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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## President U Win Myint celebrates 50% nationwide electrification in Nay Pyi Taw



President U Win Myint accepts a gift commemorating the event for the achievement of 50% nationwide electrification from Union Minister U Win Khaing in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

**A**CEREMONY to celebrate the achievement of 50% nationwide electrification was held at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

Firstly, President U Win Myint delivered the opening speech at the ceremony which was also attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Ministers, Union Attorney-General, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Pyithu Hluttaw Electricity and Energy Development Committee Chairman, Amyotha Hluttaw Construction, Industry, Electricity and Energy Committee Chairman, Deputy Ministers, state/regional cabinet ministers, permanent secretaries, departmental officials, corporation chairmen, chief

executive officers, board of directors, advisors, representatives from affiliated organizations and companies, officials and invited guests.

**(The full text of the President's speech is presented on Page-4).**

Next, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy, U Win Khaing, explained the processes involved in achieving 50% nationwide electrification. He then handed over a gift commemorating this event to President U Win Myint.

This was followed by children of MoEE staff performing 'Mahar Mee Alinn Aung Pwe' and a video clip on the ministry's path to its achievement was shown. The President then took a documentary photo with everyone in attendance.

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## State Counsellor delivers closing statement at ICJ in connection with lawsuit filed by Gambia



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the statement at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague, the Netherlands. PHOTO: MNA

**T**HE International Court of Justice (ICJ) held the third day of oral hearings on the application submitted by The Gambia. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs appeared as Agent for Myanmar and delivered the closing oral presentation in the afternoon on 12 December 2019 at The Hague, the Netherlands. The Gambia presented its second round of oral presentations earlier in the day.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, on behalf of Myanmar, requested the Court to remove the case from its List; or in the alternative to reject the request for the indication of provisional measures submitted by The Gambia.

**(The full text of the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's Closing**

**statement is published on Page 6).**

At the oral hearings, the counsels and advocates for Myanmar responded to the arguments presented by The Gambia in the morning session. Dr. Christopher Staker responded to the points made by counsel for The Gambia in relation to issues of prima facie jurisdiction and prima facie standing, and the form of the provisional measures requested. Professor William Schabas responded to the remarks made by The Gambia's counsel about the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission and further argued on the issue of the lack of a plausible claim. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi followed the counsels and advocates for Myanmar with her closing observations.

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## Pyithu Hluttaw

15<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw 14<sup>th</sup> regular session

A 15<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting asterisk marked questions were raised and answered, Ethnic Rights Protection Rule approved, two annual reports discussed and approved and an annual report approved.

## Asterisk marked questions and answer

The meeting starts with asterisk marked questions and answers session. Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Nyi Tun first responded to a question raised by U Myint Oo of Magway constituency on whether there was a plan to re-excavate Shwe Lat Pan lake in Magway Township, Aungmingala Ward. U Nyi Tun said the place was turned into a residential area and 10 years land grants were issued in 2008 but no houses were built yet. As the lake was where waters drain into, the disappearance of the lake was causing flooding and inundation in nearby Aungzeya Ward and more than 100 locals had submitted complaint letters about this. In response to the wish of the people, comment of the Region government, suggestion of experts, guidance of the Union government and estimation of cost, appropriate way will be selected to re-excavate the lake and if it was to be re-excavated, land grant will not be



Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Nyi Tun. PHOTO: MNA

extended said the Nay Pyi Taw Council member.

Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Nyi Tun also responded to a question raised by U Aye Naing of Dagon Myothit (South) constituency on a plan to improve drainage in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

U Lama Naw Aung of Injangan constituency asked whether national-level plans were drawn up to maintain the natural environment and upgrade the lives of ethnic people who were practicing slash and burn agriculture system in the hills. Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied that the ministry was providing information and education on modern step agriculture techniques for hill areas through training, talks and many other ways. The Deputy



MP U Myint Oo. PHOTO: MNA

Minister explained further that Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department will be conducting agro-business development project of the modern hillside farming system for eastern region during the project period from 2018-2019 to 2023-2024 in Shan State Taunggyi, Hopong and Hsihseng townships.

Similarly, questions raised by U Yan Lin of Kyaiklat constituency on a plan to distribute good breed piglets and chicks to breeders; U Myint Lwin of Twantay constituency on resolving difficulties faced for returning a confiscated land in Twantay Township; U Sai Maung Pwint @ U Aung Pwint of Tangyan constituency on completing the construction of Nam Mike reservoir and U Paik Ko of Pakokku constituency of returning 38.64 acres of land in Pakokku Township to

15 farmers were also answered by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw.

## Hluttaw approves Ethnic Rights Protection Rule

Following the asterisk marked question and answer session Bill Committee member U Sai Tun Aye submitted an amendment made by the Bill Committee to Ethnic Rights Protection Rule put forward by the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat obtained the comment of Ministry of Ethnic Affairs and the decision of the Hluttaw and announced the Hluttaw's approval.

As there was no objection from the Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then announced the Hluttaw's approval of the Ethnic Rights Protection Rule as amended.

## Citizens' Fundamental Rights Committee annual report

Next, Pyithu Hluttaw Citizens' Fundamental Rights Committee annual report was discussed by U Zaw Min Thein of Laymyethna constituency and committee member U Khin Maung Latt responded to the discussion. After committee secretary U Win Myint Aung tabled a motion for the Hluttaw to agree to and accept the report Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker obtained the comment of the Hluttaw and approved and the annual report.

## Ethnic Affairs and Internal Peace Implementation Committee annual report

Afterwards, Pyithu Hluttaw Ethnic Affairs and Internal Peace Implementation Committee annual report was discussed by U Paul Sai of Dimawhso constituency, Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathedaung constituency, U Kyaw Tin of Saw constituency and U Myint Lwin of Twantay constituency.

Committee chairman U Khun Maung Thaung responded and explained the discussions of the Hluttaw representatives and tabled a motion for the Hluttaw to agree and accept the report. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker obtained the comment of the Hluttaw and approved it.

## Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee annual report

In the final agenda of the day, Pyithu Hluttaw Public Accounts Committee member U Thein Tan tabled a motion for the Hluttaw to agree and accept the committee's annual report. Here too, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker obtained the comment of the Hluttaw and approved it.

16<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw is scheduled to be held on 16 December.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

(Translated by Zaw Min)

## Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw convenes 15<sup>th</sup>-day meeting

A 15<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw was held at Amyotha Hluttaw building yesterday morning.

## Question and answer session

In the question and answer session, a question raised by U Lal Min Htan of Chin State constituency 10 on protecting and conserving Nat Ma Taung National Park was first answered by Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Ye Myint Swe.

Questions raised by Dr U Kywe Kywe of Mandalay Region constituency 6 on appointment



MP U Lal Min Htan. PHOTO: MNA

of doctors to Ministry of Health and Sports, U Win Myint of Magway Region constituency 8 on arrangements made on distrib-



Deputy Minister Dr Ye Myint Swe. PHOTO: MNA

uting anti-snake venoms, U Zaw Lin Htut of Mon State constituency 9 on a plan to hold sports competitions held in Nay Pyi

Taw alternatively in states and regions and U Ko Ko Naing of Sagaing Region constituency 8 on a plan to expand blood banks to major towns were answered by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe.

## Bill amending Myanmar Medical Council Law

Next, Bill Committee member Dr Myo Aung read and explained a bill amending Myanmar Medical Council Law approved with amendment and sent by Pyithu Hluttaw. Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than then announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the bill to register their names.

## Hluttaw continue discussion on regulating tissue-culture banana plantations

Afterwards, Dr Khin Ma Gyi of Kachin State constituency 8, U Hsan Myint of Ayeyawady Region constituency 3 and Dr Win Myint of Bago Region constituency 11 discussed a motion on properly regulating tissue-culture banana plantations tabled by Dr Khun Win Thaung of Kachin State constituency 11.

The 16<sup>th</sup> day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 14<sup>th</sup> regular session will be held on 16 December.—Aung Ye Thwin (MNA)

(Translated by Zaw Min)

# President celebrates 50% nationwide electrification in Nay Pyi Taw



President U Win Myint delivers the opening speech at the ceremony to commemorate the achievement of 50% nationwide electrification in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Next, the President, both Hluttaw Speakers and Union Minister U Win Khaing unveiled

the commemorative plaque and archway for 50% nationwide electrification and sprinkled scented water on them. The President also observed the

commemorative exhibition and signed the guestbook.

