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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Prez, First Lady, State Counsellor have X'mas, NY Eve lunch with Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker



President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat and wife Daw Yin May and family members pose for a group photo at the Christmas, New Year Eve luncheon at the residence of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

**P**RESIDENT U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi enjoyed a luncheon hosted by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat to mark the Christmas

festival and the New Year Eve yesterday noon.

It was also attended by former President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin, Vice President U Myint Swe, Vice President U Henry Van Thio

and wife Dr Shwe Hlun, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi, Chairperson of the Constitutional Tribunal U Myo Nyunt, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun

Hein and wife Dr Sein Sein Thein, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Ministers, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, judges of Union Supreme Court, members of Constitutional

Tribunal, members of Union Election Commission, chairpersons of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw committees, Deputy Ministers, members of Union Civil Service Board, **SEE PAGE-3**



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## Thiri Mingalar Kaba Aye Pagoda paved with natural clay on upper terrace

RENOVATION of the upper terrace at Thiri Minigalar Kaba Aye Pagoda was completed with paving of natural clay, and the inauguration ceremony was held yesterday morning.

Patron of Kan Oo Zetawun Pariyatti Monastery Bhadantta Nanda Sami Bhivamsa delivered the Five Precepts and members of Sangha recited Parittas.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and the congregation donated offertories to the members of Sangha.

Patron of Shwe Thanlwin Company Dr Ni Ni donated nine plates of one-tical pure gold worth about K8,550,000 for the pagoda.

The Patron of Kan Oo Zetawun Pariyatti Monastery delivered a sermon to the Union Minister and the congregation, followed by sharing merits.

The Union Minister and officials cut a ceremonial ribbon to mark the inauguration of upper terrace at the pagoda and donated day meal (Swan) to the Sangha.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko donates the offertories to the Sangha at the inauguration ceremony for renovation of Thiri Minigalar Kaba Aye Pagoda in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister U Han Zaw and officials open the inter-village road and new bridge in Taninthayi Region yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Construction Minister opens road, bridge in Taninthayi Region

UNION Minister for Construction U Han Zaw opened an inter-village road and a new bridge in Taninthayi Region yesterday.

An inter-village road between Sone Sin and Gon Hynin Seik in Thayetchaung Township of Dawei District in Taninthayi Region was upgraded from the 14<sup>th</sup> wide earth road to the 30<sup>th</sup> wide concrete pavement type with the earth shoulder of 12<sup>th</sup> in a total length of 8-mile 3 furlong to benefit 12,600 locals from 1,520 households in nine villages.

At the opening ceremony of road, the Union Minister said the government has targeted construction of road networks in 80 per cent of villages for 90 per cent of rural population by 2030 with adopting the National Strategy for Rural Roads and Access (2017-2030) to provide as many rural people as possible with all-season access.

The Union Minister also opened Pitat-Myadaung Bridge on Laku-Myadaung-Toe Road in Palaw Township of Myeik Dis-

trict, Taninthayi Region in the afternoon.

At the ceremony, Union Minister U Han Zaw and Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myint Maung made speeches.

The Department of Rural Road Development in Taninthayi Region constructed concrete roads with a total length of 784.2 mile and 384 bridges/box culverts from 2017-2018 financial year to 2019-2020 financial year with the Union/Regional budgets.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye attends 4<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Festival of Artists with Disabilities

THE Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (MILI) organized the 4<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Festival of Artists with Disabilities at Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon yesterday.

It was attended by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) Chairman U Win Mra, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, the Ambassador of Finland to Myanmar Ms Riikka Laatu, Regional Social Affairs Minister U Naing Ngan Linn and U Nay Lin Soe, the Founder and Programme Director of MILI, attended the festival.

The festival was participated by the artists with disabilities from Myanmar, Singapore and the Philippines.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, in his capacity as the Vice Chairman of the National Com-

mittee on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (NCRPD) appraised the festival to show artistic skills of persons with disabilities by overcoming their disadvantages.

He added the government is trying to alter false views on the persons with disabilities, and to promote their rights in education, health, employment, women and children affairs, research, priority in conflicts and

justice by forming a national level committee led by the Vice President.

The Union Minister said the government will soon form an independent monitoring group comprising with the members of MNHRC and capable persons from the organizations of PWDs to be able to monitor, advise and access on implementing the rights of PWDs in accordance

with suggestion of the United Nation.

He also called for contribution of people in these works and expressed thanks for organizing the festival.

Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Festival Ambassador vocalist Zaw Win Htut and the Finnish Ambassador to Myanmar extended greetings, and MILI's Director U Nay Lin Soe

explained the event.

The MILI, the Singaporean deaf dance crew Redeafination and the BMG Philippine Wheel Chair Para Dance-sport staged their performances, the Chairman of MNHRC presented them gifts.

Products of PWD organizations were also displayed at the festival.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



## Whatever we do, we must keep in mind the good of our Union

Our country is a union. A union is a nation comprised of many ethnic nationalities. Whatever we do, we must keep in mind the good of our Union. Whatever you do, please think for the good of our Union and the peoples of our Union. Further, please work to bring the peoples of our Union closer together, more bonded, more united.

*(Extract from the opening speech given by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 3 August 2018 at Meeting No. 1/2018 of the National Tourism Development Central Committee.)*



# President, First Lady, State Counsellor have X'mas, New Year Eve lunch with Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker



President U Win Myint being welcomed by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, wife and family members at the Christmas, New Year Eve luncheon. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi being welcomed by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, wife and family members at the Christmas, New Year Eve luncheon. **PHOTO: MNA**

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members of Nay Pyi Taw Council and their wives, departmental heads, priests and invited guests.

At the luncheon, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Churches Council Rev Dr U Tin Maung Aye praised the God, and said prayers for the Union of Myanmar, leaders of State, and

citizens.

President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi sliced the Christmas cake, and the attendees

sang Christmas songs before Rev U La Zet from Kachin Baptist Convention delivered sermons and said prayers.

The President, First Lady and the State Counsellor then

enjoyed the luncheon together with the family of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and the attendees. —MNA

*(Translated by Aung Khin)*

## Rakhine State Chief Minister inspects housings for civil service personnel in Kyaukpyu

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and members of the Rakhine State Government inspected the housing project for the civil service personnel in Rakhine state and a site chosen for construction of the Nursing Training School in Kyaukpyu yesterday afternoon.

During the visit to the four-storey buildings which are under construction for the Minpyin Housing,

Chief Minister U Nyi Pu urged the officials of the constructions to build the facilities in line with standards and to complete them timely.

Director of the Housing Development Department U Aung Tun Naing reported to the Chief Minister and members of the Rakhine State Government on constructions works.

As part of the tour of

inspection, the Chief Minister and entourage also visited a site in Asoe Ward in Kyaukpyu for construction of the Nursing Training School.

Kyaukpyu Township Administrator U Soe Moe Kyaw and Chairman of Kyaukpyu Township Development Affairs Department detailed about the project. — Phyo Wai Lin (IRPD) *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu inspects the staff housing project for the civil service personnel in Rakhine State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**ACTING CHIEF EDITOR**

Aye Min Soe  
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

**SENIOR TRANSLATORS**

Zaw Min  
Zaw Htet Oo  
Aung Khin

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**

Ye Htut Tin,  
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**

Tun Tun Naing (Editor),  
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),  
nwenwe9131@gmail.com

**TRANSLATORS**

Hay Mar Tin Win,  
Ei Myat Mon  
Kyaw Zin Lin  
Kyaw Zin Tun

**REPORTER**

Nyein Nyein Ei,  
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar  
Kyaw Zeya

**COMPUTER TEAM**

Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,  
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,  
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe,  
Nyi Lin Thu

**EDITORIAL SECTION**

(+95) (01)8604529,  
Fax - (+95) (01) 8604305

**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**

San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,  
Hotline - 09 974424114

**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**

(+95) (01) 8604530,  
Hotline - 09 974424848  
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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gnlmdaily@gmail.com  
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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.

## Human fossils found on side of Yangon-Mandalay Highway

HUMAN fossils have been discovered at what researchers consider to be a Bronze Age cist burial on the side of the Yangon-Mandalay Highway, according to a local.

