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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Union Government holds 2019 Waso robes offering ceremony at Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Union Government held a Waso robe offering ceremony for 2019 at the Sasana Maha Beikman, Uppatasanti Pagoda, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi donated Waso robes and offertories to the Members of the Sangha.

The event was graced by Sayadaws and Sanghas led by Chairman Sayadaw of State Sangha MahaNayaka Committee Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta-Kumarabhivamsa.

Before the ceremony, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi paid homage to the Buddha Image at the pagoda and offered food, fruits, flowers, water and lighted candles. The Waso Robe Offering Ceremony for 2019 held by the Union Government began with the President, First Lady, the State Counsellor and the congregation receiving the Five Precepts given by the Chairman Sayadaw of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa,

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The congregation led by President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho, and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receive the Five Precepts from the Sayadaw at the Waso robes offering ceremony at the Maha Sasana Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 July 2019. **PHOTO: MNA**

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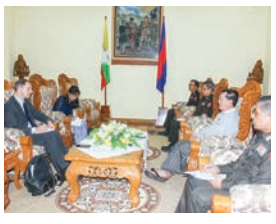

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Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects Moebyae Dam, Villages, waterfall in Kayah State to promote tourism

Vice President U Henry Van Thio observes the sluice gate which is also used for boat transport services, and the inflow of water into Moebyae Dam in Kayah State. **PHOTO: MNA**

VICE President U Henry Van Thio took a tour of the Moebyae Dam in Kayah State yesterday as part of his trip to promote tourism in the state as the dam is playing an important part in providing boat transport services between the state capital Loikaw and the Inle lake in southern Shan State to foreign and local tourists.

The Vice President, accompanied by Deputy Ministers Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe, Maj-Gen Than Htut and U Tin Myint, arrived at the Moebyae Dam in Pekhon, Kayah State, yesterday.

Before inspecting the dam, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as the chairman of the National Tourism Development Central Committee, held a meeting with local authorities.

At the meeting, U Soe Naing, Director of the Hydro power Implementation Department, reported on facts and undertakings for development of tourism based on the Moebyae Dam and Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho on land allocation for building a shelter for travellers, measures to be taken for proper flow of water in the Bilu Creek and upgrading the road linking Loikaw and Moebyae Dam.

After hearing the report, Vice President U Henry Van Thio urged the officials to overview the dam from all sides and to systematically supervise the sluice gates as the dam was serving as a transportation pathway from Loikaw to Inle Lake in Shan State for local and foreign travellers.

The number of tourists coming to Myanmar was expected to rise as Bagan has been listed a World Heritage Site, he said.

He also urged the authorities to raise awareness about water management among the people so that they could effectively use the water as the inflow of water into the dam was expected to be lower due to the short monsoon period this year.

He also stressed the need to monitor the strength of dams as the raining pattern was changing due to the climate change.

Following the meeting, the Vice President observed the sluice gate where a jetty was built and the inflow of water into the dam. The Moebyae Dam stores the water from the Bilu Creek and operates three Lawpita stations of the Hydro Power Plant while supplying irrigation water to the local people.

Besides, boat transport service through the sluice gates was promoting the development of tourism in Kayah State.

Afterwards, Vice President U Henry Van Thio visited the Htisekha Waterfall in Loilemlay and inspected arrangements for recreation for the people at the fall which attracts over 1000 visitors per day in the open season.

The Vice President and his entourage also visited Ranku Village in Panpat Villate-tract in Dimawhso Township where they were welcomed by local Kayan ethnic people with their traditional dances.

The economy of the Panpat Village-tract has changed from traditional businesses to community-based tourism since 2016 offering their traditional culture to create job opportunities for the locals.

