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President U Win Myint receives outgoing Vietnamese Ambassador



President U Win Myint and a delegation led by Vietnamese Ambassador Dr Luan Thuy Duong pose for a photograph at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRESIDENT U Win Myint received Ambassador of Viet Nam Dr Luan Thuy Duong who has completed her tour of duty at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to promotion of friendly relations between the two countries, promotion of bilateral cooperation in education,

trade, customs and culture related sectors, signing Memoranda of Understanding, increasing all-round cooperation of friendly relations between Myanmar and Viet Nam and

bilateral cooperation in the international arena including ASEAN and United Nations.

Also present at the meeting were U Min Thu, Union Minister for the Office of the

Union Government, U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation and officials. — MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw approves National Library Bill

THE 12th-day meeting of the 14th regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting Hluttaw approves the National Library bill after asterisk marked questions raised were answered. Later three annual reports were read.

Asterisk marked questions and answer

In the asterisk marked questions and answer session questions raised by U Paik Ko of Pakokku constituency on opening a sub primary school in Pakokku Township, Phaung Kwe Village Tract, Wah Kyun Twin Village; Daw Ni Shwe Hlwan of Thantlan constituency on plan to appoint ethnic Chin teachers in Chin State to teach ethnic languages; Daw Ni Ni May Myint of Taungup constituency on a plan to construct a school building in Taungup Township Kyaw Kaing Village Basic Education Middle School; U Shwe Ko of Kyaukpadaung constituency on a plan to up-



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

grade Kyaukpadaung Township Lay Village Basic Education Sub High School to a high school and U Myat Lay Oo of Htilin constituency on plan to appoint six high school teachers required in Htilin Basic Education High School were answered by Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun.

A question raised by U Aung Soe of Yinmabin constituency on Alaungdaw Kathapa Pagoda trustee board's collection and utilization of funds by financial year and plan to appoint a new trustee board was

answered by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min.

Questions raised by U Aung Myint Shein of Mabein constituency on the reason for the rejection of 44 applications from Mabein Township students to attend University for Development of National Races 5 years education degree course and U Kyaw Htay of Leshi constituency on plan to distribute water to villages in Leshi Township were answered by Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut.

Hluttaw approves National Library Bill

Next, Bill Committee member U Wai Hlaing Tun submitted to the Hluttaw 32 amendments of the committee made to National Library bill submitted by Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker obtained the decision of the Hluttaw to approve the amendments after obtaining the comments of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

Later, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker obtained the comment of the Hluttaw to approve the entire National Library Bill. As there was no objection to it, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker made an announcement of Hluttaw approving the bill.

Three annual reports read and submitted to the Hluttaw

Following this Pyithu Hluttaw Education Promotion Committee annual report, Pyithu Hluttaw Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Social Development Committee annual report and Pyithu Hluttaw Economic and Financial Development Com-

mittee annual report were read and submitted to the Hluttaw by committee member U Myint Ngwe, committee secretary U Maung Maung Oo and committee member U Zaw Win respectively. After each report was read and submitted, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the report to register their names.

The 13th-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 14th regular session is scheduled for 10 December. — Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw passes Myanmar Geoscience Council Bill

THE 14th regular session of Second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 12th-day meeting yesterday and approves Myanmar Geoscience Council Bill.

Questions raised were answered and a committee report was also read at the meeting.

Questions and answer session

The meeting starts with question and answer session



Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw. PHOTO: MNA

where a question raised by U Kyaw Thaung of Sagaing Region constituency 1 on plan to increase MVA of Sagaing Region Sagaing Township Ohndaw sub-station was answered by Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy U Khin Maung Win.

A question raised by U Win Aung of Sagaing Region constituency 3 on upgrading a road in Sagaing Region Kanbalu Township was answered by Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw.

Questions raised by U Kyaw Than of Rakhine State constituency 10 on plan to repair Sonny Khin (Kalakari) embankment in Rakhine State, Kyaukpyu Township; U Khin Maung Latt of Rakhine State constituency 3 on plan to allocate 20 per cent or appropriate percentage of tax income from fishery blocks in offshore Rakhine State toward development of fishery sector in Rakhine State and



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

U Win Maung of Magway Region constituency 6 on repairing irrigation canal and sluice gates in Magway Region, Salin Township damaged by natural disaster were answered by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw.

Hluttaw approves Myanmar

Geoscience Bill

Following the question and answer session Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Daw Kyein Ngai Mahn read and explained the bill committee report on Myanmar Geoscience Council Bill approved and sent by Pyithu Hluttaw.

Afterwards, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing

Than obtained the decision of the Hluttaw and approved the bill.

Reading of Amyotha Hluttaw committee report

As a final agenda of the day, Amyotha Hluttaw construction, industry, electricity and energy committee report for the committee's work from 21 March 2018 to the end of Second Amyotha Hluttaw 13th regular session was read by committee secretary U Mya Min Swe.

Following this Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the report to register their names.

13th-day meeting of Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 14th regular session will be held on 10 December. — Aung Ye Thwin (MNA) ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

VP U Myint Swe visits border trade centres in Taninthayi Region



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the speech during the meeting with the officials at the Mawtaung border trade centre in Taninthayi Township, Myeik District, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

VICE President U Myint Swe, in his capacity as Chairman of the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee, visited Htikhee border trade centre in Dawei Township, Dawei District, and Mawtaung border trade centre in Taninthayi Township, Myeik District yesterday.

The Vice President took a flight from Yangon to Myeik in Taninthayi Region at 8 am yesterday. He was welcomed at Myeik Airport by Regional Chief Minister U Myint Maung, Regional Chief Justice U Tin Aung, regional ministers, Hlut-taw representatives and other officials.

From there, the Vice President was flown by Tatmadaw aircraft to Htikhee border trade centre. He was accompanied by the Regional Chief Minister, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Thu, U Aung Htoo, U Sett Aung and U Kyaw Lin, regional ministers, permanent secretaries and other officials. He arrived at the centre at 10 am.

Upon arrival, the Vice President received an explanation from Trade Department Deputy Director-General U Myint Thura on the centre's facts, trade situation, bi-lateral trade, confiscation of illegal trade, the four illegal trade routes, and promotion of trade. The Regional Chief Minister provided additional inputs and explained the situa-

tion of the centre and regional development. Deputy Ministers U Kyaw Lin, U Sett Aung and U Aung Htoo and permanent secretaries U Aung Naing Oo and U Khin Maung Yi then presented briefings about their respective sectors.

The Vice President responded by saying that the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee was formed with 13 tasks to promote cooperation between the different departments to counter the rising global illegal trade index caused by Myanmar's illegal trade. He said this is why he was here, to ensure the nation receives its due revenue, to protect domestic MSMEs, to uncover and take action against illegal trade, prevent bribery, and ensure correct market competition.

The Vice President said that eradicating illegal trade is essential to develop the national economy. He said the success of national policies on border trade depends on the cooperation of officials, especially eradicating illegal drugs. He said Free Trade Zones (FTZs) and Special Economic Zones must be used and methods to prevent illegal trade must be employed. He said proper action against illegal trade must be enforced to protect domestic production and trade and the benefits of domestic businesses. He said a reward and punishment mech-

anism to address illegal trade must be swiftly implemented.

Next, the Vice President observed the Htikhee border gate and trade centre by motorcade. The trade centre was opened on 27 March 2011 temporarily at Nabulae and moved to Htikhee on the Myanmar-Thai border on 11 May 2013. It was moved to its current location on 31 October 2016. The trade centre is 97 miles away from Dawei Town.

Next, the Vice President and entourage went by Tatmadaw aircraft to Mawtaung border trade centre and landed at the Pyae Phyo Tun Company landing area around 1:10 pm.

Inside the company's meeting hall, Deputy Director-General U Myint Thura explained about the trade routes, trade centre facts, annual trade situation, the three illegal trade routes situation, confiscation of

illegal goods, and action plans for promoting trade.

Next, Chief Minister U Myint Maung provided additional explanations and the situation of the trade centre and regional development.

The Vice President responded by saying that illegal trade needs to be absolutely eradicated and rule of law is extremely important. He said people-centered development needs to be made successful by all officials concerned and the assigned objectives and tasks to eradicate illegal trade needs to be followed systematically. He said that effective actions needs to be taken against illegal good to ensure there is no gap in bilateral trade between the two countries.

