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Mr Xi Jinping lands in Nay Pyi Taw

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after major renovations

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Myanmar, China mark 70th anniversary diplomatic relations, launch bilateral cultural, tourism year



President U Win Myint, President Xi Jinping and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi view the documentary photos on bilateral relations at the ceremony to mark Myanmar-China 70th Anniversary of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations and launching Year of Myanmar-China Bilateral Cultural and Tourism Exchanges in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

ACEREMONY to mark the Myanmar-China 70th Anniversary of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations and launching of Myanmar-China Bilateral Cultural and Tourism Year was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi

Taw yesterday evening, with attendance by President U Win Myint, President of the People's Republic of China Mr. Xi Jinping and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

On arrival at the MICC-II at 7 pm, President Mr Xi Jin-

ping and his entourage were welcomed by Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat and Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than.

Afterwards, President Xi Jinping greeted chairpersons

and representatives of the political parties which have relations with the Communist Party of the PRC.

Next, President U Win Myint, President Xi Jinping, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice Presidents, Speakers

of Hluttaws and guests visited the Myanmar-China diplomatic relations photo exhibition jointly staged by the State Council Information of China and Ministry of Information of Myanmar.

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President U Win Myint welcomes Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping



President U Win Myint and President of the People's Republic of China Mr Xi Jinping inspect the Guard of Honour at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRESIDENT U Win Myint welcomed Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping, who is here on an official state visit, with a welcoming ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

President Mr Xi Jinping arrived at the Presidential Palace at 4:15 p.m. and was cordially welcomed by President U Win Myint. They then took the salute of the Guard of Honour and inspected them before introducing their respective delegations.

After this, they held a meeting at the Credentials Hall and openly discussed on mutual respect, understanding to strengthen relations, all-round strategic cooperation and striving to reach a community that handles hardships together, implementing commemorations of 70 years of diplomatic relations between the two nations in a festive and beneficial way.

They also discussed increasing cooperation between the people of both nations for socioeconomic benefits, implementing development, stability and peace along shared borders, further increasing existing successful cooperation through understanding, increasing trade and accepting

increased Myanmar exports, cooperating on mutually beneficial cooperation for the BRI project and Myanmar-China Economic Corridor, and acquiring the trust and support of local residents when implementing projects.

Accompanying President U Win Myint at the meeting were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Sein Win, U Min Thu, Dr Aung Thu, U Win Khaing, U Thaug Tun and U Han Zaw, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Myo Thant Pe and other officials.

President Mr Xi Jinping was accompanied by Chinese Minister for Foreign Affairs and member of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Mr Wang Yi, senior officials and Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai.

Later in the evening, President U Win Myint hosted a state dinner for the Chinese President and delegation at the Presidential Palace.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice President U Win Myint, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Union Ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and other officials also attended the dinner.

President U Win Myint then delivered a speech at the

state dinner.

In his speech, he said on behalf of Myanmar government and people, I warmly welcome Your Excellency President Mr Xi Jinping and all the distinguished delegation members of the People's Republic of China. I am very pleased to host this dinner to honour your visit to

Myanmar."

"We are proud that your first overseas state visit in 2020 is to Myanmar. Your visit also highlights to promote friendly relations and cooperation between Myanmar and China."

"Moreover, this year is the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations

between the Republic of Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of China. Your visit to Myanmar at this auspicious time would become a historic monument to attain the next level of Myanmar-Sino relations."

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President U Win Myint meets with President of the People's Republic of China Mr Xi Jinping at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Afterwards, President U Win Myint, President Xi Jinping and State Counsellor DawAung San SuuKyí attended the ceremony to mark the Myanmar-China 70th Anniversary of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations and launching of Myanmar-China Bilateral Cultural and Tourism Year.

It was also attended by Vice President U Myint Swe, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than, Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Constitutional Tribunal U Myo Nyunt, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U TunTun Hein, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Thar Aung, Union ministers, the Union Attorney-General, the Union Auditor-General, Chairman of the Civil Service Selection Board, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, senior military officers, chairmen of the Hluttaw affairs committees, Commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, chairpersons and representatives of the political parties, permanent secretaries, departmental officials while the Chinese delegation led by President Xi Jinping was accompanied by State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of PRC Mr. Wang Yi, senior officials, Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai and officials.

Frist, artistes of the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture performed the Patheingyi Umbrella Troupe Dance titled "Bilateral Diplomatic Relation turns 70 years".

Afterwards, President U Win Myint, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and President of the People's Republic of China Mr Xi Jinping delivered opening addresses.

In his address, President U Win Myint said

"I am delighted and honored to have this opportunity to speak at the 70th Anniversary celebration of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and the People's Republic of China and the ceremony to launch the Myanmar-China Culture and Tourism Year on such an auspicious evening.

The fact that the two leaders have opened the 70th Anniversary celebration of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries shows the deep friendship between the two countries; apart from that it also shows that 2020 marks an important historic milestone in bilateral relations.



President U Win Myint delivers the opening speech at the ceremony to mark the Myanmar-China 70th Anniversary of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations and launching of Myanmar-China Bilateral Cultural and Tourism Year in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

I also wish to express how happy I am to have this opportunity to invite and welcome Your Excellency and the distinguished delegation from the PRC as guests to our country at such an honourable and significant time.

At this auspicious time of the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, I believe that this important visit elevates our bilateral relations to a new level and gives a fresh impetus to the

level delegations.

Our two countries share a long common border and our peoples have a long history of close and friendly relations like brothers and sisters. Just like the line in the poem personally composed by a certain Chinese leader Marshal Chen Yi, "We drink the same waters, I from the source and you from a place down the river"

If we look at the fact that Myanmar was among the first countries that recognized the PRC in 1949, it shows Myanmar

I believe that the BRI - Belt and Road Initiative will result in development of both countries, and greater opportunities and benefits for our two peoples.

cooperation between our two countries.

In 2019 when the founding of the PRC reached its 70th year, it has already achieved successful development in all sectors. Just as Your Excellency has said, the PRC has entered a new era.

Let me say that the efforts undertaken by the PRC for National Rejuvenation and Building a community with a shared future for mankind are noble goals; I believe you will achieve success.

Also, I truly believe that the efforts undertaken by the PRC and the Chinese people to fulfill the two centenary goals under the leadership of Your Excellency will meet with success.

If we look back at the history of our friendship, we find that there have been trade relations between the two countries and our two peoples. Especially during the era of the Tang dynasty and the Pyu period of our country, we have found solid historical records of the exchange of high

places great importance to our neighboring country the PRC. Our two countries established diplomatic relations on 8th June 1950 and the leaders of our two countries have exchanged friendly visits. This is a significant characteristic of the history of our bilateral relations.

The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence which has been regarded as an important model in the history of international relations was issued as a joint statement after the visit of Prime Minister Chou En Lai in June 1954. Based on these principles, we solved the border problems. In 1960, we were able to sign the border agreements. We were able to sign these agreements because of the mutual respect, mutual understanding, long-term vision and correct decisions of our leaders.

The bilateral relations based on these Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence evolved and reached the level of Strategic

Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership in 2011.

If we look at Myanmar-China diplomatic relations, we may observe that this relationship has seen consistent development characterized by visits of leaders, government delegations, and people to people visits. We have also seen the consistent development of cooperation in all sectors resulting in increasing mutual trust and support between the two countries.

At the moment, we can clearly see the bilateral friendship and cooperation developing further under the BRI - Belt and Road Initiative and the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor of the PRC.

I believe that the BRI - Belt and Road Initiative will result in development of both countries, and greater opportunities and benefits for our two peoples.

Our two countries have acted in close cooperation in the regional as well as in the international arena. The fact that we have provided mutual support to protect the vital interests of our countries shows the friendship and closeness of our relationship.

I wish to express our gratitude for the continued support provided by the PRC for Myanmar's peace process, national reconciliation and development.

Your Excellency's visit to Myanmar is your first visit as President of the PRC. Your Excellency's visit marks the first visit by a Chinese President after a period of 19 years. As this year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries, Your Excellency's visit may be regarded as a historic milestone in the annals of our bilateral relations.

That is why Your Excellency's visit has shown to the world the Pauk-Phaw friendly relations that have existed between our two countries for many years.

Your Excellency's visit will provide added impetus bilateral cooperative projects and collaborative efforts for the uplifting of the socio-economic conditions of our two peoples. These may be regarded as the successful fruits of our 70 years of diplomatic relations.

