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Vice President U Henry Van Thio, wife take part in Mandalay Thingyan festivities



Vice President U Henry Van Thio and wife Dr. Shwe Hlwan splashing water on revellers in Mandalay yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Vice President U Henry Van Thio and his wife, Dr. Shwe Hlwan, participated in the Myanmar traditional Thingyan Festival yesterday.

They were welcomed at

the Mandalay City Maha Thingyan Pandal by the Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung and his wife, Dr. Yu Yu May.

The Vice President and his wife sprinkled scented water

on Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, Mandalay Region cabinet members, dance troupes, and guests, and gave New Year wishes.

Afterwards, they attended a performance by the dance troupes and a concert.

The Vice President and his wife also took part in the splash walk and greeted revellers enjoying the festival.

As part of the splash walk, Vice President U Henry Van Thio also visited the pandals

of the National League for Democracy, the Mandalay Region Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and ethnic communities in Mandalay.

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Vice President U Henry Van Thio takes part in Mandalay Thingyan Festival. **PHOTO: MNA**

Vice President U Henry Van Thio, wife take part in Mandalay Thingyan festivities

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In the evening, the Vice President and his wife, accompanied by the Mandalay Region Chief Minister and members of the Mandalay Region Government, visited the Nan Myo Thu Pandal at the corner of the 26th and 71st streets and the pandal of the ethnic communities on the Manawraman grounds in Maha Aungmyay Township.

Afterwards, they visited the Village Thingyan Market Fair on the eastern part of the Mandalay moat. — MNA

(Translated by GNLM)



Vice President U Henry Van Thio and wife Dr. Shwe Hlwan together with Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung enjoy the performance of ethnic cultural troupe in Mandalay. **PHOTO: MNA**



Yangonites create lively atmosphere on second day of Thingyan

THE central pandal in front of Yangon City Hall yesterday was packed with revellers playing with water and looking on as their favourite artistes performed and signing competitions were held. They also strolled through the splashwalk in Maha Bandoola Park nearby. Pandals lined up on Pyay Road were packed with people on cars or walking on foot getting drenched and dancing to the music. Yangonites also strolled through the splashwalks on Inya Lake, Inya Road, and Mya Kyun Thar.

Ko Tun Tun from Thuwanna walked along Inya Road's splashwalk with his family, one of five such events in Yangon. He



Children are splashing water at a pandal in Kyuntaw Street in Sanchaung Township. **PHOTO: YE HTUT**

said there were crowds of people participating in the walk and famous singers entertaining them.

Yangonites also played with water in large or small roadside pandals in Bahan, Yankin, Latha, Kyauktada, Pabedan, Botahtaung, Thingangyun and Kamayut

townships. Shine pandal in Kyauktada, SKY NET pandal on 19th Street in Latha, Botahtaung family pandal near 43rd Street in Botahtaung, and DR Z family pandal on Kyuntaw Road will also provide charity food to everyone till the fourth day of Thingyan.

Dr. Thar Nyan of Botahtaung family pandal said they have been setting up this pandal every Thingyan for twelve years already, giving out charity food from the first to the fourth day of Thingyan.

Locals in Thakayta, Dawbon, Thingangyun, Dagon Myothit North, Dagon Myothit East, Dagon Myothit South, Dagon Seikkan, Hlinethaya, and Shwepyitha townships set up their own pandals with coconut leaves and the same type of pandals were set up in Thanlyin Township along with satuditha charity food.

Ko Maw Gyi of Dagon Myothit (North) said he spent yesterday just walking around his own town-



Donors distribute charity food to the revellers on a vehicle in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

ship. While there weren't any large pandals, the small family set-ups were everywhere and revellers

were many, he said. — Ye Kaung, Min Thit
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

“ We will abolish the red tape that burdens the people and eradicate corruption and bribery that plagues all levels of society as we work to strengthen the moral fiber of our people. We will draw out from our past experiences as a civilian government overcoming various obstacles and hardships, as we work to the best of our ability for the immediate present and head towards the future of a democratic nation that respects human rights and is free from all stains of corruption.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)

“ Collective strength is vital to build peace and stability which we need. We need to have mutual understanding and mutual respect as the basic foundation to bring to an end the armed conflicts which have existed for many years among the ethnic nationalities. We can make this foundation strong with our collective strength.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2nd Anniversary of NLD Government on 1st April 2018)

Tatmadaw columns capture AA training grounds, camps; seize munitions in Lakkhar Village



The photo shows the munitions belonging to AA group seized by Tatmadaw columns. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

TATMADAW columns captured training grounds and camps of the AA group and also seized munitions belonging to the group last week, according to a statement from the military.

Local residents of Panmyaung Village and other villages in MraukU Township, Rakhine State, reported the locations of AA training grounds and camps in nearby ridges to Tatmadaw columns. Local residents reportedly said they were constantly subjected to threats and assaults by the AA, and sought assistance from the Tatmadaw as they wished to live in peace.

Tatmadaw columns searched the ridges near Pan-

myaung village and launched armed operations against the AA on 19 March. There were reportedly 20 battles between the two sides, which ended with the Tatmadaw capturing a temporary training ground of the AA at 2.35 p.m. on 13 April. AA troops stationed there were forced to flee in the southwest and northwest direction.

In another case, security forces cooperated according to standard procedures with village administration officials to conduct a search at Lakkhar village, MraukU Township, last week.

At 3 p.m. on 12 April, they discovered 3 cartridges, 203 bullets, and other related items in

the compound of a house belonging to a man identified as Ko La Pyae. The security forces also found 10 grenades in the house of Ko La Pyae's older brother, U Maung Oo, yesterday noon, according to the military release.

AA members who were reportedly threatening residents in different parts of MraukU Township were driven out, and their training grounds and camps were captured. Tatmadaw columns are continuing with security operations in the surrounding areas, according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



The munitions including IEDs and the temporary training camps of AA group in MraukU Township, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

Guidelines for the public to reduce accidents during Thingyan

1. Be responsible and don't consume alcohol heavily.
2. Avoid using psychotropic drugs.
3. Avoid the use of water balls, fire hose, and acid or similar corrosive liquid.
4. Do not carry nor conceal pointed objects, knives or other melee weapons.
5. Avoid buying and selling of sexual stimulant drugs.
6. Avoid wearing clothing inappropriate to the local culture.
7. Females should avoid travelling around with non-family members and refrain from accepting food from strangers.
8. Avoid staying out late into the night.
9. Avoid taking a rest in secluded areas throughout the day.
10. Avoid consuming alcohol and driving cars over the weight limit.
11. Avoid excessively teasing other people.
12. Avoid swimming or showering in lakes or creeks.
13. Avoid using or decorating items that are unsuitable for display to the general public.

— Myanmar Police Force

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Travellers flock to Myeik Archipelago on 2nd day of Thingyan Fest.

Around 1,000 travellers visited the Myeik Archipelago in Taninthayi Region on the second day of the Thingyan New Year Water Festival, said Dr. Thein Swe Myint, the chair of the Myeik Tourism Entrepreneurs Association.

Thirty-three tour operators have designed several holiday packages for travellers to help them explore the natural beauty of the archipelago, which has more than 800 natural islands of varying size. Travellers can choose to visit the Lay Island, the Smith Island (also known as Papant Island), and other popular islands, as well as waterfalls, said tour operators.