"This is the first time that an old skeleton has been found in our village. The fossils were discovered by a team researching the Bronze Age and Iron Age which was excavating a site 1,500 feet east of milepost 330 in Padaung village-tract, Natogyi Township, Myingyan District. The excavation is still on," said locals.

Seven human fossils, pots, animal bones, bone beads, stone beads, a mussel shell, and two bronze arrowheads have been discovered at the site.

The place where the human fossils were found has been marked as an Iron Age site with



Officials check the human fossils on the site near the Yangon-Mandalay Highway.

**PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD**

a plaque. The Department of Archaeology and National Museum under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture has been conducting discovery

tours at sites from the Stone Age, Bronze Age, early Iron Age, late Iron Age, Pyu dynasty, Konbaung dynasty, Bagan dynasty, and Kingdom of Ava,

and, preserving ancient finds, according to the department. —Township IPRD

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Foundation laying for Yangon-Dala bridge 60% complete

THE construction of the Yangon-Dala bridge, or the Korea-Myanmar Friendship Bridge, is on and work on laying the bored pile foundation for the bridge on the Dala side is 60 per cent complete, said U Maung Maung Cho, chief engineer of Myat Noe Thu Company, which is implementing the approaching bridge project.

"Of the 141 bored piles, 81 have been drilled down. Bored piling and other piling foundation processes on the side of Dala are expected to finish in March. For now, laying of the piling foundation is still under way," he said.

Similarly, the temporary approaching bridge from Yangon side is being implemented by the CCECC Company.

While construction is on, vessels are required to travel between two red and green buoys placed along the site. There are two red and yellow



The view of the Yangon-Dala bridge or Korea-Myanmar Friendship Bridge which is under construction.

**PHOTO: NAING LIN KYAW (DALA)**

buoys installed on the Dala side and two green and yellow buoys on the Yangon side.

The companies carrying out Dala construction projects are following safety and security

measures.

Upon completion of the Yangon-Dala bridge, local people from Dala, Twantay, Kawhmu, and Kungyangon in Yangon Region will enjoy smooth

transportation and faster trade. The project is also expected to improve the livelihood of local people.—Naing Lin Kyaw (Dala)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Police seize K1.3bln worth stimulant tablets in Monghsat



An anti-narcotic squad confiscated 1,300,000 stimulant tablets worth of K1.3 billion at a shop in Yaung Kha (Nar Yaung) Village, Monghta Village-tract of Monghsat Township, Shan State, yesterday morning.

Action on a tip-off, police searched the rental shop and the Thai citizen, identified as Kyaut Cahi, who rented the shop, is still at large. Police has filed a complaint against him under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Law, according to Myanmar Police Force.—GNLM

(Translated by Bahtoo)

## Myanmar's corn exports halve in 2019-2020FY

MYANMAR shipped over 100,000 tons of corn to other countries during October-November in the current financial year compared to 200,000 tons in the year-ago period.

As China is the major purchaser of Myanmar corn, the price is positively related to demand from the neighboring country.

At present, corn prices are ranging around K340-380 per viss (one viss is approximately 1.6 kg).

It has been one year since China suspended the importation of some agro products through the border gates, thereby forcing corn traders to turn to the Thailand market.

China sometimes allows traders to directly purchase corn up to a certain limit as a

substitute for opium. However, if the export volume exceeds the quota, corn is confiscated as it is considered an illegal good.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, Laos traders have proposed purchasing rice and corn produced in Shan State and re-exporting them to China.

Besides China, Myanmar also exports corn to India, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, and Thailand. But, the volume of exports to those markets is low.

There are more than 1.9 million acres of corn plantations in Myanmar, primarily in Sagaing and Magway regions, and Chin, Kayin, Shan, and Kayah states.

As per data from the Min-



Farmers unloading the corns in their farm. PHOTO: KO HTEIN

istry of Commerce, Myanmar exported 1.5 million tons of corn, worth US\$270 million, in the 2018-2019FY; 1.4 million

tons of corn, worth over \$290 million, in the 2017-2018FY; 1.2 million tons of corn, worth \$250 million, in the 2016-2017FY;

and, 1.1 million tons of corn, worth \$300 million, in the 2015-2016FY. — GNLM (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Trade at Muse crosses \$1.2 bln as of 13 Dec

THE value of Sino-Myanmar border trade through the Muse gate jumped to US\$1.208 billion between 1 October and 13

December, an increase of \$444 million compared to the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, according to the Ministry

of Commerce.

Exports through the Muse gate rose considerably to \$820.64 million, while im-

ports were valued at \$387.9 million. Both exports and imports climbed over the past two months of the current fiscal.

Muse is an important border gate in Myanmar and handles the largest volume of trade. But at times, it has experienced a sharp drop in trade on account of China clamping down on illegal goods, resulting in a halt in trade of agricultural products.

Myanmar merchants find it difficult to export goods to China through legitimate channels as they find the tax levied by China too high. Therefore, rice confiscation and price manipulation often occur in border trade.

To resolve this, Myanmar needs to convert the government-to-government (G2G) agreement into a sustainable

pact, according to trade bodies. Myanmar requires G2G or business-to-business (B2B) agreements for the trade of pulses and beans, corn, sesame, fish, and shrimp, to grab a share of the Chinese market, they said.

The government and the private sector also need to move forward through public private partnerships (PPP), according to the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Myanmar exports rice, sugar, pulses, sesame seeds, corn, dried tea leaves, fishery products, minerals, and animal products to China, while it imports agricultural machinery, electrical appliances, iron and steel-related materials, raw industrial goods, and consumer goods from the neighboring country. — GNLM (Translated by EMM)



Trucks seen at 105-mile trade zone Muse, northern Shan State. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

## Exports shoot up by \$976.57 mln in current fiscal

MYANMAR'S exports between 1 October and 13 December in the current fiscal year rose sharply to US\$3.81 billion from \$2.84 billion registered in the corresponding period of the 2018-2019 fiscal year, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

The figure reflects an increase of \$976.57 million compared with the year-ago period. Of the seven export groups,

agriculture, fisheries, finished industrial goods, and minerals have shown an increase in exports. Meanwhile, exports of livestock, forest products, and other goods have declined.

Export values were registered at \$728 million for agro products, \$44 million for livestock, \$213.69 million for fishery products, \$722.6 million for minerals, \$35.6 million for forest

products, \$2 billion for manufactured goods, and \$70.8 million for other goods.

The country's export sector relies more on the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. While export earnings from the CMP (cut, make, and pack) garment businesses are rising, the country's reliance on natural resources, such as natural gas and jade, is lessening.

The Ministry of Commerce is focusing on export promotion in order to reduce the trade deficit. Since 2011, the Ministry of Commerce has adhered to its reform policy. A series of moves to liberalize and open the economy have been introduced through policy development to improve the trade environment. — Ko Khant (Translated by EMM)

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# Myanmar Travel Film Investment introduced in Beijing

A ceremony to introduce Myanmar Travel Film Investment programme was held at Myanmar Embassy in Beijing, China, on December 27.

The ceremony was held by Exploring Myanmar Culture & Tourism Organization, with the assistance of Myanmar-China Culture and Tourism Promotion Association and Myanmar Embassy in Beijing. The ceremony was attended by the Ambassador of Myanmar to the People's Republic of China U Myo Thant Pe and embassy staffs, officials from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China and ASEAN-China Centre (ACC), travel businessmen from Myanmar and China,

Chinese film and media businessmen, guests and media.

At the ceremony, Ambassador U Myo Thant Pe delivered an opening speech, and the chairman of Myanmar-China Culture and Tourism Promotion Association Mr Liu Wei detailed about the topics of "Introduction to Myanmar tourism resources", "Rules and directives for shooting the beauty of Myanmar; Myanmar Investment Law and possible investment projects.