Salon, Ywanku, Kateku, Pinmasaung and Dawki villagers in the village-tract have attracted local and foreign visitors and the number has reached over 10,000 every year. Wyanku, Kateku, Saunglukanar, Pinmasaung, Donke and Thanku villages in Pinpat Village-tract have got access to electricity since 2016-2017 fiscal year, and the cultural shops, Pawku, Prikeku, Linsaungsay 1 and 2 of the same village tract got access to electricity in 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Besides, the Ministry of Border Affairs upgraded roads in the village tract to gravel roads and tarred roads in 2016-2017 fiscal year and constructed conduit pipes. The water supply facility constructed in the 2017-2018 fiscal year has supplied over 30,000 gallons of water per day to villagers in the Panpat Village-tract since 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio and entourage also visited the Ngwetaung Dam where Deputy Director U Wai Lwin of the Irrigation and Water Utilization and Management Department reported on supply of water to the people. Afterwards, they toured along the Bilu Creek by boat inspecting the tourism development works. —MNA

(Translated by Tun Tun Naing)

Myanmar Permanent Representative expresses concern over unverified allegations of human rights situation in Rakhine State

THE Permanent Representative U Kyaw Moe Tun delivered a statement in response to the oral update on Myanmar by Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights at the on-going 41st Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva on 10 July.

In his rebuttal statement, the Permanent Representative underlined the importance of respect for human rights based on fairness and inclusiveness in the multi-ethnic, multi-religious country like Myanmar during the democratic transition. He expressed concern over unverified allegations of human rights situation in Rakhine State which found their way to the reports of the Council. He highlighted that the current government has identified this matter as a national priority as well as the need for rule of law and sustainable development in Rakhine State.

He reiterated the government's efforts including setting up of the Central Committee, establishment of Dr Kofi Annan' Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, implementation of the recommendations and progress achieved despite challenges and a series of ARSA terrorist attacks, as well as concrete steps taken to create conducive condition for returnees.

Responding to some critics citing little or no effort by the Myanmar government to create conditions for voluntary, safe and dignified return of displaced persons, the Permanent Representative urged them to assess the situation objectively and impartially. He expressed the government's concern over the possible disastrous effect of monsoon season on displaced persons and reiterated Myanmar's readiness to receive verified returnees as bilaterally agreed in the Arrangements.

He expressed his hope for successful repatriation in an amicable manner in accordance with the bilateral arrangements and emphasized the imperative need of genuine and sincere cooperation and stressed the need to avoid misusing international platforms including the UN to pressure on Myanmar.

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Union Government holds 2019 Waso robes offering …

President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho offer Waso robes to Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Kumarabhivamsa at Sasana Beikman, Upatasanti Pagoda, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi offers Waso robes to Secretary Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sandimabhivamsa at Sasana Maha Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

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after which they listened to the parittas recited by Members of the Sangha.

Afterwards, President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho offered Waso robes to Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Kumarabhivamsa.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi offered Waso robes and offertories to Secretary Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Secretary Sayadaw AggaMaha Pandita Bhaddanta Sandimabhivamsa.

Next, Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay offered Waso robes and offertories to Vice Chairman Sayadaw of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Bhaddanta Satetranyana, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than's wife Nant Kyin Kyi to Vice Chairman Sayadaw of the committee Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sumingala Bivamsa, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo to Vice Chairman Sayadaw of the committee Sayadaw Bhadanta Agga Dhamma, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Myo Nyunt and wife Daw Htay Yee, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein and wife, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Tun Tun Hein and wife, Union Ministers, Union Attorney-General, Union Auditor-General, Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, Chairman of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air Force), Chairman of Public Accounts Committee, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, Deputy Ministers and Nay Pyi Taw Council members offered Waso robes to the Members of the Sangha. Afterwards, the congregation listened to the sermon delivered by Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sandimabhivamsa. After the ceremony President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and guests offered '*soon*' (day meal) to the Sayadaws and Sangha. — MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Min)*

President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and congregation offering 'soon' to Sayadaws as part of the Waso robe offering ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar is hoping to receive fullest cooperation from Bangladesh during the planned visit to Cox's Bazar: Myanmar Permanent Representative to UN

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He stressed the preparation by Myanmar side for expeditious repatriation including the planned visit of members of Joint Working Group of Myanmar to Cox's Bazar in the second half of July, providing advanced information to potential returnees and cooperation with friendly nations in building houses, cooperation with UNDP and UNHCR for Quick Impact Projects, as well as cooperation with ASEAN AHA Centre. Myanmar is hoping to receive fullest cooperation from Bangladesh during the planned visit to Cox's Bazar, he stated.