Furthermore, during the course of 2020, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, events will be organized collaboratively every year in (11) sectors such as political, security, economics, trade, tourism, religion, culture and sports, TV, Information distribution, science and health, education and training, youth and women and think tanks. By organizing these events, the friendship between our two peoples will be consolidated and give deeper meaning to our bilateral relations.

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I extend good wishes that the relations between Myanmar and the PRC will endure for many years as we reach the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and PRC.

Let me reiterate that we will put strenuous efforts to elevate further our collaborative efforts.

At the same time, I extend good wishes for the success of Your Excellency's visit.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's opening speech

Afterwards, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said : we feel very much elated over Your Excellency's choice for the first overseas visit in the new year 2020 being Myanmar. Your kind visit really highlights your deep consideration on China's policy of the diplomatic relations towards your neighbouring countries, as well as its harmony.

Moreover, it's a great privilege for the leaders of the two countries to celebrate together the seventieth anniversary of our diplomatic relationships between the two countries, which marks a milestone of great significance in the history of the relationships between China and Myanmar.

Since forty years ago, the Republic of China has begun to adopt and practise the Reform and the Open Door Policy, and in the present, has reached the stage of the fastest economic development country and second largest economic superpower in the world. As a neighbouring country, Myanmar is proud of having a neighbor which stands as a great country playing an important role in the international affairs and the world economy.

We strongly believe that the Two



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the opening speech at the ceremony to mark the Myanmar-China 70th Anniversary of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations and launching of Myanmar-China Bilateral Cultural and Tourism Year in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Century Goals of the Republic of China will be successfully fulfilled under the guidance and leadership of His Excellency. We also hope that the One Belt, One Road Programme and the Silk Road Project, the National Rejuvenation and Building a community with a shared future for mankind, which have been going through the implementation under H.E President Xi Jinping, will bring new forms of positive development to our modern world.

Since the success and prosperity of our neighbouring country China will bring mutual benefits to the neighbouring countries, including Myanmar, we pray for the success of the goals of China.

Since many centuries ago, the peo-

ple of Myanmar and China have been living in good will and friendship, having strong mutual relations.

Since 8th June, 1950, which saw the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the two nations, good will and friendship between the two nations have gradually been consolidated more and more.

We have now successfully reached from the stage of the good will and friendship between the two countries in the bilateral relationship like our Shwe-myo Pauk-phaws to the stage of all round strategic collaboration allies in 2011.

Besides, the visit of Your Excellency has not only consolidated our existing good will and friendship more

strongly, but also paved the way for establishing the China-Myanmar community through thick and thin.

The bilateral relations between our two countries is quite unlike the relations with other countries in that we are neighbouring countries sharing long borders. It goes without saying that a neighboring country has no other choice, but to stand together till to the end of the world.

No matter how many changes may have taken place in the political systems of Myanmar, our governments of the successive periods have always not only maintained relations of good will and friendship with our neighbouring country China but also consolidated our bilateral relations.

I am very much pleased that while, in accordance with the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence laid down by the two countries, cooperation, collaboration and good will relations have developed more and more, our collaborations have already been made in all sectors.

In the present, we have been doing our best, practically carrying out collaborations between the two countries, including the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor Project, and other pragmatic cooperation as outlined in your BRI – Belt and Road Initiative.

I believe that in the future also, the success in the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor and the Belt and Road Initiative will bring positive outcomes for the interests of the peoples of our two countries.

The key towards the success of these projects is to build the relationships between the people of the two countries, based on our mutual understanding and trust, and create a peaceful, tranquil environment.

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President U Win Myint, President of the People's Republic of China Mr Xi Jinping and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi enjoy the performance of dance troupe at the ceremony to mark the Myanmar-China 70th Anniversary of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations and launching of Myanmar-China Bilateral Cultural and Tourism Year in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Besides, in implementing these projects, it is very necessary to be in line with the prioritized strategic national development plans of the two countries, to take measures against the damage of the environmental degradation, and to consider the development and contribution of the social life of the people. I truly believe that Your Excellency shares the same views.

Since peace and development go hand in hand, in order to make more success in our ongoing China-Myanmar joint-venture projects, it is very necessary to ensure the peace and political stability between the border regions of the two countries.

We really appreciate your positive contributions towards the peace process, national reconciliation and development of Myanmar. Today is the transitional period in implementing these programmes, and China as a good neighbouring country has always stood with understanding and positive attitudes towards our country, and for this, on behalf of the government and the people of Myanmar, I would express my heartfelt thanks to your government and your people.

We would like to reiterate that Myanmar will always continue to stand in support of the One-China policy, which stands for the main interest of China.

I often draw attention to the fact that the close relations between the people of the two countries is a fundamental factor for the growth of good will and friendship between the two nations. From these close contacts will grow close relationships and understanding, which will lead to the consolidation of



President of China Mr Xi Jinping delivers the opening speech. PHOTO: MNA

bilateral relationships.

Understanding and good will and friendship between the people of the two countries will make contributions towards better bilateral relationships, so it is necessary to build the relationships between the people of the two countries more strongly.

Therefore, I am very much pleased that Year 2020 has been defined as the China-Myanmar Tourism and Culture Year, which I believe will promote the relationships of our people more closely.

I would like to reiterate that Your Excellency's visit marks opening a new Chapter in the History of our bilateral relationships and collaborations of our two countries.

I pray for every success of the seventieth anniversary ceremonies marking the founding of Myanmar-China diplo-

matic relationships and the programmes of the China-Myanmar Tourism and Culture Year throughout the year.

On this auspicious occasion, I pray for the perpetuation of the Myanmar-China good will and friendship for generations to come and also for the success of implementing the Myanmar-China community through thick and thin.

The President of the People's Republic of China, Mr Xi Jinping, then gave a speech.

He said "President U Win Myint and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi both made cordial speeches. We will soon begin the commemoration event for reaching the 70th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between China and Myanmar as well as the China-Myanmar culture and tourism year together."

"This is an important milestone in the history of friendly relations between China and Myanmar as well an event that citizens of both nations should partake in. I am overjoyed to witness this historical moment with everyone here."

"Both our cultures believe in faith. Our nations share close geographical boundaries, our people close relations, and even our cultures are intertwined. Our Pauk-Phaw relation has lasted for thousands of years."

"This is the source of strength for developing bilateral relations. Successfully holding bilateral diplomatic relations commemorations will increase cultural exchange and deepen interaction between our two peoples."

"We must nurture people who will participate in practical activities for the people of both nations and increase goodwill in China-Myanmar friendly relations, those who benefit it from it, and supporters in order to strengthen the social foundations that hold up our bilateral relations."

"We are continuing to write history and we must promote China-Myanmar relations in the modern age as we receive inheritance from our ancestors

and forge new paths. We must maintain the correct path while implementing innovations."

"This journey will be the starting point and we will establish a community that shares burdens, as President U Win Myint agreed as well. An important political agreement is to implement a deep relation that promotes close relations and solidarity between China and Myanmar."

"We are drawing a future roadmap that will bring to life bilateral relations based on brotherly and sisterly closeness in order to overcome hardships together and provide assistance to each other."

"I have viewed the photo exhibitions commemorating 70 years of diplomatic relations between our two countries and I saw a documentary photo showing Premier Zhou Enlai visiting Myanmar from 28 to 29 June in 1954. Back then, China, India and Myanmar promulgated Joint Declaration basing relations on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. This was a crucial moment in the history of international relations."

"The modern world is facing changes it had never seen in a hundred years as the international community begins to share more responsibilities and hardships together every day. However, there is also the noticeable rise in unfairness and inequality in international relations."

"Preserving peace and driving equitable development are both enormous duties and long journeys. The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence are not outdated but are even modern in this new situation."

"I have a wish to urge and encourage China and Myanmar to proliferate the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and become role models of practical implementation and close relations while working hand in hand to establish a society that shares the same destiny."

"During the attainment of 60 years in the 20th Century, Marshall Chen Yi composed the poem 'Deepened Phauk-phaw relations, flowing from the same river'. I believe that the history of development in close relations and cooperation between China and Myanmar will be just as successful as how the Lancang River in China and the Ayeyawady River in Myanmar course through mountains and forests and overcome numerous obstacles while marching forward at great speed."

"I conclude my speech by offering my deepest wish for the lasting close relations between our two countries."

Next, President U Win Myint and Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping inaugurated the Myanmar-China Bilateral Culture and Tourism Year. This was followed by cultural troupes from both countries performing various dances.

After the ceremony, President U Win Myint and President Mr Xi Jinping presented congratulatory flower baskets to the performers and took a documentary photo. —MNA



President of the People's Republic of China Mr Xi Jinping poses for the documentary photo together with Speaker U T Khun Myat and Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

President U Win Myint hosts dinner for Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping



President U Win Myint, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Vice Presidents attend the state dinner together with President of the People's Republic of China Mr Xi Jinping at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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“Myanmar is very pleased to witness the multi-sectoral development and success of the People's Republic of China thanks to the country and its people in the past seven decades.”