The Ministry of Electricity and Energy was reformed when the new government assumed

office and nationwide electrification was only at 34%. Increasing electric generation through hydropower, natural gases and solar power, expanding 230KV

transmission lines and installing new 500KV lines contributed to the rise of national electricity access.

Additionally, a total of 19,600 miles of transmission lines counting in at 230KV, 132KV, 66KV, 33KV, 11KV and 400V and sub-power stations totaling at 12,636A were constructed and installed over a 3 1/2 year plan from 2016. Since April 2016, a total of Ks 2,327 billion has been invested in the electric sector with the result that an additional 900MW are being generated. Estimates say another 1,000MW will be generated in the middle of 2020.

The increase in electrification has now linked 368 towns and 16,941 villages to the national grid and authorities are continuing work to increase the 50% mark.

They aim to achieve 55% in 2021-2022, 75% in 2025-2026, and complete nationwide electrification by 2030. —MNA

*(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*



President U Win Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and Union Minister U Win Khaing unveil the commemorative inscription tablet for the achievement of 50% nationwide electrification at the ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting over a bill namely the National Records and Archives that was controversial between the two Hluttaws at the meeting hall of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Joint Bill Committee Chairman U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, deputy chairman,

joint secretary and members of Joint Bill Committee, members of Pyithu Hluttaw Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Rural Development Committee, and officials from the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, the Union Attorney-General Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. — MNA

*(Translated by TTN)*



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

## Opening speech of President U Win Myint at the ceremony commemorating the occasion of successful 50% countrywide power supply service (13<sup>th</sup> December 2019)

**F**IRST of all, I would like to extend my warm greetings to the state leaders, Union Ministers, deputy ministers, departmental heads, authorities of the companies, guests, local people, ladies and gentlemen, auspiciousness to you all.

Today is a day of great significance, marking the occasion of successful 50% power supply service to all over our country. It goes without saying that electricity and road transportation are included among the necessities for the development of our country. Naturally, we have been striving for the boosting up of the power supply service since we have been handed over the state duty.

We all know that electricity and energy are the main sectors for enabling our country to stand as a modern, developed state, and also for the development of the social life of our people. So we have laid down policies, strategies and plans for the development of the sectors of electricity and energy, sustainable supply of the demands in these sectors, which have been increasing from year to year, for the development of the state economy, and have been implementing both short-term and long-term plans.

In order to implement the short-term and long-term plans for the development of our country, aiming at the goals of developing the all-inclusive, sustainable economy, as outlined in the Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), providing full labour employment, offering productive, decent jobs, building strong infrastructure, establishing all-inclusive, sustainable industrialization, and giving support to innovations, balancing these goals with others, we have already drawn the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) 2018-2030. This MSDP had laid down the strategic plan, which covers sustainable development and the construction of the prioritized infrastructures supporting various forms of economic enterprises.



President U Win Myint addresses the ceremony commemorating the achievement of 50% nationwide electrification in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

In implementing the task programmes in line with the MSDP, we have cooperated and collaborated with the local private sectors and the oversea organizations harmoniously in such various sectors as drawing the national-level plans, amending the laws and bylaws, seeking budget aids, construct-

ing the infrastructures for power supply, which is necessary all over the country. financial fund of the expenditures of the state, the sector of electricity has been prioritized for the aim of boosting up the power supply service. Our efforts have turned out to prove that, from April, 2016 to December 2019, three hydro-power generator stations, six heat energy generator stations,

Volts, stretching over 19,600 miles, and the substations of power supply transmitting 12,636 MVKs have been built, since 2016, in extended numbers, within the period of three and a half years.

Therefore, while, in March, 2016, electricity was transmitted only to 34% of the whole population all over the country, December 2019 saw an increase of up to 50% all over the country. Since successful measures were taken for the sufficient utilization of the power supply and transmission of more power supply for our people, we believe we have brought about many good results for upgrading the social affairs, education, health and job opportunities of the public.

Besides, we have been making efforts for the power supply service in regions where electricity has not yet been accessible. Priority has been given to such regions formerly lacking the opportunity of having electricity: within these three years, power supply service from the national grid venture was provided in Myawaddy in Kayin State, and Maungtau in Rakhine State, while measures have

Moreover, since 2019-2020 financial year, the Mawlamyaing-Ye-Dawei transmission line (230 KV) is being constructed for the power supply in Dawei, Tanintharyi Region, and the project is to be completed in 2021-2022 financial year. We shall continue our efforts for implementing the projects for the 100 percent use of electricity all over the country by 2030.

ing the infrastructures for power supply, which is necessary all over the country.

In the present, the power supply in Myanmar has been increasingly utilized up to 15% to 19% annually. Naturally, the state has been making efforts for meeting the goal of providing sufficient power supply. In allocating the budget for the

and one solar energy generator station, 10 power stations in total, have been put to service, boosting up 904 Megawatts.

While the state government has built power stations in extended numbers for boosting up the power supply service, the transmission lines transmitting 230 KV, 132 KV, 66 KV, 33 KV, 11 KV and 400

been taken for the power supply from the national grid venture in Kyaing Tong in the Shan State (East). Moreover, since 2019-2020 financial year, the Mawlamyaing-Ye-Dawei transmission line (230 KV) is being constructed for the power supply in Dawei, Tanintharyi Region, and the project is to be completed in 2021-2022 financial year. We shall continue our efforts for implementing the projects for the 100 percent use of electricity all over the country by 2030. Enhancing the sector of electricity can make contributions towards the development of such sectors as education, health and economy. I would urge you all to strive for the development of the sector of electricity for the sake of our present and future generations to enjoy the fruits of the harmonious development in all regions and states.

Formerly, only auto-telephones were installed in Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation and Mandalay Electricity Supply Corporation, but today "1717" Hot Line and "1616" Hot Line have been offering their 24-hour services to serve to the satisfaction of the public. On this occasion of successfully launching the 50% power supply service all over the country, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all the organizations, authorities and staff of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, and our citizens, who have made contributions to the success for the state projects.

In conclusion, I would like to urge the authorities of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy to step up your efforts for the prosperity and sustainable development of the state by developing the sector of electricity more and more, transmitting more high power supply, giving impetus to small-scale and medium-size electrical power supply and transmission enterprises in the Regions and States, and enabling the people to utilize the electricity safely.

Thank you.  
(Unofficial Translation)

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# State Counsellor meets Myanmar supporters at The Hague



State Counsellor the Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets Myanmar citizens who came to support her at The Hague, the Netherlands. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets Myanmar citizens who came to support her at The Hague, the Netherlands. **PHOTO: MNA**

**ON** THURSDAY evening and yesterday morning, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with Myanmar citizens who came to support her at The Hague, the Netherlands, with some already residing in

Netherlands and some arriving from other countries. During the meetings, the State Counsellor spoke of the importance of unity among all citizens of a nation for it to develop. She said while Myanmar was

not outwardly strong, it would stand strong with perseverance, tireless spirit and alertness. She said the support of the people is a source of strength when facing challenges and remarked on status of being family members

to Myanmar regardless of their current residence or citizenship. She said she will forever remember in her heart the support given by the citizens when it was truly needed. Afterwards, the State Counsellor gave explana-

tions with respect to the submissions made by the people about regaining citizenship and returning to Myanmar as volunteers to utilize their acquired skills and cordially greeted them. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

# State Counsellor delivers closing statement at ICJ in Connection ...

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Also in attendance at the oral observations were U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor and U Kyaw Tin, the Un-

ion Minister for International Cooperation; Myanmar Ambassador to the Kingdoms of Belgium and the Netherlands U Soe Lynn Han; Myanmar delegates; local and foreign legal experts and their assistants.

Today was the second day of oral observations for Myanmar. Myanmar nationals and expatriates residing in the Netherlands and other countries gathered in front of the ICJ and continued to show sup-

port for the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Immediately following the close of the Court proceedings, the State Counsellor met with some (80) of the Myanmar supporters who were sched-

uled to leave The Hague on the same day. She later met on the 13 December with the rest of the Myanmar nationals and expatriates who came to the Netherlands to show support for her.—MNA

# Union Minister U Han Zaw receives Japanese Ambassador



Union Minister U Han Zaw meets with Japanese Ambassador Mr Ichiro Maruyama in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Construction U Han Zaw received Ambassador of Japan Mr Ichiro Maruyama at the guest hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yes-

terday. During the meeting, they discussed Yangon Outer Ring Road project and development of roads and bridges. — MNA (Translated by TTN)

# Japanese Princess visits Bagan Heritage Site



Japanese Princess Yoko Mikasa pays tribute to Japanese soldiers fallen during the WWII near Thatbyinnyu Temple. **PHOTO: MNA**

DURING her visit to Myanmar, Japanese Princess Yoko Mikasa traveled to Bagan's Heritage Site and visited the Thatbyinnyu Temple, Ananda Temple and Lawkananda Pagoda yesterday.