The ceremony came to an end after the documentary film shot by Ministry of Hotels and Tourism of Myanmar was screened. — Kyaw Swar (FDC)  
(Translate by Bahtoo)



The ceremony to introduce Myanmar Travel Film Investment programme being held at the Myanmar Embassy in Beijing, China, on December 27. **PHOTO: KYAW SWAR (FDC)**

# Third Myanmar falconry championship held in Mandalay



A falconer with his well-trained bird seen at the Myanmar Falconry Championship 2019 on 28 December at the Nature's Life Equestrian Club in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MAN-SUB PRINTING HOUSE)**

THE Myanmar Falconry Championship 2019 was held on Saturday at the Nature's Life Equestrian Club in Patheingyi Township of Mandalay Region. Professional falconers and

birds of prey breeders from across the country brought trained hawks, falcons, and kites for the competition, which was organized by the Myanmar Falconers' Club.

"With the aim of promoting the breeding of rare species of birds of prey and creating the opportunity for bringing together bird breeders from across the country, the first and second falconry competitions were held in Yangon, and the third was held in Mandalay," said Ko Sai Naung, founder of the Myanmar Falconers' Club.

He said the competition has been held in Yangon since 2016, and the 2019 competition held in Mandalay attracted 15 falconers with around 20 birds.

"The number of falconers has increased year by year, and even crossed 1,000. Both local and foreign species of birds of

prey were included in the competition. After they bond with trainers, the birds are usually set free in the forest," Ko Sai Naung added.

U Maung Maung, a falconer who competed with his eagle, said, "It is difficult to train birds of prey. It takes time to train them. However, we are delighted when we can communicate well with them. The government departments didn't officially permit us, but they also didn't ask us not to breed."

The competitions are very beneficial as we, the bird breeders, can exchange our knowledge of bird handling techniques, he added. The 2019 championship was categorized into three groups — hawking, swing lure, and soaring. — Min Htet Aung (Man-Sub Printing House)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

# 'Musth' elephant which killed 3 men captured

AN elephant in musth which killed three men, including its mahout, in Indaw, Kachin State, was tranquilized and captured yesterday.

The male elephant, named "Aung Bu", 49, was found in a forest with a female elephant and tranquilized six days after it created terror in the area. The operation, which involved three elephants, the authorities, and one veterinarian, ended yesterday evening.

The elephant had killed

three persons and injured another in separate incidents.

The injured person has been taken to the Myitkyina hospital.— Win Naing (Kachin Land)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

The musth elephant which killed three men was tranquilized and captured in Indaw yesterday. **PHOTO: WIN NAING (KACHIN LAND)**



## Misleading password meters from online websites can do harm: Study

WASHINGTON — A study suggests that following misleading password meters from popular online websites can harm people more than helping them out.

Password meters are frequently made available to help the users secure their personal data against the threats posed by cybercriminals. The study conducted at the University of Plymouth has assessed the effectiveness of 16 password meters that people are likely to use or encounter on a regular basis.

The research says that there is a clear level of variation in the advice offered across different websites.

The study was published in the journal *Computer Fraud and Security*.

The main focus was dedicated password meter websites, but the study also sought to assess

those embedded in some common online services (including Dropbox and Reddit) and those found as standard on some of our devices.

And while some meters do effectively steer users towards more secure account passwords, some will not pick them up when they try to use 'abc123', 'qwertyuiop' and 'iloveyou' - all listed this week among the worst passwords of 2019.

The study was conducted by Steve Furnell, Professor of Information Security and Leader of the University's Centre for Security, Communications and Network Research. Commenting on the latest research, Prof Furnell said: "Over the festive period, hundreds of millions of people will receive technology presents or use their devices to purchase them."—ANI ■



FILE PHOTO: People deliver a computer payload while working on a laptop on 22 January, 2019 in Lille, during the 11th International Cybersecurity Forum. PHOTO: AFP

## Researchers at Caltech develop new algorithm to make quantum computers more efficient

CALIFORNIA — Quantum computers aren't that different from classical computers in the sense that just like their older siblings their functioning is dependent on the instructions we give them. This new milestone in computing opens endless prospects for the future but the instructions and algorithms that are necessary to run them are still in their infancy and not advanced enough to be of any substantial use. Caltech's Bren Professor of Chemistry, Garnet K Chan is on a mission to develop new algorithms that will take quantum computing one step further.

In an interview on Caltech's (California Institute of Technol-

ogy) website, Chen talked about the new research paper he published recently, that proposes a new algorithm, which will enable quantum computers to carry out simulations in physical sciences.

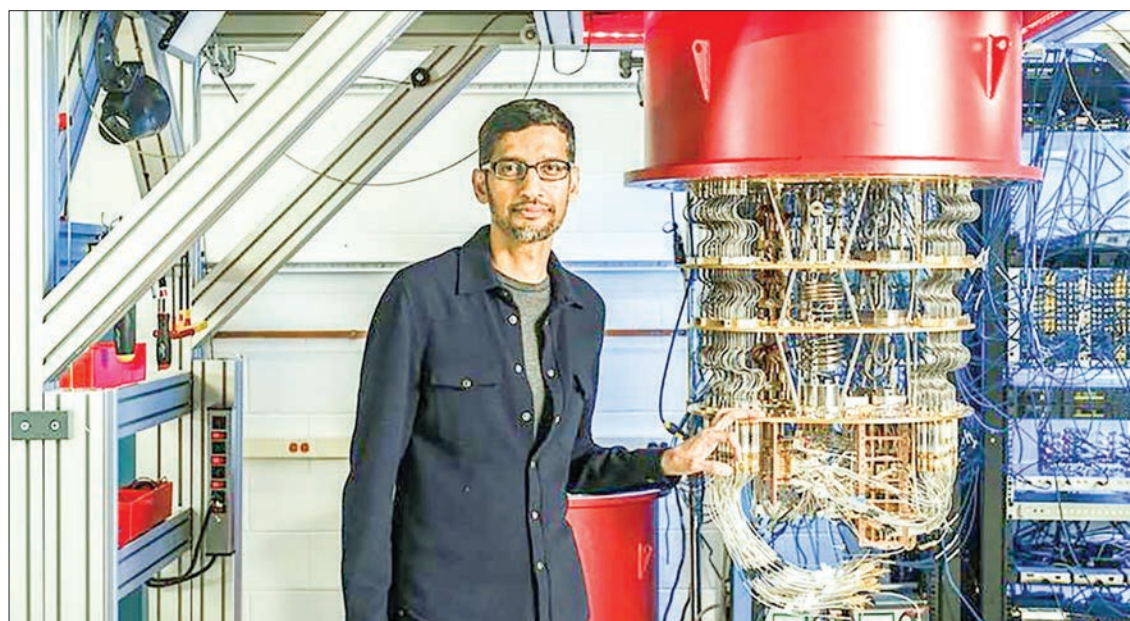
This study has been co-authored by his colleagues Fernando Brandao, Bren Professor of Theoretical Physics, and Austin Minnich, professor of mechanical engineering and applied physics.

This new algorithm is an evolution of a pre-existing one that is already used in classical computing. The older algorithm - imaginary time evolution - has now been re-tailored to run on quantum computers and is rather appropriately termed as 'quan-

tum imaginary time evolution.'

Chen explains that Quantum computing has a vast potential in terms of its application in physical sciences. Scientists in this field are eager to find a means to simulate the ground states of molecules and materials.

"Our new paper proposes a way to calculate ground states of Hamiltonians that runs on near-term quantum computers with very few resources." Hamiltonian depicts the energy state of a system and the most stable state of the problem exists at the ground state of the Hamiltonian. A majority of physical systems under normal conditions exist closer to the ground state.—AFP ■



FILE PHOTO: This Oct 23, 2019 photo shows Sundar Pichai, Google's CEO, with one of Google's quantum computers in the Santa Barbara lab. PHOTO: AFP

## Musk sees people-moving Las Vegas tunnel opening in 2020

LAS VEGAS — A nearly mile-long tunnel in Las Vegas meant to showcase a "traffic busting" alternative for overcrowded cities should be completed next year, innovative entrepreneur Elon Musk said on Twitter.

The people-moving tunnel is being built by The Boring Company, one of several future-oriented enterprises founded by Musk, along with the Tesla electric-car company and SpaceX, which develops launch vehicles.

The 48-year-old billionaire tweeted late Friday that "Boring Co is completing its first commercial tunnel in Vegas, going from Convention Center to Strip."

In a second tweet he said it would be "hopefully fully operational in 2020."

The Las Vegas convention center is a sprawling complex being further enlarged - the 0.8-mile (1.3 kilometer) tunnel would facilitate travel within the center and to the city's

famous Strip, where many of its major hotels and casinos are located.