“As Myanmar and China are very close neighbours with long border lines, the two countries could promote close cooperation and partner relations based on mutual respect and understanding in line with the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence in successive eras despite changing situations in the world.”

“Myanmar also appreciates the support of People's Republic of China for the success in peace-making processes and development programmes during the transition period of Myanmar. I deeply wish you could enjoy good results and pleasant experiences during the visit to Myanmar.”

“Your Excellency President Mr Xi Jinping and distinguished guests, I would like to extend these good wishes and blessings to all of you. May friendly relations between Myanmar and China endure for a long time. May the People's Republic of

China enjoy lasting development and prosperity. May all our distinguished guests present on this auspicious have good health and prosperity. Thank You.”

Next, Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping delivered a speech. He said: “I am very glad to pay this state visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the invitation of President U Win Myint. Upon my arrival in Nay Pyi Taw, I want to extend, on behalf of the government and people of China, warm greetings and best wishes to the government and people of Myanmar.”

“China and Myanmar are

friendly neighbors linked by the same mountains and rivers, and our people enjoy a profound Pauk-Phaw friendship. Since the establishment of our diplomatic ties 70 years ago, we have championed and acted upon the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and made steady progress in our exchanges and cooperation across the board. Together, we have delivered real benefits to our people and contributed substantially to peace, stability and prosperity in the region.”

“During my visit, I look forward to having in-depth discussions with leaders of Myanmar

on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest to carry forward our Pauk-Phaw friendship and strengthen our comprehensive strategic cooperation. I am convinced that the concerted efforts of our two sides will make this visit a success and take the bilateral ties to a new level and into a new era.”

Afterwards, President U Win Myint, Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and invited guests had dinner together. — MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin, Zaw Htet Oo)

State Counsellor holds meeting with PRC President

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday evening.

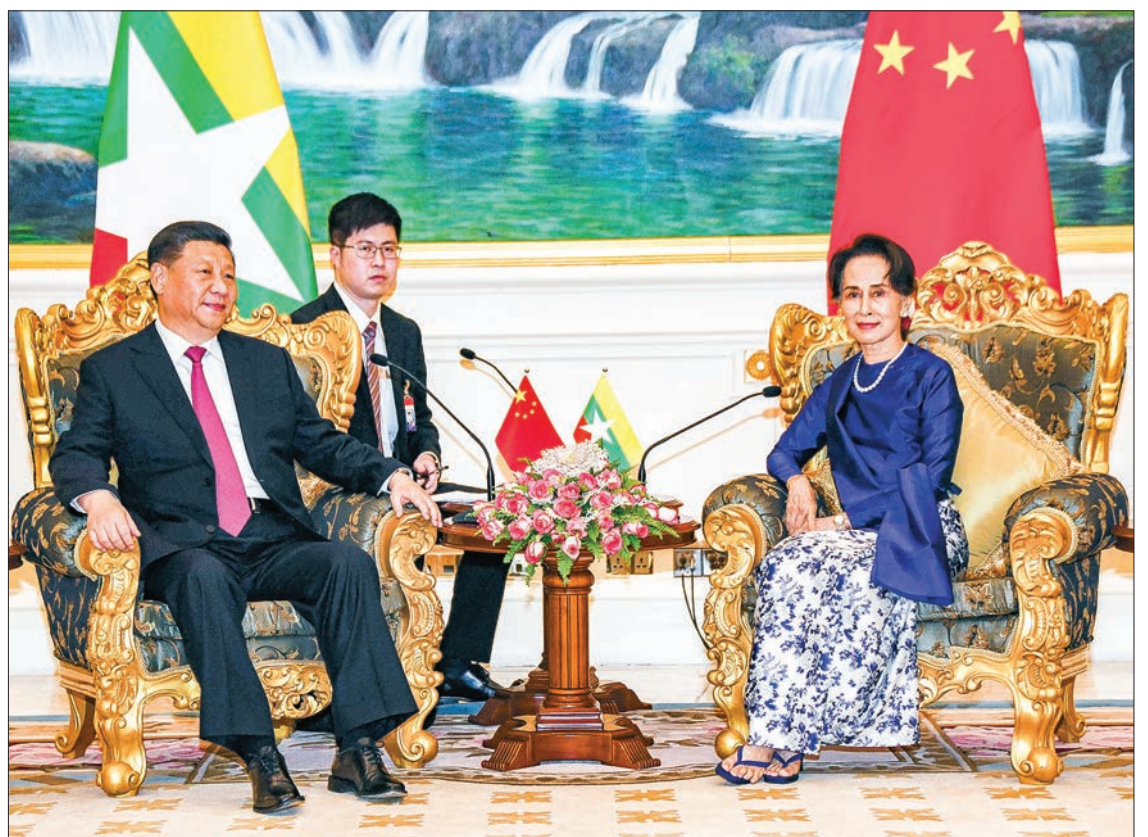
The Chinese President was greeted by the State Counsellor when he arrived at the Presidential Palace at 4 p.m. before he signed the guestbook there. The two national leaders then took a documentary photo together.

During the meeting that followed, both sides discussed promoting bilateral relations, close cooperation in multi-sector development, increasing Phauk-

phaw relations, forming a community that shares challenges and benefits, and collaborating in the BRI project.

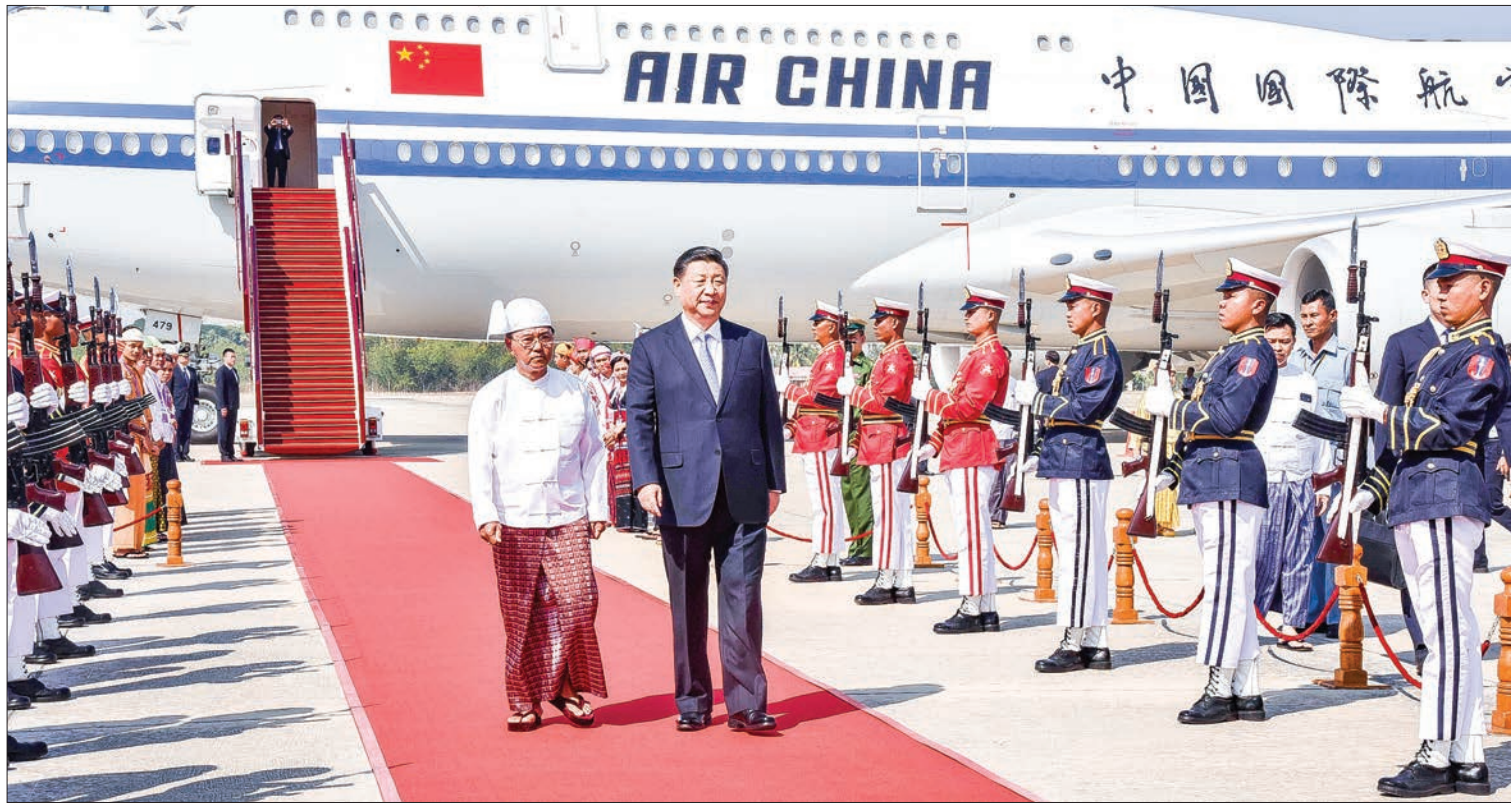
Accompanying the State Counsellor at the meeting were Union Minister for Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe and Myanmar Ambassador to China U Myo Thant Pe while the Chinese President was accompanied by Mr Wang Yi, member of the State Council of the People's Republic of China and Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with President of the People's Republic of China Mr Xi Jinping at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRC President Mr Xi Jinping lands in Nay Pyi Taw