In addition, the Princess and entourage visited the Japanese war cemetery and its peace monument near Thatbyinnyu Temple and laid wreaths for the fallen Japanese soldiers

of WWII. Princess Yoko and her entourage returned to Yangon from Bagan-NyaungU later in the evening. — Pe Lain (Bagan) (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Remarks by H.E. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar as Agent Before the International Court of Justice The Hague, 12 December 2019

**MR.** President and Members of the Court, It is not disputed that Myanmar – like the United Kingdom or the United States – has a military justice system. The Constitution of Myanmar cannot and should not be ignored if we are serious about establishing constitutional democracy and rule-of-law in Myanmar. International criminal tribunals take four to eight years to undertake investigations of core international crimes, sometimes longer. Just over two years have passed since the serious internal armed conflict against the ARSA, and the second court-martial is now underway. The Gambia has not challenged the quality of the military justice in the Inn Din case, only the pardon, which many of us regret. The ongoing Gutar Pyin court-martial in Buthidaung Township should be allowed to run its course. I am confident that there will be further



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers statement at the International Court of Justice at The Hague, the Netherlands. **PHOTO: MNA**

Mr. President, it is vital for Myanmar's present and future that our civilian and military criminal justice systems function in accordance with our Constitution. Where a country has a military justice system, neutralising this system by externalising justice in effect surgically removes a critical limb from the body – the limb that helps armed forces to self-correct, to improve, to better perform their functions within the constitutional order.

courts-martial after the submission of the final report of the Independent Commission of Enquiry in a few weeks.

Mr. President, it is vital for Myanmar's present and future that our civilian and military criminal justice systems function in accordance with our Constitution. Where a country has a military justice system, neutralising this system by externalising justice in effect surgically removes a critical limb from the body – the limb that helps armed forces to self-correct, to improve, to better perform their functions within the constitutional order.

Mr. President, Members of the Court, in my opening statement yes-

terday, I mentioned that international justice is a practice that affirms our common values, and that we look to justice as a champion of reconciliation and harmony that will assure the security and rights of all peoples. Allow me, in this context, to mention one example of what we are doing on the ground in Northern Rakhine to further reconciliation between communities.

In January 2019, the 'In Transformation Initiative' (ITI) – directed by Mr. Roelf Meyer, a transitional justice leader in South Africa – launched the 'Rakhine Transformation Project' that aims at preventing the recurrence of historical violence and paving the way

for sustainable, voluntary return of peoples displaced by violence. In the words of Mr. Meyer himself, I quote: "nine months after its inception, and despite increased fighting in the area between the AA and the military, the project has gained sufficient traction in Maungdaw for it to be regarded as sustainable".

Mr. President, recalling the words about football in paragraph 18 of the opening statement of the Agent of The Gambia, allow me to present these pictures from a football match. Organised by the ITI, a football tournament recently took place at the Myoma athletic field in Maungdaw Town. Players and spectators are a mix from different communities in Maungdaw Township, the area at the centre of the 2016-2017 internal armed conflict in Rakhine. Adults and children, proud, enthusiastic, laughing and, most important of all, together. This is what we are striving

to nurture in Rakhine, what we are endeavouring to foster throughout Myanmar, our country of great diversity, great potential, and great challenges.

Mr. President, Members of the Court, I pray the decision you make, with the wisdom and vision of justice, will help us to create unity out of our diversity, to develop the potential of our people, and to meet the challenges of a nation in quest of sustainable peace and development. Steps that generate suspicion, sow doubts, or create resentment between communities who have just begun to build a fragile foundation of trust could undermine reconciliation. Ending the ongoing internal armed conflict between the Arakan Army and Myanmar's Defence Services is of the utmost importance for our country. But it is equally important to avoid any reignition of the 2016-2017 internal armed conflict in Northern Rakhine.

Mr. President, Members of the Court, I now conclude by formally presenting to you the final submissions of Myanmar. These are as follows:

"In accordance with Article 60, paragraph 2, of the Rules of Court, for the reasons given during the hearing from 10 to 12 December 2019 and any other reasons the Court might deem appropriate, Myanmar requests the Court:

- to remove the case from its List;
- in the alternative, to reject the request for the indication of provisional measures submitted by The Gambia."

Mr. President and Members of the Court, that concludes Myanmar's observations. I thank you for your kind attention, and I also thank the staff of the Registry for all assistance offered to our delegation.

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Mr. President, Members of the Court, I pray the decision you make, with the wisdom and vision of justice, will help us to create unity out of our diversity, to develop the potential of our people, and to meet the challenges of a nation in quest of sustainable peace and development.

## Central Committee holds coord meeting as 73<sup>rd</sup> Union Day draws close



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the coordination meeting for holding 73<sup>rd</sup> Union Day in 2020 at the meeting hall of President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

**T**HE Central Committee for Convening the 73<sup>rd</sup> Union Day in 2020 held a coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the Office of the President in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, where Central Committee Chairman Vice President U Myint Swe delivered a speech.

In his speech, the Vice President said the day's meeting was held for the successful organizing and holding of the 2020 73<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Union Day. He said the Central Committee was formed with 14 members by the Office of the President, and with himself as Chairman, on 21 October 2019 to successfully observe the day in accordance with five national objectives with full political essence.

He said that a 19-member management committee led by the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and 14 sub-committees to implement the directives of the central committee were also formed.

The Vice President said the

five national objectives of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Union Day are to protect and defend sovereignty for non-disintegration of the Union and unity of ethnic people through collective strength of all the ethnic people, continuing the peace process with Union spirit until success is achieved, strive towards rule of law and for the safety and security of the people through the unity of all citizens, preventing dangers of illegal drugs as a national duty and elevating the living standards of the people, striving towards establishment of a Constitution that is in accord with a Federal Democratic Union.

The Vice President highlighted the historical significance of Union Day, by saying independence was achieved after Bogyoke Aung San and ethnic national leaders held the Panglong Conference of 12 February 1947 and signed the Panglong Agreement in unity. The Union Day that depicts the unity of ethnic national brothers and sisters

has been held every year and this is the 73<sup>rd</sup> year, he said.

The Vice President said the Panglong Conference was the catalyst for ethnic solidarity and independence and drawing upon this crucial historic lesson, the Union Peace Conference – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong was initiated to achieve the national reconciliation and peace that Myanmar desperately needs. He said the nation would only truly develop when there is genuine peace.

The Vice President said one of the main reasons for celebrating Union Day is to remind successive generations that independence was achieved because of the unity of all ethnic people. He said Myanmar is full of diverse ethnicities each with their own unique language and culture and of different religions and this coexistence is what makes the country a Union. He said the customs and culture of ethnic people must be preserved perpetually and this is why they will be displayed in Union Day

celebrations.

The Vice President said the 73<sup>rd</sup> Union Day event will be held in two parts with the first half including the flag hoisting ceremony and reading messages in the morning and the second half involving a dinner reception and entertainment in the evening.

The Vice President said 15 decisions were made at the meeting on 1 April, 2019 for evaluating the preparations of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Union Day and he urged all relevant committees and sub-committees to work closely to implement them.

For the people to know the essence of the national aims set by the Central Committee, arrangements are to be made for state-owned media like radio, television, newspaper and periodicals to broadcast and publish entertainment and informative programmes, said the Vice President.

He said subcommittees need to have Plan A as well as Plan B for all matters related to

holding of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Union Day. In order to successfully hold the Union Day ceremony with full political essence all are urged to work together to make this year the best based on past years experiences.

Next, Dr Myo Aung explained the preparations made for the upcoming Union Day ceremony and other subcommittee members explained the progress of their respective assigned sectors. The Vice President responded to all discussions and suggestions and concluded the meeting with a closing speech.

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers U Thant Sin Maung, Dr Myint Htwe, U Soe Win and U Ohn Maung, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Thu, U Kyi Min, U Kyaw Myo and U Win Maw Tun, permanent secretaries, directors-general, and Tatmadaw and department officials.—MNA

*(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

## Reservoir promises sufficient drinking water in Gwa Tsp

**R**AKHINE Chief Minister U Nyi Pu inspected the construction progress of Kwinlyarshay reservoir at the namesake village in Gwa Township yesterday.