Las Vegas officials selected The Boring Company in March to design, build and manage twin tunnels capable of transporting passengers in small, autonomous vehicles, each holding eight to 16 passengers.

### City-to-city travel

The South Africa-born Musk, who is known for original and sometimes fanciful thinking, has long advocated a futuristic underground train system, called the Hyperloop, that would allow passenger capsules on Tesla-built chassis to move through low-pressure tubes at high speeds.

He aspires eventually to build such a system linking Washington and New York along the busy US Northeast corridor; he has also proposed projects for Chicago and Los Angeles.—AFP ■

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# 'Football for Schools' program can help children learn life skills

**I**N keeping with its commitment to developing soccer, the most popular sport in Myanmar, the Ministry of Health and Sports is laying a framework, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Myanmar Football Federation, for helping schoolchildren enjoy greater access to football.

The new school curriculum includes sports and physical exercise as a compulsory subject. However, the scheme is yet to see complete adoption in schools as the new curriculum is in the transitional period.

The new curriculum aims to contribute to the education, development, and empowerment of children through sports.

FIFA's 'Football for Schools' program aims to incorporate the sport into physical education by improving access to football as well as increasing the contribution of sports – and notably football – towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

This initiative highlights the powerful role played by sports as a tool for education. Teaching football in schools will help disseminate sporting values such as team spirit and respect. The program will also help develop life skills such as self-confidence and foster equality between girls and boys.

The WFP-FIFA partnership will raise the profile of our school feeding program, and we believe that would mean more well-fed students who will be ready to learn and create brighter futures for themselves, their communities, and their nation.

The 'Football for Schools' program uses football as a hook to get children involved in schools to play football, but more importantly to teach life skills through the sport.

The program even has a mobile application that has all football sessions as well as life skills sessions linked to it. Physical education teachers

or other teachers, who may not have any experience running such sessions, can easily understand how to include the program in their curricular or extra-curricular activities through the app.

Football, which is popular not just in Myanmar but also in other countries, can help bind people into a stronger community.

The onus is on the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Ministry of Education, and the Myanmar Football Federation to work together on the wide-scale implementation of the program with complete commitment.



# Commemorating 45 Years of Myanmar-Korea Friendship

By Professor Chaw Chaw Sein, Ph.D. (University of Yangon)

**I**N May 2020, Myanmar and Republic of Korea (ROK) will be celebrating 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relations which was established in 1975. The year 2020 will be an exciting year for two countries as both will have general elections. Myanmar and Korea have common understanding due to similarities in geography, history, culture and people. Geopolitically, they are located among big powers and share a common interest to maintain friendly relations among them.

that this project will boost the local economy, improve local industrial sector and the country's export capabilities. In addition to this, Myanmar has lower labor wages and human resources. This provides great benefits for the manufacturing sector and has developed industrial and economic zones with partner countries including ROK. In this context, we expect technological transfer from Korean firms to some extent as we need man power training in order to become skilled labor workers.

So, it is an opportunity for both Korea and Myanmar to cooperate together in economic development. Along with this economic cooperation, we, Myanmar can also learn from the economic model of Korea.

Myanmar-ROK relations become much closer after Myanmar's political transition in 2010. The opening up of Myanmar led to series of diplomatic move, economic cooperation, investment and official development assistance (ODA) from the international community including ROK.

Let me highlight some memories of the year 2019 that strengthen ties between two countries. The most remarkable one was the visit of President Moon Jae-in in September 2019 to Myanmar. His visit with the opening of the Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex (KMIC) demonstrates partnership for development and prosperity between two countries. It has been a milestone for both nations, and is expected for Myanmar to attract more investments from ROK, making the bilateral cooperation stronger. The KMIC which is located in Hlegu Township, nearby Yangon, will be implemented in two phases (2019-2021 and 2022-2024). Once KMIC is completed, it is expected to host some 200 global companies and create at least 100,000 jobs. It is no doubt

The ROK economic development and its ties with ASEAN including Myanmar are very important. Myanmar has been practicing an investment policy which supports the national economic policy and economic development of the country. So, it is an opportunity for both Korea and Myanmar to cooperate together in economic development. Along with this economic cooperation, we, Myanmar can also learn from the economic model of Korea. During his visit, President Moon demonstrated his commitment of New Southern Policy (NSP) by taking part in the powerful leap of Myanmar's economy. His NSP seeks to prosper with Myanmar, sharing much of the same philosophy and goals as of what is contained in Myanmar's Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP). As MSDP and Korea's NSP have similar concept, Myanmar



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by South Korean President Mr Moon Jae-in at the First Mekong-ROK Summit in Busan, South Korea on 27 November. PHOTO: MNA

and Korea can communicate on a heart-to-heart basis.

Another remarkable memory was the State Counsellor's visit to Busan to attend ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit, ASEAN-ROK Startup Summit, Innovation Showcase 2019 and the First Mekong-ROK Summit. Bilateral meeting also took place in Westin Chosun Busan hotel where the leaders discussed to implement as a follow up of President Moon's visit to Myanmar in September, focusing more on development sector and people-to-people relations. Believing that people-to-people contact and soft power is a tool of public diplomacy, the State Counsellor emphasized the growing soft power of media, artists and influencers, and the creative industries that have a huge role to play in promoting peace and

visits of the leaders, I must highlight some remarkable memories of the year 2019 conducted by ASEAN-Korea Center which promote people-to-people understanding. One is ASEAN-Korea Train program in which Myanmar delegations participated with the spirit of friendship and commemorating 30 years of ASEAN-Korea in Korea. It created a unique opportunity for all delegates to travel together, share knowledge, and develop a bond of friendship. Another is the ASEAN-Korea Familiarization tour hosted by ASEAN-Korea Center and Ministry of Hotel and Tourism of Myanmar from 3rd to 7th December 2019. Four different Korean media participated the program covering Yangon, Bagan and Inle lake. These programs timely meet the growing importance of partnership between Myanmar and Korea.

I'd also like to pinpoint the common view between Myanmar and Korea sharing goals of peace-oriented policy. Building peace in Myanmar is the priority of current government policy due to the desire of Myanmar people to end the long-lasting civil war. Korean people also wish to see Korean peninsula as peace and stability, so we have same opinion to have peace. Drawing parallels between the bid to achieve permanent peace in the Korean peninsula and Myanmar's effort to strike a deal with various ethnic armed groups, we hope that both countries would be able to progress together. The year 2020 will mark the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Myanmar-Korea diplomatic relations and we hope for practical cooperation on peace and prosperity that may benefit all people. The remarkable visits of leaders, bilateral economic cooperation and people-to-people connectivity were memorable way to celebrate an incredible milestone of genuine understanding and partnership between the people of Myanmar and Korea.

References:  
- ASEAN-Korea Center website  
- Keynote Speech of State Counsellor, Global New Light of Myanmar, 26 November 2019

Besides these memorable

## 2020, 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Independence Day National Objectives

1. All National Ethnic Races to defend and protect with "collective strength" to ensure Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of the Unity of National Ethnic Races and Perpetuation of National Sovereignty.
2. To give priority and work for transformation of the rule of law and justice sector which is important for stability, peace and development of the State.
3. To work on amendment of the Constitution, which is the basic foundation for building a Democratic Federal Union.
4. To build and create conducive environments for Union citizens which can elevate their sense of duty and improve their capabilities while the Democratic Federal Union is being built.
5. Emergence of a peaceful and prosperous Democratic Federal Union by implementing the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan.

## Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to [ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com](mailto:ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com) with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.). – Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar

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# N. Korea's Kim holds top party meeting ahead of US deadline



The plenary of the Workers' Party of Korea is being held amid widespread speculation that Pyongyang is preparing to test a ballistic missile. **PHOTO: AFP**

SEOUL—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has convened a key meeting of top ruling party officials, state media said Sunday, ahead of a year-end deadline for Washington to shift its stance on stalled nuclear talks.

The plenary session, which

opened on Saturday, follows widespread speculation that Pyongyang is preparing to test an intercontinental ballistic missile -- as a threatened "Christmas gift" for Washington.