Vice President U Myint Swe welcomes President of the People's Republic of China Mr Xi Jinping at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

AT the invitation of President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw

Cho Cho, the President of the People's Republic of China Mr Xi

Jinping and delegation arrived on an official State Visit to Myanmar

and landed in Nay Pyi Taw a 12:55 p.m. yesterday.

The Chinese President was first welcomed onboard his special flight by Director-General U Min Thein of the Protocol Department and Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai.

He was then welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Vice President U Myint Swe, Union Ministers Thura U Aung Ko, U Win Khaing and U Thauung Tun, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung, Communist Party Secretary of Yunnan Province Mr Chen Hao, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Myo Thant Pe, Permanent Secretary U Soe Han of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other officials. In addition, the Chinese President and delegation were welcomed with a Guard of Honour and ethnic dance troupes at the airport and by students holding up flags of Myanmar and China along the road from the airport.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin attends ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat held in Nha Trang, Viet Nam

THE Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin arrived back yesterday evening after attending the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat, which was held in Nha Trang, Viet Nam, from 16 to 17 January 2020.

The Union Minister attended the Working Dinner hosted by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Viet Nam Mr Pham Binh Minh held on 16 January and ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat held on 17 January.

At the Retreat, the Ministers exchanged views on the way forward for ASEAN Community building, priorities of Viet Nam's ASEAN Chairmanship 2020 under the theme of "Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN" and ASEAN's external relations as well as regional and international issues of common interest and concern.

At the Working Dinner, the Ministers exchanged views on ASEAN's external relations and its centrality in evolving regional architecture, maritime security, humanitarian issue in Rakhine State, convening of ASEAN-US Summit, promoting ASEAN's role in maintaining regional peace and security and utilization of facilities of the ASEAN Secretariat building in Jakarta in holding more ASEAN meetings.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin updated the ASEAN Foreign Ministers in an informal setting on the recent developments in Rakhine State and informed the Meeting of the Government's efforts in creating conducive environment for the voluntary return of displaced persons in a safe, secure and dignified manner including the second visit of Myanmar High-Level Mission to Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, from 18 to 19 December 2019 to share the information on arrangements made by Myanmar for prospective returnees, the launching of the "National Strategy on Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Closure of IDP Camps" and its implementation in States including Rakhine, the Government's efforts to resettle the internally displaced persons residing near the border with Bangladesh, the continued efforts of the Government to promote harmony among various communities and access to education, health and livelihood for all communities living in Rakhine State regardless of ethnicity, religion or gender. He also briefed the Ministers of the highlights of the statement made by the State Counsellor at the ICJ hearing in The Hague.

The Press Statement by the

Chairman of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat was issued at the end of the Retreat. In the Press Statement, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers, among others, welcomed the second visit of Myanmar High-Level Mission together with representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat and the AHA Centre, including ASEAN-ERAT members to Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, from 18 to 19 December 2019. They also welcomed the establishment of

an Ad-Hoc Support Team of the ASEAN Secretariat to focus on implementing the recommendations of the Preliminary Needs Assessment. The Ministers reaffirmed their support in providing humanitarian assistance, facilitating the repatriation process, and promoting sustainable development in Rakhine State. They also expressed their continued support for Myanmar's efforts to bring peace, stability, the rule of law, to promote harmony and

reconciliation among the various communities, as well as to ensure sustainable and equitable development in Rakhine State.

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat was the first meeting held during ASEAN Chairmanship of Viet Nam in 2020. Viet Nam assumes the ASEAN Chairmanship from 1 January to 31 December 2020. The first ASEAN Summit is scheduled to be held in Da Nang, Viet Nam in April 2020.—MNA



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin poses for a group photo with Ministers from ASEAN countries at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat in Nha Trang, Viet Nam. PHOTO: MNA

Time to start new chapter of millennia-old pauk-phaw friendship

PRESIDENT of the People's Republic of China Mr. Xi Jinping's first state visit to Myanmar has brought pride to our country and people.

The visit coincides with another milestone: the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and China also falls this year.

The visit will become a historic milestone by taking Myanmar-China relations to the next level.

In the 70 years of diplomatic ties, China and Myanmar have together championed and put into practice the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

Since the 1st Belt and Road Forum, Myanmar has welcomed the Belt and Road Initiative launched by China because we believe that the projects under this initiative would be in line with the development plans and priorities of Myanmar.

Myanmar serves as a land bridge between South Asia and Southeast Asia, and lies in close proximity to large economies, such as China, India, and ASEAN. It has always been Myanmar's policy to maintain close and friendly relations with all nations, especially with her neighbors.

In an article ahead of the Myanmar visit, President Xi Jinping stated that the relationship between the two countries has been marked by mutual trust, mutual respect, and mutual support. He added that relations between the two countries have become a prime example of equality, win-win cooperation, and common development between countries of different sizes. Our close ties have delivered real benefits to people in both countries, he further stated.

The economies of China and Myanmar are highly complementary, promising great

room for cooperation. China has long been Myanmar's largest trading partner and most important source of investment. Bilateral trade between the two countries reached US\$16.8 billion in the first 11 months of 2019.

Meanwhile, Myanmar, an important partner country in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and China have capitalized on the convergence of our development strategies. The two sides have also signed cooperation documents on building the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) and established a joint CMEC committee to ensure steady progress.

Since the 1st Belt and Road Forum, Myanmar has welcomed the Belt and Road Initiative launched by China because we believe that the projects under this initiative would be in line with the development plans and priorities of Myanmar.

We are confident that the projects would provide the opportunity to deliberate on ways to strengthen the existing partnership in the next phase and to achieve high-quality cooperation under the win-win partnership of the Belt and Road Initiative.

Under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, let us work hand in hand to promote bilateral cooperation and strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation for the enhancement of the socio-economic lives of the two peoples.

We welcome President Xi Jinping's visit to Myanmar in this 70th anniversary year, and believe that China-Myanmar relations stand at a new starting point.

Let us work together to build an even closer China-Myanmar community with a shared future, and write a new chapter of our millennia-old pauk-phaw friendship.

Geopark: The Relationship between Mt. Tuyin and Bagan Kingdom

Than Htun (Myanmar Geosciences Society)

GEOPARKS are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance and managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. Geopark uses its geological heritage, in connection with all other aspects of the area's natural and cultural heritage, to enhance awareness and understanding of key issues facing society, such as using our Earth's resources sustainably, mitigating the effects of climate change and reducing the impact of natural disasters. By raising awareness of the importance of the area's geological heritage in history and society today, Geoparks give local people a sense of pride in their region and strengthen their identification with the area. The creation of innovative local enterprises, new jobs and high quality training courses is stimulated as a new source of revenue are generated

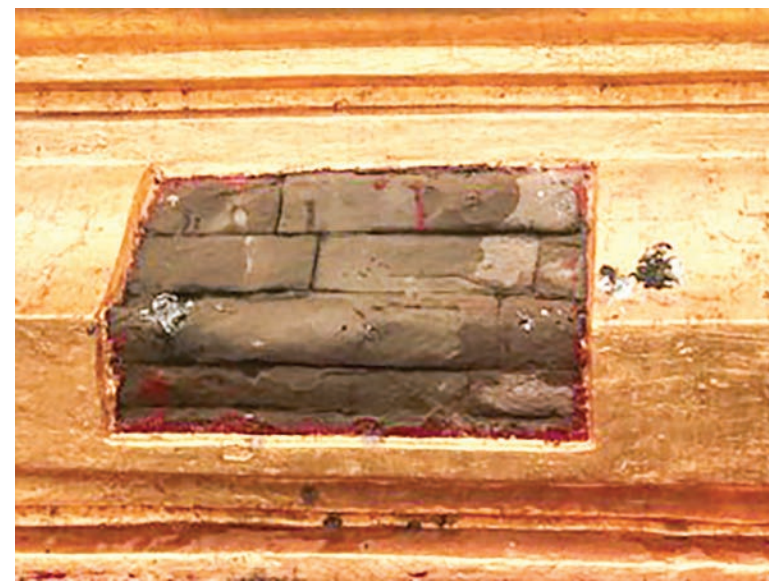
synergy released by bringing science and the arts together can yield surprising results.