He reiterated Myanmar's full commitment in ensuring accountability for alleged human rights violations in Rakhine if there is concrete evidence. "The ICOE has also requested Bangladesh already 3 times since January this year, for a visit to Cox's Bazar. No response has been received from Bangladesh so far", he stated. The Permanent Representative highlighted the need to have cooperation from Bangladesh to complete the credible report of ICOE.

He explained about the government's humanitarian assistance provided to all affected communities and initiatives launched to promote inter-communal cohesion and confidence among different communities. He also mentioned that the government has exerted all efforts and resources in putting Rakhine's development trajectory on track.

While reiterating the government's resolution to overcome complex challenges of the issue in Rakhine, he cautioned that these problems will be exacerbated and prolonged by continued unhelpful pressure, non-cooperative behaviour and non-constructive manner which could inflame the discourse, and detract from essential pursuit of a peaceful and diplomatic solution.

He called upon the international community to join hands with Myanmar in a constructive and sincere way to find a sustainable solution towards a peaceful, stable and prosperous Rakhine State and concluded by stressing that progress in every field will not be possible overnight, but the work by the current government in the past 3 years has achieved wide ranging and durable impact on the ground, according to Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

First BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting convenes in Nay Pyi Taw

THE First BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture (1st BAMM) was held at Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Agricultural ministers from BIMSTEC members states of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand, delegation leaders, senior officials and other officials attended the meeting.

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Dr Aung Thu, spoke at the meeting where he said the combined domestic export of BIMSTEC member states equals US$2.7 trillion and the total population is 1.5 billion large, making up 22 per cent of the global population.

The Union Minister said while all member states do not have equal development trajectories they all face similar challenges. He said we must all work closely together for sustainable development, eradicating poverty, implementing inclusive development and equal economic growth.

The Union Minister said that the decisions made at the 4th BIMSTEC Summit in Nepal support increased collaboration on agricultural matters. He said agricultural focus is one of the 14 areas of BIMSTEC cooperation and this meeting focuses on promoting the lives of everyone involved in agriculture.

Next, BIMSTEC Secretary-General Ambassador M Shahidul Islam made some opening remarks, after which the attendees took documentary photos together. The meeting then commenced in the hotel's Tharaphi Hall.

Union Minister Dr Aung Thu poses for a photo together with other agricultural ministers at the First BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

The meeting discussed enhancing current cooperation and future tasks on agriculture between the member states, approved the results of the First BIMSTEC High-Ranking Agricultural Officials Meeting held recently in Nay Pyi Taw, discussed the draft Joint Statement of this meeting, and decided on the location and time for the Second BAMM meeting.

After the meeting, attendees toured the Gem Museum, rice processing complex, seed bank of the Agricultural Research Department and the Post Harvesting Research Department. —MNA *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

UNHCR discusses support for Myanmar migrants in Bangladesh, Thailand

Union Minister U Thein Swe meets with UNHCR Representative Mr Johan Cels in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 July. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population, U Thein Swe, received UNHCR Representative Mr Johan Cels at his office in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 July.

During the meeting, they openly discussed extending the tripartite MoU between the ministry, UNDP and UNHCR, continued tasks at the Myanmar-Bangladesh border if security concerns permit, Myanmar representatives travelling to Bangladesh within this month to negotiate repatriation of IDPs in Rakhine State, temporary suspension of UNHCR programmes to Buthidaung and Maungtaw during the rainy season, and submitting proposals for other projects.

They also discussed cooperation between the governments of Thailand and Myanmar to receive Myanmar migrants and UNHCR's support on this matter.

They then discussed verification of citizenship for Myanmar IDPs living in Thai refugee camps, the repatriation process for it and reviewing UNHCR's project report to support it, ensuring Myanmar verified Myanmar Nationals in Thailand can work there legally, and UNHCR's close support in the repatriation process. —MNA *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

Myanmar delegation returns from UNESCO meeting after Bagan inclusion

THE Myanmar delegation that attended the 43rd session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee was cordially welcomed at Yangon International Airport yesterday by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, U Kyi Min, departmental officials, members of Bagan in our Hearts, and admirers of Bagan region.

The 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee, held from 30 June to 10 July in Baku, Azerbaijan, designated Bagan as a World Heritage Site on 6 July.