Kim presided over the meeting which discussed a new

"transparent, anti-imperialist independent stand", the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

The ruling Workers' Party of Korea will also "discuss important matters arising... in the building of the state and nation-

al defence", KCNA added.

Talks on denuclearising the Korean peninsula have been largely deadlocked since the second summit between Kim and US President Donald Trump collapsed in Hanoi at the start of this year.

The opening of the plenary comes a week after Kim held a meeting of top defence officials and discussed boosting military capabilities, and ahead of the leader's New Year speech on January 1, a key political set-piece in the isolated country.

Pyongyang has carried out a series of static tests at its Sohae rocket facility this month, after a number of weapons launches in recent weeks -- some of them described as ballistic missiles by Japan and others.

North Korea is under heavy US and United Nations sanctions over its nuclear programme, but it has been frustrated at the lack of relief after it declared a moratorium on nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) tests.—AFP ■

## Indian Navy planning to build six nuclear attack submarines: Navy to Parliamentary panel

NEW DELHI—The Indian Navy is planning to build a fleet of 18 conventional and six nuclear attack submarines as part of its plans for its underwater fleet.

"Eighteen (Conventional) plus six SSN (nuclear-powered attack) submarines are planned but the existing strength is 15 and 1 SSN is available on lease," the Standing Committee on Defence said in its report tabled in the winter session of Parliament. The Indian Navy had planned to build six nuclear attack submarines along with the Arihant Class SSBNs which are nuclear-powered submarines equipped with nuclear missiles. The nuclear attack submarines are also planned to be built indigenously in partnership with private sector industries. At present, the Navy is operating Russian-origin Kilo Class, German-origin HDW class and the latest French Scorpene-class submarines in the conventional domain while in the nuclear section, it has leased one INS Chakra (Akula class) from Russia. The Navy also informed the committee that in the last 15 years, only two new conventional submarines have been inducted including the Scorpene-class vessels INS Kalvari and the INS Khanderi. "It was further informed that the existing 13 conventional submarines are between 17 to 31 years old," the standing committee report said. The Navy is also working on a plan to build six new submarines under its Project 75 India in which six more conventional submarines would be built by the Navy in partnership with Indian companies and foreign origin equipment manufacturers. The project would be undertaken under the strategic partnership policy.—ANI ■



FILE PHOTO: The Scorpene submarine 'Kalvari' is escorted by tugboats as it cruises into the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai on October 29, 2015. **PHOTO:AFP**

## Japan gears up for New Year celebrations

TOKYO—As 2019 is coming to an end, Hagoita-Ichi Festival was held in Japan to sell 'hagoita', large wooden rectangular paddle made of soapberry seeds and bird feathers that used to play traditional Japanese pastime called hanetsuki. "This is called 'hagoita'. It's a lucky item. The shape is spreading upward and every-

one used to play with wing ball. This lucky meaning is to get out bad luck things," said Toshihiko Nitta. The motif of 'hagoita' is an actor in Japanese entertainment traditional show 'Kabuki'. The decoration is done by the skill of traditional craft art. "Decoration of 'hagoita' is made by using cotton and cloth as a corrugated

fiberboard mould and making them one over another. The technique called "Oshie" making it look like three-dimensional," a Hagoita craft master Kogetsu Nishiyama. These 'hagoita' are unique. The motifs represent Rugby World Cup held in Japan, Tokyo2020 Olympic and movie characters.—ANI ■

### NEWS In BRIEF

#### Five missing in Indonesian flash floods

JAKARTA—Five people went missing as flash floods destroyed houses in Indonesia's North Sumatra province on Sunday, spokesman for the National Disaster Management Agency Agus Wibowo said.

Joint search and rescue for the missing people who belong to one family are underway, involving personnel of military and police, a search and rescue office and the disaster management agency, the spokesman said.

"The missing family was likely swept by a strong current during the flash floods," he told Xinhua.—Xinhua ■

#### Toll in Ursula Typhoon in Philippines climbs to 41

MANILA—The number of people killed in Typhoon Ursula that hit popular tourist areas and remote villages across central Philippines earlier in the week, has risen to 41, media reported citing the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

Previous reports indicated that 28 people were killed as a result of the typhoon. Apart from those 41 killed, 28 people more were injured, and 12 people are reported missing, the ABS-CBN News broadcaster stated. The number of victims is the highest in Philippine Western Visayas administrative region, where 20 people were killed in the cyclone. It is followed by Eastern Visayas where the number of victims stands at 13, Mimaropa with 7 deaths and Central Visayas with one victim, the media said. Typhoon Ursula struck the central part of the Philippines on December 24 with heavy rains and winds. The typhoon damaged about 2,000 houses and 55 schools, while power was cut in 150 cities. Almost 44,000 people were evacuated due to the disaster.—ANI ■

# Libya parliament speaker urges rejection of UN-recognised govt

NICOSIA—The speaker of Libya's parliament on Saturday urged the international community to reject the legitimacy of the war-torn country's UN-recognised government which is pursuing closer military ties with Turkey.

Libya has been beset by chaos since a NATO-backed uprising toppled and killed dictator Moamer Kadhafi in 2011, with rival administrations in the east and the west vying for power.

In a reflection of the deep political divisions, the elected parliament in the east is allied with military strongman Khalifa Haftar, who is at war with the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA) recognised by the United Nations.

"In the coming days, the Libyan parliament will take ac-



Libya's parliament speaker Aguilah Saleh visited Cyprus at a time of rising tensions in the Mediterranean. PHOTO: AFP

tion to ensure the withdrawal of international recognition of this government," parliament speaker Aguilah Saleh told AFP in an interview during a visit to Cyprus.

Saleh said he had asked

Cypriot Foreign Minister Nicos Christodoulides to "convey a message to the European Union so that it withdraws its recognition of this government (the GNA).

"It is time to form a new

government supported by the Libyan people and parliament."

Libya's parliament has itself been weakened by the departure of several dozen anti-Haftar lawmakers for Tripoli.

Saleh's visit follows a rise in tensions between Turkey on the one hand and EU members Greece and Cyprus on the other in a conflict over offshore hydrocarbon resources that has drawn in Libya.

Turkey in November signed a deal with the GNA in Tripoli in which the two parties lay claim to much of the Mediterranean, conflicting with rival claims by Greece and Cyprus.

At the same time, Turkey is stepping up military aid to Tripoli, which is battling Haftar's forces for control of the capital.—AFP ■

## NEWS In BRIEF

### Iranian navy chief urges U.S. forces to leave regional waters

TEHRAN -- The Iranian navy commander said on Sunday that U.S. navy forces should leave regional waters, Tasnim news agency reported.

"The era of American free action in the region is over, and they (the U.S. navy forces) must leave the region gradually," Hossein Khanzadi said on the sidelines of a joint naval exercise with Russia and China, which is underway in the Gulf of Oman.

"We believe regional security does not require the presence of those (foreign) countries, and that regional countries themselves can ensure security together," he added.—Xinhua ■

# Ukraine rivals begin prisoner exchange in controversial swap

CHECKPOINT MAYORSKE—Ukrainian authorities and Russia-backed separatists in the war-torn east of the country began a prisoner exchange on Sunday in a frontline operation that has stirred controversy.

The exchange came after Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian leader Volod-

myr Zelensky held their first face-to-face talks in Paris on December 9 and agreed measures to de-escalate Europe's only active war.

As part of the swap, Kiev was expected to hand over to separatists several riot policemen suspected of killing protesters during a pro-Western

uprising in 2014, in a move that sparked public anger.

"At the Mayorske checkpoint the process of releasing detained persons has begun," the official Twitter account of the Ukrainian presidency said.

It was still unclear how many people were involved in the exchange. A Ukrainian

source told AFP that the parties were still verifying the lists of those being exchanged.

A representative of the separatist stronghold of Donetsk, Daria Morozova, said earlier that separatists would get 87 prisoners, while 55 people would be handed over to Kiev.—AFP ■

### Five wounded in stabbing at New York rabbi's house

NEW YORK—An intruder stabbed and wounded five people at a rabbi's house in New York during a gathering to celebrate the Jewish festival of Hanukkah late Saturday, officials and media reports said.