With regard to the above Geopark concept the relationship of our planet Earth, human beings and animal kingdom has a long history since 40 million years ago. The knowledge of past, present and future relationship between planet Earth and living creatures, including human beings, is inevitable for sustaining and conserving, our home, the Earth.

With the above view in mind, I would like to present an example of relationship between Tuyin Taung and famous Bagan World Heritage Site during Bagan dynasty since 107 AD.

The Mt. Tuyin

The Tuyin Taung is situated west of Nuauung Oo — Kyaukpadaung motor road about six miles away south-east of Bagan. The motor road goes right up to the foot of the western stairways



Sandstone bricks used in building of Shwezigon Pagoda.

through geotourism, while the geological resources of the area are protected.

The motto of UNESCO Global Geoparks is "Celebrating Earth Heritage, Sustaining Local Communities". Geoparks are fundamentally about people and about exploring and celebrating the links between our communities and the Earth. The Earth has shaped who we are: it has shaped our farming practices, the building materials and methods we have used for our homes, even our mythology, folklore and folk traditions. Geoparks, therefore, engage in a range of activities to celebrate these links. Many Geoparks have strong links to the arts communities where the

which takes you up to the hill top cedi. There is a large lake west of the Turin and Thet Soe Taung range which is called Mya Kan (Mya Lake). On the north-west of Mya Lake, there once used to be an ancient stone building. It is called the Paper Repository or Mya Kan stone building. In the Bagan region the Mya Kan stone building, the Kyaukgu U-min (tunnel) and the Nanhpaya are the only buildings made of stone bricks (Paragu, 2013). The Tuyin Taung plays an important role not only in Bagan history but also in the religious history of the period. Ancient Myanmar historical records say that the Tuyin range is the place where King Alaungsithu in the guise of a thief exhibited his



Shwezigon Temple is built of solid sandstone bricks.

physical prowess and equestrian skill to prove that he was not yet decrepit with age.

The Mt. Tuyin is northern continuation of Bago Yoma and made up of sandstone and clay of Pegu Series (Miocene). The mountain range is trending SSE-NNW and occupied 12 to 15 miles length. The Sacred Tooth Relic Tuyin Taung cedi is situated at northern tip of Tuyin range and Gwegyo Hill is situated at the southern tip. The Tuyin range is magnificently exposed on the Myingyan plane. The region is mainly composed of Obogon Alternations, consisting of rapidly alternating thin beds of sand and clay which is upper part of Pegu Series (H.L. Chhibber 1934).

All who write about Bagan try not to leave out the fact that in the construction of the Shwezigon Pagoda sandstone from Mt. Tuyin was used. Mt. Tuyin acts as a fortified wall affording protection on the East and when the plants and trees on the mountain were thriving in the rainy season the water washed down to fill Myakan (Emerald Lake) and the environs of Bagan were green and verdant and not dry and dusty as it is today. Tamarind trees and Ingyi trees grew in profusion endowing Tuyin Mountain with grace and

beauty and it was also a vital factor in carrying out deeds of merit. Stone was quarried and cut from Tuyin mountain and relayed hand to hand by people to the site of the Shwezigon. In relaying the stone the people were lined up three in a row under the shade of huge Tamarind trees along the way. This long column of people must have been vast and one can imagine how verdant these huge trees were to be able to provide adequate shade for the host of people. Furthermore, leaving aside the notion of spiritual power, the very thought that stone from the Tuyin mountain was passed hand to hand by a huge crowd of people lined up in orderly rows is enough to inspire immeasurable happiness and religious wonder (Dr. Ma Tin Win, 2009).

According to Dr. Ma Tin Win 2009, Shwezigon Pagoda is one of the five monuments built of stone bricks quarried from Tuyin Taung. She mentioned four religious monuments built of Tuyin Taung sandstone in Bagan as follows:

1. The Pitaka Taik or Setku Taik at the foot of Mt. Tuyin
2. The great Shwedagon Pagoda
3. Kyaukgu Umin (Cave) and
4. Nan Hpaya

The Pitaka Taik or Setku Taik at the foot of Mt. Tuyin

According to Mya Kan lithic inscription The Pitaka Taik or Setku Taik at the foot of Mt. Tuyin in 11th Century was believed that it was built by King Kyansittha. Then King Kyaswa and young generation renovate the building. The pillars are made up of stone bricks and the wall is about six-foot thick. Some parts of the roof are collapsed and the design is similar with the current cathedral. The sandstone bricks are also similar to those of Nan Phaya Temple. The basic structure of windows and arch styles is similar to Nan Phaya but the sculptures are much simple than Nan Phaya. Professor G.H. Luce gave its name Mya Kan Lithic Inscription Library. We regret to know that the sandstone bricks of collapsed royal library were used in building road and dam in 1959.

Shwezigon Pagoda

In the south-west of residential quarters of the Town Nyaung Oo, on the eastern bank of the Ayeyawaddy River lies a religious precinct of over seven hundred fifty feet in length, fenced in on all four sides by great thick walls. In the middle of this precinct stands majestically an immense monument of one hundred and sixty

and durability of Shwezigon Pagoda, despite its old age. Firstly that it is a solid type of Pagoda of a bell shape. Secondly that it was built of stones brought from quarries of Turin range. Men were lined up along the distance of seven miles between quarries and the site of construction and hewn stones were hand-carried by a human chain, and thirdly that masons and architects of the Bagan period were skillful and their technique pretty high. So, the Pagoda has been able to withstand all weather and calamities through ages. On 8th July 1975 at 6 pm a severe earthquake took place in Bagan and most monuments were damaged by it. But Shwezigon Pagoda was effected very little (Shwezigon Pagoda Trustees, 1994).

The sandstone from Mt. Tuyin was relayed hand to hand and the great Pagoda was built of sandstone bricks from the base to the upper levels of the decorative inverted lotus and the spreading lotus flower. Pieces of cement had been dislodged from the stupa in the violent earthquake of 1975, but repairs were made a certain part of the pagoda was left uncovered for the edification of the general public. A study of this part shows how closely and evenly the bricks had been laid and that

All who write about Bagan try not to leave out the fact that in the construction of the Shwezigon Pagoda sandstone from Mt. Tuyin was used.

feet in width at the base and one hundred and sixty feet in height. This monument is Shwezigon Pagoda of the early Bagan period. The original builder of Shwezigon Pagoda was King Anawrahta (1044-1077 A.D.). Construction was begun in February 1059 but was not finished in his life time. King Kyanzittha (1084-1113 A.D.) resumed the work in December 1089 and the Pagoda was completed in 1090.

Throughout its history of over 950 years, Shwezigon Pagoda has been the object of worship and devotion by royalties, nobilities, aristocracies, and common folks. Three factors explain strength

unlike other pagodas lime cement was used to lay the bricks. This demonstrates an ancient technique of mixing lime and milk in making and applying cement. The stone for the Shwezigon was quarried from the Tuyin Mountain and bricks made from it according to size. The stone hewn and obtained from the mountain was then conveyed hand to hand by people standing one behind the other in rows of three and the line of people stretched from Tuyin Mountain to the site of the Shwezigon Pagoda.

TO BE CONTINUED

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of service organizations transferred, confirmed, appointed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred U Aung Tin Soe, Rector, Central Institute of Civil Service (Lower Myanmar) under the Union Civil Service Board as Director-General of Civil Service Selection and Training Department from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on the expiry of one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Than Aung Kyaw	Director-General Foreign Economic Relations Department Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations
(2) Dr Swe Swe Aung	Director-General Legislative Vetting and Advising Department Union Attorney General's Office

3. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) Professor Dr Hla Win Myint Pro-rector (Teaching) University of Medicine (Magway) Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health and Sports	Rector University of Medicine (Taunggyi) Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health and Sports
(2) Professor Dr Ko Ko Pro-rector (Teaching) University of Dental Medicine (Mandalay) Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health and Sports	Rector University of Dental Medicine (Mandalay) Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health and Sports
(3) Professor Dr Aye Aye Khin Professor/Dean University of Medical Technology (Yangon) Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health and Sports	Rector University of Medical Technology (Yangon) Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health and Sports
(4) Professor Dr Ko Ko Zaw Professor/Dean University of Public Health (Yangon) Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health and Sports	Rector University of Community Health (Magway) Department of Human Resources for Health Ministry of Health and Sports

The Bible Society of Myanmar reopens after major renovations

THE main building of The Bible Society of Myanmar on Sule Pagoda Road in Kyauktada Township, Yangon, underwent major renovations and the completion was inaugurated by Vice President U Henry Van Thio yesterday morning.