Three ancient Pyu cities of Han Lin, Beikthano (Vishnu) and Sri Ksetra were designated as World Heritage Sites back on 22 June 2014 while Bagan was the second site to be designated in Myanmar.

The meeting was attended by U Kyaw Zeya, Myanmar Ambassador to France and Permanent Representative to UNESCO, officials from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, domestic and foreign experts, photographers from the group 'Bagan in our Hearts', and enthusiasts hoping for Bagan's inclusion in the UNESCO list. The Myanmar delegation showcased Bagan's history at the meeting in addition to explanations of its historical value, a replica of the Myazedi inscription, sharing VCDs and traditional food. —MNA *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

Myanmar delegation arrive back after attending the 43rd session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee at Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Coord Meeting for Improving Prison Health Care held in Nay Pyi Taw

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe delivers the speech at the opening ceremony of Coordination Meeting for Improving Prison Health Care in Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw on 11 July. **PHOTO: MNA**

AN opening ceremony of Coordination Meeting for Improving Prison Health Care in Myanmar was held at M Gallery Nay Pyi Taw by Sofitel hotel, Nay Pyi Taw on 11 July 2019.

In his address to the ceremony, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe said that according to medical ethics it is important for prison health care to be at the same level as provided to the people. Despite differences in where they had lived, education level, health knowledge, living habit, belief and outlook, race, socio-economic and health background, health care of prisoners must be considered from all angles according to their rights for health care, medical ethics and public health ethics.

Basic factors such as health problems usually faced by prisoners, cleanliness of prison and its vicinity, personal hygiene of prisoners, general health condition and health care condition in prisons all over the country were to be assessed and evaluated through coordination between state/region level health department officials and medical superintendents. According to the findings of the assessment and evaluation prison health care guidelines will be modified.

Current status of prisoner patients undergoing treatment in hospitals were to be assessed, evaluated and modified. Arrangements must be made for participation of health care personnel assigned in prisons to capacity building courses conducted by state/region level health departments.

Works must be conducted according to human rights and medical ethics for establishing prisons with a high level of health care and to smoothly release healthy prisoners after serving their times in prison. The ministry will support as much as possible to raise the level of health care in prisons, said the Union Minister.

Next, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu said the Ministry of Home Affairs is cooperating with Ministry of Health and Sports, related departments and organizations to provide health care services in prisons. It will continue this cooperation toward improving the health care services said the Deputy Minister.

Afterwards, morning session discussions were conducted and Union Minister discussed and commented on the discussions.

The coordination meeting concluded yesterday. The meeting was attended by professors, specialists, public health experts, township doctors and officials from Ministry of Health and Sports Department of Public Health and Medical Services, chief medical officers and officials from Ministry of Home Affairs Correctional Department, experts and officials from World Health Organization, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Asian Harm Reduction Network (AHRN), Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association (MANA) and International Committee of Red Cross. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Court of Inquiry to be formed to look into detention deaths in Rakhine State

THE concerned military command headquarters will form a court of inquiry to look into reports of deaths of some detainees from Minbya, MraukU, Yathedaung and Kyauktaw townships, who were placed in custody as part of an investigation into their links with AA group.

According to a press release issued by the Tatmadaw True News Information Team, the detainees were from Panmyaung Village of Minbya Township, Lakka Village of MraukU Township, Kyauktan Village of Yathedaung Township, Minthataung Village of Kyauktaw Township, and the area near Wethali Hsutaungpyae Pagoda in MraukU Township of Rakhine State.

The process of forming the Court of Inquiry will start from 12 July, in accordance with Defence Services Rule 176. The inquiry will be conducted to establish the correct facts in the reported cases, said the statement. —MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Head of Service Organization appointed

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Win Myint, Deputy Director-General of the Currency Management Department under the Central Bank of Myanmar as Director-General of the same department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

One more political party applies for registration

Registrations of political parties are being scrutinized by the Union Election Commission (UEC). The New Democracy Party (Kachin) (N.D.P (Kachin)) came to the UEC to register itself as a political party on 21 June 2019, it is learnt. —MNA

Public announcement for remonstration

New Democracy Party (Kachin) headquartered at Chanmaw Housing No17, Ward 3, Panwah, Chipwe Township, Myitkyina District in Kachin State, submitted an application for registration as a political party in accord with the Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 21-6-2019. In their application they mentioned that they would use the following name, flag and emblem as described hereunder.

