President U Win Myint and First Lady host dinner in honour of President of India, First Lady

Co-ordination meeting held to implement Myanmar-India MoU on Rakhine State Development

President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind and First Lady accorded ceremonial welcome

State Counsellor meets with President of India

President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho welcomed visiting President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind and First Lady Smt. Savita Kovind with an Honour Guard at the Presidential Palace at 10 a.m. in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind and First Lady arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to pay an official goodwill visit at the invitation of President U Win Myint.

At the ceremony, President U Win Myint and the visiting Indian President Shri Ram Nath Kovind received the salute of the Honour Guard, inspected the Honour Guard after which the delegations of both sides were introduced to each other. Following the ceremony, the Indian President signed in the visitor’s book. Afterwards, the two presidents had their documentary photos taken and held talks at the Envoy’s Hall of the Presidential Palace.

At the meeting, they discussed promoting bilateral trade and investment, Myanmar’s beans and pulses export to India, providing assistance in agriculture and livestock breeding sectors in Myanmar, development of information technology sector, extensive use of solar power, cooperation in renewable energy, safety and security of people living in border areas and the rule of law there, helping each other with the spirit of good neighbourliness in the regional international arenas.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with the President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind and his delegation in the Envoy’s Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday at 11:15 a.m.

At the meeting, they discussed promoting bilateral trade and investment, Myanmar’s beans and pulses export to India, providing assistance in agriculture and livestock breeding sectors in Myanmar, development of information technology sector, extensive use of solar power, cooperation in renewable energy, safety and security of people living in border areas and the rule of law there, helping each other with the spirit of good neighbourliness in the regional international arenas.

In Myanmar’s efforts toward receiving returnees back to Rakhine State and rule of law works, were cordially discussed and views exchanged. In addition to this, the President of India expressed his appreciation to Myanmar for granting visa on arrival to Indian citizens arriving in Myanmar via air starting from 1 December 2018 as it would increase contacts and relations between the citizens of the two countries and develop tourism.

Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, U Min Thu, Dr. Than Myint, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, U Thant Tin, Dr. Han Zaw, and U Kyaw Tin and Myanmar Ambassador to India U Moe Kyaw Aung and officials were with the State Counsellor in the meeting while the delegation led by the President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind was accompanied by Indian Ambassador Mr. Vikram Misri. — MNA

**LOCAL NEWS**

Contract farming launched in four districts of Sagaing

**NATIONAL**

President U Win Myint receives President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meeting with President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Parliament Second Pyithu Hluttaw’s tenth regular session holds 12th day meeting

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Second Pyithu Hluttaw’s tenth regular session holds 12th day meeting

By Aye Aye Thant, Lu Maw (MNA)

THE 12th-day meeting of the tenth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday where questions were raised and answered, receipt of a bill announced, reports of Pyithu Hluttaw committees read, discussed and decided upon, a motion discussed and decided upon.

Questions asterisk marked and answered

Dr. U Aye Kyu of Labutta constituency first raised a question on whether there is a plan to construct a library in honor of Sayagyi Maung Htin in Labutta Town. In his reply to the question Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun said a total of 434 Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) offices were opened all over the country and all those offices have a library while it assisted in opening of self-help libraries. From fiscal year 2009-2010 to fiscal year 2015-2016 K 1,735 million was supported for 1,535 rural libraries but starting from fiscal year 2016-2017 IPRD no longer requested budget for establishing rural libraries. On the other hand from 2011 to 2016 Myanmar Libraries Foundation has been striving toward the development of self-help libraries and had provided K 347.192 million to construct and renovate 568 rural libraries. It had constructed libraries in the villages of birth of Sayagyi Thakin Kodaw Hmaing and Hmaubii Sayas Thein, in addition to this, other states and regions were also establishing rural self-help libraries with State/Region Hluttaw fund and/or State/Region Government development fund.

As such, construction of Sayagyi Maung Htin library ought to be conducted with the respective State/Region Hluttaw fund and donors contribution together with the assistance and support of NGOs like Myanmar Libraries Foundation. Ayeyawady Region Government had also responded that it would submit the matter to the Union level explained the Deputy Minister. U Win Win of Minbu constituency on the other hand raised a question on when repair, renovation and upgrade of Minbu District sports ground in Minbu and Saku Myoma sports ground will be conducted. Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe replied that the Saku Myoma sports ground land will first be transferred under the name of the ministry and once this is done construction works will be started by including the Union budget in the Region fund.

Questions raised by Dr. U Tin Aung of Kyaukse constituency, U Than Aung of Ngapun constituency, U Wom Hla of Nan-yun constituency, U Ba Shein of Kyaukkyu constituency, U Tun Tun Naing of Kani constituency and U Tun Tun of Pwintbyun constituency were also answered by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun and Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin.

Receipt of Invention Copyright Bill

After the question and answer session Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khin Kyaw announced the receipt of Invention Copyright Bill approved and sent with amendment by Amyotha Hluttaw.

Bill Committee member U Aung Soe confirmed that the bill and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to take an amendment bill to register their names.

Reports of Pyithu Hluttaw committees read, discussed and decided

Next, reports of Pyithu Hluttaw committees were read, discussed and decided. First, Pyithu Hluttaw Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Rural Development Committee report was read by committee member Dr. Than Aung Soe. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the report to enroll their names.

Second Amyotha Hluttaw’s tenth regular session holds its 12th day meeting

By Aung Ye Thwin

THE tenth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 12th-day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the session, asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, two reports were read out and a bill was tabled.

During the Q&A session, U Naing Ko Ko of Kachin State constituency 12 asked the Union Government if it plans to form a Third Party made up of technocrats and engineers in townships after calling off the Committee for Quality Control of High Rise Building Construction Projects that were formed many townships across the country.

Deputy Minister for construction U Kyaw Lin replied that currently the Ministry of Construction had already drawn up the draft of the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) Law and which was submitted to the Office of the Union Attorney General while carrying out to submit it with amendments to the Union Attorney-General. After getting approval from there, we would send it to the Union Government, thereby to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The Ministry of Construction would abolish the Committee for Quality Control of High Rise Building Construction Projects after the CIDB law had been approved together with the formation of Inspection Teams.