Firstly, Rev Daw Ni Ni Swe gave prayers and sang a hymn. Next, the Vice President, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Deputy Ministers U Tin Myint and U Kyi Min, Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee member Dr Saw Tun Aung Myint and Treasurer Rev Dr Saw Crainer of The Bible Society of Myanmar cut ceremonial ribbons to formally open the building.

Next, the Vice President and Rev Dr Daw Crainer unveiled the building's stone plaque and the Bible society's Vice Chairman Archdeacon Judson Win Nandar Tun sprinkled holy water on it.

Following this, the Bible society's Chairman Rev Dr Zaw Win delivered the welcoming address and Bible agency Secretary Rev U Khoi Lam Thang explained about the bible society.

Next, the Vice President delivered a speech where he said the Bible society works hard to ensure the Bible is available for everyone in their mother tongue. He said 15 Christian Churches and 4 organizations are members of the Bible society.

He said they have translated the Bible into 45 languages of Myanmar and the New Testament into 21 languages and prints about 80,000 books every



Vice President U Henry Van Thio and dignitaries cut ceremonial ribbons to open the main building of The Bible Society of Myanmar in Kyauktada Township, Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

year. This is why the society is a proud heritage of Christians and stands as a prominent idol of lasting Christianity, said the Vice President.

He explained that it has been 130 years since the British and Foreign Bible Society performed Christian missions in Myanmar in 1889, and although it was reformed into the Bible Society of Myanmar in 1964, it became a member of the United Bible Societies in 1969.

The Vice President said both buildings of the Bible society were weathered and con-

struction of other buildings in close proximity in 1998 affected their structural integrity and so action was needed to preserve them.

He said the ownership of the buildings were successfully transferred to the Bible society on 8 December 2015 from the British and Foreign Bible Society since they left the country in 1962.

He said MYO & PEC Group Construction Co Ltd handled the renovation from December 2018 to November 2019 using over K 360.4 million.

The Vice President said

Myanmar has been home to different ethnic nationals and to those of different faiths since ancient times.

He said while the majority are Buddhists other faiths such as Hinduism, Christianity and Islam are officially recognized as well.

The Vice President said compassion being the basis of living is the common teaching of all religions and urged the Christian Churches to keep the goodwill and development of all of Myanmar in their prayers.

He thanked everyone involved in renovating the old

building of Bible society and wished for it to continue being an image of unity among the churches.

Next, Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein delivered an address, Myanmar Anglican Church offered prayers and Father Murray Rano Soe Naing of the Catholic Bishops' Conference made prayers.

Afterwards, the attendees sang a hymn and Rev Aaron Sut Nyat (UBS Ministry Resource Facilitator – Team Leader) gave an address and concluded the ceremony. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

UEC Chairman U Hla Thein receives Executive Director of Asian Network for Free Elections

UNION Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein received Executive Director of Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) Ms Chandanie Watawala and party at UEC office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to preparation for holding the 2020 General Election in accord with the five norms — freedom, fairness, transparency, public credibility and consistency with the desire of the

public; plans for observing the elections; and collaboration on the implementation of electoral civic education and voter education programmes.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein and Executive Director of Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) Ms Chandanie Watawala and party pose for a photo at UEC office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



China-Myanmar documentary 'Beautiful Myanmar' launches in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint delivers the speech at the launch ceremony of the documentary 'Beautiful Myanmar' in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE launch ceremony of the documentary 'Beautiful Myanmar' was held at Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, National Radio and Television Administration of China (NRTA) Minister Mr Nie

Chenxi, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, department heads, and officials from NRTA, Yunnan Media Group (YMG) and Myanmar TV channel YTV attended the launch ceremony.

Firstly, the NRTA Minister

delivered a speech where he said the documentary introduces the natural geography connecting the Phauk-Phaw relations of Myanmar and China and the friendly relations between the two countries in addition to Myanmar's captivating natural scenery, culture and the local

people's enthusiasm for a bright future.

Mr Nie Chenxi said he hopes that with the attainment of 70 years of diplomatic relations, cooperation in the media sector and China-Myanmar friendly relations will be further augmented.

Next, the Union Minister for Information delivered a speech where he said his ministry and China's State Council Information Office signed an MoU on information cooperation in December 2017 and has cooperation on all relevant sectors concerning information dissemination.

Dr Pe Myint said one of these areas of cooperation involves dubbing Chinese TV series with Myanmar language and broadcasting them on MRTV starting from August 2017, with eight TV series accomplished in this process so far.

The Union Minister said this launch ceremony of 'Beautiful Myanmar' a four-part documentary spanning 30 minutes

each, is a sign of media cooperation between both nations and expressed his delight.

He said his ministry will continue to cooperate in recording and broadcasting TV series, customs and culture, and travel programmes of both nations in documentary series.

A sample of 'Beautiful Myanmar' co-produced by YMG and YTV, was then played, after which Director Zhou Wei Ping, YMG Producer Miss Hai Yun and YTV Producer Daw Nan Saw Htwe Myint explained the creation of the documentary.

Afterwards, YMG President Mr He Yaning handed over the film rolls for the Chinese cuisine programme, Pu'er tea, Yunnan tastes and Mu Phu TV series and Deputy Director of China Agriculture and Television Center Mr Ouyang Haihong handed over film rolls for agricultural programmes which were all received by Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko receives Chinese Culture and Tourism Minister

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko receives Minister for Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China Mr Luo Shugang and party at the office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to religious affairs, culture and tourism cooperation and further cooperation on these sectors between the two countries.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko meets with Minister for Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China Mr Luo Shugang in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

One dead, two hurt in landmine explosion in Kachin State

A 48-YEAR OLD woman died and two other women were injured on 16 January in a landmine explosion in Momauk, Kachin State, according to a local report yesterday.

The victim has been identified as Daw Lasi Lu, 48, from Madu Village, Momauk Township. She was on her way to a nearby jungle to collect vege-

tables when she stepped on a mine, triggering an explosion.

Two other women — Daw Lasi Khun, 52, and Daw Su Sana, 48 — from the same village were injured in the blast and taken to the Bhamo Township Military Hospital by soldiers from a local battalion.—Win Naing (Kachin State)

(Translated by GNLM)

Trump impeachment trial in US Senate gets underway

WASHINGTON — US Chief Justice John Roberts was sworn in on Thursday afternoon on the Senate floor for the long-awaited impeachment trial of US President Donald Trump, the third president in US history to face such a trial in the upper chamber.

The trial is set to begin on Tuesday with Roberts presiding.

SENATORS SWORN IN

After taking his oath, Roberts swore in 99 of the 100 senators who will serve as impeachment jurors with the oath to deliver "impartial justice."

Senator James Inhofe, a Republican from the western state of Oklahoma, was absent Thursday reportedly for a family medical issue.

"Will all senators now stand, and remain standing, and raise their right hand," Roberts said.

"Do you solemnly swear that in all things appertaining to the trial of the impeachment of Donald John Trump, president of the United States, now pending, you will do impartial justice according to the Constitution and laws?"

Together the senators responded "I do" at their desks and then were called up to sign the impeachment trial oath book in groups of four.—Xinhua ■

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Need more jetties to expand Yangon Water Bus operation: Minister

By Nyein Nyein

IN order to expand Yangon Water Bus services, the government needs to construct more jetties, said Daw Nilar Kyaw, Minister for Electricity, Industry, Road Transportation and Communications for Yangon Region.

Currently, the Yangon Water Bus is operating in the Hline River. To expand the service to Ngamoeyeik creek and Thanlyin, more jetties need to be constructed, she added.

"The jetties need to support our water bus. At present, the water bus can be operated only in Hline River. So, we need to construct more jetties very soon to extend operations to Ngamoeyeik creek and Thanlyin," said Daw Nilar Kyaw.