Speedboats and air-conditioned boats are also available during the Thingyan Eve, they said. Many devotees from near and far are visiting the town and taking the small boats to Pahtet Island to pay homage to the Reclining Buddha image. Travel

Travellers visiting the popular islands in Myeik. **PHOTO: ZAW MYO NAING**

agencies are cooperating and sharing updated information for the safety of visitors. Lying in the Andaman Sea, off the coast

of southern Myanmar, the Myeik Archipelago offers great opportunities for underwater diving and exploration of the area's marine

life and untouched coral reefs, said tour operators.—Zaw Myo Naing / (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Tour guide training aims to develop human resources in tourism

AS part of its efforts to develop human resources in the tourism industry, the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism will begin classes in the 59th basic tour guide training course at the Tourism and Hospitality Training Centre in Yangon in June.

The course will help trainees understand the rules and regulations of tourism, architecture and archaeological subjects, departmental functions, and terms and conditions relating to the tourism

industry, the country's literature and culture, and traditions and customs of ethnic groups.

The course will also raise awareness about the principles and ethics that a tour guide must follow, the preservation of religious and cultural heritage, as well as environmental conservation.

The course is scheduled to begin on 10 June and will continue until 3 September, with the aim of improving the proficiency

level of trainees in foreign languages to provide high-quality guide services, according to an official of the ministry.

Any graduate who is interested in tourism and is proficient in at least one foreign language is entitled to apply to attend the course. Interested persons may dial 01-380 621, 01-373 792 and 01-375 194 for further information.

With the aim of improving the ability of trainees, the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism continues

to conduct training courses, such as a special refresher receptionist course, basic tour management course, basic tour guide course, hotel services course, basic English and Computer Science course, hotel accountancy short-term course, tourist police course and educative course for motorboat operators and car drivers from Inlay region.—Khine Khant / (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

27-feet high Clock Tower opens in Loilem

A 27-feet high and six-feet wide Clock Tower was officially opened in Loilem, a town in Loilem Township, Loilem Dis-

trict, southern Shan State, on 13 April, the first day of the Thingyan New Year Water Festival, said residents.

The Clock Tower was constructed with approximately K10 million contributed by local well-wishers, who received certifi-

icates of honor from the authorities at the opening ceremony.

The country's leading Buddhist monks, the deputy commissioner of Loilem District, departmental officials, and the town's elders attended the opening ceremony. They inaugurated the new Clock Tower by sprinkling scented water on it.

"Loilem is small, but it is a cool and lovely town with natural beauty. The new Clock Tower is believed to be a symbol of the town and a part of the tourist sites in the town," said one of the residents. Located in the south of the larger Shan State, Loilem District is situated over 4,000 feet above the sea level. According to the 2014 nationwide census, the district has a population of 565,000.—Loilem Moe / (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

People celebrate on the opening of the Clock Tower in Loilem. **PHOTO: LOILEM MOE**

Onion growers in Kyaukse see lower profits in face of bumper harvest

With the fall in onion prices in the Kyaukse market of Mandalay Region this harvest season due to excess production, local growers said they are expecting lower profits.

Currently, the marketable varieties of onion are fetching about K750-K1,100 per viss (3.6 pounds) in Kyaukse. Last year, growers reaped a handsome profit from the sale of onions, which were priced at K750-K2,200 per viss.

U Than Kywe, an onion grower from Bonkwin Village, said the region had seen a significant increase in onion acreage

this year because growers had made healthy profits last year.

Onion is a popular cooking staple in Myanmar. Rainy-season onions are planted in July and August, and the crop is ready to be harvested in November and December. Winter onions are normally cultivated in November and December, and harvested in March and April.

Growers in Kyaukse Township cultivate not only onions, but also other seasonal crops, such as chilli, banana, sesame, and turmeric, on a commercial scale. Onion is one of Myanmar's export items, and the



Onion growers prepare their produce to sell in local markets. **PHOTO: THET MAUNG**

country exports onions mainly to neighboring China and Thailand.

It imports onions chiefly from China and India.—Thet Maung

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Myanmar-Bangladesh trade continues to decline in February

Myanmar's overseas trade with Bangladesh this February declined to US\$4.5 million from \$21.3 million against last February, according to the Ministry of Commerce's latest monthly report.

The total bilateral trade figures for February 2019 showed exports amounting to \$2.916 million, which saw a significant decrease in value by over \$15 million, or 83.8 per cent as against the same month last year, when Myanmar-Bangladesh exports exceeded \$18 million.

During the month, bilateral imports were valued at \$1.5 million, registering a decline by \$1.7 million, or over 50 per cent, in comparison with that of last February, when the bilateral imports were \$3.2 million.

The trade between the two countries between October and February in the current 2018-2019 Fiscal Year reached almost \$32.8 million, with \$20 million in exports and \$12.7 million in imports.

Usually, Myanmar's exports exceed imports in bilateral trade with Bangladesh,

conducted by sea or land. In bilateral border trade, goods move mainly through the Sittway and Maungdaw trade stations. The marketable products between the two countries include bamboo, ginger, peanuts, saltwater prawns and fish, dried plums, garlic, rice, mung beans, blankets, candy, plum jams, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute products, tobacco, plastics, wood, knitwear, and beverages.

During the 2018 mini-budget period (April-September), the country's total trade with Bangladesh reached nearly \$243 million, decreasing by \$19.8 million against the total value of \$63.8 million from this time last 2017-2018 FY.

According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, the country received no new investments from Bangladesh in the present fiscal year. Last FY, Myanmar received \$1.5 million in investments from Bangladesh.—Swe Nyein

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Trade with China shows decrease in February

Sino-Myanmar bilateral trade exceeded US\$880 million in February this year, registering a decrease of over \$200 million, or over 18 per cent, from that of last February, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

The bilateral trade figure covers over \$434 million in exports and \$447 million in imports.

During this period last year, the trade between the two countries was valued at \$1.08 billion, including exports worth \$593 million and imports worth \$489 million.

The two countries witnessed a decrease in value of both exports and imports. Compared with last year, the current bilateral exports decreased by \$159 million or nearly 27 per cent, while imports also decreased by

\$42 million or 8.5 per cent.

Myanmar's exports to China, its top trade partner and largest neighbouring country, principally include agriculture, marine, and forest products, importing medicines and related equipment, consumer goods, electronic appliances, food and beverages, cosmetics, and other commodities from China.

Bilateral trade is conducted not only through sea routes but also through border trade camps. There are five major border trade gates between the two countries—Muse, Lwejel, Chinshwehaw, Kanpikete, and Kengtung.

Bilateral trade between the countries was valued at \$5 billion in the 2011-2012 FY. It decreased to \$4.957 billion in the following

FY. Trade between the two nations increased to \$7 billion in the 2013-2014 FY and \$9.7 billion in the 2014-2015 FY. Sino-Myanmar trade exceeded \$10 billion in the 2015-2016 and the 2016-2017 financial years.

During the 2018 mini-budget period (April-September), bilateral trade between China and Myanmar hit more than \$5.5 billion.

China's investments in Myanmar totalled \$1.39 billion in the 2017-2018 FY. The Myanmar Investment Commission approved China's new investments worth over \$170 million as of February from 52 projects. During the last mini-budget period, China's investments in Myanmar were over \$300 million.—Swe Nyein

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

International trade by sea down over \$50 mln as of March

Myanmar's maritime trade as of 29 March this 2018-2019 Fiscal Year has touched US\$12.09 billion, down by over \$50 million or 0.44 per cent, matched against the corresponding period of the last FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

In the first six months of this FY, the country's total maritime exports include almost US\$4.6 billion in exports and nearly \$7.5 billion in imports. During the same period in the previous FY, Myanmar's maritime trade stood at \$12.14 billion, with exports worth about \$4.2 billion and imports worth \$7.9 billion.