Next, the Vice President observed the Mawtaung border gate and trade centre by motorcade. He then visited the 16-bed Mawtaung cottage hospital, encouraged patients and handed over donations.

Mawtaung border trade centre is located in Mawtaung Town, Myeik District Taninthayi Region, and located 118 miles from Myeik Town and opened on 8 May 2013.

In the evening, the Vice President and entourage departed by Tatmadaw aircraft from Mawtaung border trade centre and arrived in Myeik Town. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Vice President U Myint Swe visits the 16-bed Mawtaung cottage hospital in Taninthayi Township, Myeik District yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Govt mulls direct air link between Bagan, Siem Reap

THE National Tourism Development Central Committee held a meeting yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw on implementing a direct air-link between Bagan and Siem Reap, Cambodia, as part of the northern Buddhism package tour.

Speaking at the meeting, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as chairman of the committee, said that the direct air route would be a part of the northern Buddhism Tour.

He referred to the meeting between the State Counsellor and Nepalese leaders during her trip to Nepal in November, and said that Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand, and Laos could cooperate in arranging pilgrimage tours between ASEAN countries, taking advantage of the important sites in Buddhist countries.

If the countries can establish direct air links, package tourism can flourish, said the Vice President.

Myanma Airways International (MAI) operated Yangon-Siem Reap-Yangon, Yangon-Phnom Penh-Yangon, and Yangon-Siem Reap-Phnom Penh-Yangon flights from 2011 to 2014.

When the Cambodian deputy prime minister visited Myanmar



Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers the speech during the National Tourism Development Central Committee meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

in March, 2017, the two sides agreed to promote 'Angkor-Bagan, Two ancient capitals-One Destination' tour.

The Action Plan to implement the agreement was signed by the two countries at the Cambodia Tourism Fair in November, 2017.

Following the meeting, the vice president also held a meeting with Myanmar authorities in

October and in November, 2017, and coordinated with the departments concerned to implement the flight.

As a result of the meeting, the Mandalay International Airport was upgraded to equip it to handle international charter planes.

UAE's Emirate Airlines also launched an air link between Myanmar and Cambodia in July,

2017, but the operation halted on 1 June, 2018.

Similarly, Cambodia based JC International Airlines launched the Phnom Penh-MacaO-Mandalay-MacaO-Phnom Penh route on 15 August 2019 every Tuesday and Friday.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio said he met with Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen during his visit to Cambo-

dia in November and during the call, Mr Hun Sen expressed his willingness to operate a direct air-link between the two famous ancient cities of Bagan and Siem Reap. The new air link is not aimed at just development of tourism but also for strengthening the friendly relations between Myanmar and Cambodia, said the vice president.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko.



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung.



Union Minister U Thein Swe.



Union Minister U Ohn Maung.



Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win.



U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, holds talks with a delegation led by US Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Asia Mr Robert Kaproth and US Ambassador Mr Scot Marciel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

CBM Governor receives US delegation

THE Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, received US Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Asia Mr Robert Kaproth and the US Ambassador Mr Scot Marciel at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They discussed improvements of Myanmar's banking and financial sectors, stability for Myanmar currency exchange rate, plans to reduce interest rates, effective enforcement of eradicating money laundering and financing of terrorism, and assistance in transnational remittances. — MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

VP U Henry Van Thio highlights digital economy roadmap

THE Digital Economy Development Committee, with Vice President U Henry Van Thio as Patron, held its third meeting at the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The Vice President said that the meeting would focus on making the short-term and long-term objectives of the digital economy roadmap more comprehensive. He added that Industry 4.0 had emerged together with the 21st Century digital economic wave and history has shown nations quickly utilizing economic changes receive swift development to their society and economy.

The Vice President said this is why nations all over the world are placing great emphasis on Industry 4.0 and a digital economy, especially so that they would not be left behind in technological development and to maintain sustainable progress.

Developing a digital economy is more than just establishing new tech companies or producing software and hardware for sale. It involves adapting or employing digital technology to existing sectors such as agriculture, livestock, manufacturing and SMEs. It also encompasses promoting digital literacy among the public in order to facilitate better use of information and technology, said the Vice President.



Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers the speech at the third meeting of Digital Economy Development Committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

He said the digital economy roadmap is a living document subject to continued improvement. The roadmap contains 6 strategies and 9 priority sectors with goals and action plan for 2020 to 2025, and focuses on converting traditional businesses into tech-savvy startups and incorporating the priority sectors into the economic sector of Myanmar. He said startups need to emerge in every sector and that Myanmar should observe proven technology solutions and adapt them into processes in the country.

The Vice President said while Myanmar may be in the lower 100 tier rank for digital economy, it has managed to rapidly employ 3G and 4G technologies in a short period of time. Mobile sim card usage has actually exceeded 126% and there is a significant proportion of digitally literate youths, he said, adding that Myanmar could learn from those ahead in digital development, adapt and leapfrog in time.

Next, Committee Chairman Union Minister U Soe Win said the Yangon Innovation Center

has been opened to nurture young innovators in Yangon and to uplift the nation's digital economy.

Following this, officials discussed implementation of decisions from the previous meeting, and the ongoing and future processes of action plans of the various subcommittees. Attendees also discussed drafting a master plan based on Myanmar industry 4.0, usage of MM QR Code, and other matters related to digital transformation.

The Vice President delivered a closing speech at the end

of the meeting urging attendees to give their best efforts in developing the digital sector of Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting were Union PFI Minister U Soe Win, Deputy Minister U Thar Oo, Deputy Mayor U Ye Min Oo, permanent secretaries, directors-general, and officials from Myanmar Computer Federation (MCF) and Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI). — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Myanmar-India Foreign Office Consultations held in New Delhi

A MYANMAR delegation led by U Soe Han, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar attended the 18th round of Myanmar-India Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) held in New Delhi, India on 6 December 2019.

U Soe Han, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Vijay Gokhale, Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of India co-chaired the FOC, which was held at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi on the morning of 6 December 2019. The Foreign Office Consultations was attended by U Moe Kyaw Aung, Myanmar Ambassador to India, Mr

Saurabh Kumar, Ambassador of India to Myanmar and responsible officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, the Myanmar Embassy in New Delhi and the Ministry of External Affairs of India.

At the Foreign Office Consultations, both sides cordially discussed a wide range of matters pertaining to the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation, exchange of high level visits, boundary matters and border cooperation, security and defence cooperation, development of ongoing projects in Myanmar, trade and commerce matters, implementation of agreements and Memoranda of Understanding signed between



Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Soe Han and Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of India Mr Vijay Gokhale attend the 18th round of Myanmar-India Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi on 6 December 2019. **PHOTO: MNA**

the two countries, capacity building in various sectors, consular and cultural cooperation, and potential areas of future

cooperation between the two countries.

The Indian Foreign Secretary Mr Vijay Gokhale hosted a

working lunch to the Permanent Secretary U Soe Han and the Myanmar delegation in the afternoon of the same day.—MNA

Statement by Myanmar National Human Rights Commission issued a statement dated 6th December.

Following is the full-text of the statement.

Being convinced that Genocide is contrary to the spirit and aims of the United Nations, Myanmar signed the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide about a year after it was approved by the United Nations General Assembly. It was learnt that while submitting to the Parliament, the then Minister concerned explained the position of Myanmar with regard to the prevention of genocide and the Parliament gave approval for the ratification. The statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs mentioned that Myanmar up to this point in time has been adhering steadfastly to the position it has taken since becoming a State Party to the Convention. In addition, it has been learnt that the Office of the President of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has formed a Special Unit on International Criminal Justice in order to strengthen internal capacity and expertise and to provide legal opinion to relevant Ministries on issues related to international criminal law.

Myanmar is the 58th Member among the 193 Member States of the United Nations. It has been learnt that the State Counsellor, in her capacity as Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, will lead the Myanmar delegation to the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, holding on to the position that the Government will not cast aspersions on any nation, race, religion, or group, either directly or indirectly, in defending the nation at the ICJ.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission fully supports this endeavour to fulfill its role as a responsible Member of the United Nations and wishes all the success.—MNA

Tourists arrivals up 650,000 in ten months

THE number of tourists visiting Myanmar rose by more than 650,000 between January and October compared with the same period of last year, according to official statistics from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

A total of 3,523,784 tourists visited Myanmar between 1 January and 30 October this year, while 2,844,508 tourists came to the country in the same period of 2018. The number of tourists visiting Myanmar has increased by 679,276 this year.