"To develop Yangon Water Bus operations, the Myanmar Port Authority (MPA) is collecting rent for only two jetties out of nine, which are used by the Yangon Water Bus," said U Bo Soe, assistant general manager of MPA and member of the Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

The nine jetties are Botahtaung Terminal (No.4



Two water buses are seen in the Yangon River in Botahtaung Township, Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

bridge), Nan Thi Da Terminal (Pansodan Street), Lan Thit Jetty (Lan Thit Street), Kyimyindine Terminal Zay Gye terminal from Yangon side, and Hsarparchaung, Thamadakanchay, Angyithinbawkyin from Insein and Dala side.

"The Yangon Water Bus has suspended services since last September for renovation. During this period, the

authority has conducted major repairs on vessels and jetties, and planned to buy new vessels to start operations in Ngamoeyeik creek, build jetties along Ngamoeyeik creek, renovate the Thanlyin jetty, and install machines for the new payment system," said U Ngwe Phyong Paing, operation manager of the Yangon Water Bus.

The Yangon Water Bus service was launched on 7

October, 2017 by the Tint Tint Myanmar Company. The company provides services from Insein jetty to Botahtaung jetty, using 11 motor vessels. It provides transportation to around 100,000 commuters per month.

The Yangon Water Bus is also offering daily services for pilgrims and riverine cruise tours.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Tourist arrivals via Kawthoung border gate rise

WITH the development of the tourism industry in Taninthayi Region, local and foreign travellers entering Myanmar via the Kawthoung border gate have increased this year compared to last year.

In 2018, a total of 954 tourists visited Myanmar via the Kawthoung gate, including 874 tourists who came to the country to travel and 80 tourists who came on business.

In 2019, a total of 3,094 tourists visited Myanmar via the Kawthoung gate, including 3,033 tourists for traveling and 61 for business, according to official statistics provided by the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

Most of the local travellers were from Yangon, Mandalay, and the upper towns of Myanmar. Meanwhile, foreign travellers who visited significant places in Kawthoung entered through Thailand, in accord-



Foreign travellers enjoy a significant place in Kawthoung. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)

ance with procedures set by the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism. They visited Victoria point or Bayintnaung cape,

Bayintnaung king statue, Pyitawaye pagoda, 555 Mountain viewpoint, Malewan natural waterfall, hot springs, and

some islands near Kawthoung Town—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

US to introduce 20-year bond to finance substantial debt



The government has been looking for ways to attract additional investment, as budget analysts expect years of continued growth in federal budget deficits. PHOTO: AFP

WASHINGTON — The US Treasury said Thursday it will introduce a new 20-year bond meant to finance the country's growing deficit, which exceeded \$1 trillion last year.

Treasury intends to issue the first 20-year bonds during the first half of the year, the department said in a statement, with more details to be released on 5 February.

"We seek to finance the government at the least possible cost to taxpayers over time, and we

will continue to evaluate other potential new products to meet that goal," said Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

The new 20-year bond would serve as an intermediate option between the two most popular maturities: the 10- and 30-year bond.

The department said an advisory committee had informed its decision and that it had also consulted the opinion of a variety of market participants, including companies that resell US

debt securities, which are known as primary dealers.

As a result, "Treasury believes that there will be strong demand from investors for a 20-year bond, which will increase Treasury's financing capacity over the long term," the statement said.

Mnuchin reiterated at the end of August that he was considering new ultra-long bonds of up to 50 or 100 years to finance the debt, a proposition first studied by Treasury shortly after Mnuchin's arrival in 2017.— AFP ■

Global equities burst higher on trade deal

LONDON — Global equities rose Friday as investors, still buoyed by a landmark China-US trade deal, turned their focus to the earnings season and the global outlook, while also cheered by Chinese economic data.

In early afternoon

European trade, London rose 1.0 per cent, Frankfurt jumped 0.7 per cent and Paris added 0.9 per cent, aided by news that China's economy appears to be stabilising.

"Stock markets in Europe are higher this morning as the bullish move in

Asia overnight has influenced traders in this part of the world," said CMC Markets analyst David Madden.

"China released some broadly positive economic reports, which has boosted sentiment around the globe."

All three main indexes on Wall Street ended at record highs Thursday, boosted by the Senate's approval of a new North American free-trade deal, while Google parent Alphabet joined Apple and Microsoft to become a trillion-dollar firm for the first time.— AFP ■



People at a shopping mall in Beijing. PHOTO: AFP

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports to supply the

(A) Blood Safety Reagents & Consumables

(B) Blood Grouping Reagents (Auto Analyzer) for Blood Bank and Public Hospitals in the (2019-2020) Budget year.

Tender documents are available during office hours at the Procurement and Supplying Division, Department of Medical Services, Office No (4), Ministry of Health and Sports Commencing from (16.1.2020).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office, not later than (13-2-2020), 12:00 Noon, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraph/telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information please contact the Phone No.067-3411510, 067-3411634, Procurement and Supply Division Office, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports.

Procurement and Supply Division
Department of Medical Services
Ministry of Health and Sports

India's biggest broadcast stars descend on Singapore for the inaugural BIGO Gala Awards 2020

SINGAPORE — Leading technology company from Singapore, BIGO Technology (BIGO), the company responsible for popular new-age communication platforms like Bigo Live (Live Streaming), Likee (Short-form Videos), and imo (Video Communication) hosted the first-ever BIGO Gala Awards 2020 for

broadcasters in Singapore, on 15 January, 2020, at the Capitol Theatre, Singapore.

Howie Lau, Chief Industry Development Officer at the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) was the Guest-of-Honour. It was not only a starry affair featuring a red-carpet, attended by some of the biggest

names in the broadcast on Bigo Live who flew in from all over the globe but also an evening that celebrated talent and felicitated live-streaming hosts who have performed exceptionally well on Bigo Live over the past year.

The event felicitated over 70 award winners in the categories of Top

Regional Broadcaster, Top Regional Family, Top Global Broadcaster and Top Global Family.

The award ceremony not only recognized the top individuals but also the top "group" or "family" in Bigo Live, fuelling the understanding that teamwork is also celebrated on the platform.— ANI ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV OCEAN PROBE VOY.NO. (032N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OCEAN PROBE VOY.NO. (032N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of 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.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCC HALONG VOY.NO. (002W/003E)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC HALONG VOY.NO. (002W/003E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/TMT 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.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HOANG PHUONG STAR

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HOANG PHUONG STAR VOY.NO. (01/20) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of WILMAR 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.

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Budalin, Twintaung Hill, and bronze age in Myanmar

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)



Twintaung lake in Budalin township, Monywa, Sagaing Region. PHOTOS: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)

BUDALIN Township in Monywa District of Sagaing Region was famous in turning out wise members of the Sangha and prominent persons. Moreover, Budalin Township comprises locations of flourishing Bronze Age culture in Myanmar and Twin-

taung Hill producing spirulina blue-green algae.

Budalin

Based on the reliable data, Budalin at an altitude of 1,449 feet was formed on 414.8 square miles of land on 12 December 1972 and then constituted with

three wards and 188 villages from 54 village-tracts having 414,974 population in March 2017.

Facts and figures released by the Ministry of Home Affairs showed the Bronze Age graveyard in Nyaungkan Village and the monument of Supreme Commander Maha Bandula in Ngapa-

yin Village in Budalin Township.

Twintaung Hill

Twintaung Hill, three miles and two furlongs west of Budalin, is about 10 minutes walking from the left branch of the road from Monywa. Local people from Twin Village, two furlongs east of Twin-

taung Hill, engage in cultivation of crops and betel farms in addition to catching larva of the beetle as their livelihoods.

The old volcano, one mile in diameter at its mouth and 146 feet in depth, is in shape of frying pan. Spirulina is produced from the blue-green algae in the frying pan shaped lake.

Blue-green algae generally grow in old volcano in tropical region such as Myanmar, Mexico, Czech, Kenya, Ethiopia and China. Such an algae is produced at Twintaung Hill in Budalin Township, Taungpyauk and Twin-aung lakes in Kani Township and Yekha Lake in Sagaing Township.

Blue-green algae and larva of the beetle

A team led by Lecturer Dr Min Thein from Marine Science Department of Mawlamyine University conducted research on blue-green algae at Twintaung Hill in 1983. After that, a Spirulina Branch was set up at the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory under Ministry of Industry-1 on 11 January 1988.

Sales of provimin tablets started at domestic market in January 1989. No 3 Pharmaceutical Factory was established at



A Bronze Age Cemetery Site.



Blue-green algae can be cultured at Twintaung water in the brick tanks. As the water outside Twintaung flew into the lake, not only production rate of the algae but larva declined.

Female larva lay eggs on the stones shore of the lake and then larva come out. By posting oil lights at the shore at night, local people catch larva by sieve. But, the catchers release large larva for prevention of depletion.