When compared with the

corresponding period last FY, this FY saw an increase in value of exports by \$400 million, however, import value declined by over \$460 million. Roughly 80 per cent of the country's total trade is conducted through the maritime routes. According to the ministry, Myanmar's maritime trade stood at \$14.6 billion in the 2012-2013FY, \$20.375 billion in the 2013-2014FY, \$22.369 billion in the 2014-2015FY, \$20.56 billion in the 2015-2016FY, \$21.432 billion in the 2016-2017FY, and \$25.019 billion in the 2017-2018FY. In the 2018 six-month mini-budget period between April and September, the country shipped goods worth \$14.231

billion via sea. Also, the country delivered commodities valued at \$4.8 billion to partner countries through its border points of entry during the period. The number increased by \$191 million in comparison with last FY.

Myanmar imports four major groups of products—capital goods, intermediate goods, consumer products and CMP raw materials. The country mainly exports seven groups of commodities, namely, agro, animal, fisheries and forest products, minerals, manufactured goods, and other miscellaneous products.—Shwe Khine/ (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Trade Mark Ads

Call Thin Thin May,

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Local and foreign visitors throng into the Ananda pagoda in Bagan on second day of Thingyan Festival yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Ananna Temple in Bagan is crowded with people in the second day of Thingyan. **PHOTO: MNA**



People flock to pagodas in Bagan for Thingyan holidays which started on 13 April and end on 16 April. **PHOTO: MNA**



A dance troupe performs Thingyan Dance on the second day of Thingyan Festival Kangyidaung in Ayeyawady Region yesterday. **PHOTO: NAN HTIKE WIN**



Dancers performing at the pandal of Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Hpa-an Town yesterday. **PHOTO: SAW MYO MIN THEIN (IPRD)**



Foreigners happily participate in the Thingyan festival in Patheingyi Town. **PHOTO: MAUNG MUANG MYINT (IPRD)**



Holiday makers gather in Kawthoung to go to islands for recreation during Thingyan holidays. **PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)**

Sri Lankan FM Mr. Tilak Marapana, wife visit Shwedagon Pagoda

FOREIGN Affairs Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Tilak Marapana, and his wife visited the Shwedagon Pagoda late last evening.

The honoured guests observed the pagoda from the southern approach and signed the guestbook. They then put up offertories to the pagoda and

handed over donations to the board of trustees.

The minister and his wife toured around the Shwedagon including the jade Buddha and other significant religious Image. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Foreign Affairs Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Tilak Marapana, and his wife visit the Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Nay Pyi Taw citizens celebrate second day of Thingyan



Revellers participate in the splash walk Thingyan in Pyinmana.

AS THE year 1380 of the Myanmar Era crosses over to 1381, the second day of the traditional Thingyan Festival (called a-kya nei) was celebrated all over the country yesterday.

The people of Nay Pyi Taw also festively participated in the nationwide event with both revellers splashing water on each other in the streets and others seeking tranquility in the monasteries.

While the Nay Pyi Taw

Mayor pandal, Sky Net pandal, Commander-in-Chief (Army) pandal, other pandals in Nay Pyi Taw, Pyinmana and Lewe provided lanes for people to soak up Thingyan on cars, the splash walk in Pyinmana allowed people to take a leisurely stroll and still get drenched.

There was also a traditional Rakhine pandal, organized by the Rakhine Ethnic Association (Nay Pyi Taw), where Rakhine nation-

als and other Thingyan lovers engaged in Rakhine customs of splashing water.

At the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor pandal, singers and other artistes entertained the crowds of revellers with Thingyan songs and the Yein dance troupe from Department of Fine Arts performed for the crowd as well.

Other artistes also performed at Sky Net pandal while Shwe Thanlyin Family satuditha



Revellers on a vehicle are sprayed with water during celebrations for the Thingyan festival in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday

offered food donations to passers-by. Similarly, famous singers and artistes entertained revellers at the Commander-in-Chief (Army)'s pandal where Tatmadaw officials and invited guests joined in the merrymaking.

Likewise, Pyinmana splash walk was full of revellers and the Pyinmana philanthropic association campaigned for an end to careless littering in the city.

Tourists and visitors also

packed the National Landmark Garden in Zeyathiri Township, Hlay Kwin Taung beach resort, and Nay Pyi Taw water fountain park. Meanwhile, pilgrims and merit-makers visited Uppatasanti Pagoda, Dartuzeya Datpaungsu Pagoda, Koe Kham Gyi Pagoda, Sutaungpyae Lawka Marazein Pagoda, and various monasteries. —Myo Ye Thu (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

(PHOTO: THAN HTIKE PHONE)



Thingyan lovers enjoy splashing water in front of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) pandal in Nay Pyi Taw.



Officials open the traditional Rakhine pandal in Nay Pyi Taw.

Public cooperation key for curbing crime, road accidents during Thingyan Festival

MYANMAR is celebrating the traditional Thingyan festival, one of the nation's 12 seasonal festivals. With spirits running high these days, revellers must take care to stay away from drugs which, as we know, have turned into a major problem not just in Myanmar, but across the world.

Also, during the festivities, drivers need to take great care while on the road in order to ensure people's safety. Drivers must not be under the influence of intoxicants while driving, and they must assume responsibility for the safety of all those travelling with them.

During the festival last year, there were 317 road mishaps, which killed more than 640 people and injured 106. To reduce road accidents during the four-day festival, we must follow the prescribed guidelines.

Vehicle drivers must avoid consuming alcohol or other intoxicating substances.

Everyone must avoid consuming all types of drugs and sexual stimulants, and be on the lookout for potential tempters.

As responsible citizens, it is our duty to report any drug dealing or consumption to the nearest police officers. We must help keep the traditional Thingyan festival clean and safe.

Young people must partake in the festivities in a fun and responsible manner, and avoid intoxication, which can lead to adverse effects.

We wish to urge community elders, leaders, parents, guardians, and pavilion officials to cooperate and maintain vigilance so that the Thingyan Festival concludes peacefully.

Besides, pedestrians need to pay attention to the dangers posed by traffic to avoid unexpected accidents on roads and at pandals.

They must take care to walk on roadside pavements.

Meanwhile, motorcycle accidents, which accounted for 49 per cent of all traffic accidents in 2018 with 2,376 deaths and 12,985 casualties, must be reduced in this year.

Two-wheeled motorbikes lack any cover and protection against danger.

Oil spills on roads and water can make vehicles overturn. Therefore, everyone must avoid over speeding on bikes, carrying more than one passenger, driving without helmets, driving while drunk, and driving bikes without an exhaust, creating a public nuisance.

Given that an increase in the number of vehicles plying on the road is directly linked to the number of accidents, coupled with the fact that 98.02 per cent of accidents are the result of human error, there is a greater need than ever for road safety and adherence to traffic rules.

Public cooperation is essential to successfully reduce traffic-related mishaps this festival.

Young people must partake in the festivities in a fun and responsible manner, and avoid intoxication, which can lead to adverse effects.

Information and Public Relations Department: Marching forward hand in hand with the people

By Min Than Naing (Mudon)

PEOPLE'S education and knowledge level are the most important indicator showing development of a country. In other word, it is creating highly knowledgeable people and new educated generation.

The government has been striving toward making well-educated and knowledgeable people throughout the years and had produced outstanding experts and technicians as well as skilled workers. Nowadays when the country was marching toward establishing a democratic federal union the most important matter for the people is to have an ability to accurately think in the real world and to determine a situation well.

Ministry of Information, Information and Public Relations Department was providing news, information and entertainment with an aim of letting the government know of the people's wishes and desires and the people to know the work of the government through various public relations methods.

show and talks. Nowadays it was conducted through modern public relation means.