In the 10 months since January, 1,414,972 tourists entered Myanmar via the international airport, with 6,307 tourists arriving via cruise liners and 100,091 tourists entering via the border gates on a visa. In addition,

20,002,414 tourists visited Myanmar via the border gates using the border pass while 1,521,370 tourists used visas.

The significant increase in tourist arrivals during the period can be attributed to the influx of a large number of tourists from Asian countries, especially China. The other countries include South Korea, Japan, India, Taiwan, and the Philippines.

Most tourist arrivals in Myanmar are from Western European countries, particularly from Spain and Italy.

Myanmar received 4.6 million tourists in 2015, 2.91 million in 2016, 3.44 million in 2017, and 3.55 million in 2018, and the number of tourist arrivals is likely to increase in 2019.—GNLM (Translated by Hay Mar) ■

UEC Chairman U Hla Thein arrives back from PRC



Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein is welcomed back by Ambassador of PRC Mr Chen Hai at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

CHAIRMAN of Union Election Commission U Hla Thein and party arrived back home yesterday after undertaking a study tour in the People's Republic

of China. The delegation led by UEC Chairman U Hla Thein was welcomed back by Ambassador of PRC Mr Chen Hai and officials

from UEC office and Yangon Region Sub-Election Commission at the Yangon International Airport. — MNA ■ (Translated by TTN)

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives Phoenix Association Chairman



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein meets with a delegation led by U Thiha Kyaing, Chairman of Phoenix Association in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

PYITHU Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein received a delegation led by U Thiha Kyaing, Chairman of the Phoenix Association, yesterday at his office in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on amending law of Narcotic

Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Law enacted on 14 February 2018, difficulties faced by civil society organizations regarding the law, suggestions of legal experts and policies and procedures.

Present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee Chairman U Khin

Maung Win, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee Chairman U Zaw Min, secretary of Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee U Kyaw Soe Lin, Secretary of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee Dr Myat Nyana Soe and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw office.—MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing addresses DSA graduation ceremony

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the 61st intake graduation ceremony at the Defence Services Academy (DSA) in PyinOoLwin yesterday.

In his address, the Senior General said that the DSA has nurtured young leaders with the necessary skills and heart required for the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, Air Force) and they need to maintain this standard when carrying out their assigned tasks. He said that they need to practice good leadership, become a role model for their peers, and acquire the trust and respect of others as well.

The Senior General said that the Tatmadaw is tasked with defending the nation and defence entails preparation and training as opposed to carrying out immediately. He said while the DSA provided the fundamentals of military and literature education, they must continually improve themselves and the troops un-

der their command. He said they must be physically fit, skilled in their relevant sector, brave and continually self-improving.

The Senior General said that the Tatmadaw upholds the three tasks of non-disintegration of the nation, ethnic solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty as the pinnacle of national policies, and to carry out their assigned tasks even at the cost of sacrificing one's own life. He said as the Tatmadaw was formed from among the various ethnic races of the people, they must protect the livelihood of all citizens and ensure their daily safety.

The Senior General said that while the nation has all the natural resources essential for a country, it still needs resources to ensure peace and the long armed conflicts in the country have to be quelled completely to establish a modern, developed and united country. He said the Tatmadaw is working not just for immediate peace, but for everlasting peace and stability. He said the peace



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects graduation parade of the cadets of 61st Intake of the DSA in Pyin Oo Lwin. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

process implementation must be done in line with the NCA path, which will eventually lead to a genuine democratic republic based on a federal system.

The Senior General said that this is why the Tatmadaw stands only with the NCA path and con-

tinues strongly with the peace process. He said they would endeavour to deliver completion of the peace process and everlasting peace desired by the people in 2020. He concluded his address by encouraging the graduates to practice their acquired skills

and become dependable good leaders for the nation and the Tatmadaw, according to information released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister for Information receives Turkish Ambassador

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint received Ambassador of Turkey Mr Kerem Divanlioglu at the guest hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to news media sector in Myanmar and Turkey.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint shakes hands with Ambassador of Turkey Mr Kerem Divanlioglu in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo receives UNDP Resident representative

UNION Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo received UNDP Resident Representative Mr Gordon Johnson at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed matters related to implementation of UAG office's first Strategic Plan (2015-2019) that was designed with the help of UNDP, UNDP's continued support for

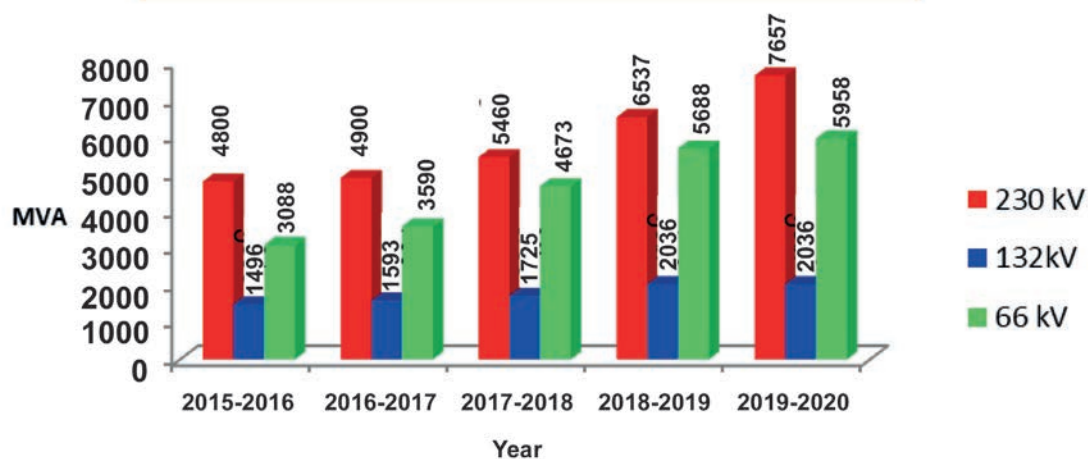
implementation the five goals adopted in the second Strategic Plan (2020-2024) which was compiled with the assistance from USAID (PRLM), achievements in cooperation with UNDP, UNDP's collaboration with the Coordinating Body and the Rule of Law Centre, providing technical assistance to UAG office.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)



Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo meets with UNDP Resident Representative Mr Gordon Johnson in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ministry of Electricity and Energy Annual establishment of sub-power stations extended



Trade Mark Ads

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Step up war on illicit trade

IT is an undeniable fact that illicit trade is thriving in Myanmar. Why? There are several reasons. Private firms in Myanmar are in the process of transitioning into listed companies. The nation is also going through another transformation: moving from a weaker to stronger rule of law.

To curb illicit trade, the government has formed task forces in nine regions and states which share a border with neighboring countries. The government is also trying to end armed conflict to achieve complete peace.

Illegal trade entails a massive loss of potential tax revenue, thereby negatively affecting the economy, natural environment, and society. Illicit trade also does not come under the purview of the law as it is operated by illegal groups.

Illicit trade violates the taxation law and has negative consequences. A market flooded with illegal goods makes it difficult for domestic small and medium enterprises to sustain themselves, while hampering the nation's industrial development. Corruption and an unfavorable economic environment also scare away foreign investors.

Effective strategies and plans are sine qua non for preventing illicit traders from taking advantage of Free Trade Zones (FTZs) and Special Economic Zones (SEZs), and to crack down on illicit trade in accordance with the law.

The Anti-Corruption Commission has drawn up a strategy to fight illicit trade for 2018-2021, and is implementing the national-level strategy.

Hence, the authorities concerned now bear the responsibility of preventing tax evasion, giving protection to micro, small and medium enterprises, fighting illicit trade, curbing corruption, and encouraging fair competition in the market.

As the fight against illicit trade is crucial for the development of the country's economy, the authorities concerned must work in unity and coordinate with each other to make the policies on border trade a success.

It is especially important to give priority to the fight against drug trafficking in the drive in the regions and states.