In accord with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules, it is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the Union Election Commission about the party's name, flag and emblem may submit a complaint along with the supporting evidences within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement.

Union Election Commission

Flag of New Democracy Party (Kachin) (N.D.P (Kachin))

Emblem of New Democracy Party (Kachin) (N.D.P (Kachin))

Advertise with us/ Hot Line : 018604530

President Office issues order to fly flag half-mast, to sound siren on 72nd Martyrs' Day

THE President's Office has issued an order to government departments and institutions, which in turn have to convey the instruction down to the lower levels of government organizations. The instruction stated that the flag of the Republic of Union of Myanmar be hoisted half-mast throughout the whole country, on Friday, 19th July 2019 (72nd Martyrs' Day), Myanmar Radio and Television to transmit the sound of wailing siren at 10:37 am, the time Bogyoke Aung San and his colleagues were assassinated, and all vehicles on the roads to stop for a moment and honk their horns. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Joint Committee on amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 25/2019

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and MPs pose for a photo at the meeting of Joint Committee on amending 2008 Constitution in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

MEETING 25/2019 of the Joint Committee on amending 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Committee Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Chairman of the Joint Committee Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Joint Committee secretary Dr.Myat Nyana Soe, joint secretary U Htay Win Aung @ U Pyone Cho and members who were representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.

At the meeting all joint committee members signed the Joint Committee report to be submitted to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and took commemorative group photo. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

UNSG's Special Envoy visits Thetkelpyin IDP camp

A delegation led by United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Mrs Christine Schraner Burgener who already arrived in Sittway met with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung and State Ministers at Rakhine State Government Office in Sittway yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed social economic developmental issues and current conditions of Rakhine State were discussed.

UNSG's Special Envoy Mrs Christine Schraner Burgener visits IDPs camp in Thatkel Pyin, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: TUN TUN (IPRD)**

Afterwards, Mrs Christine Schraner Burgener and delegation visited Inernally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp in Thetkelpyin Village and met with displaced people in the camp and observed the health condition of the villagers and students studying in the classrooms in No 10 Basic Education High School in Thetkelpyin Village. In the afternoon, the delegation led by Mrs Christine Schraner Burgener departed for Yangon from Sittway Airport.—Aung Ye Thwin

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Public announcement for remonstration

1. The National Unity Party headquartered at No.24, Aung Zayya Street, Shwetaunggyar (1) Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region, submitted an application for registration as a political party in accord with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law. In their application they mentioned that they would like to use the following new party emblem as described hereunder.
2. In accord with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules, it is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the Union Election Commission (UEC) about the party's emblem may submit a complaint along with the supporting evidences within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement.

Union Election Commission

Emblem of National Unity Party

One more political party applies for registration

Registrations of political parties are being scrutinized by the Union Election Commission (UEC). The Naga National Party (NNP) came to the UEC to register itself as a political party on 1 July 2019, it is learnt.—MNA

Public announcement for remonstration

1. The Naga National Party (NNP) headquartered in Zephyugone Ward, Khamti Township in Sagaing Region, submitted an application for registration as a political party in accord with the Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 1-7-2019. In their application they mentioned that they would use the following name, flag and emblem as described hereunder.
2. In accord with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules, it is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the Union Election Commission about the party's name, flag and emblem may submit a complaint along with the supporting evidences within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement.

Union Election Commission

Flag of Naga National Party (NNP)

Emblem of Naga National Party (NNP)

Naga National Party

Retail price of onions up amid stable wholesale prices

ONIONS are currently priced at K550 per viss (1.6 kg) in the wholesale market, and the price has remained stable at that level for a month now, said an onion grower.

In June, onions were fetching K550 per viss in the retail market, but the price has now increased to K700-800, and is expected to continue climbing over the week, according to traders in the retail market.

"Although the retail prices are shooting up, onions are currently selling at a high price and the stocks have become insufficient to meet demand. In addition, the merchants are facing high cost of transportation," said U Soe Lwin, a merchant.