Daw San San Myint of Bago Region constituency 4 asked the Union Legal supporting Group if it could render free legal services to the accused charged with civil suit. Union Legal Supporting Group Chairman U Nyan Win replied that in accordance with the prescription of Section 2 of the ULSL, the ULSL entails the accused, custody, arrest, prosecution, penalty and imprisonment. Legal supporting groups from states/regions level across the country have been formed, with the aim of rendering free services for people who face criminal charges and cannot afford the cost of legal representation, and added that according to the official resolution of the prescribed laws, the Union Legal supporting Group has no authority to provide legal services to those who are charged with civil suit.

U Zaw Min Lat alias U Ko Lat of Shan State Constituency 1 asked the Union Government if it plans to construct a museum containing a mini cinema hall, an exhibition, an assembly hall and recreation center, aiming to exhibit pictures, photographs, documentary films of historical background of the Panglong pillar and its agreement.

Regarding this query, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun replied that there was no plan at the moment to construct a museum.

U Win Maung of Magway Region constituency 6 asked the Union Government if it plans to implement the restoration of the Wette Lake that had existed since the times of Myanmar Kings.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied that as for the Magway Region government plans are under way to ask for regional development funds starting from 2019-2020 fiscal years. Moreover the restoration works would be dependent upon the financial allotment of the Magway region government. The Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management would carry out the restoration works of the Wette Lake.

Similarly, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied to queries raised by U Khin Win of Magway Region constituency 2 and U Hla Oo of Sagaing Region constituency 4.

Next Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member Daw Hla Htay alias Daw Ohn Kyi read out and clarified a report on the Literature and Copyright Bill with amendments by the PyithuHluttaw. Afterwards, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than obtained the decision of the Hluttaw.

Dr. Pyae Phyo of Ayeyawady Region constituency 7 tabled a motion to discuss the different points at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced that the different points would be submitted at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Following this, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min submitted a Cultural Heritage Conservation bill to the Hluttaw. Then Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Aung Kyi Nyunt read out the report of the bill. Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced that the Hluttaw representatives interested in discussing the bill should register their names. The Second Amyotha Hluttaw’s tenth regular session will hold its thirteenth-day meeting on 12 December.

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)
President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind and First Lady accorded …

A coordination meeting to implement points agreed in the MoU on Rakhine State Development between the governments of Myanmar and India was held at the meeting hall of Office No. 23 in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung said the meeting was held to provide again details about the 22 proposals to be implemented, to follow the tender regulations when conducting the program, and coordination conducted with relevant ministries and the Rakhine state government to provide the land required. Next Rakhine State Electric Power, Industry and Transportation Minister U Aung Kyaw Zan explained and discussed about works in the MoU proposal that the Rakhine state government will have to lead and conduct as well as administer the works to be implemented. Afterwards, invited officials from relevant departments discussed about matters to coordinate in implementing the works. — MNA

(Translated by Myat Than-dar Aung)
President U Win Myint, First Lady host dinner in honour of President of India, First Lady

PRESIDENT U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho hosted a State Banquet in honour of President of the Republic of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind and First Lady Smt. Kovind at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. It was also attended by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Kyi Thet Hay, Vice President U Henry Van Thio and wife Dr. Shwe Hlan, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers and officials.

At the dinner, President U Win Myint and President Shri Ram Nath Kovind exchanged greetings.

Speaking at the dinner, President U Win Myint said reviewing our bilateral ties, I am truly encouraged by the growing relations between our two countries in various sectors. Our struggles for independence, historical and cultural affinity have brought our two friendly countries closer. He continued to say that the two countries have witnessed the signing of Memoranda of Understanding which will further enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries, adding that the historic visit of the President of India has elevated the standing which will further enhance our bilateral ties, I am truly encouraged by the growing relations between our two peoples,” said the President.

“We highly appreciate that India attaches priority to its relations with Myanmar in its foreign relations based on the ‘Act East Policy’ and the ‘Neighbourhood First Policy’,” President U Win Myint continued to say that the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence are one of the cornerstones of Myanmar’s foreign policy. As both countries share a common aspiration for peace, stability and prosperity of the region and beyond, Myanmar would continue to work together with India for prosperity, peace and stability in the region.

He also mentioned that Myanmar holds in high esteem the late Mahatma Gandhi, India’s founding father especially for his non-violent struggle for independence and peace.

“India, therefore, appreciates the initiatives taken by the Government of India for organizing the worldwide celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi,” he said.

“Sharing a common aspiration for peace, I would like to assure Your Excellency that Myanmar stands ready to continue to work together with India and to support each other at the regional and international fora in the interests of our two peoples,” he added.

May I now invite you to join me in a toast: to the good health, happiness and further success in the future endeavours of His Excellency President Ram Nath Kovind and the First Lady; to the continued progress and prosperity of India and her people; to the long-lasting friendship between the peoples of Myanmar and India; and to the personal well-being of all distinguished guests present here tonight.”

Afterwards, the President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind said the two countries were bound together by shared waters, forests and hills, by culture, cuisine, language and history.

“Our people have much to cherish and celebrate, of our special ties and our friendship. The vibrant Indian-origin community, who have made Myanmar their home, are an organic link between us. Our anti-colonial struggles and our shared aspirations bring us together as well,” said President Shri Ram Nath Kovind.

We gave home to each other when force and fate defeated us. King Thibaw spent his days in Ratanagiri and Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar in Yangon. We have, indeed, been friends in prosperity and as much in adversity.

“The propagation of vipassana in the modern era, a meditation technique developed and practiced by Lord Buddha himself, owes so much to the pioneering work of Satya Narayan Goenka, who received his initial lessons from Sayagyi U Ba Khin. And of course, we fondly remember Daw Tint Tint, or Usha Narayanan, the daughter of Myanmar, who became the First Lady of India,” said Shri Ram Nath Kovind. He continued to say that discussions yesterday convinced him that the ties between the two countries could only get closer and more intense from there, saying that both sides were working tirelessly to enhance the intensity of bilateral engagement through increased connectivity, capacity-building and growing commercial and cultural exchanges.

“In India, we are aware of the challenges facing in taking forward the peace process, national reconciliation and economic recovery. I want to say to you that the Government and people of India stand by you,” President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind.
KBZ Bank launches digital wallet KBZPay

KBZ Bank, Myanmar’s largest privately-owned bank, has launched a digital wallet called KBZPay. The mobile phone app will allow users to make cashless transactions, store, send or receive money, and withdraw cash through authorised agents.

The digital wallet is now available for download across the country.

The bank is conducting on-ground activations in Yangon and cities across the country to promote the app and encourage people to sign up for it.