The victims were taken to hospitals near the New York suburb of Monsey, two in critical condition, the Orthodox Jewish Public Affairs Council (OJPAC) tweeted after receiving a call at 9:50 pm. "5 patients with stab wounds, all Hasidic, were transported to local hospitals." Local police departments, speaking to AFP, declined to give the number of people injured, but a suspect has been taken into custody and a vehicle safeguarded, an NYPD spokesman said. Governor of New York, Andrew Cuomo, said in a statement that he was "horrified" by the "despicable and cowardly act", and had directed the State Police hate crimes task force to investigate. "We have a zero tolerance for anti-Semitism in NY and we will hold the attacker accountable to the fullest extent of the law," he tweeted.—AFP ■

# French government, unions exchange barbs in strike deadlock

PARIS—The French government and a key trade union on Sunday exchanged bitter accusations over who was to blame for France's over three-week

transport strike against pension reforms, as the stalemate showed little sign of relenting. Deputy Transport Minister Jean-Baptiste Djebbari accused

the hardline CGT union of a "systematic opposition to any reform" while the union's chief Philippe Martinez charged the government with strewing "cha-

os" in the conflict. The strike -- now longer than the notorious 22-day strike of winter 1995 -- has now lasted 25 days and is on course to surpass the longest transport strike in France which lasted for 28 days in 1986 and early 1987. Aside from two driverless lines, the Paris metro was again almost completely shut down on Sunday while only a fraction of high-speed TGV trains were running.

The government and unions are only due to hold their next talks on January 7, two days ahead of a new day of mass demonstrations against the reform which is championed by President Emmanuel Macron. In an interview with the Journal de Dimanche newspaper, Djebbari angrily accused the CGT of "attitudes of intimidation, harassment and even aggression" against railway workers who had opted not to down tools.—AFP ■



The strike against government pensions reform is on course to surpass the longest transport stoppage in France which lasted for 28 days in 1986 and early 1987. PHOTO: AFP

# As crisis hits, Lebanese businesses fight for survival

BEIRUT—After decades of hard work, self-made Lebanese chocolatier Roger Zakhour thought he would finally be able to pass a successful business to his daughter. But then the economic crisis hit.

Instead of reaping profits this Christmas, he and his 29-year-old daughter are marking down their handmade ice cream logs.

“If it continues like this, in a few months I’ll be bankrupt,” the 61-year-old said sitting in his small shop, surrounded by colourful stacks of hand-crafted chocolates.

In protest-hit Lebanon, a free-falling economy, price hikes and a severe dollar liquidity crunch have left local businesses struggling to stave off collapse.

Zakhour started making chocolates and then



A free-falling economy, price hikes and a severe liquidity crunch have left Lebanese business owners like Roger Zakhour struggling to stave off collapse. PHOTO: AFP

ice cream in the 1990s, refining his recipes until he became a go-to for five-star hotels and well-off Lebanese.

But as the economy worsened over the autumn, high-end hotels

drastically reduced their orders and walk-in customers became rare.

Banks have restricted access to dollars since the end of the summer, sending prices soaring as importers struggle to secure

enough hard currency to buy supplies.

“We’re heading somewhere we never imagined we would,” said Zakhour, who had just upgraded his kitchen when sales dropped off.—AFP ■

# Sixty years on, Africa still seeks right model for growth

PARIS—As 1960 dawned, sub-Saharan Africa braced for historic change: that year, 17 of its countries were destined to gain independence from European colonial powers. But six decades on, the continent is mired in many problems. It is struggling to build an economic model that encourages enduring growth, addresses poverty and provides a future for its youth. Here are some of the key issues:

## Youth ‘explosion’

Africa’s population grew from 227 million in 1960 to more than one billion in 2018. More than 60 percent are aged under 25, according to the Brookings Institution, a US think tank. “The most striking change for me is the increasing reality of disaffected youth... a younger population that is ready to explode at any moment,” Cameroonian sociologist Francis Nyamnjoh told AFP. “They are hungry for political freedoms, they are hungry for economic opportunities and they are hungry for social fulfilment.” Joblessness is a major peril. Unemployed youths are an easy prey for armed groups, particularly jihadist movements in the Sahel, or may be tempted to risk clandestine emigration, often at the cost of their lives.—AFP ■

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Dated 30<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019

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MV PACAO VOY.NO. (076 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACAO VOY. NO. (076 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT 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

MV SINAR BINTAN VOY.NO. (660 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BINTAN VOY.NO. (660 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP 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.

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## China's small, medium enterprises important contributors to economy: report

BEIJING—China's medium-sized, small and micro enterprises made important contributions to the country's economic development during the 2014-2018 period, official data showed.

At the end of 2018, the number of medium-sized, small and micro enterprises rose 115 percent from 2013 to 18.07 million, making up 99.8 percent of all legal entities, according to a report on China's fourth

economic census released by the National Bureau of Statistics. Those enterprises employed around 233 million people, accounting for 79.4 percent of all enterprise employees nationwide, the report said.

Total annual operating revenue of those enterprises stood at 188.2 trillion yuan (about 26.9 trillion U.S. dollars) in 2018, accounting for 68.2 percent of that from all companies in the country.—Xinhua ■

## Japan's unemployment rate improves for 1<sup>st</sup> time in 4 months in Nov

TOKYO—Japan's unemployment rate improved in November for the first time in four months, the government said in a report on Friday. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the unemployment rate stood at 2.2 percent in the recording month, dropping 0.2 percentage point from October. Unadjusted for seasonal factors, the number of unemployed people was 1.51 million in the recording month, down by 170,000 from a year earlier and still hovering near the lowest levels since the early 1990s amid the nation's ongoing labor crunch.

The statistics bureau also said that 630,000 people left their jobs of their own volition, a decline of 120,000 from the previous year, while those laid off stood unchanged at 220,000 people in the recording period. The ministry also said the number of new job seekers dropped to 350,000, down by 20,000 people, according to its latest figures. Those in employment rose by 530,000 from a year earlier to 67.62 million in November, marking the 83rd successive month of expansion, the ministry also said.—Xinhua ■

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XETHA BHUM VOY.NO. (1130E)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XETHA BHUM VOY.NO. (1130E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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LINES

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### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KUO HSIUNG VOY.NO. (1113 S/N)

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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  
LINE

Phone No: 2301185

#### Invitation for Bids

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Date:                            | 30, December, 2019   |
| Bid No. and Title:               | 42(T)/DPTSC(PTP)/2019-2020 Design, Supply, and Installation of 230 kV Switch Bay (2) Nos. Extension at Nyaungbingyi Substation and 230/66/11kV, 155MVA Gangaw Substation |
| Deadline for Submission of Bids: | 13, February, 2020, 13:00 hours (local time)   |

1. The Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC) has allocated the financing towards the cost of the project. DPTSC intends to apply a portion of the funds to eligible payments under the Contract for which the Bidding is issued.

2. The **Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC)** ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **Design, Supply, and Installation of 230 kV Switch Bay (2) Nos. Extension at Nyaungbingyi Substation and 230/66/11kV, 155MVA Gangaw Substation** ("the Facilities"). The Facilities are all located within Sagaing region.

3. The Eligible Nationality of the Bidder shall be Myanmar in the case of single contractor. In case of a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of lead partner is Myanmar and other partner shall be nationality from the eligible countries in section 5.

4. **International Competitive Bidding** will be conducted in accordance with [Single - Stage: Two-Envelope](#) bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.

5. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:

- Participation in at least one (1) Contract as main contractor that has been successfully completed within the last five (5) years and that are substation contract, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds US\$10.4million.
- For the above or other contracts executed as main contractor, a minimum experience within the last ten (10) years in the following key activities:
  - Two projects on turnkey basic successfully in operation for 3 years.
  - 220 kV or above AIS substation with the capacity of 100MVA or above.
  - Each project shall be in outside Bidder's country for international Bidder. In case of Myanmar Bidder, both outside and within Myanmar are acceptable.
- Minimum average annual turnover of US\$ 8.6 million calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last 3 years. The qualification criteria are more completely described in the Bidding Document.