The incumbent government that has been striving together with the people under the motto of establishing a democratic federal union, establishing peace and stability in the country, socio economic development of the people, happiness and progress of the people have reached during three years.

During these three years the good results achieved by IPRD were visible within the voices of the people and in the media. Smooth sailing as well as difficulties and challenges were encountered while conducting its works.

As success and challenges comes together, the spirit of "IPRD for the people" together with relentless efforts, mindset and goodwill overcome the challenges and achieved good results. The people can see the efforts of IPRD in the three year period of the second five year term of a democratic government and its works and progress will be shown.



Former President U Htin Kyaw, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint and dignitaries formally open the Children's Literary Festival in Bago on 28 March, 2019. PHOTO: MNA

With the help of the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation, the IPRD was transforming libraries at the IPRD township offices into community centres that served as public places, which people could utilize and were well acquainted with.



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint formally opens the Community Centre in Thandwe in September, 2018. PHOTO: MNA

With the aims of providing news, information and entertainment, Ministry of Information, Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) uses various public relations means to let the government know of the people's wishes and desires and for the people to know the work of the government. In the past, public relation works were conducted through libraries in township offices, television and radio shows, mobile library, notice board, photo

The department was conducting its works through six sections of Administrative Division, Information and Public Relations Division, Production Division, Research and Information Technology Division, Copyright and Registration Division and Motion Picture Promotion Division.

Through the cohesive interconnection among the six Divisions, the mechanism of the department was running smoothly and the unity and goodwill of the staff plays a very

important role. The most obvious results of the unity and goodwill of the department's staff during three years were the community centres, mini museums, literature talks, public talks, children's literature festivals, all round development of youth festivals and ethnic nationals literature and cultural developments festivals.

Opening people based community centres

With the help of the Daw

Khin Kyi Foundation, the IPRD was transforming libraries at the IPRD township offices into community centres that served as public places, which people could utilize and were well acquainted with.

13 district and township offices were now upgraded to Community Centres. At the same time mobile library works were being implemented with mobile libraries.

Establishment of Book Clubs and literary talks

Book Clubs were formed in 127 IPRD district and township offices with books and literary enthusiasts and were conducting reading circles, literary discussions and book reviews all over the country. 323 such events were held up to 2018.



School children choose books at the the All Round Development of Youth Festival in Mandalay on 14 August, 2018. PHOTO: MNA

Holding of Children's Literary Festivals

With the support and participation of well-wishers and donors, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education and relevant state/region governments had held state level Children's Literary Festivals nine times in states and regions from 2016 to 2019. IPRD also conducted district level children's literary festivals in 11 locations in fiscal year 2016-2017, 15 locations in fiscal year 2017-2018 and 11 locations in fiscal year 2018-2019. Similarly children's literary festivals were held at 9 districts/townships in states and regions together with relevant departments, civil society organisations, library network, well-wishers and donors.

The scenes of children participating happily and enthusiastically in children's literary festivals were spread all over the country through the media.

When we were young we've never seen such scenes as children's literary festival. Such scenes and the theme song of Children's Literary Festival will remain forever in the mind of all the parents and children together with fond memories.

All Round Development of Youth Festival

All Round Development of Youth Festivals were held in a grand way in Yangon University and Mandalay University with the aims to raise the skill, knowledge, ethic and value and to develop

physical, mental, character, ethnic and moral of youth.

Display of bulletins and photos on notice boards

Selection of photographic records in IPRD headquarters of works conducted by the country's leaders and bulletin of their works were displayed on notice boards in townships offices and were updated twice a month. In addition to this, news and information, photographs of commemorative days and employment opportunities were also put on display regularly on these notice boards.

Public talks and rural development talk circles

In accordance to democratic norms IPRD create opportunities for the government and people to discuss by conducting public talks and rural development talk circles. The aims for doing these were to raise the thinking and deducing process of the people and to gain the habit of participating in discussion. Public talks on subjects appropriate for the region such as drug problem menacing the youth, youth and work opportunities, youth and library etc. were conducted with government members, Hluttaw representatives and experts in the subjects raising the knowledge of the people as well as getting to know the difficulties, wishes and desires of the people. During the three year period of the incumbent government 653 Public Talks and 527 rural development talk circles were conducted.

Distribution of pamphlets

Every year, on anniversary and commemorative days, pamphlets providing information about the days were published and distributed to increase the public's awareness of the days. 200,000 pamphlets each were distributed to the public on anniversary and commemorative days such as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, National Day, Independence Day, Tatmadaw Day and Martyrs' Day.

Publishing of Doe Kyay Ywa (Our Village) journal

To increase the agriculture, livestock breeding, health and public knowledge of people in rural areas IPRD was publishing bi-monthly about 35,000 copies of

SEE PAGE-10

Level 2 fire breaks out at Zeyathiri shopping centre in Nay Pyi Taw



The shopping mall fire in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday leaves two injuries.

PHOTO: Naing Lin Kyi

A short circuit in the food court started a fire that enveloped most of the Zeyathiri shopping centre in Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday evening.

The authorities quickly moved to

contain the fire, which broke out around 3.07 p.m. The Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), the inspector's office, and the local battalion sent 8 fire engines and 5 water tankers, while the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area's Fire Department dis-

patched 20 fire engines, 10 administrative vehicles, 158 firefighters, and 115 reserve firefighters to the shopping centre.

According to the Zeyathiri Township Fire Department, the fire was completely extinguished in 15 minutes by 3.47 p.m. with help from the police, the Red Cross, and local people.

A sergeant from Zeyathiri Township Fire Department said they started extinguishing the fire from the façade where it was burning the strongest. He said after putting that part out, they focused on the flames left on the ground. It was over in 15 minutes because everyone helped and since there were water tanks near the shopping centre, getting water was not difficult, he said. He added that the success of putting out the fire was also due to every responsible figure from their department coming down to the scene.

Two people received nonfatal injuries from splintered glass while helping to put out the fire, and they have been sent to the hospital.

A preliminary inspection designated the fire as Level 2, and concluded that it was caused by a short circuit. The authorities are still calculating the extent of the damage caused by the blaze. —Naing Lin Kyi

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Drugs busted in Nawnghkio, Tachilek, Yaksawk tsps

ON the morning of 13 April, officers of Drug Enforcement Division No. 24 inspected the motorcycle of a man identified as Hong Par Kyone (a) Aung Naing near the oriental tollgate on the Muse-Mandalay highway in Nawnghkio Township. They confiscated 80g of heroin and 600 psychotropic tablets hidden in 8 soap trays from him.

In the evening of the same day, Tachilek police confiscated 193 psychotropic tablets from Mr. NokNoi Srithanyarat, a Thai national, on Tayoke Bon Kyaung Street in Tarlawk ward, Tachilek.

On 12 April, officers from Pinpyit police outpost searched the house of a person identified as Soe Tun in Pinpyit village, Yamtwin Ngakyaung village-tract, Yaksawk Tsp. There they found Soe Tun and nine other men sitting in the living room but Soe Tun and six of them fled immediately and police managed to capture the remaining three, who are identified as Kan Htoo, Yan Naing Tun and Kyaw Myo Khaing (a) Khaing Gyi. From within a chest close to where the men were sitting, police confiscated 9,600 psychotropic tablets. A case has been opened against them in line with The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. —Police Information Department (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

IPRD marching forward hand in hand with the people

FROM PAGE-9

Doe Kyay Ywa journal. The journal was popular among rural population and was beneficial for people conducting rural development works, agriculture and livestock breeding works.