Through the app, the bank aims to offer a safer, simpler, and more convenient way to transact money. With KBZPay, the bank hopes to bring millions of people in Myanmar into the digital economy, which will make 100% financial inclusion a reality and ultimately help improve lives.

KBZPay aims to reduce existing challenges posed by a predominantly cash-based society. Users will be able to top up their mobile wallets, withdraw cash through authorised agents and at KBZ Bank branches, make cashless remittances, and pay bills. They will be able to check their wallet balance any time. The app will also resolve the issue of small notes by enabling exact-value transactions of any amount. It also aims to protect risk of theft and fraud, and secure money transfers so that no third-party can take out cash without permission.

The bank hopes the wallet will help businesses and customers save time by reducing counting and managing cash. The app will allow users to see the details of all transactions, including dates, times, and names, to ensure greater transparency and address disputes involving transactions.

The KBZ Bank introduced KBZPay three months ago and has been testing the app and inviting customer feedback on the service.

At a recent “KBZPay Day” public event held on 30 November at Myanmar Plaza, KBZ Bank introduced KBZPay to thousands of people and invited sign-ups. A lucky draw was also organized at the event, in collaboration with partners Huawei and Myanmar Airways International (MAI).

“Myanmar is one of the only countries where 90% of the population owns a mobile phone but not a bank account. With KBZPay, we aim to put the power of financial management into the palms of people across Myanmar, through their mobile phones. During our market research, 80% of the respondents said they face challenges because of not having enough small notes in hand and the impact of rounding up or down, rather than being able to make exact transactions,” said Mike DeNoma, Chief Executive Officer, KBZ Bank.

MPT, Telenor, Ooredoo, and MyTel subscribers can register for the KBZPay app on their smartphones free-of-charge. Users do not need a bank account to sign up for the app. The app can be downloaded and install from the Google Play Store, the Apple App Store, and www.kbzpay.com.

To access the full suite of KBZPay services, such as “cash in” and “cash out”, customers need to visit the nearest KBZ Bank branch or agent to verify their NRC and complete the digital onboarding process.

Members of the KBZ Bank employee teams can upgrade users from Level 1 to Level 2, anywhere, any time. KBZ Bank customers also have the option of linking their account with the KBZPay app to top up their mobile wallets.

Those interested in becoming KBZPay authorised agents or partners can contact the KBZ Bank team at +95 99 6996 3211 or query.kbzpay@kbzbank.com.

—GNLM
FOUR districts in the Sagaing Region — Sagaing, Shwebo, Monywa, and Yinmabin — are permitting contract farming for production of crops and seeds, said U Than Zaw Oo, the Secretary of the Sagaing Region Investment Committee.

“In order to cultivate perennial crops and establish large plantations, investors can rent land by entering into long-term contracts with local farmers. Currently, watermelon and muskmelon are being cultivated to be put on the markets in Shwebo, Monywa, and Sagaing districts,” said U Than Zaw Oo. “Land in the Shwebo and Monywa districts is being made available for rent to bring it under cultivation in a systematic manner. In addition to cultivation, pest control, harvesting, drying, and storing will also be conducted with the use of modern farming methods,” he said.

“Therefore, investments can be made in the implementation of agricultural activities with the use of modern agricultural implements, he added. “Moreover, investments can also be made in the production of inputs, the importation of crops, and insurance necessary for the agriculture sector,” he continued.

“To enable investors to conduct agriculture and livestock farming, the Sagaing Region government will make arrangements to make available over 3 million acres of fallow and virgin land in Katha, Kamti, Kalay, Tamu, and Mawlaik districts and Naga Self-Administrated Zone,” said U Soe Oo, the Sagaing Region’s Minister for Planning and Finance. — Myo Win Tun (Monywa) ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Third Kalaw Trail Run 2018 held in Kalaw Township

TO promote tourism in Kalaw Township, the third Kalaw Trail Run 2018 was organized on Sunday, with the Kalaw Heritage Hotel of Kalaw Town as the starting point.

The competition included a 12-km long-distance running and a 21.1-km mini half-marathon.

A total of 351 people including 198 tourists and 153 locals participated in the event. Among them, 71 tourists and 46 locals participated in the mini marathon, while 137 tourists and 107 locals took part in the long-distance running.

At the opening ceremony, Kalaw Township MP Daw Pyone Kay Thi Naing and Shan State Tourism Department Director U Htin Aung Naing presented medals to the winner at the third Kalaw Trail Run 2018 in Kalaw Township. — GNLM

(Translated by Hay Mar)
President U Win Myint, First Lady host dinner in honour of President of India, First Lady

“Therefore, Excellencies, because our destinies are inter-twined and inter-linked, our friendship is driven not by short term goals, but by a larger and lasting quest for mutual peace, progress and prosperity. And our partnership with Myanmar is at that important intersection between friendship, neighbourhood and shared core interests,” said the President of India.

Afterwards, they enjoyed the dinner together with the invited guests.

During the dinner, artistes of the Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture entertained the guests with dances.

After the performance, President U Win Myint and First Lady, and the President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind and First Lady, presented bouquets to the artistes and posed for documentary photos.

AFTERWARDS, President U Win Myint presented a photo album of the visit to the President of India.— MNA

MoI holds coord meeting on conducting “All who can read should read” campaign

A SECOND coordination meeting of the Leading Committee to conduct “All who can read should read” campaign was held yesterday afternoon at Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw.

Committee Chairman Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint delivered an opening remark at the meeting. Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, Work Committee Chairman discussed about the campaign.

Next, Work Committee Secretary and Information and Public Relations Department Director General U Ye Naing explained about the aim, venue, reading events and prize presentation, exhibits displayed, arrangement for book sales, status of setting up committees and sub-committees.

Later, representatives from Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Myanmar Radio and Television, Printing and Publishing Department, National Archives Department, Myanmar Library Association, Forever Group Co. Ltd, Shwe Thanlwin Media, Myanmar Libraries Foundation and Myanmar Affairs Study Group discussed on sector wise works conducted and status of participation. Meeting attendees joined the discussion and provided suggestions. The meeting came to a close with concluding remarks by the Union Minister “All who can read should read” campaign is planned to be held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

PHOTO: MNA

Second Pyithu Hluttaw’s tenth regular session holds 12th day meeting

As a final conduct of the Hluttaw for the day, Hluttaw representatives discussed a motion by Daw Yin Min Hlaing of Gangaw constituency urging the Union Government to conduct construction works through modern pre-cast and other appropriate technologies.