The Chief Minister received an explanation of the construction process by officials in charge of the project and said they will fulfill the recommendations of the local residents.

The reservoir measures 235 by 20 feet wide and stands at 50 feet high. Total construc-

tion cost is estimated at K550 million and the construction is led by the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department of Thandwe.

The area receives 200 inches of rainfall every year and thus the reservoir can expect to store an average of 575 gallons per year, providing sufficient drinking water to all surrounding settlements.

— Mawsi, Ko Min

*(Translated by  
Zaw Htet Oo)*



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu inspects the construction site of Kwinlyarshay reservoir in Gwa Township yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

# Avoid hate narratives to prevent mistrust among diverse communities

**S**TATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her closing statement at the International Court of Justice, said leaders of states and relevant inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations should be aware of their responsibility to express and affirm fundamental values.

“Feeding the flames of an extreme polarization in the context of Rakhine, for example, can harm the values of peace and harmony in Myanmar. Aggravating the wounds of conflict can undermine unity in Rakhine. Hate narratives are not simply confined to hate speech – language that contributes to extreme polarization also amounts to hate narrative,” said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 12 December at the ICJ, at the Hague.

Hate narratives from outside the country have driven the two communities in Rakhine State further apart. Now is the time for international communities and the media to focus on how to resolve the issue with a forward-looking approach.

Hate narratives which are not based on hard evidence will only serve to inflame tensions further and potentially hinder the Government’s efforts to create much-needed social cohesion in Rakhine State.

On the Internet, truth is not optimized. On the Web, it’s not enough to battle falsehood with truth; the truth doesn’t always win.

The government is also looking for long-term solutions to the Rakhine problem. The mistrust between the two communities has existed for a long time. The incidents in 2012 deteriorated the situation, and the terrorist attacks by the ARSA terrorist group in 2016 and 2017 further worsened the problem.

People do not dare to commute in Rakhine State due to lack of security, not because of lack of freedom

of movement. Hate narratives do not pull the trigger; but does anyone seriously doubt that they create a climate where such acts are more likely?

Hate narratives are less violent, but damaging in their impact in another way: They diminish and undermine the globally common value of tolerance. They enable discrimination. Steps that generate suspicion, sow doubts, or create resentment among communities that have just begun to build a fragile foundation of trust could undermine reconciliation.

Everyone concerned must be positive and committed to the process of reestablishing trust and confidence because fear and hate have taken root in Rakhine, a region where there is very little prosperity and very little security. We hope that the decision of the ICJ judges, with the wisdom and vision of justice, will help Myanmar to create unity out of our diversity, develop the potential of our people, and meet the challenges of a nation in quest of sustainable peace and development.

# Banking on action: How ADB achieved 2020 climate finance milestone one year ahead of time

By Takehiko Nakao

**A**S they extend their power grids, build more roads and bigger cities, and cultivate forestland, developing countries in Asia and the Pacific are increasingly contributing to the global climate change problem. Two of the top three emitters of greenhouse gases are developing countries in Asia—the People’s Republic of China and India. At the same time, five Asian developing countries are among the top 10 most climate-vulnerable countries in the world. Across the region, livelihoods and economic growth are increasingly exposed to climate change impacts and disaster risk. Clearly, Asia and the Pacific must play a strong role in efforts to address climate change.

As the region’s development bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is committed to remaining the partner of choice for climate action by our developing member countries. In 2015, as world leaders gathered in New York to launch the Sustainable Development Goals, ADB made a bold announcement—a commitment to double our climate investment to \$6 billion annually by the end of 2020.

Coinciding with the call

for action at COP25, the United Nations’ Conference on Climate Change, ADB has proudly reached this achievement one year ahead of time. ADB’s climate-related financing for 2019 comprises \$1.4 billion for financing adaptation and \$4.8 billion for mitigating climate change.

The feat is the result of a singular focus to integrate climate actions into our entire operations. ADB has introduced climate risk screening of our project portfolio, undertaken diagnostics on the critical infrastructure at risk in the region, and introduced new financing instruments such as contingent disaster risk financing for financial resilience. ADB is strengthening its investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency, sustainable transport and urban development, and climate smart agriculture. This has been accompanied by actions to enhance the transparency of our climate operations by publicly disclosing project-level information of our climate portfolio and enhancing capacity and technical assistance for delivery. The spirit of One ADB has underpinned this achievement, with the collaboration of our sovereign and non-sovereign operations and knowledge departments steering us toward this target. One example of the many that illustrates this is the Pacific Renewable Energy Program, which is providing an innovative blend of loans, guarantees, and letters of credit to encourage private sector investments in renewable energy. ADB’s treasury department also contributed to the endeavor by issuing green bonds amounting to \$5 billion as an added financing mechanism.

In addition to scaling up its own climate financing, ADB has been working on new and innovative co-financing opportunities with public and private partners. For example, ADB has mobilized concessional financing from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for nine projects worth a total of \$473 million in grants and concessional financing. Building on the momentum of our climate finance milestone, ADB is pursuing new and ambitious targets on climate change for the coming decade in our Strategy 2030—cumulative climate financing of \$80 billion from 2019-2030 and a commitment to make 75% of our projects climate-relevant by 2030. Furthermore, by steadily increasing shadow carbon price, which factors climate costs into our project economic analysis, ADB is reflecting

the urgency of shifting to low carbon alternatives.

However, given the narrowing window for avoiding catastrophic climate change, mobilizing finance at the necessary speed and scale remains a huge challenge. The Nationally Determined Contributions of many countries have outlined the financing needed to achieve their climate ambitions under the Paris Agreement. According to one estimate, it is \$4.4 trillion or \$349 billion annually. While there are no robust and comprehensive estimates available for the Asia and Pacific region, an assessment by ADB on Asia’s infrastructure needs found that \$200 billion will be needed annually to address climate actions in energy, water, and transport.

Though national governments and development financing institutions should devote more of their financial resources, the bulk of climate financing will necessarily have to come from private investors. This highlights the need to deploy climate financing in a way that enables and mobilizes private sector finance. But the good news is there is a robust, and growing, body of evidence that the benefits of climate action already far outweigh the costs—representing a significant opportunity for the private sector. For example, the New Climate Economy Initiative, to which I have contributed as a Commissioner, has found that investment in low-carbon growth is associated with a cumulative economic gain of \$26 trillion until 2030. Meanwhile, a recent report by the Global Commission on Adaptation found that investing \$1.8 trillion globally from 2020 to 2030 in five key areas—early warning systems, climate-resilient infrastructure, improved dryland agriculture, mangrove protection, and more resilient water resources—could yield \$7.1 trillion in net benefits.

The provision of finance is just one part of the climate change puzzle—high technology, policy support, and capacity development to build better institutions are also critical. But by further scaling up collective actions on addressing climate change by national governments, development partners, and the private sector, we can greatly respond to the voices of younger generations and vulnerable populations across the world for bolder action that ensures our common future on a healthy planet.

Building on the momentum of our climate finance milestone, ADB is pursuing new and ambitious targets on climate change for the coming decade in our Strategy 2030—cumulative climate financing of \$80 billion from 2019-2030 and a commitment to make 75% of our projects climate-relevant by 2030.

### Citizenship

The number of persons who were issued Citizenship Scrutiny Cards and National Verification Cards are as follows.

No.	Description	1 Apr - 31 Dec 2017	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	Citizenship Scrutiny Cards for 10-year-olds	148	87	35	10	8	9

2	Citizenship Scrutiny Cards for 18-year-olds	480	252	95	9	12	18
3	Issue of National Verification Cards (Kyauk Phyu, Thandwe, Ann, Ngakhuya Center, Shwe Zar)	5162	2286	935	889	918	549
4	Biometrics (Kyauk Phyu, Thandwe, Ann, Ngakhuya Center, Shwe Zar)	8501	1330	896	2473	549	
5	Citizenship Scrutiny Cards for Kamans	3336	-	-	2201	-	-

ကဏ္ဍတိုင်းသဘာဝအခြေအနေအထားကို စိစစ်ဖြည့်ဖြည်းကမ်းပြီးနောက် အခြေခံအဆင့်မြှင့်တင်ပေးရန် ဖြည့်ဆည်းပေးမည့် အစီအစဉ်များကို ပူးပေါင်းဆောင်ရွက်မည်။

**မဂ္ဂဇင်းစာပေပွဲ**  
စာပေပွဲနှင့် စာအုပ်ပေးအပ်ပွဲ  
(ဒေးဒရိုမြို့)

၂၀၁၉ ခုနှစ်၊ ဒီဇင်ဘာလ (၁၆ - ၁၇)ရက် (တနင်္လာ - အင်္ဂါ)နေ့များကို (၅)ရက်အထိ မြင့်မားစွာဆောင်ရွက်မည်။  
ကရင်ဒါနံပါတ်: ၁၁.၀၀.၁၇(၁) ဒေးဒရိုမြို့။

### Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2019)

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2019:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Sagaing, Magway and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan and Chin States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-8) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthyai Coasts and about (3-5) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in Bago, Yangon, Ayeeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2019:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2019:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2019:** Generally fair weather.

**WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND:** Weather will be generally fair in Naypyitaw, Yangon and Mandalay Regions.

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## Consultative Forum on Policy Tools Developed for Implementation of Myanmar Civil Service Reform (CSR) in 2019 held in Nay Pyi Taw

“THE Consultative Forum on the Policy Tools Developed for the Implementation of the Myanmar Civil Service Reform (CSR) in 2019” was held at the Thingaha Hotel on 13<sup>th</sup> December in 2019 led by the Union Civil Service Board in collaboration with UNDP.

The Members of Union Civil Service Board, the Permanent Secretaries and Directors General from the Ministries and Government Organizations, the high-ranking representatives from the Union-level Ministries/ Government Organizations and the Regional / State Governments, the Permanent Secretary, Director General, Rectors and senior officials from the affiliated Departments and Institutes of the UCSB and the experts from the local and abroad, in total of approximate 150 participants attended this forum.

In this forum, the Welcom-

ing Remarks by H.E U Saw Valentine, Member of UCSB and the Opening Remarks by Mr. Gordon E. Johnson, Resident Representative of UNDP Myanmar respectively delivered and then, it will be consecutively held in terms of four sessions.

In the first session, the presentation paper in the title of “The First Myanmar Civil Service Competency Framework” by Dr. John Vong, Expert on Leadership in Civil Service from UNDP; the second session in the title of “The First Myanmar Civil Service Performance Management System and the New Performance Evaluation Form” by Ms. Valentina Bianchini, Leap Project Manager from UNDP and; the third session in the title of “The New Senior and Executive Leadership Development Scheme” by Ms. Louise McSorley, Senior Executive Leader in Public Policy and Legislative



Participants pose for a photo at the “Consultative Forum on the Policy Tools Developed for the Implementation of the Myanmar Civil Service Reform (CSR) in 2019” in Nay Pyi Taw on 13 December.

**PHOTO: MNA**

Reform were respectively presented. And the fourth “Break-out Session” continued in the three focus groups discussion and wrapped up the individual group discussed.

The aim of holding this fo-

rum is to strengthen the regulations that support all the government organizations and the service personnel when implementing the Civil Service Reform Strategic Action Plan - CSRSAP (2017-2020); better

encourage the people’s participation which is the vision of CSRSAP and; emerge the reliable, ethical, merit-based, inclusive and responsive civil service sector in Myanmar that can have the people trust.—MNA

## Myanmar WFP sign Letter of Understanding (LoU)



Deputy Minister U Bharat Singh attends the signing ceremony for Letter of Understanding (LoU) regarding the WFP Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022) between Myanmar and WFP in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

**PHOTO: MNA**

THE signing ceremony for Letter of Understanding (LoU) regarding the WFP Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022) between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and WFP was held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Nay Pyi Taw.

Before the witness of U Bharat Singh, Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, the Letter of Understanding (LoU) was undersigned by U Than Aung Kyaw, Director General of Foreign Economic Relations Department, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and Mr. Stephen An-

derson, Country Director and Resident Representative, WFP in Myanmar.

This signing ceremony was attended by officials from ministries concerned that are coordinating and implementing with WFP, and officials from WFP. WFP Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022) will be implemented with the estimated budget US\$ 310.80 million in the areas; to have access to food for crisis-affected people and vulnerable people in States and Regions all year round and to improve nutrition for children under 5 in Myanmar. About 2.79 million people will be benefitted from the Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022).—MNA

## Myanmar Pearl Auction (December 2019) concludes in Nay Pyi Taw

MYANMAR Pearl Auction (December 2019) organized by Myanmar Pearl Enterprise (MPE) under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation concluded at the Myanmar Gems Museum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The auction lasted for three days, during which 384 lots worth

over Euro 2.44 million were sold to merchants. The last day of the event was attended by 15 foreign merchants and 94 local merchants totalling 109. Out of 110 pearl lots, 86 lots worth Euro 589,122 were sold on the last day.

270 pearl lots owned by the State and 114 lots out of 145 lots owned by the companies were

sold, earning Euro 1.605359 million as State coffers and companies fetched Euro 840,462. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Staff from Myanmar Pearl Enterprise prepare pearls for sale at the Pearl Auction in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



## Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations receives Business Delegation headed by Mr Timur Maksimov, Deputy Minister for Economic Development of the Russian Federation

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, U Thaung Tun, received the business delegation headed by Mr Timur Maksimov, Deputy Minister for Economic Development of the Russian Federation at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations in Nay Pyi Taw. The business delegation was accompanied by Mr Nikolay Listopadov, Ambassador of the Russia Federation to Myanmar.

Union Minister informed that the existing mutual friendship, bilateral trade and investment cooperation, the improvement for people to people engagement, cooperation in education, power and industry, transport and telecommunication, technology and the development of regional cooperation. He also encouraged enhancing on bilateral investment in technical and vocational training, agriculture, industry, renewable energy, tourism and joint venture.

Deputy Minister for Economic Development of the Russian Federation discussed that the pre-consultation for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Inter-Governmental Russia-Myanmar Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, linking for bilateral business, the development for

mutual relationship, the implementation of bilateral ongoing projects and the potential projects, the improvement for Russian's investment in Myanmar, establishing direct flight connection between both countries.

After that, the preparatory meeting for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Inter-governmental Russian-Myanmar Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held by the leading of Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, U Bharat Singh and the Deputy Minister for Economic Development of the Russian Federation, Mr Timur Maksimov. During the meeting, the responsible persons from government and business by both sides discussed about the review on the current bilateral trade and investment, the potential cooperation and the matter for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of Russian-Myanmar Commission.

The Russian business delegation will meet to discuss with the responsible persons from National Economic Coordination Committee, Ministry of Transport and Communications and also Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation with the aims to promote investment in Myanmar.—MNA



Union Minister U Thaung Tun meets with a business delegation led by Deputy Minister for Economic Development of the Russian Federation Mr. Timur Maksimov in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Deputy Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Bharat Singh and Deputy Minister for Economic Development of the Russian Federation Mr Timur Maksimov hold a meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## No SME loans available due to incomplete information about businesses: Chief Minister

By Nyein Nyein

NO Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) loans are being offered at present because of incomplete information concerning the businesses, said U Phyo Min Thein, Chief Minister of Yangon Region. Although the SME loans are ready, we cannot provide them, he said.

Therefore, SMEs need to prepare systematically to take out loans, he added.

"We are willing to provide SME loans. When we scrutinized proposals, we found only a few complete presentations. We have the money to provide them loans. But, the information furnished by borrowers is not complete. So, we cannot

provide loans to them," said U Phyo Min Thein.

"To obtain SME loans, borrowers need to have established their businesses systematically in the first place. The businesses should not be family-owned. Moreover, those who take loans from international organizations should use the funds only for making capital investments. They should not use them as working capital," he added.

"Currently, quality products are being imported and packaging designs have become modernized in SME businesses. But, they need to conduct their businesses properly and systematically, in terms of promotion, to be able to export

to international markets," said U Phyo Min Thein.

"SME business development in Yangon Region is important. So, we have tried to get loans for the SME sector. There are two types of loans that can be availed: loans with mortgage and loans without mortgage. Loans of K20 million to K50 million can be availed without mortgage, while loans of K200 million to K300 million can be availed on collateral, depending on the type of mortgage," said U Myint Thaung, the regional Minister for Planning and Finance. There are about 40,000 SMEs in Yangon Region.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## Trade at Hteekhee down \$42.7 mln in Oct-Nov

TRADE between Thailand and Myanmar at the Hteekhee border gate between 1 October and 29 November in the 2019-2020 financial year plunged to US\$291.62 million from \$334.3 million in the year-ago period, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

During the October-November period, exports through the Hteekhee gate stood at \$290.87 million, while imports totaled less than \$1 million.

Exports of natural gas from Taninthayi Region had contributed to the enormous increase in exports through the Hteekhee gate in the previous FY, said an official from the ministry.