Production and screening and educative motion pictures

For public and youth information and education, movies on drug eradication like "There were three friends," on ethic and morality like "starts from a rubbish," on respecting and valuing natural environment like "Even Superman can't help," on democratic norms like "Brightly lit house next door," on increasing the reading habit and practice like "Change" were produced and broadcasted on state-owned media.

Development of print media

Printing and Publishing Rules were amended with Ministry of Information notification 80/2016 on 30 November 2016. Since 10 October 2014 printing,

publishing and news agencies were permitted. There were an increase of 1,563 printing works, 46 newspapers, 559 journals, 468 magazines and 1,518 general publications during the incumbent government's term from 31 March 2016 to 31 March 2019.

According to the Printing and Publishing Law a list of annual publications was available and announced. A developing and thriving print media can be seen with a yearly publication of 4,749 in 2016; 4,515 in 2017 and 4,629 in 2018.

Reviews and permissions granted for cinemas, movies, videos and enacting motion picture law

Motion picture development section of IPRD was reviewed and permitted screening of 98 movies and 936 videos in 2016, 159 movies and 997 videos in 2017 and 133 movies and 636 videos in 2018. Cinemas were upgraded to digital system and there were 62 digital and 74 screen cinemas in 2016, 95 digital and 109 screen cinemas in 2017 and 127 digital

and 146 screen cinemas to provide entertainment services to the people.

For motion picture development No. 50 Golden Valley, Bahan Township, Yangon was designated as Motion Pictures Community on 27 January 2018 where information exchange and talk circles between veteran and new blood were held and courses conducted. From then to date film development works such as workshops and discussions were held ten times. Five discussions on script writing sector development and 3 training courses were held. Film Analysis on movies was conducted ten times. A reference section was also opened with books and journals written by international experts on motion pictures. Three film studios were renovated and opened on 9 March 2019.

Research and publication of information

To fulfil the rights of the people to information, IPRD Research and Information Technology Division has been

providing timely information on works conducted by relevant government organisations, regional news, special occurrences, natural disaster notifications through IPRD offices and ministry's web portal. At the same time, state-owned media like MRTV and state-owned newspapers were also announcing and publishing the information.

MOI Web portal Myanmar Facebook Page was established on 31 March 2013. There were more than 1.3 million Likes (1,392,697) and Followers (1,398,413) to the Page. The Facebook Page also publishes news and information about State leaders, special occurrences, regional news, and natural disaster notification and a total of about 100 news and articles were published daily.

Myanmar Information Twitter was established on 12 October 2016 and had 20.6 k follower. Tweets on news and information about State leaders, special occurrences, regional news, and natural disaster notifications were made in English.

MOI Myanmar Viber Public Chat was established on 15 February 2018. There were 1.4 k Followers to the Viber Public Chat and news and information about State leaders, special occurrences, regional news, and natural disaster notification were made via Viber Public Chat.

Furthermore, in cooperation with Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement sector wise papers, Myanmar affairs journals, ethnic affairs journals and world affair journals were written and published.

Marching forward hand in hand

In short IPRD personnel were performing their assigned duties according to the motto "IPRD marching forward hand in hand for the people." They'll overcome the challenges and obstacles in the future too to provide news and information in an increasing way with new ideas, new thoughts and new creations.

Translated by Handytips



Holidaymakers throng Indawgyi's Shwemyinzu Pagoda



A group of pilgrims arrive Indawgyi yesterday to visit the Shwemyinzu Pagoda built in middle of the Indawgyi Lake in Moehnyin Township. **PHOTO: KYAW KYAW HTWE/IPRD**

THE Shwemyinzu Pagoda, located in the middle of the lake in Indawgyi, Moehnyin Township, was crowded with visitors from across the country on the first and second days of the Thingyan Festival.

"About 30 vehicles car-

rying pilgrims have arrived per day. The number of visitors has reached between 2,000 and 3,000 during the Thingyan holidays. The number is higher because locals from nearby areas are also visiting the pagoda these days," said U Tin

Aung, the chairman of the pagoda's board of trustees.

The Shwemyinzu Pagoda on the Indawgyi Lake is one of the significant pagodas in upper Myanmar.

"I came back home to Moenyin for the New Year holidays and visited

the pagoda. I will enjoy the water festival in Moenyin tomorrow," said Dr. Pyo Myint Thu, the Principal of the Ywama Government Technical High School in Yangon Region.

Meanwhile, holidaymakers from towns in up-

per Myanmar chose to visit the pagoda as the road to Indawgyi has improved.

"Now, it is very convenient for us to visit the pagoda because the road condition has improved," said U Win Shwe, a lawyer from Katha, who decided

to spend the second day of the Thingyan Festival at the pagoda with his family.

"Hope we will visit the pagoda again in the next few years," said U Win Shwe.

— Kyaw Kyaw Htwe/IPRD
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Activities and tranquility on second day of Thingyan Festival



Women pray for donors before enjoying the charity food at the Arlawka Yama meditation centre in Kamamaung Township, Kayin State.

PHOTO: KAMAMAUNG IPRD



Revellers take part in foam party in the Maha Bandoolla Park Road in Yangon. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

Thai new year splashes in with water fights, raves

BANGKOK (Thailand)—Water-spraying elephants, raves and boisterous, street-blocking water fights—Thailand's Buddhist new year arrived with a splash Saturday, a once calm festival now celebrated with a more raucous edge.

Paying respects to elders and sprinkling water over figures of Buddha at local temples are some of the traditions of the three-day new year celebration—known as Songkran—but the holiday also has a rowdier side involving alcohol-fuelled revelry among its youth.

Thais and foreigners sporting floral shirts arm themselves with colourful water pistols and protective goggles, engaging in water fights that bring entire streets to a standstill. Authorities had issued warnings beforehand on modesty, saying that nudity and provocative clothing will be prohibited. There are no such restrictions however on summary drenchings.

In the Bangkok tourist hotspot Khao San road, two young men dressed in school uniforms get doused by passersby wield-



Water fights break out during the new year festival that bring entire streets to a standstill. **PHOTO: AFP**

ing high-powered water pistols and buckets of water. And in Ayutthaya, elephants painted in colourful floral designs lift their trunks and spray water on delighted tourists, with the town's ancient temples serving as a backdrop. As the sun sets, tens of thousands of ravers from across

Asia are expected to dance into Saturday night under massive water cannons and spectacular pyrotechnics, as Bangkok's S2O Songkran festival gets underway.

Some of the world's best known—and paid—DJs, including Tiesto, Steve Aoki and UK veteran Fatboy Slim are performing

across the three-day dance music event—Asia's largest.

Neighbouring Laos and Myanmar celebrate the same festival with young and old throwing buckets of water over each other as music thuds from loudspeakers. In Yangon, where the festival is known as Thingyan, children

blow bubbles and play with soap suds at street foam parties, while women dressed in traditional costumes perform dances near the famed Sule Pagoda. Songkran is also the most perilous time to travel in Thailand, and the week beginning from April 11 is dubbed "seven dangerous days" as millions of Thais make the journey back to their hometowns by bus, vans or motorbikes. To prevent drink driving incidents, authorities have said they will levy harsh penalties on those imbibing alcohol before getting behind the wheel. Somchai Wayrojpipat, 57, was charged with premeditated murder after causing a fatal accident under the influence late Thursday night in the outskirts of Bangkok, police officer Pitak Poolputtha told AFP.

"This is the first case in this country where the drunk driver faced premeditated murder and the highest punishment is the death sentence," Pitak said.