As Daw Yin Min Hlaing wished for the motion to be approved Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then obtained the decision of the Hluttaw and announced the approval of the motion.

The 13th-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw’s tenth regular session will be held today. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)
It was the people’s wish that once the civilian government took oath, it would transform the demoralized civil society into a free society from corruption and degradation.

Modern times have given the people new abilities and powers to combat corruption and/or to prevent the anti-government forces from taking control of the government with full corruption and filth. At the same time, it has been permitted to conduct investigations, take action, and initiate legal proceedings.

It was the people’s wish that once the civilian government took oath, it would transform the demoralized civil society into a free society from corruption and degradation.
Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.

2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 8 December 2018 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Nature of report</th>
<th>Details on seizure and legal action taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Information received of Pwa Gyi from Inndaiing Village, Kyunhla Tsp, Sagaing Region, selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 6-12-2018, police searched Pwa Gyi’s house in Inndaiing Village, Kyunhla Tsp. Police discovered Pwa Gyi, 47, together with heroin, one home-made gun and lead balls. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Phayphyu Hlaing) MaYa(Pa) 8/2018 under Section 16-C/2-B of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Information received of Win Naing Tun from Ingyin Maing Ward, Phaukpyin Tsp, Sagaing Region, selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 7-12-2018, police searched Win Naing Tun’s house in Ingyin Maing Ward, Phaukpyin Tsp. Police discovered Win Naing Tun, 26, and his younger brother, Lwin Moe Tun, 21, together with heroin. A case has been opened against two suspects with MaMaSa (Phaukpyin) MaYa(Pa) 103/2018 under Section 16-C/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Information received of Win Hlaing from Oakpho Ward, Mawlaik Tsp, Sagaing Region, selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 8-12-2018, police searched Win Hlaing’s farmhouse in Oakpho Ward, Mawlaik Tsp. Police discovered his wife, Ma El Moe, 45, and continuously searched around the farmhouse then police found four suspects. While investigating them, two men ran away and the remaining two men Htun Maung, 51, and Aung Ko Win, 30, together with heroin. A case has been opened against two suspects with MaMaSa (Mawlaik) MaYa(Pa) 26/2018 under Section 16-C/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Information received of Soe Thu living in Area (10), (11) Ward, Toungoo Tsp, Bagyo Region, selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 3-12-2018, police searched Soe Thu’s house in Area (10), (11) Ward, Toungoo Tsp. Police discovered Soe Thu, 30, Kyaw Naing (a) Yin Naing Soe, 30, living in the same ward and Aung Moe (a) Aung Naing Htet, 28, from Ywarcha Village and Ye Lin Naing, 20, from Kyunetawkone Village, together with MaMaSa tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Toungoo) MaYa(Pa) 16/2018 under Section 19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Information received of selling illegal drugs on the hill in Group (10), Ward 4, Kutkai Tsp, Shan State (North).</td>
<td>So far 27 cases have been opened as of last weeks, 24 men and 3 women have been arrested, together with heroin and stimulant tablets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Information received of selling illegal drugs in Phayarpwyu Ward, Taunggyi Tsp, Shan State (South).</td>
<td>So far two cases have been opened as of last weeks, two men have been arrested, together with stimulant tablets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Information received of Ma Cho and Ma Phyo from Zaytan Ward, Pin-daya Tsp, Shan State (South), selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 7-12-2018, police searched Ma Cho(a) Cho Cho Lwin’s house in Zaytan Ward, Pindayya Tsp. Police discovered her younger sister, Ma Phyo(a) Ma Nan Nu Yi Htwe, 35, and Zaw Ng(e)zaw Lin Aung, 39, from Hawkone Ward, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against four suspects with MaMaSa (Pindaya) MaYa(Pa) 6/2018 under Section 16-C/19-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Information received of Phyo Wai Oo from Ponephan Village, Hsagaw Tsp, Shan State (North), selling illegal drugs by car.</td>
<td>On 7-12-2018, police searched at “Shali” restaurant where Phyo Wai Oo(a)EL Pu lives then police didn’t discover him but founded his mother, Daw Nyo Nyo Sein, 56, and Tun Wa, 31, together with WY psychotropic tablets and heroin. A case has been opened against two suspects with MaMaSa (Hsipaw) MaYa(Pa) 43/2018 under Section 19-A/20-A/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Information received of Nyunt Wai from Kunchaung Village, Mabein Tsp, Shan State (North), selling illegal drugs.</td>
<td>On 8-12-2018, police searched Nyunt Wai’s house in Kunchaung Village, Mabein Tsp. Police discovered Nyunt Wai, 38, together with WY psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened with MaMaSa (Mabein) MaYa(Pa) 120/2018 under Section 19-A of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far 427 cases have been opened as of 8-12-2018, and 556 men and 107 women have been arrested with seizures of 5,594.37 g of heroin, 25.01 g of ICE, 38,369.74 g of opium, 329.6 g of low-quality opium, 12,263.28 g of opium powder, 7,273.99 g of speciosa, 198,514 stimulant tablets, 3701.65 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 227.4 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 1.65 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 13 firearms, 194 different bullets, and 1 grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the ministry will report on further exposed cases.

4. In addition to the investigations and arrests conducted on drug related complaints mentioned above, the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force have also carried out separate investigations on drug complaints, search and arrests at border gates, and searches of vehicles acting upon given information. During the previous week, multiple arrests were made in the border regions and joint-surveillance gates. On the road of Tarmakhan-Nangsam, Hongpar Village, Phakant Tsp, Kachin State, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man and one woman were arrested with 1,740 stimulant tablets, 140 g of heroin and one motorcycle. At Seinlone Checkpoint, Momauk Tsp, one Mark-II was stopped for investigation then one man and two women were arrested with 79,000 stimulant tablets, 940 g of heroin and one car. On the road of Mintha-Hanhtet, near Manya Village, Mansi Tsp, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man was arrested with 3,900 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. In Netseik Village, Ponngyun Tsp, Rakhine State, one man was arrested with 120 stimulant tablets. 585,000 stimulant tablets were found in a house where no one lives in Kyatseoppyin Village, Area (5), region (2), Maungtaw Tsp. At 60 miles checkpoint, a Nissan UD car was stopped for investigation then three men and one woman were arrested with 1,940,250 stimulant tablets in the noodle cartons and one car. On the road of Panlone (1), Manwein Ward, Muse Tsp, Shan State, a Mark-II was stopped for investigation then one man was arrested with 6,000 g of opium and one motorcycle. On the Nanpaw Bridge, one Fuso 22 wheels car and Scania 22 wheels car were stopped for investigation then two men were arrested with 12,000 liter of Ethyl ether, 7,200 liters of Hydrochloric acid 4,800,000 g of Aluminum Sulfate, 150 liters of Acetic Acid, 9,440 liters of Sodium Hydroxide, 4,000,000 g of Phenyl Acetic Acid, 500,000 g of Brown Charcoal and two cars. On the road of Mandalay-Muse, near 80/4 milepost, Nawnghkio Tsp, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then two men were arrested with 3,975 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle. In Lwesione (Lower) Village, Tachilek Tsp, one man was arrested with 1,360 stimulant tablets and 5 g of ICE. In Yan Aung Myay Ward, on the Bogyoke road, one motorcycle was stopped for investigation then one man and one woman were arrested with 2,000 stimulant tablets and one motorcycle.
Dr. Win Myat Aye separately receives UN envoy, Rakhine committee member, diplomat