Normally, the Myawady gate sees the largest trade among the Myanmar-Thailand checkpoints. The rise in exports through the Hteekhee gate last year boosted the value of the

Myanmar-Thailand border trade to more than double the amount registered in the previous years.

Of the seven border trade points between Myanmar and Thailand, the Hteekhee and Myeik gates have witnessed a decrease in trade in the current financial year, while the remaining gates have reported an increase in trade.

Myanmar primarily exports natural gas, fishery products, coal, tin concentrate (SN 71.58 per cent), coconut (fresh and dry), beans, and bamboo shoots to Thailand. It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers, and consumer goods such as cosmetics and food products from the neighboring country. — Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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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.

**Union Information Minister inspects readiness of Magway youth festival**

UNION Minister for Information De Pe Myint inspected the preparations for the All-Round Youth Development Festival (Magway) yesterday evening.

Firstly, the Union Minister observed performers rehearsing for the festival's opening ceremony in the Convocation Hall of Magway University.

Next, he inspected the exhibition booths and bookstalls prepared for the festival while listening to explanations on each of them from officials.

The All-Round Youth Development Festival (Magway) will be held from today to 16 December with over a hundred exhibition booths focusing on literature, sports, art and information technology movements. There will also be 60 bookstalls and famous artists performing at the festival. Earlier on the same day, Magway Region Chief Minister Dr Aung Moe Nyo, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, regional cabinet ministers and other officials also inspect-



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint inspects the preparations and the layout of the exhibition halls for the All-Round Youth Development Festival (Magway) yesterday. **PHOTO: HEIN MIN SOE**

ed rehearsals for the opening ceremony of the festival at the Convocation Hall of Magway University.

The Chief Minister and en-

tourage inspected the rehearsal for the ribbon-cutting ceremony, entertainment programmes inside the Convocation Hall, outstanding students rehears-

ing for the awarding ceremony, and the layout of the exhibition halls.—Min Htet Aung (Mahn Sub-printing House), Wai Hlan (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

**China RCS Chairman visits MRCS in Yangon**

ACTING Chairman of the Myanmar Red Cross Society U Tin Nyunt held a meeting with a Chinese delegation led by Chairman of the Red Cross Society of the People's Republic of China and Vice President of the Federation of International Red Cross and Crescent Societies Mr Chen Zhu and Chinese Ambassador Mr Chan Hai at the office of the MRCS in Yangon yesterday.

At the meeting, they discussed philanthropic activities in Rakhine State by the MRCS.



After the meeting, the delegation visited the Kyaikkhauk

Pagoda in Thanlyin and a local office of the Yangon Region

Red Cross Society Supervisory Committee.—Aung Thura

**YCDC holds workshop on disaster preparedness project**



Yangon City Development Committee Vice Mayor U Soe Lwin. **PHOTO: SHWE WIN**

YANGON, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw should enforce extensive earthquake preparedness measures, including drills, as the three populated cities are at risk for quakes, said a YCDC official recently.

"The Yangon Region Government has drafted the tasks to be carried out by the government departments concerned under its earthquake preparedness and response project," said vice chairman of the Yangon City Development Committee, Vice Mayor U Soe Lwin, in his opening address at a workshop

on the disaster preparedness research project, held at the Yangon City Development Committee Office.

He said the project would benefit not just the people of Yangon, but also the four mega cities of Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Taunggyi, and Mawlamyine.

Myanmar's cities, including Yangon, have experienced about 30 earthquakes in two months, said U Soe Lwin.

Following his speech, Prof Dr Frauke Krass from Cologne University, Germany, and Dr Win Maung from the Myanmar

Environment Institute also extended greetings.

Afterwards, experts discussed matters related with the disaster management project.

Post a disaster, the emergency requirement for least developing countries is six times higher than developed nations, he added.

The earthquake in Indonesia in 2004, Cyclonic Storm Nargis in Myanmar in 2008, and Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013 are considered the most destructive disasters in the ASEAN region.—Kyaw Soe

## Algeria awaits outcome of election marred by unrest

ALGIERS — Algerians awaited the outcome Friday of a widely unpopular presidential election marred by attacks on polling stations and the lowest turnout in the country's history.

The election had been championed by the army as a way of restoring stability almost 10 months into a protest movement that in April ousted president Abdelaziz Bouteflika, 82, after two decades in office.

But on polling day Thursday, protesters defied a heavy police presence to hold a mass rally in the heart of the capital Algiers and smaller demonstrations in provincial cities.

The electoral authority said its chairman Mohamed Charfi would release the results at 11 am (1000 GMT), an announcement that could prompt tens of thousands of election opponents to pour out onto the streets in new protests.

All five of the candidates in Thursday's vote were widely rejected by protesters as "children of the regime".

Among them are two of the ousted leader's former prime ministers — Abdelmajid Tebboune, 74, and Ali Benflis, 75 — and a former minister, Azzedine Mihoubi.—AFP ■

## Path to softer Brexit? UK PM's big win gives him leeway

LONDON — The scale of the Conservative victory in Britain's election makes Britain's exit from the European Union all but inevitable but could lead to a softer split, analysts said on Friday.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's party secured its biggest majority in parliament since the heyday of Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s in Thursday's

election.

The outcome should allow Johnson — a figurehead of the original 2016 EU membership referendum — to push his divorce deal with Brussels through parliament and take Britain out of the bloc on 31 January. But he still has to negotiate a new economic partnership with the European Union, which remains Britain's biggest

trading partner, for businesses to continue operating smoothly on both sides of the Channel.

Failure to do so by the end of 2020 would push Britain into uncharted waters and have unknown repercussions for global markets and international trade.

Before the election, Johnson had to rely on hardline eurosceptic Con-

servative MPs in the European Research Group (ERG), who have been pressing him for a much looser trading relationship with Brussels.

"With a big majority, Boris Johnson can ignore ERG and go for a softer Brexit if he wishes," noted Charles Grant, director of the Centre for European Reform (CER) think tank. Despite Brexit domi-

nating the election, there has been little scrutiny of Johnson's exit deal, which covers separation issues such as expatriate rights and Britain's financial settlement.

There has been even less discussion about the pros and cons of any future trade agreements, while Johnson himself has given mixed signals about what he wants to achieve.—AFP

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### Embassy of India, Yangon Tender Notice

#### Painting of Embassy Residence Compound at Padonmar Street

The Embassy of India, Yangon is inviting tenders for painting of boundary walls and others at above address. For details, please visit Embassy's website <https://embassyofindiayangon.gov.in/> -> Tender -> Tender (Embassy's). The last date 26 December, 2019.

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

#### M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (142 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (142 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-12-2019 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE  
Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

#### M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (143N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (143N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

#### M.V IZUMO

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V IZUMO VOY. NO. (MG1925) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-3 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 HUI SHEN SHIPPING CO., LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

#### M.V PANGEO

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PANGEO VOY. NO. (002) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MMKW 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 WILHELMSEN SHIPS SERVICES PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

# Three reclining Buddha images in ancient **Hanthawady city**

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

**G**ENERALLY, Buddhists keep Buddha images in sitting postures for obeisance at their houses. Various types of sitting Buddha images in many hand postures were built at religious edifices such as pagodas, temples, stupas and monasteries. However, Buddha images in walking posture were lesser than standing Buddha images.

Among reclining Buddha images in Myanmar, the one at Winsein Tawya in Mudon Township of Mon State is the largest. Three reclining Buddha images in Bago Township among others in major cities including Yangon are not the biggest but the most significant, crowded with pilgrims on a daily basis.

Bago, a royal city ruled by Mon kings, was famous as Hanthawady in Yamanya region. So also, it was a royal palace where Second Myanmar Emperor King Bayintnaung Kyawhtin Nawrahta came onto the throne. A total of 17 kings from King Samala to King Tissaraja reigned Bago in the first Hanthawady era (825-1067 AD). Some experts said Hanthawady Royal Palace established by King Samala was not current place of Bago. King Banyao established new royal palace in Hanthawady which was located in current place of Bago in the second Hanthawady era (1369-1538 AD). A total of 11 successive kings from King Banyao to King Thushintakayukpi reigned Hanthawady in the second Hanthawady era. King Banyao established new Hanthawady state in the place of old Hanthawady built by King Tissaraja, last king of the first Hanthawady era.

Ketumati King Tabinshwehti conquered Bago in 1538 AD and



ShweThaLyaung reclining Buddha image. PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHEAOLGY)



ShweThaLyaun Pagoda in Bago. PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHEAOLGY)

moved his throne from Toungoo to Bago. Bayintnaung succeeded to him in Bago in 1551 AD and built Kanbawzathadi Palace in 1553 AD. King Bayintnaung then established the Second Myanmar Empire based on Bago.