The Interior Ministry has recorded more than 100 deaths in the first two days preceding the festival, but that number is expected to climb. —AFP ■

Iran flood death toll rises to 76

TEHRAN—Seventy-six people have been killed in Iran by floods in recent weeks, according to a new toll published Sunday with warnings still in place for large swathes of the country. "With the death of five people in the Khuzestan province flood and another person in Ilam province the death toll has now reached 76," since March 19, according to a statement published online by the coroner's office.

The two southwestern provinces are the latest overwhelmed by floods that first hit the northeast of the usually arid country, forcing hundreds of thousands to evacuate from cities and villages.

Officials have again issued flood warnings for the east of Iran with heavy rains that began on Saturday forecasted to continue. The floods have caused immense damage with homes, roads, infrastructure and agriculture all hit.

"More than 14,000 kilometres (8,700 miles) of roads have been damaged," transport minister Mohammad Eslami told parliament, according to the official IRNA news agency. He added that "725 bridges have been totally destroyed." The head of Iran's meteorology service told the same parliamentary session that the floods do not necessarily mean that a decades-long drought has ended. —AFP ■



The floods have caused immense damage with homes, roads, infrastructure and agriculture all hit. **PHOTO: AFP**

Three killed in aircraft runway accident near Everest



A Summit Air Let L-410 Turbolet aircraft (l) bound for Kathmandu is seen after it hit two helicopters during take off at Lukla airport, the main gateway to the Everest region. A small plane veered off the runway and hit two helicopters while taking off near Mount Everest on 14 April, killing three people and injuring three, officials said. **PHOTO: AFP**

KATHMANDU (Nepal)—A small plane veered off the runway and hit two helicopters while taking off near Mount Everest on Sunday, killing three people and injuring three, officials said.

The accident happened at Lukla airport which is the main gateway to the Everest region and is reputed to be one of the most difficult in the world for landings and take-offs. A co-pilot of the turbo-prop Let-410 plane run by Summit Air bound for Kathmandu and a police officer on the ground were killed on the

spot, Lukla airport official Ema Nath Adhikari told AFP. Another policeman died in hospital in Kathmandu, a police spokesman confirmed.

"The plane slipped towards the helipad during take-off and collided with two helicopters. The injured have been sent to Kathmandu for treatment," Adhikari said. "We are not sure about the cause of the accident." Pictures from the scene showed mangled and scorched wreckage of the plane and helicopters. Lukla airport is used by thousands of

trekkers and climbers heading for the Everest region each year. It is particularly busy in April as the spring mountain climbing season begins. Nepal's aviation industry has boomed in recent years, flying tourists and goods to remote corners of the Himalayan nation where road access is limited. But the impoverished country has a poor air safety record due to weak training and maintenance. The European Union has banned all Nepalese airlines from its airspace over safety concerns. —AFP ■

Amazon tribe protests Ecuador’s oil exploration plans

PUYO (Ecuador)—In dugout canoes and on foot, dozens of people from an indigenous tribe have emerged from the Amazon rainforest in eastern Ecuador to protest against government plans to open up their lands to oil exploration. With painted faces and wearing tufts of multicolored feathers, traditionally dressed Waorani people marched through the streets of the town of Puyo to the provincial courthouse, where a legal bid to halt the process began Thursday.

“They have come from far away to make their claim,” said Nemonte Nenquimo, head of the Coordinating Council of the Waorani Nationality. Some, she said, had been “walking for eight hours. Some came in canoes for about three days.” The marchers represented 16 Waorani communities scattered across the dense Amazonian jungle in the north of Ecuador’s vast



Waorani people from Ecuador’s Amazon rainforest gathered in the town of Puyo to protest plans to open up their lands to oil exploration . **PHOTO: AFP**
Pastaza province.At stake is some 180,000 hectares of ancestral lands. Puyo, the provincial capital, is located on the eastern edge of Ecuador’s Amazon basin.

‘The jungle is our life’

Under a large banner that read “The jungle is our life. No more oil,” the procession marched to the courthouse for the start of a hearing in their suit taken to protect their constitutional rights to the land.The Waoranis are seeking to prevent the Ministry of Energy and Non-Renewable Natural Resources, and the Ministry for the Environment to sell exploration licences to big oil companies. It seeks to keep the jungle area of Pastaza free of all oil exploration activities, said Nenquimo.The Waorani, who number around 3,000, also inhabit other Amazonian provinces. Nenquimo said they had come to Puyo to ensure the state respects their lands, where she said “they live freely, healthy and happy.” —AFP ■

World’s largest plane makes first test flight



The Stratolaunch is designed to carry into space, and drop, a rocket that would in turn ignite to deploy satellites. **PHOTO: AFP**

WASHINGTON (United States)—The world’s largest airplane—a Stratolaunch behemoth with two fuselages and six Boeing 747 engines—made its first test flight on Saturday in California.The mega jet carried out its maiden voyage over the Mojave desert. It is designed to carry into space, and drop, a rocket that would in turn

ignite to deploy satellites. It is supposed to provide a more flexible way to deploy satellites than vertical take-off rockets because this way all you need is a long runway for takeoff.It was built by an engineering company called Scaled Composites. The aircraft is so big its wing span is longer than a football field, or about 1.5 times that of an Airbus A380.

Specifically, the wing span is 117 meters; that of an Airbus A380 is just under 80. The plane flew Saturday for about two and a half hours, Stratolaunch said. Until now, it had just carried out tests on the ground.It hit a top speed of 304 kilometers per hour (189 mph) and reached an altitude of 17,000 feet, or 5,182 meters. “What a fantastic first flight,” said Jean Floyd, CEO of Stra-

tolaunch.“Today’s flight furthers our mission to provide a flexible alternative to ground launched systems,” he added. Stratolaunch was financed by Paul Allen, a co-founder of Microsoft as a way to get into the market for launching small satellites. But Allen died in October of last year so the future of the company is uncertain. —AFP ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V ORNELLA VOY. NO. (915W)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ORNELLA VOY. NO. (915W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE)
PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO. (914S)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO. (914S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE)
PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (029 N/S)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (029 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTER ASIA LINES**
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

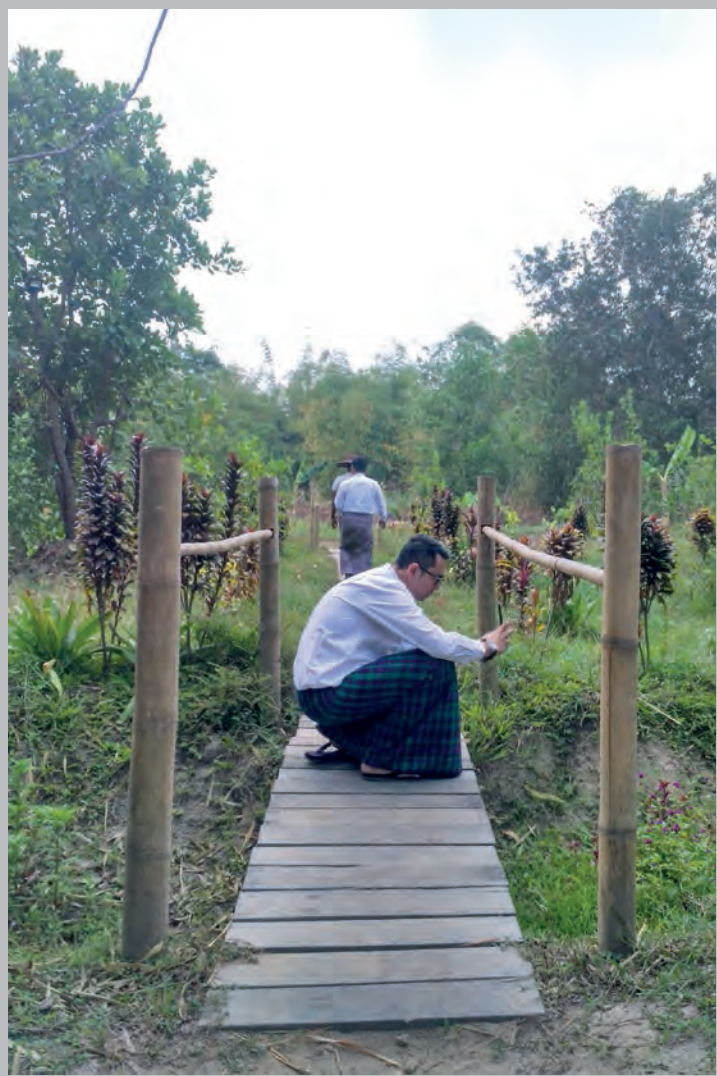
M.V AREZOO VOY. NO. (SCY1059)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AREZOO VOY. NO. (SCY1059) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND AND SEA SHIPPING
LINE**
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (097N/S)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (097N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17-04-2019 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: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE**
Phone No: 2301185



