a new tradition that started several years back probably due to the roads that made travel faster and more convenient.

There were significant changes and development in the roads and buildings of my home town when I went back there after not returning for more than 11 years. But the tradition and habit of offering morning meals by ward morning meal donor groups during the rain retreat months remained unchanged. Town folks were still using the water from the big drinking water pond. Religious examinations traditionally held in Pyapon District's four towns of Pyapon, Kyaiklat, Bogale and Dedaye were still held regularly. The tradition of venerating U Shin Gyi or Lord of the Sea or Conqueror of the Seas, was held in three parts in Kyaiklat starting from the month of Tabodwe.



Entrance to the Sandamuni Pagoda.



Maha Gita U Pyone Cho's Monument.

and central Myanmar.

Kyaiklat Township annually produces more than 20 million Tins (1 Tin = 40.9148 liter) of paddy, both monsoon and summer, while 79 fish ponds also produced more than 1 million Viss (1 Viss = 1.63293 kg) of fishes.

Kyaiklat Town was a town stretched in an east-west direction with four main roads laid in the east-west direction. The four

were Strand Road (now Bogyoke Road), U Sandar Road, U Pyone Cho Road and Maxwell Road. U Sandar was a well known traditional medicine doctor. U Pyone Cho was Maha Gita U Pyone Cho. Maxwell was the town commissioner that plotted the town plot.

According to figures released in March 2017, Kyaiklat Township had a population of

192,392 with the majority being Bama and Kayin.

Prior to 1997, Kyaiklat Township residences used waterways for transport. Travel was by boats and ships. By waterway, Yangon was 48 miles, Maubin was 16 miles and Mawlamyinegun was 45 miles away. In 1997 Yangon-Maubin-Kyaiklat-Bogale road was built and ever since, waterways were used only for

age was placed in Shan Kyaung monastery compound.

In addition to the pagodas, Kyaiklat also had a unique drinking water pond. The pond situated to the south of Kyaiklat was 2,000 ft. long and 750 ft. wide. The pond was dug during the colonial period by the town people and there were no record of the exact year on which it was dug. The entire town folks came

Kyaiklat town established as a Mon village in 1840 was now 179 years old.

While visiting my peaceful home town, I made a silent prayer for the town to produce more valuable sons and daughters for the country. When I head back to Yangon, the sun was close to set for the day. ■ ■ ■

(Translated by Handytips)

30th SEA Games men's football tourney: Myanmar to play Malaysia today



The head coach of the Myanmar U-22 men's football team, Velizar Popov (L), seen at the press conference ahead of the men's football competition at the SEA Games in Manila, the Philippines. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE Myanmar U-22 men's national football team will take on the Malaysian U-22 men's team today in the opening match for Group A of the men's football competition at the 30th South East Asian Games.

The match will be held at the Rizal Memorial Stadium in Manila, the Philippines.

A match coordination meeting and press conference were held yesterday afternoon at the Century Park in Manila.

The head coaches of the participating teams attended

the conference.

Myanmar U-22 head coach Velizar Popov said that he was hoping for a good competition as team Myanmar was ready and well-prepared. He said he would try for a good result, and he was hoping for a fair tourney, with all teams getting equal opportunity.

Malaysia U-22 team head coach Ong Kim Swee said that all teams wanted victory and he believed that this year's SEA Games would be different from the previous editions

because of two overage players being allowed to participate in the U-22 teams for the first time.

He said this would help balance each team, adding that the best team would win the game.

The match between Myanmar and Malaysia, which starts 2 p.m. today, will be broadcast live on MRTV, MRTV Sports Channel and Channel 7, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Thet Htar Thuzar to compete in Syed Modi Int'l Badminton Championships in India

MYANMAR badminton icon Thet Htar Thuzar will compete in the 2019 Syed Modi International Badminton Championships, which will take place from 26 November to 1 December at the Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium in Lucknow, India, according to her official social media page.

Organized under the supervision of the Badminton Association of India, the competition is a Grade-2 level Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Badminton World Federation World Tour Super 300 tournament, according to the World Badminton Federation.

The prize money for the tourney has been set at US\$150,000.

The world's best badminton players will be competing in the women's singles event of the tourney: He Bing Jiao from China (world ranking 7), Michelle Li from Canada (world ranking 8), Saina Nehwal from India (world ranking 9), An Se Young from South Korea (world ranking 10), and Carolina Marin from Spain (world ranking 19).

In Round 1, Thet Htar Thuzar will face South Korean bad-



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

minton player Sim Yu, who is 52nd in the world rankings.

If Thet Htar Thuzar passes Round 1, she will face Carolina Marin, who was ranked No. 1 and was the champion of the 2016 Olympics in Brazil, according to

Thet Htar Thuzar's social page.

Currently, Thet Htar Thuzar has reached 68 in world rankings, and has a good potential to advance in the upcoming 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Midfielder Yan Paing Soe joins Yangon United for 2 years

MIDFIELDER Yan Paing Soe from Ayeyawady United recently signed a two-year contract with the Yangon United, according to a statement issued by the football club.

The 24-year-old midfielder started his football career with the Ayeyawady United junior team in 2012, and he showcased his skills while at the club. Yan Paing Soe was also chosen for the senior team of the Ayeyawady United in 2015.

His best stint was in 2017 when he was selected on the

U-22 Myanmar national team and participated in the M-150 Cup in Thailand and the KBZ Bank Cup in Myanmar.

Speaking about joining Yangon United, Yan Paing Soe said: "I am happy to join this club. I will try my best when the club gives me a chance to show my performance. Of course, all I have to do is focus on the matches and do my best."

"Please keep watching and supporting me. I will be a part of the team and deliver the success that our fans want," the midfielder added.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Midfielder Yan Paing Soe holds the insignia of the Yangon United F.C. after joining the team. **PHOTO: YUFC**

World Cup winner De Klerk celebrates Sale return with La Rochelle win

PARIS (FRANCE) — South Africa's Rugby World Cup winner Faf de Klerk made a victorious return to club duty as Sale beat 14-man La Rochelle 25-15 in the European Champions Cup on Sunday.

De Klerk lifted the Webb Ellis Trophy earlier in the month and featured for 75 minutes as the English clinched their first win of

the campaign to move second in Pool 2 behind Exeter but a point ahead of Glasgow in third place.

The French outfit played the entire second half with just 14 men after France hooker Pierre Bourgarit was shown a red card for making putting his fingers into contact with the eye of the hosts' flanker Tom Curry.

Sale led 7-0 after eight minutes as the US Eagles' fly-half AJ MacGinty converted Rohan Janse van Rensburg's try. Vincent Rattiez's effort after 20 minutes and Brock James' extras brought the side level. MacGinty, who featured for the Americans at the World Cup, slotted a penalty on 32 minutes before Bourgarit's moment

of madness two minutes before the break.

As England's Curry scuffled with La Rochelle's Dany Priso, Bourgarit gouged the flanker's eyes from behind and was sent for an early shower after referee Andrew Brace asked his video official for a second opinion.

Despite inferiority on the field

La Rochelle's James brought the sides level with a three-pointer four minutes into the second half.

But the home side were awarded a penalty try, MacGinty added another kick at goal and Chris Ashton scored before the visitors' Jeremy Sinzelle crossed for a consolation effort after the clock turned red.—AFP ■