Bago, 47 miles northeast of Yangon, is located on Bago River. The town is situated at an altitude of 31 feet. Myanmar Encyclopaedia mentioned Bago was governed by Ngayamankan in the tenure of King Saw Lu in Bagan era as well as ruled by King Tayaphya who was a son-in-law of Mottama King Magadu. In his reign, King Banyao built 16-corner walls for Hanthawady Royal Palace. Places of the walls remain unchanged and the walls can be seen as mounds till today.

## Bago, Oktha, Hanthawady

Bago was well-known as Oktha and Hanthawady in the

past. Name of Bago was changed from different meanings called in ancient times.

Myanmar Encyclopaedia stated that Bago was the great grandeur in the reign of King Bayintnaung. After King Alaungphaya occupied Hanthawady in 1757 AD, Bago was not well-known. Shwemawdaw Pagoda built on Sudassana Hillock or Myinthita Hillock in centre of Bago in 237 Sasana era is a symbol of the town. Likewise, Shwethalyaung, Myathalyaung and Seinthalayaung

reclining Buddha images are also magnificent ones in Bago. The first two are located in the west of Bago and the last one, in the east.

## Shwethalyaung

Shwethalyaung reclining Buddha image is located on the road to Mahazedi Pagoda. Visitors who leave Yangon need to turn left to Shwethalyaung image before arriving at the overpass of railroad in Bago. The image is 55 metres long (180 feet) and 16 metres high (52 feet). It was built by Mon King Maggadipa in 994 AD but the image was hidden in the bushes for a long time. In 1880, the Buddha image was found in clearing the bushes to construct the railroad. The image was renovated in 1881 and left side of its pillow rebuilt. The roof and walls of hall for the image were completed in 1930.

According to the records described on the hall where the image is kept, the reclining Buddha image is 180 feet long and 52.5 feet high, the face 22 feet long, ears 15 feet long each, eyes three feet and nine inches each, eye brows, eyelids, nose, neck and lips, 7.6 feet long each. The areas from shoulder to waist of the image, from waist to knee and from knee to foot are 47.5 feet long each. The length from elbow to tip of finger is 45 feet. The length of little finger is about 10 feet, the

foot 25 feet, the big toe six feet and the palm 22 feet.

People in successive eras assumed the well-wisher of Shwethalyaung reclining Buddha image was Mon King Maggadipa but some assumed it was built by King Bayintnaung. The image was enshrined sacred relics and many Buddha images. The forehead of the Buddha was enshrined a piece of real ruby. The robes of the image were gilt, and the image was named Neikban Image, according to the book with the title of "Historical observatories around Hanthawady (Bago)".

## Myathalyaung

Myathalyaung reclining Buddha image located near Shwethalyaung image is bigger than the latter. Myathalyaung image was a rebuilt one on the original hillock. Its original title was Naungdawgyi image. It was named by hermit U Khanti because Myathalyaung was located in upper side of Shwethalyaung image and was larger than Shwethalyaung image.

Hermit U Khanti built religious edifices in Bago including the iron stairway connected between Hinthagon Pagoda and Shwemawdaw Pagoda. While carrying out missionary tasks in Bago, the hermit renovated the hillock of the reclining Buddha image. The old hillock of Myath-

alyaung image seemed to have collapsed brick walls covered by bushes. The entrance to the precinct of Myathalyaung image was made of baked clay bricks based on large blocks of laterite considered as works of ancient Mon culture.

Ancient bricks found near Myathalyaung image were assumed as the works in Dhammazedi era as these were evidences of Mon culture. Ancient Buddha images, bricks and broken glazed bricks found in renovation of Myathalyaung image are displayed at the prayer hall in the image's precinct. After building Kyaikpun four-faced pagoda, King Dhammazedi constructed a reclining Buddha image under the title of Kyaikthalun, according to the book "Historical observatories around Hanthawady (Bago)". As the hillock where Myathalyaung image was built was not far from Kyaikpun Pagoda, a precise decision could not be adopted whether Kyaikthalun is Myathalyaung built by King Dhammazedi called Naungdawgyi Buddha image or not. It was because there was no stone inscription on construction of Myathalyaung reclining Buddha image.

#### Seinthalyaung

Travellers may pay visits to Seinthalyaung reclining Buddha image along the road which turned right from Bago-Thantpin Road from the exit of Bago. The image, located there before King Dhammazedi, was named Maha Buddharupa as original title, with 100 elbows in height.

There were two kings with names of Migadibba in the first Hanthawady era. Senior King Migadibba ruled the state from 917 to 932 AD and the junior, from 994 to 1004 AD. Seinthalyaung image was built by junior King Migadibba, who was the 13th successor in the first Hanthawady era. The image was originally named Shinpin Paunghla, and it was recorded as Maha Buddharupa in Kalyani stone inscriptions.

In its history, Hanthawady was established in three eras. The state was ruled by the kings from Samala to Tissaraja in the first era, from Banyo Oo to Thushintakayukpi in the second era and Tabinshwehti to Nanda in the third era, lasting for 774 years from 835 to 1599 AD. The long history left significantly ancient heritages in Bago or Oktha or Hanthawady. Despite facing terrible impacts of earthquakes, wars and unscrupulous persons for several times, the three reclining Buddha images significantly exist in Bago Township till today, showing evidences of Buddhist religious edifices as well as ancient heritages to local and foreign travellers.

Translated by Than Tun Aung

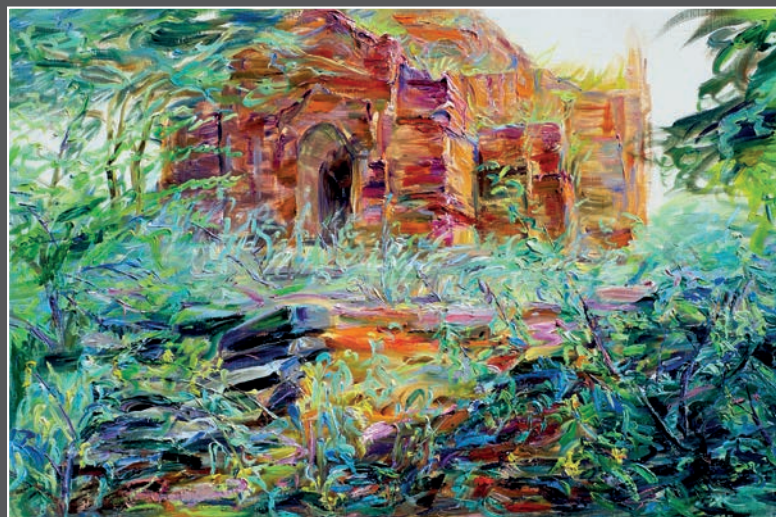
Reference:

*Myanmar Encyclopaedia, Volume (VI) Historical observatories around Hanthawady (Bago)*, (Maung Yin Hline, Pyinmamyaing)



## Korean artist Kim Chang Han captures Myanmar's 'pure soul' on canvas

Korean artist Kim Chang Han is showcasing the impressions of Myanmar that he captured on canvas while traveling the country at the New Treasure Art Gallery in Yangon. The artist will display his work at the gallery from 14 to 17 December. "People say that Myanmar is a country with a 'pure soul'."