Regional, state tourism offices issuing temporary business permits



Minbalagar BioGarden
Community Based
Tourism in Kyaikthale
Village in Twantay
Township.
**PHOTOS- Thant Zin
Win (MNA)**

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has decentralized the power to grant tourism licences to regional and state Directorates of Hotels and Tourism. The directorates are currently issuing temporary licences to tourism businesses. Permanent licences will be issued to businesses after tourism management committees are formed in each region and state, according to a directive from the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

“At present, our office will grant temporary licences after forwarding the applications to the government. To get a tourism business licence, an entity must register with the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, and meet other requirements such as having an office, director, website, tourist guides, and some capital,” said U Myint Sein, head of Magway Region’s Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

“No one has applied to the Magway Region office for a tourism business licence yet. Only one tour agency is operating in the region. Two temporary licences have

been issued to hotel and guest-house businesses. Also, tourist guides have been found extending licences,” he said.

“There are two community-based tourism businesses in Magway, in Myaing and Chauk townships, and two more places will be designated as CBT sites. A committee of villagers and officials has been formed at the sites, and an awareness program on CBT is being conducted. If there is a potential CBT site ensuring facilities for tourists, the ministry grants permission. We are helping local residents from Mandalay, Pakokku, and Bagan towns to join courses offered by the MOHT. The Magway region committee will include officials from the forest, immigration, culture, environmental conservation, and hotels and tourism departments. The Chief Minister of the region will take the role of chairman of the committee, and the hotels and tourism sector will be placed under the region and state Planning and Finance Ministry. While drafting the rules, temporary licences are being issued.



After the by-laws are instituted, permanent licences will be granted. The licence fee for a permanent licence has not been set. Other additional charges will not be levied,” said U Myint Sein.

“At present, only temporary licences are being issued. Permanent licences are likely to be granted in October, 2019. There are ten tourism companies in Kayah State,” said the head of Kayah State’s Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

ASEAN Tourism Committee Meetings were hosted by Myanmar in Inle, along with the meetings of other subsidiary committees: the ASEAN Tourism Competitiveness Committee, the ASEAN Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Committee, the ASEAN Tourism Resourcing, Monitoring, and Evaluation Committee, and the ASEAN Tourism Professional Monitoring Committee. The integration and development of ASEAN tourism was also discussed at the meeting.

“I applied for a tourism business licence on 11 September, 2018. But, there has been no response from the department yet. I applied for a service company licence on the MyCO electronic registry system of the DICA. The commercial tax varies depending on the type of business. After getting their company registered with the DICA, businessmen can seek permits from the MOHT,” said Ko Shine Lin Maung, who has applied for a tourism business licence in Yangon.

“I passed the 57th batch of the tourist guide course (English) offered by the MOHT in November,



2018, and applied for a tourist guide licence on 17, December, 2018. However, the ministry has not responded to my application yet. It is hard to get a job even if we have a tourist guide licence. Now, I am not too hopeful, as I do not have a licence,” said Ko Htut Myat Lu.

While temporary licences are being issued, regional and state tourism management committees are being formed to approve permanent permits in late 2019.—Phoe Thant

Translated by Ei Myat Mon



Useful Information

JAPANESE CUISINE

AJISHIN

No.192, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Myanmar Plaza, 4th Floor, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 09-970890390, Time- 10:00 to 23:00 (Open Daily)

ANAIMO

No. 300, Mahabandula Park Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-378022. Time- 11:30-14:00/ 17:30-22:00 (Saturday only evening and Sunday off)

BIKKURA SUSHI & SASHIMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 16, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-799566917, 09-36714873. 10:30-22:30 (Open Daily)

BUSHIDO

No. 75/ AB Boyar Nyunt Street, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197/ 09-420231330. 10:00-22:00 (Sunday Off)

CHO JAPANESE DINNING & BAR

Level (1), Garden Wing, Beside Lobby Lounge. (Inside Sedona Hotel), Yangon Ph: 09-258322223/ 09-261322223. Lunch 11:30-14:30/ Tea Time 14:30-18:00/ Dinner 18:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

DINNING FUKUROU

No. 37, Kabar Pagoda Road, Inside of Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197 09-420231330. 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

EDOZUSHI

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

(3) YAKINIKU FUKAGAWA

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khauk Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

FUJINOBO

(Cherry Hill Hotel) No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-450067052, 06:00-09:30/ 11:30-14:00/ 17:00-22:30 (Open Daily)

FURUSATO

No. 137, West Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-556265/ 09-73081914. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

GEKKO

535, Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, 4th Quarter, Yangon. Ph: 01-386986, 09:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

HIMARI MYANMAR

Pearl Condo, Block D, Ground Floor, Units-G-10, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-775330494. 11:30-14:00/ 14:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

HOKKAIDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 24/ 26, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Golden Hill Tower(A), Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-250537315. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-21:30 (Open Daily)

HOT POT KING and Hot pot and BBQ

Buffet Restaurant

No -26/27, Thitsar Road and Corner of Wai Za Yan Dar Road, South Okkalapa, Yangon. Tel - 09 777777 008, 09 777777 009, 09 777777 883.

Hot Pot City 8 Miles

No(33), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road (7.34 km) 095 Yangon. Ph: 09 797 799111, 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

101 Hot Pot & Sushi

No.141, West Shwegondaing Road, Bahan T/s. near Yuzana Hotel. (1.78 km), 11201 Yangon.

Get Directions

Highlights info row image, Ph: 09 777 799101.

4:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Little Sheep Hot Pot Myanmar

14/14B Kanbawza Street Golden Valley (1) Bahan Township (1.71 km), Yangon. Ph: 09443399701, 09443399702, 11:00-23:00

HOTEL

BELMOND GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

No. 35, Taw Win Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-229860 01-229861.

CHATRIUM

No. 40, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-544500/ 01-544244.

CHERRY HILLS HOTEL

No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwegon Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-559722.

HOTLE 51

No. 154/ 156, 51st. Upper Pazundaung Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-200823/ 09-429918554.

HOTEL KAN KAW

No.93(A), Hnin Si Gone Road, Ahlone Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-228566/ 01-2301700/ 01-1221731.

HOTLE SIDNEY

No. 8L/Mindhama Road, Between Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road and Parami Road, Mayangone Township. Ph: 01-655770/ 01-9669600-02.

INYA LAKE HOTEL

No.37, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-9662866/ 01-9662857-9.