6. To obtain further information, inspect the bidding documents and submit the proposal, bidders should contact the following from 9:30-16:30 hours (local time) except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays:

Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC)  
Address: Material Planning Department (DPTSC), Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar  
Telephone: 95 67 8104286, 95 67 3410209  
Email: [dg.dptsc@moe.gov.mm](mailto:dg.dptsc@moe.gov.mm), [dd1ptp.dptsc@moe.gov.mm](mailto:dd1ptp.dptsc@moe.gov.mm), [dirdesign.ptp@gmail.com](mailto:dirdesign.ptp@gmail.com), [sedesignptp.mepe@gmail.com](mailto:sedesignptp.mepe@gmail.com),  
Fax: 95 67 8104286, 95 67 3410209

7. To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible bidders shall pay a nonrefundable fee of purchase order (bank draft) with 50,000 Myanmar Kyats.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address above **on or before the deadline: 13 February, 2020 at 13:00 hours (local time)** together with a Bid Security as described in the bidding documents.

9. **Electronic Submission is not allowed.**

10. Technical Bid will be opened in the presence of Bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the address above after 13:00 hr. (Local Time) on 13/02/2020.

11. Any request for the extension of Bid submission deadline shall not be allowed.

Tender Committee  
Department of Power Transmission and System Control  
Ministry of Electricity and Energy  
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar  
Telephone 067-3410282, 3410209

#### Invitation for Bids

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Date:                            | 30, December, 2019  |
| Bid No. and Title:               | 43(T)/DPTSC(PTP)/2019-2020 Design, Supply and Installation of 230 kV Switch Bay (2) Nos. Extension at Shwesaryan Substation and 230/66/11kV, (3x155) MVA Daung Ywe Substation |
| Deadline for Submission of Bids: | 13, February, 2020, 13:00 hours (local time)  |

1. The Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC) has allocated the financing towards the cost of the project. DPTSC intends to apply a portion of the funds to eligible payments under the Contract for which the Bidding is issued.

2. The **Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC)** ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **Design, Supply and Installation of 230 kV Switch Bay (2) Nos. Extension at Shwesaryan Substation and 230/66/11kV, (3x155) MVA Daung Ywe Substation** ("the Facilities"). The Facilities are all located within Mandalay region.

3. The Eligible Nationality of the Bidder shall be Myanmar in the case of single contractor. In case of a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of lead partner is Myanmar and other partner shall be nationality from the eligible countries in section 5.

4. **International Competitive Bidding** will be conducted in accordance with [Single - Stage: Two-Envelope](#) bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.

5. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:

- Participation in at least one (1) contract as main Contractor that has been successfully completed within the last Five (5) years and that are similar to the proposed contract, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds US\$18.4 million.
- For the above or other contracts executed as main contractor, a minimum experience within the last ten (10) years in the following key activities:
  - Two projects on turnkey basic successfully in operation for 3 years.
  - 220 kV or above AIS substation with the capacity of 100MVA or above.
  - Each project shall be in outside Bidder's country for international Bidder. In case of Myanmar Bidder, both outside and within Myanmar are acceptable.
- Minimum average annual turnover of US\$ 15.33 million calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last 3 years. The qualification criteria are more completely described in the Bidding Document.

6. To obtain further information, inspect the bidding documents and submit the proposal, bidders should contact the following from 9:30-16:30 hours (local time) except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays:

Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC)  
Address: Material Planning Department (DPTSC), Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar  
Telephone: 95 67 8104286, 95 67 3410209  
Email: [dg.dptsc@moe.gov.mm](mailto:dg.dptsc@moe.gov.mm), [dd1ptp.dptsc@moe.gov.mm](mailto:dd1ptp.dptsc@moe.gov.mm), [dirdesign.ptp@gmail.com](mailto:dirdesign.ptp@gmail.com), [sedesignptp.mepe@gmail.com](mailto:sedesignptp.mepe@gmail.com),  
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Department of Power Transmission and System Control  
Ministry of Electricity and Energy  
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar  
Telephone 067-3410282, 3410209

# Ramsar site: Inle

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

**I**NLE Lake in Shan State south, Nyaungshwe Township is one of the well known destinations in Myanmar among international tourists. It is situated 2,900 ft. above sea level in the middle of Shan mountain ranges that rose high above it. Inle Lake, where varieties of water resources exist was surrounded by geographical scenic views and was Myanmar's second largest fresh water lake. Indawgyi Lake in Kachin State Moehnyin Township was Myanmar's largest fresh water lake.

In 2003, Inle Lake became ASEAN Heritage Park and an Import Bird and Biodiversity Area. In 2015, it was recognized as UNESCO's Biosphere Reserve area and on 10 August 2018, it became Myanmar's fifth Wetland of International Importance Ramsar Site.

## Ramsar Site

A Ramsar site is a wetland site designated to be of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. If a proposed site meet any of the nine criteria set, it is designated as a Ramsar site. Moeyungyi Wildlife Sanctuary in Bago Region, Bago Township was designated as Myanmar's first Ramsar site in 2004. Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary in Kachin State Moehnyin Township became a Ramsar site in 2014 and Meinmahal Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary in Ayeyawady Region Bogale Township became Myanmar's third Ramsar site in 2017. Also in 2017, part of Gulf of Mottama was designated as Ramsar site.

Environmental challenges or problems of global warming, climate change, rising sea level, air and water pollution are threatening the



Hpaung Daw U Pagoda. **PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)**



Seagulls sitting on a fence, enjoying the warmth of the evening rays of the sun on Inle Lake. **PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)**

natural environment and ecosystem of humans as well as living creatures and plants. Because of this, countries of the world were using various means to reduce the damage to the ecosystem and to conserve the natural environment. Bio diverse wetlands with habitat for waterfowls and migratory birds became natural environment that need to be protected and preserved.

In order to protect and preserve wetlands that support environmental protection, an international convention on wetlands was held for the first time in Ramsar, Iran on 2 February 1971. The day was designated as World Wetlands Day. 169 countries were party to the Convention on Wetlands also called the Ramsar Convention and Myanmar became one after signing it on 17 March 2005.

Ramsar Convention is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and to recognize the ecosystem, economy, culture, science and recreational values



Five gold-covered Buddha Images of Hpaung Daw U pagoda. PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)

of wetlands.

According to a study jointly conducted by Japan's Ministry of Environment and Myanmar in 2004, there were 99 important wetlands in Ayeyawady river floodplain, 85 in Chindwin river floodplain, 6 in Thanlwin river floodplain, 5 in Sittaung river floodplain and 3 in Rakhine coastal area. Wetlands types include marine waters; sub-tidal aquatic beds; coral reefs; rocky marine shores; and sand, shingle or pebble beach. Inle Lake was marine water type of wetland.

Of the nine criteria to be considered as a wetland, Inle Lake met six that include supporting vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities; regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds; and regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbirds.

#### Geography of Inle Lake

According to geologists, more than 10,000 years ago

miles. Average water depth was 7 ft during the dry season and 12 ft during the monsoon season. During peak raining season, the depth can be up to 20 ft at the deepest point. Inle region had a fair temperature between 45 to 90 degree Fahrenheit and receives an average rainfall of 60 inches.

Creeks and rivers flow into the lake from the east, west and north and the lake water flow onto Baluchaung in the south, merge with Nanpaung River and then flow into Thanlwin River.

To maintain the eco system and bio diversity of Inle Lake, an area covering 131,887.77 acres (206.07 square mile) that include Inle Lake and Moebye reservoir was designated as Inle Lake Wildlife Sanctuary in 1985.

270 bird species, 43 fish species, 34 amphibian species, 3 turtle species and 34 butterfly species are found in Inle Lake area. Out of these, 20 snails species and five fish species are unique to the region as it was not found anywhere else in the world. From November to January, more than 20,000 gulls can be seen while migratory birds were also seen during the winter time.

nated as Ramsar site.

Nyaungshwe Township had a population of 171,954 out of which 110,109 were Inntha. Shan, Taungyo, Danu, PaO, Kayah and Bama numbering 70,000 lived in Inle Lake. People in Inle region earn a livelihood in agriculture, goldsmith, blacksmith, weaving, fishing and horticulture.

Islands on which agriculture or farming was conducted include natural as well as floating man-made islands were made by gathering lake-bottom weeds and tying it on bamboo poles. The floating man-made island anchored by bamboo poles rise and fall with changes in the water level making it resistant to flooding.