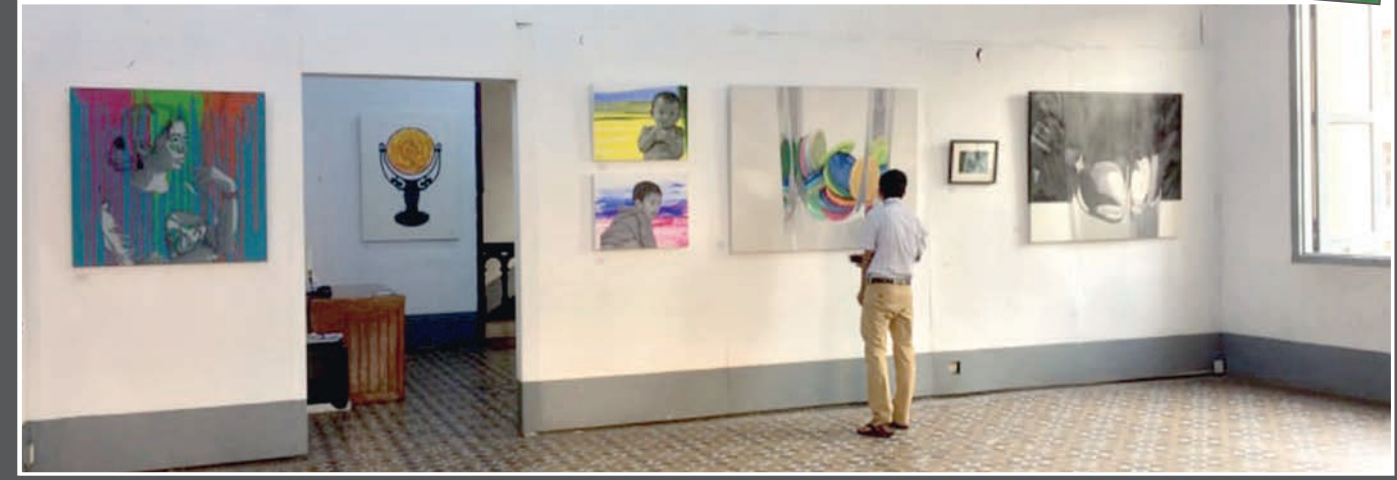


I had very strong impressions when traveling in Myanmar in 2018. It was such an amazing experience. I made the decision to visit this incredible country again with a view to further embrace its beauty through my artistic impressions, to share my impressions of this stunning beauty, and the ideals of such a journey through my personal 'World Art Journey'. What I have painted on the canvas represents, for me, going back to a pure, wild nature, the return to a pure and spiritual, meditative state," said the artist. The New Treasure Art Gallery is located on No. 84/A Thanlwin St, Golden Hill Avenue, Golden Valley, Bahan Township.—GNLM

## Exhibition by 12 women artists on at Lokanat

Twelve women artists have teamed up and are showcasing artworks reflecting different viewpoints in an exhibition titled 'Perceptions' from 13 to 22 December at the Lokanat Galleries in downtown Yangon.

About 36 paintings are being exhibited at the show. The artists are Aye Nyein Myint, Cho Wai Htun, Kyu Kyu, Mor Mor, Myat Hteik Tin, Nyein Nyein Ei, Ohn Ohn, Sandar Khaing, Sandy, Thi Thi Zin, Tin Mar Lynn, and Win Thanda. The Lokanat Galleries building is located at the corner of the Merchant Road and Pansodan Road in downtown Yangon.—GNLM



### Trade Mark Ads

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### Asleep in Jesus Rev. Dr. Waldo Thein (Age. 82 years)

Rev. Dr. Waldo Thein, Pastor of Thamaing Karen Baptist Church, President of the Kayin Baptist Home Mission Churches Association, Father of Dr. Saw Marldo Thein and Naw Tammy, Saya Saw Cheldo Thein and Naw Nilar Win, Tharamu Neilta Thein and Saw Hsar Lwe Htoo, grandfather of Naw Cheni Thein, Naw Marty Thein, Saw Taldo Thein, Saw Nieldo Thein, Saw Neil Orion Htoo and Naw Jane Carina Htoo, was called to His Heavenly Home on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2019, at 00:15 am. Funeral Service will be held at 9:00 am, on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019, at the Thamaing Karen Baptist Church. Entombment will be held at the Cemetery of the Kayin Baptist Home Mission Churches Associates, Htain Bin.

## AFC Cup 2020: Yangon United to start playoffs for Group F



Yangon United's Mg Mg Lwin and Sylla celebrate the team's victory in the 2018 AFC Cup match against Bali United. **PHOTO: AFC**

YANGON United F.C., the winners of the General Aung San Shield 2019, will represent Myanmar in the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Cup 2020, and the team has been placed in Group F for the tourney, according to a statement issued by the football club.

The drawing ceremony for the AFC Cup 2020 was held on 10 December at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Yangon United will take part in the Group F matches if the team passes the playoffs stage.

Yangon United will start their international competition from the playoff stage to secure

entry into Group F, according to the AFC.

In the playoff stage, Yangon United will face Indera S.C. of Brunei. The winner will advance to the Group F matches, which will be held from 22 to 29 January on a home and away basis.

In Group F, Yangon United will meet with Ho Chi Minh City F.C. of Viet Nam, Hougang F.C. of Singapore, and Lao Toyota F.C. of Laos.

Yangon United has participated in the AFC Cup seven times, and the team reached the zonal semi-finals of the tourney in the previous year, and it is the best record of Yangon United in AFC Cup.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

## Myanmar Futsal League: Week-6 matches to be held today

THE Week-6 matches of the Myanmar Futsal League will be held today at the National Indoor Stadium in Yangon.

There will be six matches in total, and the first match will start at 8.30 a.m. today.

Three teams—Victoria University College F.C., Myanmar Imperial University F.C., and GV F.C.—will fight for the first place this week as they are tied with

15 points and are standing in the top three positions with goal differences.

Myanmar Football Federation's U-19 F.C. will play the first match against Do Do Ko Ko F.C. at 8.30 a.m., while Dream Team F.C. will take on Myanmar Imperial University F.C. at 10 a.m.

Next, AMM Brothers F.C. will play against Victoria University College F.C. on 11.30 a.m., and Let

Wel Thone Nara F.C. will take on GV F.C. at 1p.m.

Next, Winner F.C. will play with Myoma JY F.C. at 2.30 p.m., and On Doctor F.C. will take on Futsal Chit Thu F.C. at 4 p.m.

All the matches can be enjoyed free of charge, and the matches will be streamed live on the MFF Futsal Facebook page, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

## Striker Than Htet Aung joins Ayeyawady United for 2 years



Striker Than Htet Aung (L) receiving his contract from Ayeyawady United head coach Myo Hlaing Win. **PHOTO: AUFC**

STRIKER Than Htet Aung, former Samut Sakhon F.C. player, has signed a two-year contract with Ayeyawady United, according to a statement issued by the football club.

"The reason why I wanted to come here is Ayeyawady United is one of the best teams in the Myanmar National League. I would like to express my thanks to the concerned persons for their assistance in my transfer to Ayeyawady United. I will try my best to help my team claim the League title. I will do my best with the support of fans," said striker Than Htet Aung.

Than Htet Aung, 27, trained at the Yangon United Academy before starting his career with the Yangon United Junior team. Seeing his skills in the junior team, officials picked him up for the senior team.

Than Htet Aung played in the forward position with Yangon United, which won the MNL title thrice while he was on the team. In 2013, he moved to Zwekapin United and then returned to Yangon United.

He then moved back with Zwekapin United for the 2018 season of the MNL, and he helped the team win matches.

Than Htet Aung was also nominated as the MNL Best Player of the Year 2018, and he won the player of the month award thrice in the 2018 Season.

He moved to Thai League-2 team Samut Sakhon F.C. in 2019.

Currently Than Htet Aung is playing for the Myanmar national team in the 2022 World Cup Qualifiers.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

## Spurs goal proves Coutinho settling at Bayern - Flick

BERLIN — Interim coach Hansi Flick says Philippe Coutinho's first Champions League goal for Bayern Munich proved the on-loan playmaker is finally settling in.

Coutinho, 27, is attempting to reboot his career in Germany on a season-long temporary deal after a frustrating 18 months at Barcelona.

After impressing by scoring and setting up a goal against Cologne, then Paderborn in September, the Brazil attacker's form dipped in the autumn.

He was left out of Saturday's 2-1 defeat at league leaders Borussia Moenchengladbach.

However, he showed some deadly finishing with a superb

goal in Wednesday's 3-1 win over Tottenham as Bayern became the first Bundesliga club to win all six group games in the Champions League.

"He's on the right track. We know that it's not always so easy to get a foothold in Germany," Flick said of Coutinho on Friday.

"He played well (against Spurs), it was important for him to show some joy in his game.

"He had some touches that I really liked and the logical consequence was his goal, which he took beautifully.

"He has enormous qualities and will show them again here and again."

Wednesday's win over Spurs boosted confidence af-

ter back-to-back league defeats leave Bayern seventh in the table, seven points behind leaders Moenchengladbach.

"I'm definitely sleeping better," admitted Flick, with a decision about his future expected after their final game before the winter break against Wolfsburg on December 21.

Flick wants three points from each of their next three league games, starting at home to Werder Bremen on Saturday, a tricky away tie at fifth-placed Freiburg on Wednesday before hosting the Wolves.

However, he is without forwards Corentin Tolisso and Kingsley Coman, who are both injured, while defender Javi Martinez is suspended.—AFP ■