Effective strategies and plans are sine qua non for preventing illicit traders from taking advantage of Free Trade Zones (FTZs) and Special Economic Zones (SEZs), and to crack down on illicit trade in accordance with the law.

The fourth amendment to the Anti-Corruption Law, sub-section (A), Section-3, bars officials from abusing their power by using their position in the administration. Under the law, action can be taken against those who give and receive bribes.

These efforts show that the Union Government is stepping up its efforts to fight illicit trade. Hence, the people, Hluttaw representatives, private businesses, media, and the local authorities are urged to actively participate in the drive to combat illicit trade.

The importance of the interim census

By Maung Mudita

POPULATION censuses around the world are a resource of basic civilian information and can assist in the workings of the smallest administration areas, including drafting development projects. Furthermore, they can also assist in the distribution of natural resources, reviewing borders and population density, making decisions in constructing schools, hospitals, health departments, roads and other basic infrastructure, and conducting research in various areas.

Thirty years after 1983, the first nationwide population and housing census was conducted across Myanmar in 2014, from 30 March to 10 April. There were 80,556 designated areas for compiling the census and it was done to professional international standards. The census showed the national population was 51,486,253 back then.

The census helped to produce an early demographic list, a main report, state/regional reports, an image of Myanmar formed from the census, an employment and business report, religious demographic report, township-level and sub-township-level reports and even 13 in-depth research papers.

National development projects and other initiatives after 1983 were mostly conducted on yearly estimates and this practice continued for thirty years until the 2014 Census was compiled. The processes became more exact and efficient after that. The information from the census helped

not just the government, but also other international and domestic organizations and researchers.

The census made drafting short and long term projects more efficient. In essence, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, assisting government departments, UNFPA, international organizations and civil society organizations should be commended for their efforts in compiling the valuable information contained in the 2014 Census.

An interim census emerges

Conducting a nationwide survey for compiling a census is vastly time-consuming and requires a lot of resources, human and otherwise, that most countries only conduct them once every ten years. It would follow then that the next census for Myanmar would be done in 2024.

However, various sectors across the globe are developing at a rapid pace and socioeconomic facts and information are changing at the same quick pace. Ten years is too wide a gap to fulfill the deficit of information in the period before the next census. Thus, we see our neighbours conducting interim censuses to compensate.

The Department of Population used population science and the 2014 Census to estimate Myanmar's population has grown to 54,101,253 in an announcement made on 1 April this year. This means there was an increase of 2.6 million people between 2014 to 2019.

Just as the population in-



creases and changes every year, we can logically assume that socioeconomic changes must be taking place as well. Modern numbers and information are needed to design accurate projects. That is why Myanmar will also conduct an interim census so as to see the differences between it and the 2014 Census and to produce updated information.

Another reason for the interim census is to make estimates for 2024 as accurate as possible when comparing it to the 2014 Census and the changes to the population and socio-economic situation that will come about in the decade between them. It would also aid in future research papers and the implementation of Myanmar's Sustainable Development Plan.

The interim census may not be as in-depth as the 2014 Census but it will at least aim to gather information at the district-level of each state and region. But it will

still follow the same four steps as the last census, and this involves preparation, gathering information, compilation, and reviewing and finalization.

Another difference is the census won't be conducted at the same time but rather collected from designated sample areas. The working committees will still be formed in the same way as before. Maps compiled in the 2014 Census were digitized using Google Map and GIS technology and compiling data on the number of buildings and such went smoother when drawing from past experience.

A total of 4,200 sample areas have been designated for the interim census and data will be collected for district-level statistics and indexes. One designated area will contain 35 households and each surveyor must collect data from 70 households within a span of 14 days and every four

surveyor will constitute one team with a separate leader.

Collection in four phases

The interim census will be done in four phases with the first phase conducted in Kachin State, Chin State and Nay Pyi Taw Council Territory from 18 November to 1 December, 2019. The second phase will be done in Kayin, Kayah and Mon states and Tanintharyi and Ayeyawaddy regions from 11 to 24 December 2019.

The third phase will be in Bago, Sagaing and Magway regions from 2 to 15 January, 2020 and the fourth and final phase will be in Shan State, Rakhine State, Yangon Region and Mandalay Region from 15 to 28 January of the same year.

The interim census will be done using the latest Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) technology on mobile tablets for the first time. Government

department officials will be conducting the census and aided by energetic local youths who would have received proper training beforehand.

The technological advancement is another difference from the 2014 Census. While it was done using the old fashioned pencil-on-paper method for answering 41 questions to citizens, the mobile tablet will allow faster and accurate recording of citizens answering to 110 questions. These will all be uploaded to the main server of the Population Department headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw. The increase in number of questions is to accommodate the needs of government departments and others whose works rely on this data.

Of course, the use of modern technology means there is a requirement for skilled mobile tablet users and the expenses concerned with purchasing the equipment

and related accessories. On the other hand, there is a dramatic reduction of human resource, time and energy consumption and the work can additionally be then faster and more efficiently.

Furthermore, there will also be an evident decrease in human error when inputting information. Not only that, the information collected can be disseminated in real time and mobile tablets can be used in future projects as well.

110 questions

The 110 questions to be asked in the interim census can be divided into 11 different categories. These include 13 questions on population information, 2 questions on domestic migration, 12 questions on education, 10 questions on labour affairs, 8 questions on reproduction, 1 question on living with disabilities, 5 questions on elderly life, 7 questions on inclusiveness, receiving assistance

and quality of life, 15 questions on migrating abroad, 11 questions on house and home, 14 questions on environmental and individual cleanliness, and 2 questions on death and maternal death.

Interviewing all 110 questions will consume an average 45 minutes per person and the interviewers are accountable for maintaining confidentiality of the interviewees. The interviewers are also instructed to conduct only on the basis of data-gathering for the interim census and cannot use the interview for probing into other unrelated matters.

The questions mentioned above are all related to establishing the necessary indexes and statistics to run projects for socio-economic development. The answers of each household will be compiled and evaluated to produce useful data for regional development.

While the interim census will not be as far-reaching or comprehensive as the census before it, it will provide valuable data when used for comparison and to see changes reflected. This will without a doubt supplement the efforts of the nation.

However, it requires the active participation and trust of the people of Myanmar. Everyone's truthful answer is a point towards our collective development. The theme of the 2014 census campaign was 'A nationwide census - Let us all Participate' and it applies just as equally to the currently ongoing interim census.

(Translated by Pen Dali)

Solar Power Generation

Solar power was generated in Rakhine State for the electrification of villages that have not connected to the national grid.

	1 Jan - 30 Apr 2018	1 May - 31 Aug 2018	1 Sep - 31 Dec 2018	1 Jan - 30 Apr 2019	1 May - 31 Aug 2019
Tender selection and contract-signing for the installation of 8092 sets of solar lamps		Installation of 2608 sets of solar lamps and 5056 sets of solar lamps under the National Electrification Plan (NEP)	Installation of 359 sets of solar lamps for additional rehabilitation work, 69 sets of solar lamps under the National Electrification Plan (NEP) and contract-signing for additional 13,394 sets	Work for the installation of 13,394 sets of solar lamps	Supplies are at Yangon Port by the end of August 2019

Water Supply

During this reporting period, 157 rural area water supply projects were implemented. Quarterly implementation of such projects is shown in the table below.

No.	Projects	1 Jan - 30 Apr 2018	1 May - 31 Aug 2018	1 Sep - 31 Dec 2018	1 Jan - 30 Apr 2019	1 May - 31 Aug 2019
1	Hand-dug wells	79	72	30	11	19
2	Ponds	89	4	63	17	53
3	Springs	2	-	16	7	7
4	Dredging ponds	44	-	-	-	-
5	Shallow wells	-	-	5	-	5
6	Deep wells	-	-	-	-	1
7	Other sources of water	25	21	5	22	15
Total		239	97	119	57	100

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

Myanmar film nets trophies at Asian Academy Creative Awards 2019

THE ASIAN Academy Creative Awards (AAA) 2019 was held at Singapore Victoria Theatre, Singapore, on 5 December evening.