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye separately received United Nations Secretary General (UNSG) Special Envoy on Myanmar, member of the Advisory body to the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State, Ambassador of Canada to Myanmar and World Bank Group Urban Development and Disaster Risk Management Practice Manager yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

In the meeting with UNSG Special Envoy on Myanmar Christine Schraner Burgener matters relating to the status of meeting between Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State, UN organisations and partner organisations; priority works of naturalization, freedom of movement and closing of IDP camps; work status on receiving returnees; cooperation with AHA Centre (ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance) on receiving returnees; future work status; social stability and balance between the two communities; requirement of spreading news to displaced persons in Bangladesh, Cox Bazar region about works conducted by Myanmar government for voluntary, dignified and safe return of the displaced persons; and requirements of the IDP camps in Rakhine State, Kachin State and Shan (North) State were openly and cordially discussed.

During the meeting with Mr. Roelf Meyer, former member of the Advisory body to the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State, matters relating to talk circles conducted in Maungtaw Township for social stability and balance between the two communities; findings from women forums; participation of all age groups in women forums; main points submitted in women forum, travel and trust building in women forum; removing language difficulty as well as other obstacles in conducting National Verification Process to obtain freedom of movement were discussed. In the meeting with Canada Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Ms. Karen MacArthur matters relating to latest status of projects conducted in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states; review and assessment of technical support and assistance provided by Canada Government in the three new projects of Health Empowerment, Women’s Voice and Leadership and natural disaster management and risk mitigation; connecting with Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction (MADPR) in conducting risk mitigation works; latest status of work on receiving returnees to Rakhine State; drawing up of a national level strategy on closing IDP camps in Rakhine and other states; and cooperation with UN organisations as well as experts were discussed.

Later in the meeting with Mr. Abbas Jha, Practice Manager, World Bank Group Urban Development and Disaster Risk Management matters relating to flood rehabilitation Emergency Recovery Credit (ERC) project implemented in 2015 with World Bank loans, progress and difficulties under Immediate Response Mechanism project, acquiring of Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option (Cat DDO) loan were coordinated and discussed. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Myanmar Legislative Drafting, National AML/CFT Strategy Workshop held in Nay Pyi Taw

Myanmar Legislative Drafting and National Anti-Money Laundering-AML and Combating the Financing of Terrorism-CFT Strategy Workshop was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The workshop was jointly conducted by the Bureau of Financial Investigation and International Monetary Fund (IMF) at the Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the workshop, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs and Anti-money Laundering central committee member Major-General Aung Thu spoke about progress in anti-money laundering and combating financing of terrorism in Myanmar and stressed the need to work for strengthening the legal frameworks, taking effective measures on legislative drafting for fighting money laundering and financing to terrorism.

On behalf of International Monetary Fund (IMF), Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML / CFT) expert Ms. Francisca Fernando clarified the purpose of holding the workshop, assistance programmes to improve AML/CFT systems and cooperative schemes for setting up a grand strategy. Also present at the workshop were Joint secretary of the Central Committee for Anti-money Laundering Police Brig-Gen Kyaw Win Thein, the Anti-Corruption Commission, representatives from the Union Attorney-General, Internal Revenue Department, Financial Regulatory Department, high-ranking police officials of the Myanmar Police Force, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Myanmar Bar Council of the Supreme Court, Myanmar Real Estate Service Association, the Myanmar Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICAP) attended the conference. A total of 45 representatives participated in the workshop that will be held until 14 December. — MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Fishing boat sinks in Ngapali; five killed

A fishing boat sank after it sprang a leak off the Ngapali coast in Rakhine State on 9 December, leading to the death of five fishermen on board. The boat was carrying 10 fishermen.

The boat sank around noon while it was anchored near islands about 20 nautical miles from Maungtaw. Troops from the Danyawady Naval Base rushed to the spot and managed to rescue five fishermen. Divers also recovered five bodies from the wreckage of the fishing boat. U Aung Myo of Jattaw Ward in Ngapali has been identified as the owner of the boat, which measured 65ft in length and 12ft in width. — Nay Myo Aung

(Translated by Zaw Min)
Thai junta lifts ban on political campaigning ahead of 2019 elections

BANGKOK (Thailand) — Thailand’s junta has lifted a ban on political campaigning ahead of 2019 elections, an order published by the Royal Gazette said on Tuesday more than four years after it was introduced following the kingdom’s latest coup.

One of the military’s first acts after seizing power in May 2014 was to outlaw political activity of all kinds as it headed off opposition in a country notorious for its rowdy — and often deadly — street politics.

But the ban was officially lifted on Tuesday, with a return to polls slated for 24 February.

“Political parties should be able to campaign to present their policies,” an order in palace mouthpiece the Royal Gazette said.

The junta “has decided to amend or abolish the laws” which could inhibit campaigns before elections.

Restrictions began to be eased in September, allowing political parties to recruit new members and elect leaders. But campaigns and street rallies remained banned.

Tuesday’s order opens the way raises the prospect of a return to street rallies that have defined much of the turbulent last decade of Thai politics. But police will need to be informed of any political gatherings.

The election date has repeatedly slipped, allowing the junta to carve out its own political party and woo defectors from its rivals including Pheu Thai, Thailand’s biggest party which it dumped from office with its coup.

The party is loyal to Yingluck Shinawatra, premier until shortly before the coup, and her older brother the billionaire Thaksin.