LOTTEE HOTLES AND SERVICED APARTMENTS YANGON

No.82, Sin Phyu Shin Avenue, Pyay Road, 6 mile, Hlaing Township. Ph: 01-9351000.

MERCURE HOTEL

No.17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01- 650933.

NOVOTEL YANGON MAX

No.459, Pyay Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-2305858.

PAN PACIFIC YANGON

No. Corner of Bogyoke Aung San Road and Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Yangon, Ph: 01-9253810.

PARK ROYAL

No.33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Ph: 01-250388.

PULLMAN YANGON CENTREPOINT

No.65, Corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Street. Ph: 01-382687.

ROSE GARDEN HOTEL

No.171, Upper Pasodan Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-371992/09263440500.

SAVOY HOTEL

No.129, Corner of Dhammazedi Road and Inya Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-526289/ 01-526298/ 01-526305.

SEDONA HOTEL

No. 1, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-8605377.

SULE SHANGRI-LA

No. 223, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-242828.

SUMMIT PARTVIEW HOTEL

No. 350, Ahlone Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-211888/ 01-211966.

SUPER HOTEL

No. 51/ D, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, 10th Quarter, Mayangone Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-797109000/ 01-658210/ 01-658220.



Reiss Nelson's second-half goal helped Hoffenheim back into the Bundesliga top six on Saturday. **PHOTO: AFP**

Reiss Nelson fires Hoffenheim back into Europa League spot

BERLIN (Germany)—Arsenal loanee Reiss Nelson scored his first goal since November on Sunday as Hoffenheim secured a 2-0 win over Hertha Berlin to climb back into the Bundesliga top six.

Nelson, 19, out with a thigh injury in recent weeks, marked his return in style. The English youngster came off the bench to add to Nadiem Amiri's first-half opener and seal three crucial points in the race for European qualification.

Only two points separate sixth-place Hoffenheim from Wolfsburg in ninth, with Werder Bremen and Bayer Leverkusen also in the running for a Europa League spot.

Hoffenheim were utterly dominant first 20 minutes, but somehow conspired not to score, twice hitting the woodwork and missing several chances from point-blank range. Amiri broke the deadlock after half an hour, smashing the ball in off the post with his side's 14th shot on goal.

Hoffenheim were twice denied by goalie Rune Jarstein in the second-half, before Nelson headed in the second goal of the day on the counter-attack.

The goal, which was given by VAR after being initially ruled out for offside, was Nelson's first since his explosive run of form at the beginning of the season.—AFP ■

Machenaud guides Racing past ill-disciplined Montpellier

PARIS (France)—Maxime Machenaud steered Racing 92 to a nail-biting 26-25 Top 14 home victory over Montpellier on Saturday, pouncing to score their two vital tries when the visitors were reduced to 14.

The result consolidated Racing's fifth place in the table on 62 points, with Vern Cotter's Montpellier in ninth on 52, five adrift of the final play-off berth.

Machenaud kicked 16 points, opening up with two penalties.

When Montpellier won their first penalty, Benoit Pailaugue saw his effort come back off the upright.

Montpellier regained the ball and after a break by Cameroon-born winger Gabriel N'Gandébe, the scrum half was on hand to dart over from short range for a try he also converted.

The visitors turned the screw when a Pailaugue penalty again came back off the post, Racing failing to secure the rebound and centre Jan Serfontein played in for a try in the corner.

Montpellier were reduced to 14 men when Georgian tighthead prop Levan Chilachava was yellow carded for hands in a ruck.

Racing thought they had made the advantage pay immediately, but Juan Imhoff's final pass to Brice Dulin was ruled forward.

The pressure paid off, however, as flanker Baptiste Chouzenoux crashed over deep into time added on in the first half.

Machenaud converted to hand Racing a 13-12 half-time lead. The scrum-halves then traded penalties early in the second period.

Ex-All Black Aaron Cruden took over the kicking for Montpellier and pulled back three points and then Pailaugue again burrowed over from close to the line after an electric break by N'Gandébe, Cruden converting to make it 25-19.

With five minutes to play, an offside Jacques du Plessis saw yellow as Montpellier desperately tried to hold on against an increasingly frenetic Racing attack.

From the penalty, Racing opted for the scrum, the ball was shipped left and replacement centre Henry Chavancy muscled his way over for a try that Machenaud converted for the crucial one-point lead.

Montpellier had a chance of a final hurrah at the death, but Enzo Sanga inexplicably kicked the ball into touch to end the game, leaving coach Cotter fuming on the sidelines.

Elsewhere, Stade Français confirmed Sunday that backs Tony Ensor and Kylan Hamdaoui were both recovering after they were stretchered off following a collision in Saturday's 25-22 victory over Agen.

Hamdaoui posted a selfie showing his right eye closed with a huge bruise and 25 stitches around his cheek bone, while Kiwi winger Ensor was left with blood pouring from an apparent jaw injury. —AFP ■

Shan United FC leaves for Viet Nam to compete in 2019 AFC Cup



Football players of Shan United FC, together with the team's managers and coaches pose for a group photo at the Yangon International Airport before leaving for Viet Nam. **PHOTO: SHAN UNITED FC**

SHAN United FC left for Viet Nam yesterday to play their fourth match in the group stage of 2019 AFC Cup on 16 April in Viet Nam.

Myanmar's Shan United FC will play against Viet Nam's Becamex Binh Dương FC in the away ground in Viet Nam.

In the tour, 18 players of Shan United FC, goalies Myo Min Latt and Phone Thitsar Min, defenders David Htan, Hein Phyto Win, Ye Min Thu, Nanda Kyaw, Hein Thiha Zaw, Pyae Sone Aung,

midfielders Nakar Mura, Yan Naing Oo, Set Phyto Wai, Solamon, Aung Show, Tha Maung, Tin Win Aung, and strikers Gusta Bo, Maygon, Zin Min Tun, Dwe Ko Ko Chit, were accompanied by nine managers and coaches including head of the group U Yan Myo Tun, chief coach of the team U Aung Naing, assistant coach U Aung Kyaw Tun and U Han Win Aung, goal coach U Aung Thet, Kit Manager U Soe Min Oo.

The match with Viet Nam's

Becamex Binh Dương FC is important for Shan United FC. If they win this match, they will advance to another level as they were defeated 1-2 against Becamex Binh Dương FC in the home ground in Myanmar.

In this group, Shan United FC played three matches and has not yet seen any win all the matches, while Becamex Binh Dương FC played three matches and got four marks.—Shine Het Zaw(*Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun*)

Tiger tees off as dramatic Masters final round begins

AUGUSTA (United States)—Tiger Woods teed off in Sunday's final round of the Masters chasing his 15th major title, trying to capture his fifth green jacket to end an 11-year major drought.

The 43-year-old American superstar, back on form after 2017 spinal fusion surgery following years of nagging back pain, played alongside compatriot Tony Finau and Italy's Francesco Molinari in the last group at Augusta National Golf Club. Reigning British Open champion Molinari seized the 54-hole lead on 13-under par 203 with Woods and Finau two strokes behind.

Brooks Koepka, last year's US Open and PGA Championship winner, began three adrift with fellow American Webb Simpson, the 2012

US Open, and England's Ian Poulter four off the pace. "It's golf, so the favorite is probably the golf course out there waiting for us," Molinari said. "We're all very close. It's nice to be a little bit ahead, but you might just need one hole to change. You never know how it's going to go, especially around a course like here."

Augusta National advanced the final round to Sunday morning in a safety move with thunderstorms expected to arrive Sunday afternoon, when leaders would typically be battling for the Masters crown. The storms, with hail and high winds producing tornadoes, led to three deaths and severe damage in moving across the southeastern United States.—AFP ■