During the Grand Award ceremony, the Best Children's Programme Award went to Australia, Best Animated Programme Award went to India, Best Short Form Content Award went to Myanmar for a Still/Life short film, Best Immersive Award went to China (Taiwan), Best Branded Programme Award went to Thailand, The Best Promo or Trailer Award went to Viet Nam, The Best Current Affairs Programme Award went to Singapore, The Best Sin-

gle News Award went to China, Best Documentary Award went to China, Best Direction (Non-Fiction) Award went to Singapore, Best Editing Award went to China (Taiwan), Best Sound Award went to the Philippines, and Best Visual or Special Fx Award went to Australia.

In addition, the Best Actress in a Supporting Role award went to Myanmar's child actress Pyae Pyae for her role in the film 'The Only Mom', produced by Brave Empire productions. Pyae Pyae was present at the award ceremony alongside Brave Empire Producer U Soe Hlaing and actress Wutt Hmone



Asian Academy Creative Awards 2019 event is being held in Singapore.

Shwe Yi.

'The Only Mom' also won 6 Regional Awards of the Asian Academy Creative Awards 2019.

AAA was established to promote the creative skills of

youths from different countries. It is supported by the Singapore Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA).—Nyein Ko (FDC)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Week-long survey on to explore bus-rail connectivity: YRTA

By Nyein Nyein

A week-long survey has been launched to explore linking train and bus stations, and depending on its findings, the bus-rail connectivity project will be taken forward, said U Hla Aung, joint secretary of the Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is conducting a survey, for the first time, from 2 to 8 December, on a pilot project that is currently on at the Thamine Railway Station (Baho road). Suggestions and opinions will be sought from the public as

part of the survey.

"The survey is being conducted. We want to gauge public opinion to find out if the project is effective for the public or not, invite suggestions for more projects, and explore public attitudes towards the project. The survey will be conducted by JICA. Depending upon the results, we will carry out the connected operation between trains and buses," said U Hla Aung.

"We want to boost transportation in future. That is why we are implementing the pilot project. By implementing the connected operation, the passengers can calculate the

travel time, and travel with ease and comfort," he added.

"The public transportation network is very important for people and the economic sector. Currently, YBS bus terminals are located near Thamine Station (Baho road). So, passengers will find it more convenient to change from bus to train and vice versa," he said.

"Moreover, preparations are being made to ensure the convenience of passengers and adopt rules and regulations for passengers to follow at bus stations. PR is being conducted jointly with the public, with guidance staff appointed to give directions at

the stations, and project areas are being built," he said.

Currently, the connected operation bus line numbers are YBS 15,16,19,61,68,79,83,11,22, and 94. The bus-rail connectivity project will be conducted jointly by Myanma Railways, Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), YRTA, JICA, and the traffic police.

Under an agreement with the Myanmar government, JICA is supporting the development of the bus transportation system, in terms of bus driver training, technology development, and transportation sector development.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Stimulant tablets seized in Bhamo, Toungoo, Nawngkhio

POLICE seized stimulant tablets in Bhamo, Toungoo and Nawngkhio on 5 December and arrested three men involved in the drug trafficking.

A combined team comprised of members of a local anti-drug squad and police in Bhamo discovered 23,400 stimulant tablets in a search of a motorbike driven by Kyaw Hein.

On the same day, a local police in Toungoo found 14,440 stimulant tablets from Zaw Myo Naung Latt in a highway terminal in Toungoo. The

police searched him as he was suspected of connecting with the two motorcycles with drugs found at the terminal.

Similarly, a local police in Nawngkhio searched a bus and found 49,962 stimulant tablets from a bag in the bus and also seized a motorcycle which is connected with the case.

Action has been taken all suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. —GNLM

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Photo shows seized stimulant tablets and a vehicle and a motorcycle in Nawngkhio. **PHOTO: MPF**

E.SUN Bank's Yangon branch marks 3rd anniversary

THE Yangon branch of the E.SUN Bank celebrated its third year of operations yesterday, with officials reaffirming the bank's commitment to the Myanmar market.

The E.SUN, the only Chinese Taipei bank in Myanmar, hosted a gala dinner to mark the branch's third anniversary, and it was attended by E.SUN Bank founder and E.SUN FHC chairman Huang Yung-jen, E.SUN Bank chairman Gary Tseng, and E.SUN Bank president Joseph Huang, Dr. Myo Thet, Representative from the Myanmar Trade Office, Representative Chang Chun-fu from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Myanmar, and a number of business representatives from both

Chinese Taipei and Myanmar.

After setting up a representative office in Yangon in 2013, E.SUN Bank helped local banks improve their financial management standards.

E.SUN was the only Chinese Taipei bank permitted by the Central Bank of Myanmar in 2016 to establish a branch in Myanmar.

As part of the third-anniversary celebrations, the Yangon branch of the bank organized a symposium on 'Anti-money laundering (AML) and countering the finance of terrorism (CFT)' to explore the latest international trends on those fronts.

Currently, E.SUN Bank operates 28 overseas branches in nine countries or areas.



An event to mark the 3rd anniversary of E.SUN Bank (Yangon branch) held in Yangon yesterday.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Besides Myanmar, the bank is serving the Southeast Asian market through its Cambodian subsidiary UCB. The bank also has a branch in Singapore, Dong

Nai, and a representative office in Hanoi.

The bank offers specialized, tailor-made financial products in areas such as trade finance,

fund management, and investment that meet the needs of businesses seeking inroads into Southeast Asia, according to its officials.—GNLM

Thai investors eyeing tourism businesses in Taninthayi Region: DICA

By Nyein Nyein

AS Thai entrepreneurs are considering investing in tourism businesses in Taninthayi region, Thailand has sought information about the region from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, according to U Thant Sin Lwin, director-general of DICA.

"They contacted us a few days ago by email. In the email, they asked about how many islands in Taninthayi region there

are, how many roads there are, what kind of airplanes can be landed there, ways to reach hospitals, if there are any hospitals there, etc. They sent us questions, and most of them concerned travel," said U Thant Sin Lwin.

Entrepreneurs from Thailand, who plan to invest in the region's tourism sector, are trying to get the information from DICA and conducting research in order to draw up their plans, he added.

"Tourism businesses are enormous projects and we have

to submit proposals step by step. Then, we have to coordinate by requesting and sharing information," said U Thant Sin Lwin.

"The investors want to implement all-inclusive tourism in Taninthayi region. It will be a huge project because they want to ride the speedboat and use the airplane. But, we have to submit the proposals step by step, and we need to request some data from them. Also, they want to negotiate with us to get permission," he added.

In order to boost local and foreign investments, the Taninthayi investment forum 2019 is being organized on 7 December at the Pearl Laguna Resort in Myeik town, he added.

"Through such forums, investment opportunities can be showcased in the regions. Foreign investors and local entrepreneurs can network at the forum. Then, investments will flow into the country," he added.

There are investment opportunities in the tourism, fisheries,

and mining sectors in Taninthayi region. Currently, the region only has saltwater shrimp breeding and production industry, with a total investment of K3,300 million, according to official statistics provided by DICA.

According to the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC), Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of US\$1,392.629 billion flowed into the country from 1 October to 30 November. The MIC aims to attract \$5.8 billion in FDI this fiscal.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

AIA, AYA Financial Group comes together for landmark partnership

AIA Myanmar, China-based insurance company is pleased to announce that it has entered into a partnership with AYA financial group and Max Myanmar Group to offer life insurance, according to the AIA press release issued on 5 December.

The partnership, which is the first of its kind in Myanmar represents a long-term, strategic and purpose-led partnership between AIA and AFG MAX and will be focused on making strong social impact and providing insurance propositions to people of Myanmar, through a combination of AIA's deep insurance experience across Asia-Pacific and

AFG MAX's local expertise. The partnership also aims to raise the awareness of life and health insurance in the country, which are crucial to help Myanmar people live healthier, longer, better lives.

AIA Myanmar was awarded a life insurance license by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry to operate in the country through a 100% wholly-owned subsidiary on 28 November.

"We are extremely excited to be entering this long-term strategic partnership with the AFG MAX Group. We believe that we share a mutual aspiration to

contribute to Myanmar's social and economic development and to bring innovative solutions to this growing market while honoring the rich culture of Myanmar. This partnership will help AIA deliver on our brand promise of helping Myanmar people live healthier, longer, better lives," said Nhon (Luc) Ly, CEO of AIA Myanmar.