People travel by boats in Inle Lake. Big boats were motorized while smaller boats were rowed uniquely by leg while the leg rower stands on his other leg. This was one of the uniqueness that can be found only in Inle. Mostly man rows in this unique way while woman tend to sit and row in the normal way. However, in boat competitions, both men and women with their legs while standing upright.

This was where locals came to buy and sell their products as well as merchant from afar came to sell products from other regions. There were also markets in the lake where both the sellers and buyers came in boats to buy and sell. These 'boat market' are of great interest for both local as well as foreign visitors.

Cheroots, clothes weaved from traditional hand looms, bags, silk ware, silverware, gold jewellery and ornaments were produced in the region. Buddhist monk robe made from lotus was a famous and expensive product of the region. As it was weaved from lotus strands, considerable time and human resources was used to make it.

#### Inle and Hpaung Daw U Pagoda

Of the many pagodas and religious structures in the region, Hpaung Daw U Pagoda believed to be built by Bagan King Alaungsithu in 1112 was the most widely known and famous. The pagoda festival was held annually in the Myanmar month of Thadingyut. The four Buddha images normally kept in Hpaung Daw U Pagoda were carried on a ceremonial barge to 21 locations in Inle region during the festival period and stay overnight in each location for enabling the locals to pay homage. Villagers dressed in traditional Inntha costume from each location came out to greet the barge on boats to greet the barge and this was the time where boat races were held.

Inle Lake can be reached from Nyaungshwe, Inntane or Mongthauk and boats were used to cross the wide lake and to make pilgrimage to pagodas around and in the lake. Pagodas, mountain ranges rising high above the lake, floating islands, gulls flying along the boats and leg rowers were some of the many interesting sights and locations that await for visitors, whether pilgrims, local or international visitors.

Inle Lake is the heart of Shan State attracting both local and international visitors alike for long. The best time to visit the region is during September and October but nowadays, visitors were visiting it all year round.

Inle Lake became Myanmar's fifth Ramsar site while travel business continued to develop. Care must be made toward conserving the natural environment, local traditions and cultures and ancient religious structures of the region. World famous Inle Lake must be protected and preserved together for sustainable existence.

*Translated by Handytips*

#### Socio economic situation of Inle region

Increase in population, development in agriculture and travel business affected the natural environment of Inle Lake. Due to the increase of agriculture on floating man-made island on the western portion of the lake during the 65 years time span of 1935 to 2000, the lake area decline from 26.67 square mile to 17.99 square mile. At the moment the water and floating islands of Inle Lake cover an area of 14,326.18 acres (22.38 square mile) and 5,797.6 acres (9 square mile) was desig-

#### Food, market and products

Inle carp (Cyprinus Intha) locally known as Nga Hpein was the most abundant fish in Inle Lake and was the most consumed fish in the region. Sour rice or htamin gyin, fermented rice kneaded with potato and fish ate together with fried tofu was a famous dish of Inle region that was well liked by almost all who had tasted it.

Markets in the region, like other markets in Shan State were five-day market that traded or buy and sell once every five days.

## Youth star Myat Kaung Khant joins Thai club Chainat Hornbill

MYAT KAUNG KHANT, the Myanmar U-22 men's national football team midfielder, recently joined Thailand League-2 football club Chainat Hornbill.

The 19-year-old midfielder has also played for Yadanarbon F.C. and the transfer process has been okayed with Chainat Hornbill F.C.

Myat Kaung Khant helped the Myanmar U-22 win a bronze medal in the men's football competition of the 2019 SEA Games in the Philippines.

Myat Kaung Khant was a star at the Myanmar Football Academy.

In 2017, he was signed by the Yadanarbon F.C. He scored his first professional goal at his first match.

During the 2017 season, Myat Kaung Khant was also selected on the Myanmar U-19 football team and scored three out of six goals for Myanmar against the Philippines team at the National Olympic Stadium in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.



Myanmar youth footballer Myat Kaung Khant holds the insignia of Thai club Chainat Hornbill after signing with the team. PHOTO: CNHB F.C.

His goals show he can not only play well in the midfield, but also in the striking position.

Myat Kaung Khant has been on the Myanmar national men's senior football team earlier. He made his debut on 10 October,

2018 against Indonesia in a friendly match. He scored his first international goal for the Myanmar national team against Bahrain in a friendly match on 16 October, 2018. The match ended with a score of 1-4. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

## Volleyball friendly: Myanmar youth team test with Japanese amateur team

THE Myanmar women's (youth) volleyball team played a friendly match yesterday against the Hyogo High School volleyball team, Japan.

Before the match, the Myanmar men's volleyball team put up a show to display their skills at the sport.

The Myanmar women's team

beat the Japanese team in the friendly match by 2-1: (25-12), (21-25), and (25-18).

After the match, volleyball players from both teams posed for group photos and exchanged presents. Sports teams from Hyogo High School have earlier come to Myanmar for friendly matches in other sports such as Myanmar

traditional Chinlone (Caneball sport) competition and Myanmar Lethwei (Burmese Boxing) competition.

The Japanese sport teams have also made donations during their stays in Myanmar, starting from 2009, according to the Myanmar Volleyball Federation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Players from the Myanmar women's (youth) volleyball team and Japan's Hyogo High School team pose for a photo after their friendly match. PHOTO: MVF

## MFF looking for new women's national team head coach

THE Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) is looking to appoint a new head coach for the women's national senior football team, according to an official announcement by the federation.

The MFF, which is on the edge of a new era of football culture and development in men's and women's football, said it is looking for a highly qualified head coach.

The salary will be in line with the qualifications of the candidate and the KPI's set by the MFF.

The MFF is looking for a coach with an AFC/UEFA Pro License, or recognized experience and competency at the international level. The candidate must have international experience as a head coach with

national senior men's or women's football teams.

Knowledge of and experience of Asian football would be an advantage, and proficiency in English language (verbal and written) is compulsory, according to the statement issued by the MFF.

Interested candidates need to submit their resumes, detailing their knowledge and experience, to the Myanmar Football Federation. The resumes need to be addressed to Mr. Ko Ko Thein, MFF General Secretary (kokothein@mff-ma.com), and Mr. Eric Abrams, MFF Technical Director (eric.abrams@mff-ma.com), according to the MFF.

Applications need to be submitted to the federation before 1 January.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

## Borussia Dortmund sign teen striking prodigy Haaland

BERLIN (Germany) — Borussia Dortmund have signed teenage goalscoring sensation Erling Haaland from RB Salzburg, the German Bundesliga outfit announced on Monday.

In a statement, Dortmund revealed that the 19-year-old, who scored eight times in the group stage of this season's Champions League, had signed a contract until 2024 but did not mention a fee.

Haaland has caught the eye of clubs around Europe after scoring 28 goals in 22 games in all competitions so far this campaign, with RB Leipzig coach Julian Nagelsmann admitting earlier this month that they were trying for the Norway striker's signature.

"From the beginning I had the feeling I definitely wanted to switch to this club, to walk this path," Haaland said.

In a video posted to the Dortmund website, he wished Dortmund fans a happy new year as he pored over a 2020 to-do list topped with "learn German".

Earlier in December, the forward had been spotted by local media landing in the west German city to meet with club representatives.

"Despite many offers from

the very top clubs across Europe, Erling Haaland has chosen the sporting challenge at BVB (Dortmund)," chief executive Hans-Joachim Watzke said in a statement.

"We can all look forward to an ambitious, athletic and physically strong centre forward... at 19, Erling is right at the start of what will hopefully be a great career."

Haaland became the third youngest player to score a Champions League hat-trick when he netted three times in a 6-2 victory over Genk in September.

Only Wayne Rooney, England's record goalscorer, and Spain great Raul managed the feat at a younger age.

Haaland, the son of former Manchester City midfielder Alf-Inge Haaland, scored in his first five Champions League matches.

Despite his impressive form Salzburg failed to reach the last 16 following a 2-0 loss to defending champions Liverpool in their final group game this month.

Dortmund, currently fourth in the Bundesliga, are looking for a new striker with Mario Goetze and Spain international Paco Alcacer struggling for consistency this season. — AFP ■