The siblings both live in self-exile to avoid jail over convictions in Thailand.

Parties loyal to the Shinawatra clan have won every Thai general election since 2001.

But this time the junta has moved decisively to ensure Shinawatra-aligned parties can not win big at polls, critics say, driving through a new charter which dilutes the influence of big political parties and introduces a fully appointed upper house.

Junta leader Prayut Chan-O-Cha has repeatedly insisted that he has no interest in politics.

But he has spent the last few months criss-crossing the country offering economic handouts and building alliances with local politicians.

In recent months, the gruff former general has been showcasing a softer side through public appearances and photo opportunities.—AFP

Huawei exec seeks Canada bail, proposes electronic monitoring

VANCOUVER, (Canada) — A top executive of Chinese telecom giant Huawei sought release from Canadian detention on Monday, offering to submit to strict electronic monitoring, as Beijing escalates its protests over her arrest on a US warrant.

Meng Wanzhou, Huawei’s chief financial officer, faces US fraud charges related to alleged sanctions-breaking dealings with Iran, and has been awaiting a Canadian court’s bail decision — which after two days of hearings was put off until Tuesday.

She was detained in Vancouver on 10 December, 2018. She was detained in Vancouver on 1 December following her 1 December arrest in Canada for extradition to the US in Vancouver, British Columbia on 10 December, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Her arrest has infuriated Beijing, rocking stock markets and raising tensions amid a truce in the US-China trade war.

Beijing’s latest outcry over the case also led to the suspension of a planned Canadian free-trade mission to China this week.

Meng has agreed to surrender her passports and submit to electronic monitoring if she is released, pending the outcome of the extradition case.

“Given her unique profile as the face of a Chinese corporate national champion, if she were to flee or breach her order in any way in these very unique circumstances, it does not overstate to say she would embarrass China itself,” Meng’s lawyer David Martin told the court. He had a tracking bracelet on hand in case she was immediately released.

In a 55-page sworn affidavit, Meng said she has been treated in hospital for hypertension since her arrest.

“I continue to feel unwell and I am worried about my health deteriorating while I am incarcerated,” the affidavit read.

Meng said she’d suffered numerous health problems, including surgery for thyroid cancer in 2011. “I wish to remain in Vancouver to contest my extradition and I will contest the allegations at trial in the US if I am ultimately surrendered,” she said.—AFP

Viet Nam arrests ship firm execs for ‘embezzling $4.5m’

HANOI (Viet Nam) — Two executives from a near-bankrupt state-run shipbuilding company have been arrested in Viet Nam on accusations of embezzling $4.5 million in collusion with a scandal-plagued bank, as the one-party state broadens its unprecedented corruption crackdown.

The once high-rolling bigwigs are the latest ex-officials ensnared in a tangled web of corruption cases linking several state-run firms to banks accused of mismanagement and graft.

Dozens of bankers, businessmen and former officials have been jailed as part of the anti-graft campaign waged by a conservative leadership in charge since 2016.

Truong Van Tuyen, the former director of Vinashin — a once-massive firm saved by the state from collapsing under heavy debt in 2010 — and current deputy director Pham Thanh Son were arrested Monday, the ministry of public security said in a statement.

They were being investigated for “abusing position and power to appropriate assets”, it added. The pair is accused of illegally approving deposits into Ocean Bank, a private bank embroiled in its own corruption scandal that has seen dozens convicted. Tuyen and Son allegedly pocketed $4.5 million along with a former Vinashin chief accountant who is already behind bars.

The disgraced shipbuilding firm was once a crown jewel among communist Viet Nam’s 500 or so state-run enterprises.

But a series of missteps involving investments in the real estate and energy sectors ultimately hobbled the huge firm with heavy debts, nearly collapsing in it in 2016. —AFP

Ex-Malaysian PM Najib to face charge for tampering 1MDB report

KUALA LUMPUR — Former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak will face fresh charges for tampering an audit report related to state investment fund 1MDB, Malaysia’s anti-corruption body said on Tuesday.

In a statement, the Malaysian Anti-corruption Commission said it had received clearance from the country’s Attorney-General to charge Najib and former 1MDB (1Malaysia Development Bhd) chief executive officer Arul Kanda at a Kuala Lumpur court on Wednesday.

Najib is expected to be charged with abuse of power for ordering that the 1MDB report be amended while Arul will be charged with abetting the offence, a senior official close to the investigation told Xinhua.

Arul joined 1MDB in 2015 with the task to turn around the debt-laden state fund but was sacked in June following the change of government after the May 9 general elections.

Prior to his appointment, the 41-year-old had served as an investment banker in Britain and the Middle East, having held several top positions in the banking industry. Najib himself currently faces 38 charges related to the investigation into 1MDB. He has denied all charges.—Xinhua
Pacific nations resist US push to lift tuna quota

PHILIPPINE nation’s successful efforts to increase their quota for bigeye tuna at a meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) are expected to be matched this year by several Pacific island nations. The United States, South Korea, Japan and Taiwan are among those likely to push for increased fishing opportunities in the Pacific.

The head of the Pacific Islands Forum’s fisheries agency FFA, Manu Tupou-Roosen, said her aim was to "maintain the strength of the tropical tuna measure (protections) and not to weaken the existing provisions". -AFP

HONOLULU (United States) - Pacific island nations have vowed to oppose US efforts to increase its catch limit in the world's largest tuna fishery, saying the proposal does nothing to improve sustainable fishing.

The United States is expected to try to increase its quota for bigeye tuna at a meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) taking place in Honolulu this week.

The meeting brings together 26 nations to determine fishing policy in the Pacific, which accounts for about 10% of the global tuna catch, worth about $6.0 billion annually.

It is mostly made up of small island nations but also includes so-called "distant-water nations" that come from as far afield as Europe, China, Korea, Japan and Taiwan to fish Pacific tuna.

Island nations regularly accuse them of being reluctant to curb the lucrative industry in the interests of long-term conservation.

President Donald Trump's administration is expected to try to increase its quota for bigeye at the WCPFC, saying the US bigeye quota was exceeded and to collect a fee on any overfishing.

The proposal does nothing to improve sustainable fishing. The US aims to increase its catch limit at least five per cent a year, without curbing the lucrative fishing industry in the interests of long-term conservation.

The United States, South Korea, Japan and Taiwan are among those likely to push for increased fishing opportunities in the Pacific.