We are extremely pleased to enter into the partnership with AIA, one of the largest life insurers in the world. We strongly believe that AIA and AFG MAX will create the synergy needed to help us make a significant contribution to the lives of people

in Myanmar, said U Zaw Zaw, Chairman of AYA Financial Group and Max Myanmar Group.

In addition, as part of efforts to deliver social impact, AIA Myanmar and AFG MAX also announced their ambition to "Light up the lives of Myanmar people" through providing underprivileged families with access to electricity and to aid education of their children. The two partners will be donating solar panels to villages in Myanmar, with the hope of making a significant impact on the future of people in these villages.—GNLM

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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MRTV, JICA discuss development of broadcast sector

MYANMAR RADIO and Television, MRTV, a department of the Ministry of Information, along with Japan's International Cooperation Agency, JICA, held a workshop on promoting broadcast technology in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The workshop, held under the technical cooperation programme between Myanmar and Japan at the Ministry of Information, was attended by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, Directors-General, and officials of MRTV and JICA.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint called for the participants of the workshop to discuss the need for promoting the quality of the broadcast media of the MRTV.

The participants from the two sides also discussed guide-



PHOTO: MNA

lines for broadcasting, media ethics and reporters' manuals.

Broadcasting in Myanmar began in 1980 with the assistance of the Japanese Sasakawa Foundation, which built a broadcasting studio and provided equipment to Myanmar. "Japan's assistance can be said to have played an important role in launching the

broadcast media in Myanmar," said Union Minister Dr Pe Myint.

Following his speech, Chief Representative of JICA Myanmar Office, Mr Masayuki Karasawa, explained the purpose of the workshop. Afterwards, the two sides reviewed the undergoing cooperation in developing broadcast media of MRTV, a draft for

media ethics written by Myanmar and Japanese experts, reporter manuals, guidelines for broadcasting and a draft for extension of public interest programmes.

The workshop mainly focused assistance from JICA to promoting of MRTV's broadcast quality and plan for producing public interest programmes and

results of the implementation of the cooperation.

MRTV broadcast the colour TV Programmes in 1980s with the assistance of Japanese Sasakawa Foundation and JICA.

With the cultural assistance fund of Japan, Japan's NHK broadcast 383 programmes in MRTV channels. As a third cooperation between Japan and Myanmar, the two countries adopted a four-year project on promoting the quality of MRTV, and trained the MRTV staff and helped in producing public interests programmes. The 2019-2020 FY is the last year of the project.

Meanwhile, the equipment of the MRTV was upgraded with the JICA ODA Grant assistance.

A ceremony to launch the use of equipment was held at the MRTV (Yangon) on 7th September. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Myanmar Foreign PR applicants approved for next step

THE Central Committee on Implementing Permanent Residence for Foreign Citizens held

a coordination meeting at the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in Nay Pyi Taw

yesterday.

Committee Chairman and Union Minister of the aforemen-

tioned ministry, U Thein Swe, central committee members consisting of permanent secretaries and directors-general from various ministries and officials attended the meeting.

The Union Minister first delivered an address where he said the foreign permanent residence system was started in 2015 and there are four categories – expert professionals, investors, former citizens, and their blood relations. He said there have been 638 PR applicants so far, of which 591 have been approved. He said the central committee will review the reviewed applicants of the working committee at this meeting.

Next, an official on behalf of the Central Committee Secretary explained the workings of the for-

foreign PR system, the point-based system and current applicants, and steps to conduct interviews once the Central Committee gives approval. Central Committee members then discussed each applicant approved by the working committee and the Union Minister provided suggestions where necessary. He delivered a closing address at the end of the meeting.

The meeting reviewed 22 applicants approved by the working committee, which included a foreign investor; 11 former Myanmar citizens, 5 blood relations, and 5 affiliated family members. The Central Committee approved of all 22 applicants and will organize face-to-face interviews with them. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



YIA welcomes six millionth passenger of 2019

YANGON International Airport-YIA welcomed its six millionth passenger yesterday, as the aviation gateway looks set to record a new high for 2019 for passenger traffic.

Mr. Ameeramsa Musthafa and family from India, arrived yesterday from Kolkata on board IndiGo Airlines flight 6E 1398. The lucky family received a warm welcome from representatives of Yangon Aerodrome Company Limited ("YACL").

At the celebratory event in YIA Terminal 1, Mr. Ameeramsa

and family, the six millionth passenger of 2019 received K1 million in cash prize from YACL. Along with the cash prize, the winner also received other valuable travel-related items and gift vouchers presented from YACL's partners: 2 nights stay gift voucher from Horizon Lake View Resort, free VIP Service Voucher from Mingalar Sky Company Limited, from YACL (Samsonite Carryon, Artisan Traditional Bag, Fossil Passport holder, Myanmar Book, Myanmar Postcards (3x), JBL Speakers, Neck Pillow, Myanmar

Coffee and Myanmar Tea), from Royal Golden Sky Company Limited (Versus Bag, Fossil Watch, 2 x Lego toys for the lucky winner), and various supporting gifts from Espace Café & Bar, Craft Café and Gloria Jean's Cafe, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, and Monster Cheese.

Mr Ameeramsa said "It is with a huge surprise to me and my family and I am so happy to be the lucky winner winning one million kyats and amazing prizes today. I am happy and would like to congratulate Yangon Aerodrome Company Limited and

YIA currently



Mr. Ameeramsa Musthafa and family from India, with the team members of YIA and IndiGo Airlines. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Yangon International Airport for achieving 6 million passengers for 2019 today." YIA currently

serves 37 international airlines connecting to 37 destinations in 14 countries. —GNLM

Merkel visits Auschwitz for first time

OSWIECIM (Poland) — Germany's Angela Merkel crossed the gates of the former Auschwitz Nazi death camp in Poland on Friday for the first time in her 14 years as chancellor, promising to battle a new wave of anti-Semitism.

Merkel is only the third chancellor ever to visit the Nazi German camp where a million Jews were killed between 1940 and 1945 and which has come to symbolise the Holocaust as a whole. Her trip, which comes ahead of the 75th anniversary of the camp's liberation by Soviet troops on January 27, is being seen as an important political message.

On the eve of her visit, 65-year-old Merkel said that "the fight against anti-Semitism and against all forms of hate" was a priority for her government.

She also hailed a new 60-million-euro (\$66-million) donation for the



Merkel will become only the third German chancellor ever to visit Auschwitz. PHOTO: AFP

Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation that was approved by Germany's federal states on Thursday.

Merkel began her visit by walking under the Nazi slogan "Arbeit macht frei" (Work will set you free) that still hangs over the gates of the camp.

She will also hold a minute's silence by the Death Wall where thousands of prisoners were shot dead and visit the site of a gas chamber

and a crematorium.

The visit "is a particularly important signal of attention and solidarity at a time when Auschwitz survivors are victims of anti-Semitic insults and hate-filled emails," said Christoph Heubner, deputy chairman of the Auschwitz International Committee.

Merkel was accompanied during the visit by a survivor of the camp, 87-year-old Bogdan Stanis-

law Bartnikowski, as well as Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki.

Josef Schuster, head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, and Ronald Lauder, head of the World Jewish Congress, also took part in the visit. In total, 1.1 million people were killed at Auschwitz-Birkenau, including non-Jewish Poles, Soviet prisoners of war, Roma and anti-Nazi fighters.—AFP ■

Healthcare battles Brexit as top UK election issue

LONDON — Britain's snap election next week was called to resolve the impasse over Brexit but much of the campaign has instead been dominated by explosive rows over healthcare.

The state-run National Health Service (NHS) provides free taxpayer-funded treatment for all. It is often criticised but fiercely defended.

For many voters, the debate over how to address its shortcomings is more important than less tangible issues such as Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Brexit deal. Naomi Fulop, from the Institute of Epidemiology and Health at University College London, said direct taxpayer ownership of the NHS, and interaction with it, gives

the service a personal link which guarantees it as a perennial top election issue. Mark Dayan, a policy analyst at the Nuffield Trust health think-tank, told AFP: "There's a national feeling of protectiveness towards the NHS — and that has become anxiety as performance has slipped."