However, some catchers do not release large larva to get good price in the market. Consequently, number of larva declined. Fortunately, larva of the beetle can be caught at Twinma and Taungpyauk lakes in Kani Township.

Nyaungkan Graveyard in Bronze Age of Myanmar

Nyaungkan and Okaing villages, assumed as area of flourishing Bronze Age culture in history of Myanmar, are located in Budalin Township. Nyaungkan Village was more famous due to finding of evidences related to the Bronze Age by the Department of Archaeology at its old graveyard. Nyaungkan Village is five miles from northwest of Budalin and on the east bank of Chindwin River.

The site where Bronze Age culture flourished is one mile southeast of Nyaungkan Village, at an altitude of 500 feet. The ex-

tion. That was why the ancient cultural evidence observation team, comprising scholars and experts from the office of the military strategic studies under the Ministry of Defence, Archaeology Department and Anthropology Department of Yangon University and Archaeology Department under the Ministry of Culture, systematically conducted excavation tasks from January 1998 to March 1999. As the team systematically excavated the plots three times, the scholars and experts found evidences of the Bronze Age of Myanmar.

Currently, five site museums have been built on the plots where the Ministry of Culture excavated to preserve the evidences observed by researchers and university students. The unearthed fossils and pots are covered with 52 aluminium glass chambers in the museums.

The ancient objects discovered from Nyaungkan were earthen pipes, stone rings, locks of stone rings, bronze axes, earthen beads in various sizes and types, three stone balls, five bronze spears, six bronze arrow heads, bronze wares, 23 pieces of broken pot with designs, eight rolls of lead sheets, stone weapons, pots, five pieces of bricks, three earthen oil lamps and five pieces of broken urns with designs. *The Myanma Alinn* and

buried leading to the north but two remains were buried leading to the south. Most of the fossils were supine, and they were from three feet to five feet and eight inches in length.

One skull and one arm bone kept in a large pot, various sizes of pots and pots for animal bones were seen in the plot SE 15. Experts assumed that skeletons were found due to burying humans and animals for the first time, and then, the second bury was undertaken on it. Skulls of cow and dog, and a hoof of animal were found together with human fossils at the excavation site SE 5.

Fossils of a man, a woman and a child were buried at a single site. Various sizes of pots and one bronze arrow head were found together with these fossils. Two fossils were also found in the excavation site SE 2. Experts remarked that such bury might be undertaken due to their deaths at the same time but it may be a tradition that remains of families might be buried at the same place when they died.

As some fossils were found holding bronze weapons, they might be buried together with their objects when they passed away. Various sizes of earthen beads, stone beads and conch shell beads were found at necks of fossils and around the wrists, so these ornaments might be

with oil lamps, earthen dishes and pots with holes of strings. It was a significant fact that small pots were put in large pots in a burial tradition.

Experts generally accepted that early humans residing in Myanmar reached the Bronze Age when they used bronze objects and weapons after passing through Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic ages.

Experts could expose a part of culture in the Bronze Age of Myanmar. Although these bronze objects cannot be exposed for relative dating through carbon 14 dating and thermo luminescence dating techniques, experts estimated that the Myanmar Bronze Age lasted past 3,000 years ago between BC 900 and BC 600. Historian U Sein Myint noted that Nyaungkan Bronze Age area might flourish in later Bronze Age.

Budalin has been famous as the native of venerable Buddhist monk U Budh, paid homage by King Sagaing and First Queen Nanmadaw Mei Nu, and as the site of flourishing Bronze Age culture. In doing research on bronze and iron ages of Myanmar, Budalin Township becomes one of the sites to expose ancient history.

(Translated by Than Tun Aung)
Reference:
Paper on findings of ancient cul-



Bronze Age cultural Heritage Zone.

Twintaung Hill on 6 June 2003 to produce the tablets meeting international standards for export purpose to Asian and European markets.

Above PH 8.5 of water in Twintaung is inappropriate for living beings except larva of the beetle. Only blue-green algae for producing spirulina can thrive well in that water.

cavated graveyard is 250 feet long from the north to the south and 130 feet wide from the east to the west.

It was assumed that the site might be a graveyard. Later, the site was owned by U Chit Hlaing from Ywatha Village, who found human skeletons, earthen pots and bronze weapons in land preparations for cultiva-

the *Kyemon* dailies issued on 23 March 1998 mentioned the news that these objects were handed over to the Ministry of Culture on 22 March 1998 so as to showcase them at the National Museum.

Tradition of bury in Bronze Age

Most of the human dead bodies which remained fossils were

worn by those of fossils before they were dead.

Various sizes and types of stone rings were found at necks and wrists of some fossils. Stone wings might be worn before the death as well as the dead bodies might be decorated with them in line with their ranks.

In the Bronze Age, human bodies were buried together

tural evidence observation team, Budalin Township (Archaeology Department of Yangon University)

Bronze Age and Iron Age history in metal age of Myanmar (U Sein Myint)

Proceeding of the Workshop on Bronze Age Culture in Myanmar (UHR)



Myanmar to play friendly matches with Thailand in Mandalay



Myanmar veteran player Yi Yi Oo (No. 20) celebrates the team's victory with Khin Mar Lar Tun (No. 10) in an earlier international match. **PHOTO: MFF**

IN preparation for the 3rd round qualification of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics women's football competition, the Myanmar national women's football team will play friendly matches against the Thailand team on 25 and 28 January at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay.

Entry to the friendly matches will be free for fans, according to a statement issued by the Myanmar Football Federation.

Team Myanmar will meet South Korea and Viet Nam teams in Group A matches of the 3rd round qualification of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

If team Myanmar pass the

3rd round qualifiers, they will enter the playoff stage for the qualification to the Tokyo Olympics.

Team Myanmar comprises 28 footballers and 26 players have been selected for the friendly match against team Thailand, according to the MFF. U Khin Maung Htwe will lead the team as temporary head coach, it stated.

Veteran strikers Khin Moe Wai, Win Theingi Tun, and youth players Myat Noe Khin, Yi Yi Oo, July Kyaw, and Nu Nu have been selected on the team, according to a statement released yesterday by the Myanmar Football Federation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Myanmar goalkeeper undergoes knee surgery

GOALKEEPER of the Myanmar U-22 national football team and reliable keeper of Shan United, Phone Thitsar Min, yesterday underwent surgery for an injury he had suffered on the right knee at the Thonburi Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand, and his operation was successful, according to Shan United.

Phone Thitsar Min had injured his knee during a training session with the Myanmar U-22 team in the second week of October, ahead of the 2019 SEA

Games.

So, he had missed the men's football event of the 2019 SEA Games in the Philippines.

"My operation began at 5:30 am this morning, and I regained consciousness around 9. Everything's alright," said Phone Thitsar.

Dr Phyto Min Oo, who accompanied the young goalkeeper, said, "The operation was successful. He will be discharged after two days. But, we will stay in Bangkok for about a week to en-

sure that he is recuperating well. A patient who has undergone surgery under anesthesia must not fly soon after the operation. After a two-month rest, Phone Thitsar will start light exercises. He would be able to resume normal training after 6 months."

The Myanmar Football Federation helped Phone Thitsar pay for the operation, and football fans will see him on the pitch in July, 2020, according to a statement issued by Shan United.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Myanmar U-22 and Shan United goalkeeper Phone Thitsar Min. **PHOTO: SUFC**

FIFA meets MFF officials for football forward programme



MFF general secretary U Ko Ko Thein receiving the insignia of FIFA from FIFA officials. **PHOTO: MFF**

OFFICIALS from FIFA, Mehmet Dirlik (FIFA governance programme coordinator), Leonard Gabriel Gruter (FIFA governance program coordinator), Lavin Vigneshl (MA development officer), and Niko Nhouvannasak (project coordinator) visited Myanmar from 14 to 16 January and met with officials from the Myanmar Football Federation for ensuring the FIFA Forward Program runs smoothly.

The FIFA has provided funds to the MFF for the FIFA Forward Program, and currently, the Myanmar Football Federation is making efforts to develop Myanmar football standards with the help of the FIFA programme.

The FIFA officials met with counselor of the Myanmar Football Federation, U Than Zaw, general secretary of the the football federation, U Ko Ko Thein, and financial officials from the Myanmar Football Federation and discussed Myanmar's football plans.

The FIFA officials then inspected ongoing construction work of the new National Futsal Stadium and the training stadium, the condition of the Thuwunna Stadium and fitness center, dressing rooms at the stadium, and the AFC Mini Pitch, which has been constructed with funds from the Asian Football Confederation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)