"We should instead concentrate on bringing conservation measures that actually support sustainable fishing," US Fish & Wildlife Service's Assistant Director for Oceans, Charles Leggett, said on Monday.

"Good reporting should not be used as a condition to increase catch," he said on Monday.

"We should instead concentrate on bringing conservation measures that actually support sustainable fishing." -US agency

"We should instead concentrate on bringing conservation measures that actually support sustainable fishing." -US agency

TRADEMARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

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(Reg. No. IV/8153/2018)

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"Refractory construction materials, not of metal; water-pipe, not of metal; plastic tubes for building; aluminum plastic composite tubes; drain pipes, not of metal; water-pipe valves, not of metal or plastic; cabanas, not of metal; building glass; coatings [building materials]; floor tiles, not of metal" in class 19;

"Advertising; pay per click advertising; rental of advertising space; on-line advertising on a computer network; providing business information via a web site; provision of commercial and business contact information; sales promotion for others; provision of an on-line marketplace for buyers and sellers of goods and services; import-export agency services; systemization of information into computer databases" in class 35.

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U Kyi Win Associates

FOR GONGNIU GROUP CO., LTD.

BY ITS ATTORNEY

ACTIP IP LIMITED

P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.

Phone: 372416

Dated: 12th December, 2018

ENVIRONMENT

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SOUL OF LUCK VOY. NO. (1835-1836)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SOUL OF LUCK VOY. NO. (1835-1836) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.T. where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTI LTD

Phone No: 2301185

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CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 1001 VOY. NO. (017 NS)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V IAL 1001 VOY. NO. (017 NS) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS INTER ASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

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CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (108 NS)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (108 NS) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

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CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (088 NS)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (088 NS) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12-12-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

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19th ASEAN University Games in Nay Pyi Taw

Wushu athletes Ma Ni Ni Aye and Nang Cherry Kham poses for a photo with gold medals. 
PHOTO: SOE NYUNT

Volleyball players in action at the 19th ASEAN University Games in Nay Pyi Taw. 
PHOTO: MNA

An athlete in action during a Chinlone game at the 19th ASEAN University Games yesterday. 
PHOTO: SOE NYUNT

Ma Sandi Oo waving swords in Women Wushu competition at the 19th ASEAN University Games in Nay Pyi Taw. 
PHOTO: MNA

Two players compete at Wushu Sanshou event at the 19th ASEAN University Games in Nay Pyi Taw. 
PHOTO: MNA

An official presents medals to the winners at the 19th ASEAN University Games in Nay Pyi Taw. 
PHOTO: MNA

Indonesia and Singapore women badminton players in action at the 19th ASEAN University Games in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. 
PHOTO: MNA

Ma Myat Noe Eain, female athlete waving swords at the Women Wushu competition. 
PHOTO: SOE NYUNT

Wushu athlete Ning Tan wins gold medal at the Wushu Sanshou competition. 
PHOTO: SOE NYUNT

Ma Aye Thitsar Myint (left) and Malaysian athlete Tan Cheong Min celebrate after winning medals in Women Nandao and Nangun event at the 19th ASEAN University Games in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. 
PHOTO: MNA
Russia tests new telemetry system during manned Soyuz MS-11

MOSCOW — The Astra-06 apparatus developed by specialists of Russian Space Systems (RSS) was used for the first time as additional telemetric equipment aboard the manned Soyuz MS-11 spacecraft launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome on 3 December, the company’s press office reported on Monday.

“During the spacecraft’s flight, the Astra was undergoing flight tests, measuring quickly changing parameters. After the tests are over and its performance characteristics are confirmed, the new system is expected to be used aboard promising spacecrafts,” the press office said in a statement.

The Astra system is maximally adapted for the telemetric image (telemetric data package) requirements while its modular configuration gives the system extra flexibility for mounting it on existing and future launch vehicles. The system’s universal nature stems from the technology of its assembly from modules, the statement says.

“The Astra’s design allows installing it aboard carrier rockets and other space vehicles. This unification will help the Russian space industry switch over to the serial production of telemetry systems, which will raise their reliability and reduce their cost price,” Chief Designer for Measurements at the Research and Production Association of Measuring Equipment Yevgeny Borodin was quoted by the press office of Russian Space Systems as saying.

Compared to previous-generation telemetric systems, the Astra integrates the specially devised mathematical segment and the computing apparatus that process part of the data even before that are transmitted to Earth. The data are compressed and the spectral analysis is conducted aboard a spacecraft, which considerably reduces the load on communications lines.

The Astra earlier passed tests during its operation aboard a carrier rocket.

The system successfully performed during the launch of the Soyuz 2.1b carrier rocket from the Vostochny spaceport on 28 November, 2017 and aboard the Progress MS-10 resupply ship on 16 November, 2018.

The new telemetric system was also expected to operate during the launch of the manned Soyuz MS-10 spacecraft on 11 October but it was not activated due to the incident with the faulty Soyuz-FG carrier rocket.

—Tass

Japanese scientist Honjo receives Nobel Prize at ceremony

STOCKHOLM — Japanese scientist Tasuku Honjo received the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine at a ceremony on Monday in Stockholm for his discovery of a protein on immune cells that paved the way for a new approach to cancer treatment.

The 76-year-old Kyoto native, clad in traditional Japanese clothing to remember the roots of his research, accepted the medal and diploma from Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf at the ceremony, which he attended with his wife Shigeko. “Honestly, I am rejoicing,” Honjo said after the ceremony.

The distinguished professor and deputy director general of the Kyoto University Institute for Advanced Study shared the prize with James Allison, a professor at the University of Texas, who studied a known protein that works as a brake on the immune system.

Honjo is the 27th Japan-born winner of a Nobel Prize. Yoshihori Osumi was the last such recipient of the physiology or medicine prize, in 2016.

The discovery of the protein called PD-1 by Honjo and his team in 1992 has led to the development of Opdivo, a drug that triggers the immune system to attack cancer cells.

Before the ceremony took place at the Stockholm Concert Hall, Denis Mukwege, a Congolese gynecologist, and Nadia Murad, a Yazidi human rights activist and victim of war crimes from Iraq, were conferred this year’s Nobel Peace Prize in the Norwegian capital Oslo for their work to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict.

—Kyodo News

Scientists discover tea plants can send chemical “Mayday” during pest attacks: study

BEIJING — Chinese researchers have found that tea plants can send a chemical “Mayday” signal during pest attacks and the signal can be received by neighboring plants so they can fortify their defenses.