Johnson's centre-right Conservatives and the left-wing Labour main opposition are both promising big NHS spending boosts over the next five years if they win next Thursday. "All the major parties are competing with each other to show how much they want to increase expenditure and address workforce issues that have been created over the last 10 years, rather than reorganising," said Fulop.—AFP ■

France hit by second day of massive strike over pension reform

PARIS — Travellers across France endured a second day of chaos on Friday as unions vowed to keep up their strike until President Emmanuel Macron backs down on controversial pension overhauls.

Rail operator SNCF said 90 percent of high-speed TGV trains were again cancelled, and several airlines dropped flights

including Air France, EasyJet and Ryanair.

Nine of the capital's 16 metro lines were shut and most others severely disrupted, sparking some 350 kilometres (220 miles) of traffic jams in the Paris region, well above the usual 200 km, the traffic website Sytadin reported

Many employees were unable to get to work

and several schools again provided only daycare, though fewer teachers were on strike compared with Thursday when some 800,000 people demonstrated across the country according to the interior ministry.

Bike paths were crowded with bikes and electric scooters, with metro operator RATP spon-

soring special deals for commuters with a range of ride-hailing companies and other transportation alternatives. The walkout is the latest test for Macron after months of protests from teachers, hospital workers, police and firefighters as well as the "yellow vest" movement demanding improved living standards.—AFP ■

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (26 / 2019-2020)

1. Open tenders for 2019-2020 fiscal year are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-029(19-20) (Retender)	400 KW Gas Engine Generator (Complete Set) (1) No	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-059(19-20) (Retender)	Seismic Acquisition, Data Processing Workstation and Data Center (5) Items	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from **6 December 2019** at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **14:00 pm on 6 January 2020**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time **6-1-2020, 14:00 pm**
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V JOSCO YANGZHOU

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V JOSCO YANGZHOU VOY. NO. (HY 20) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-12-2019 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 ELDER TRIUMPHANT
SHIPPING LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HAN RONG-08

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HAN RONG-08 VOY. NO. (20.2019) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-4 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 GLOBAL MARS SHIPPING

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TRANG AN 07

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TRANG AN 07 VOY. NO. (09/19) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-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 BEN LINE AGENCIES
(SINGAPORE) PTE, LTD

Phone No: 2301928

Towards Myitchay

the area of Mural paintings

in Nyungyan era

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

WHILE in Myaing, I had the opportunities to pay a visit to Myitchay thanks to friend U Kyaw Shwe from Myitchay. Myanmar histories showed King Anawrahta passed away in on the way to Aungtha Myitchay for killing a wild buffalo. But, Myitchay and Aungtha are separately located on Pakokku-Seikpyu motor road, west of Pakokku.

Myitchay in history

Assessment of Bagan created in Konbaung era mentioned Myitchay was a village. Locals believed Myitchay of its establishment downstream of Ayeyawady River. Old Bagan city, Pakokku and Myitchay were located in tripartite area. Some assumed Myitchay has been there since Bagan era. Till today, the pagodas built by King Anawrahta, King Kyan-sittha, King Alaungsithu and Princess Thanbyin can be seen in Myitchay.

King Anawrahta built Kaunghmudaw Tooth Relic Pagoda on Tantkyi Hill near Myitchay, King Sawlu, Kaunghmudaw Shwesawlu Pagoda in Myitchay Town and King Kyansittha, Kaunghmudaw Thettawya Pagoda in East Kalakyaung Village in Myitchay region.

Princess Thanbyin, daughter of King Kya Swa, built Shwekugyi Pagoda and Nyi Ama Layphaw Pagoda in Theindaw Village, west of Myitchay Town.

King Swa Saw Ke who came onto the throne in Inwa in 1368 AD ordered his brother Pyay governor Saw Yan Naung to build seven monasteries made of magnolia, one of which was located in Myitchay. It was built in 1394 AD, and the land for religious purpose was set four square miles. Some assumed the monastery made of magnolia donated by King Swa Saw Ke was the currently damaged Tawshwe Monastery, two



The entrance to the Four-Sister Pagoda. PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)

miles northeast of Myitchay.

The Ministry of Home Affairs upgraded Myitchay Village to a town formed with eight villages on 23 November 2018.

Mural paintings at PhaungdawU Pagoda

There were two ancient pagodas in Nyaungghla Village, 3.5 miles west of Myitchay. Some assumed these pagodas were built at the places where the raft of King Alaungsithu of Bagan anchored.

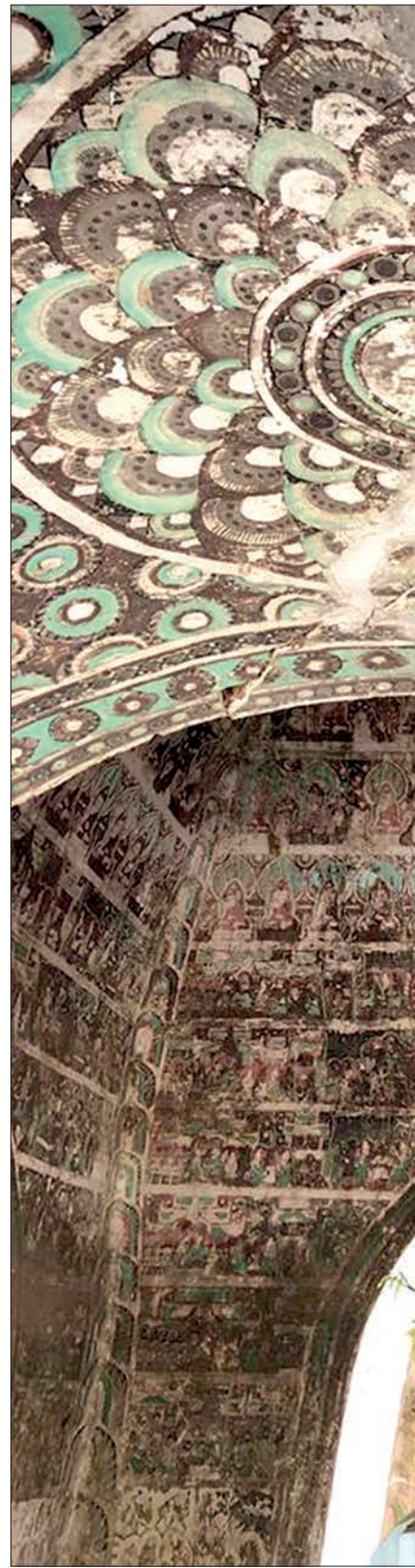
One of the two was named PhaungdawU Pagoda and another, Phaungchitaing Pagoda. These pagodas lost original works in past renovation. But, mural paintings in late Nyaungyan era can be seen on the walls.

A Buddha image was kept in Bhumiphassa Mudra (touch-

ing the ground with hand) facing the south in the tunnel of PhaungdawU Pagoda. The floral arabesques depicting Bo tree in dull colour can be seen on the back of the Buddha image. Pictures of two Aggasavaka monks Shin Sariputtara and Shin Moggalana were illustrated on both sides of the Buddha image in addition to the pictures of king of celestials and Sahampati Brahma.

Lotus flowers with many petals were illustrated on the ceiling and 28 Buddha images together with Bo trees around the lower part of the tunnel. Mural paintings on two episodes of eight triumphant ones of the Lord Buddha—triumphant ones over Nalagiri elephant and Alavaka ogre—can be seen there.

Although captions of 10 major Jatakas of the Lord Buddha illustrated on four walls of the tunnel cannot be read clearly, viewers can guess positions of pictures depicting Maha Janaka, Suvannasama,



The Four-Sister Pagoda. PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)



Nyaungyan era mural paintings. PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)

Vesantara, Nemi and Temiya Jatakas. Moreover, mural paintings showed the hells related to Temiya and Nemi Jatakas.

As some mural paintings on maritime trip of king and queen by raft together with dancers and musicians were illustrated on the wall of eastern arch from the tunnel, some assumed the painting depicted the tour of King Alaungsithu but some thought it was the maritime marching of King Videhariz from Mihtila State to Pancalariz State in Mahosadha Jataka.

The wall of the southern arch was filled with mural paintings on paying homage to two pagodas with flowers and cylindrical pennants, assuming that it might dedicate to PhaungdawU and Phaungchitaing pagodas.

Mural paintings at Phaungchitaing Pagoda

Full of mural paintings can be seen at Phaungchitaing Pagoda built on four-corner structure based on triple terrace. A Buddha image was kept in the cave, facing the east, and its back was filled with mural paintings on two Aggasavaka monks, king of celestials and Sahampati Brahma similar to those of PhaungdawU Pagoda.

Mural paintings on the ceiling were similar to those of PhaungdawU Pagoda. The interior of the tunnel was full of masterpiece mural paintings depicting Tavatimsa abode of celestials and monasteries and tier-roofed buildings where the Lord Buddha resided.

At the painting on King Kossala and queen served by their followers at the royal palace, King Kossala was looking at

his image on the square shape mirror held by a hand while preparing his hair by another hand. Some paintings showed two square shape mirrors in his hands.

The walls of the royal palace, the stage of royal drum, guard soldiers, elephant warriors, peacock pictures and celestial pictures can be seen on the mural paintings.

Other mural paintings and prayer scripts

Mural paintings are under preservation at 13 pagodas in Myitchay and nearby areas—four pagodas in the precinct of Shwekugyi Pagoda in Theindaw Village, four in Nyaungghla Village, four pagodas in the pre-

assignment, adding pagoda well-wishers San Toe, Mi Hnin Myo and Bwa Shin, children Mi Chit, Shin Nyein Pon, Shin Moe Kaung, Shin Zayan, Mi Shin Nge and Mi Shin Za.

Saya Tu Yin Pyinnya reviewed Zeya Yawdha title recipient Nyaungyan governor awarded the gold sword by the king might be pagoda well-wisher San Toe.

The scripts of well-wishers can be seen together with mural paintings in red and black colours. According to the scripts, these mural paintings might be in late Nyaungyan era.

Likewise, visitors may observe mural paintings at Thiri Mingala Pagoda near Myitchay-Kyunchaung road.

Hsutaungpyae and Shwepwintlin pagodas from seven Shwemyintin pagodas in Kyattoe Village and the paintings created in golden ink at Okkan Kyawzaw or Arntkyawzaw Pagoda. As people painted the pagodas with limes, these pagodas lost invaluable mural paintings except the collapsed tunnel of Sitkegyi and Shwepwintlin pagodas.

Mural paintings in ancient works

Mostly, mural paintings on plots of Buddhism as well as lifestyle of people were illustrated at pagodas of Myanmar in Bagan era. The paintings in Nyaungyan era depicted royal conditions.



inct of Shwemyintin Pagoda in Kyattoe Village and Anauksu Pagoda in Sabay Village.

The mural paintings can be seen together with records on dates at Shwemuhtaw and Thiri Mingala pagodas in Nyaungghla Village. According to the scripts at Shwemuhtaw Pagoda in Nyaungghla Village, the title was conferred on the administrator of Nyaungghla Village in the reign of King Sanay (1698-1714 AD) in Nyaungyan era on 10th waning of Tawthalin, 1060 ME, (18 September 1698), Sunday.

Some prayer scripts were borne near two horoscope circles in height of human at the southeast corner of Shwemuhtaw Pagoda's tunnel. The scripts dated 24 December 1709 mentioned that award was presented at the royal ceremony for completion of royal

They can see prayer scripts in addition to mural paintings.

Similar prayer scripts can be seen under the mural paintings in north of the eastern arch of the pagoda. One of the prayer scripts mentioned the date on 7th waxing of Tawthalin, 1077 ME (24 August 1715) which showed the tenure of King Taninganwe in Nyaungyan era.

The tunnel of Anauksu Yadana Manaung Pagoda in Sabay Village is full of mural paintings. The caption for drawing the paintings was mentioned as full moon day of first Waso, 1077 ME, on Sunday. The umbrella hoisting date was scripted as 4th waning of Kason, 1182 ME, (30 April 1820), showing the tenure of King Sagaing in Konbaung era.

Saya Tu Yin Pyinnya wrote that visitors might observe mural paintings at Sitkegyi,

Mural paintings created at Buddhist monuments along the Myanmar history were evidences of respective eras. But, local people and officials in weak cultural knowledge painted the edifices with limes, created new pictures, smoothed the walls with concrete and renovated the pagodas in addition to writing scripts by correction pens, losing the invaluable mural paintings.

As preservation of ancient mural paintings revealing parts of history means safeguarding the cultural heritages, all the people need to value ancient mural paintings across the nation including those of Myitchay.

Reference: Article by Tu Yin Pyinnya (Myitchay Magazine) Own field records

Translated by Than Tun Aung



SEA Games: Myanmar Judo, canoe teams win silver; recurve team reaches finals



Myanmar Judo athlete Aye Aye Aung seen with her silver medal at the 30th SEA Games. **PHOTO: SPED**

MYANMAR won two more silver medals in Judo and canoeing yesterday at the 30th SEA Games, while two recurve players entered the finals.

Myanmar's Aye Aye Aung secured a silver medal at the 78-kg women's Judo event after losing to her Thai opponent in the final match yesterday at the

Laus Group Event Centre, the Philippines.

Meanwhile, Sai Min Wai and Aung Phyo Hein from Myanmar secured a silver medal in the men's double 1,000-metre canoeing competition yesterday, held at the Melawan Park, Subic City, the Philippines.

Htike Lin Oo of Myanmar secured a place in the final of

the recurve men's singles competition after beating his Indonesian opponent in the semifinal yesterday at the CDC Parade

Grounds, Clark City, the Philippines.

In the recurve women's singles event, Pyae Sone Nhin

of Myanmar has advanced to the final after beating her Viet Nam opponent in the semifinal.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Myanmar's Htike Lin Oo (yellow) competing in the recurve men's singles competition at the 30th SEA Games. **PHOTO: SPED**

AFC Cup 2020: Yangon United to meet Brunei's Indera SC in play-off

YANGON United will play against Bruneian club Indera SC in the play-offs stage of the AFC Cup 2020, according to an announcement from the Asian Football Confederation.

Yangon United, the champion of the General Aung San Shield, will enter the AFC Cup 2020 from the play-offs stage, which will be played on

a home-and-away knock-out basis.

Indera SC, which ended fourth in the 2018-2019 Brunei Super League, is the only team with an AFC License to get a chance of entering the AFC Cup for the first time.

Indera SC had won the Brunei Super League in 2013 and 2014. They also won the Brunei

FA Cup in 2018. As of 2019, they are the only Bruneian club to get an AFC Club License, enabling them to compete in the 2020 AFC Cup.

The first leg of the AFC Cup will be played on 22 January, 2020, in Brunei and the second leg will take place on 29 January, 2020 at the Thuwunna Stadium in Myanmar.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

SEA Games men's football semifinal: Myanmar to play Indonesia today

THE Myanmar U-22 men's national football team will play against the Indonesian U-22 men's team in the crucial semifinal of the men's football competition at the 30th South East Asian Games today at the Rizal Memorial Stadium in Manila, the Philippines.

A pre-press conference for the match was held yesterday at the media room of the Rizal Memorial Stadium. The head coaches of both teams attended the press meet. Myanmar head coach Velizar Popov said that while host Philippines and Malaysia were popular contenders, it was Cambodia that made it to the semifinal of the tourney.

Popov pointed out that team Myanmar is aiming to reach the

final and hoping to give the best performance and get a good result. The Myanmar head coach said that Indonesia is a strong team and uses good tactics.

"The Indonesian team has very fast players and team Myanmar will need to think about how to approach them. We are prepared for a difficult match with Indonesia. The better team will advance to the final. We will do our best," said Popov. The semifinal match between Myanmar and Indonesia will start at 2:30 pm (Myanmar Standard Time) today. The match will be broadcast live on MRTV and MRTV Sports Channel and also aired live on Myanma Radio starting from 2 pm —Lynn Thit (Tgi)



2019 Southeast Asian Games medal tally updated

COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
PHILIPPINES	71	55	50	176
INDONESIA	40	41	47	128
VIETNAM	38	41	52	131
SINGAPORE	32	22	36	90
MALAYSIA	28	20	29	77
THAILAND	23	36	43	102
MYANMAR	2	10	24	36
CAMBODIA	2	4	17	23
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	1	5	5	11
LAOS	0	3	12	15
TIMOR-LESTE	0	0	0	0