Previous studies found that the compound cis-3-Hexen-1-ol, also known as leaf alcohol, is produced by most plants and acts as an attractant to many predatory insects.

However, scientists are not sure how leaf alcohol is absorbed and stored by neighbouring plants. Researchers from the State Key Laboratory of Tea Plant Biology and Utilization at the Anhui Agricultural University found in vitro experiments that tea plants can absorb the airborne leaf alcohol emitted by neighboring plants and store the “signal” by converting leaf alcohol to glycoside.

Glycoside can suppress growth of pests and the accumulation of glycoside in plants is likely to activate the defense system for future pest attacks.

After genetic analysis, researchers identified genes encoding the enzymes responsible for the process of converting leaf alcohol to glycoside.

The findings have been published in the international journal titled Plant, Cell and Environment. Song Chuankui, communications author of the research paper, said that the research provides a theoretical basis for pest control in tea plantations. Leaf alcohol may be sprayed on tea plants to help them defend themselves against pests.

Cardiovascular disease blamed for 40 pct of Czech deceased in 2017

PRAGUE — About 40 per cent of Czech deceased in 2017, or 40,000 out of total of 111,000 deaths, were caused by cardiovascular disease, said a report released by the Institute for Health Information and Statistics (UZIS) on Monday.

The report said compared with 2016, the share of men who died of heart and blood vessels defects slightly decreased in 2017, while the share of women rose. In the 1990s, 57 per cent of women and 53 per cent of men died of cardiovascular disease. The shares have been gradually declining since and reaching 43 per cent of women and 40 per cent of men in 2017.

—Xinhua
Winners and losers as buoyant Bayern head to Ajax for showdown

BERLIN (Germany) — Resurgent Bayern Munich head to Ajax for Wednesday’s Champions League group showdown with clear winners and losers among the star-studded squad after Niko Kovac’s decision to end rotation.

“We want to keep going,” said Leon Goretzka, now a firm fixture in central midfield alongside Joshua Kimmich with Bayern having won their last three games after Saturday’s 3-0 league home win over Nuremberg.

“Now we travel to Amsterdam and want to finish first in the group - that’s important for us.”

Bayern need just a point at Ajax’s Johan Cruyff Arena to win Group E with the Bavarian giants currently top of the table, two points ahead of their Dutch rivals, and both teams already into the last 16.

A 5-1 thrashing of Benfica at the Allianz Arena a fortnight ago, with Robert Lewandowski and Arjen Robben both scoring twice, signified an end to the poor results of October and November which also saw Bayern slide down the Bundesliga table.

Bayern have now clawed their way back up to third in the league and coach Kovac has taken a gamble by ditching rotation, risking ruffled egos with stars left on the bench.

“The rhythm is there, the boys are in the flow — that’s why we don’t want to change anything,” explained Kovac.

His decision has significant winners and losers.

World Cup winners — Germany defender Mats Hummels, and Spain midfielder Javi Martinez — languished on the bench and Spain midfielder Javi Marayna’s place on the right wing.

However, Hummels looked like he was having anything but ‘fun’, storming through the mixed zone after Saturday’s win without a word as Jerome Boateng and Niklas Suele are now established as Kovac’s centre-backs.

Disgruntled stars watching from Bayern’s bench has caused problems for Kovac’s predecessors and Robben’s imminent return from a thigh injury threatens Serge Gnabry’s place on the right.

Bayern Munich’s Leon Goretzka has profited from coach Niko Kovac’s decision to abandon a rotation policy with three recent wins in the build-up to Wednesday’s Champions League showdown at Ajax.

PHOTO: AFP

Bayern Munich head to Ajax for showdown

Silva has last laugh as Everton escape against former club Watford

LIVERPOOL (United Kingdom) — Marco Silva had the last laugh against his former club Watford as Everton defender Lucas Digne’s last-gasp free-kick rescued a dramatic 2-2 draw at Goodison Park on Monday.

Everton manager Silva was facing Watford for the first time since his acrimonious departure from Vicarage Road in January.

The 41-year-old was sacked by Watford after less than a year in charge, with the club’s owners blaming Everton’s interest in the Portuguese coach for distracting him from his job.

Convinced he treated them disrespectfully by showing interest in Everton, the Watford fans who travelled to Goodison Park waved inflatable snakes and directed abusive chants at Silva.

With just seconds to go, it seemed Silva would be bitten by his old employers.

Everton’s Richarlison, signed from Watford by Silva, put the hosts ahead in the first half.

Seamus Coleman’s own goal drew Watford level after the break and Abdoulaye Doucoure’s header put them in front before Everton midfielder Gylfi Sigurdsson had a penalty saved by Ben Foster.

But Digne came to Silva’s rescue in the sixth minute of stoppage-time to deny Watford the revenge they so badly wanted.

Insisting he didn’t care about silencing the Watford taunts, Silva said: “Of course not. I didn’t see anything. It’s not important to me. What I can control is my players.

“It’s a difficult match to talk about. We lost our focus completely for their goals.”

Eventually hired by Everton in May, Silva summed up the difficult nature of his Watford exit last week when he made it clear he was unenthusiastic about facing his old club.

Watford are still waiting for the Premier League to settle their complaint against Everton for the alleged illegal approach for Silva.

And the Silva feud threatened to spill onto the pitch after Watford captain Troy Deeney last week said he would “smash” Richarlison for leaving the Hornets.

Barcelona express worry about La Liga match in USA

BARCELONA (Spain) — Barcelona have withdrawn their wish to play a first ever La Liga game in the United States until all parties agree with the idea, the club announced on Monday.

The Catalans are set to face Girona in Miami on January 29 but the Spanish football federation (RFEF), Spain’s professional footballers’ association as well as FIFA president Gianni Infantino have voiced their concerns.

“The FC Barcelona Board of Directors have agreed to withdraw their disposal to play their game against Girona FC in Miami, after noting a lack of consensus over this proposal,” a statement on their website read.

“Barcelona were and remain willing to play a La Liga game in Miami, and accepted that income from the game would be shared amongst all Primera Division and Segunda Division clubs,” it added.

The two clubs had signed a formal request from the league sent to the Spanish football federation to allow the fixture at the Hard Rock Stadium, which would be the maiden game as part of a 15-year project to play more Spanish league games in the USA.”

PHOTO: AFP

19th ASEAN University Games 2018

Date / Time: 11-12. December 2018

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PHOTO: AFP

The 19th ASEAN University Games 2018