Onion is being cultivated on 3,000 acres of land in Yenangyoung, with the yield crossing 13 million onion baskets.—San Nyunt

(Translated by La Wonn)

Workers sort out onions at a farm in Seikphyu, Magway Region. **PHOTO: SOE LIN NAING (IPRD)**

Animal products exports touch $310.27 mln in Oct-June

MYANMAR'S exports of animal products between 1 October and 28 June in the current financial year reached US$310.27 million, a sharp increase compared with the corresponding period of the 2017-2018FY, when income from livestock trade was registered at just $122.3 million.

Animal products exports are mainly driven by the private sector, with income from the public sector amounting to less than $1 million.

Myanmar cattle are mainly exported to China through the Muse border gate, as well as to Thailand.

Normally, a large cow fetches over K1.6-2.3 million, but trade suspension has led to Chinese traders resorting to price manipulation, offering a lower price of around K1 million in early 2019.

Livestock trade was allowed in Myanmar in late 2017 along with decentralized cattle exports from the respective region and state governments. But, the power was transferred from regional governments to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation as they faced certain difficulties in the movement of cattle, according to an announcement from the Ministry on 22 May.

Between the 2017-2018FY and 28 March in the current FY, over 464,000 heads of cattle were allowed to be sent out of the country. But, the actual export figure was more than 375,000 heads of cattle.

At present, cattle that are above five years old are being exported along with the required vaccination certificates, health certificates, and farming registration certificates. According to the 2018 cattle census, there are a total of 11.5 million heads of cattle in the country.

The authorities have issued cattle export licenses to more than 300 companies in Magway Region. There are around 5,000 companies holding cattle export licenses across the country.—GNLM *(Translated by EMM)*

Myanmar sees record high gold prices

By Nyein Nyein

THE price of gold in the domestic market has reached a record high of over K1.13 million per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilograms), tracking the increase in global gold prices, according to traders.

On 12 July, the price of gold in the domestic market crossed K1.13 million per tical, while gold prices were registered around US$1,420 per ounce.

"The gold price is expected to remain high in the domestic market because of global economic instability. At present, the supply is exceeding demand in the market due to the price increase," said U Myo Myint, the chair of the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

On 10 July, global gold prices stood at $1,394 per ounce. The prices rose by $28 on 11 July to touch $1,422.

Gold prices have been rising gradually in the domestic market since the beginning of this year. According to the market, local gold prices were over K1.05 million per tical on 17-29 January. The prices rose to over K1.06 million during the week from 30 January to 7 February. From 8-18 February, gold was priced at over K1.07 million. It crossed K1.08 million on 19-20 February, and K1.11 million on 21 June, and breached K1.13 million on 12 July.

The domestic gold price recorded a low of K1.043 million per tical on 1 January. The price increased to K1.061 million on 31 January. Gold prices stood at a low of K1.058 million on 2 February and rose to K1.087 million on 20 February. The price of gold touched K1.069 million on 21 March and declined to K1.037 million on 30 March. Local gold prices reached K1.054 million on 11 April and K1.037 million on 24 April. In May, the gold price reached K1.059 million, and climbed to nearly K1.126 million on 25 June, according to gold traders. *(Translated by KTL)*

Maritime trade down 40% in the first week of July

MYANMAR'S maritime trade crossed US$390 million in the week from 29 June to 5 July, with exports pegged at $148 million and imports at $244 million, the Ministry of Commerce reported yesterday.

During the week, the total value of trade by sea showed a decline of $267.9 million, or 40.5 per cent, compared to the year-ago period. During the same period last year, the country exported goods worth $355.9 million and imported goods valued at $304.6 million, totalling $660.6 million.

In the week from 29 June, maritime trade in both sectors declined. Compared to last year, exports declined by 207.9 million, while imports decreased by over $60 million. Over the nine months of the present 2018-2019 fiscal year, the country's maritime trade has touched $18.642 billion, with exports valued at $7.089 billion and imports reaching $11.552 billion. The total trade figure has dropped by over $1 billion from the corresponding period of the previous FY.

Myanmar delivers goods via the sea routes as well as border points of entry. In October-June, trade between Myanmar and neighbouring countries exceeded $8 billion. Despite a decline in value of external maritime trade, the country's border trade increased by $1.147 billion compared to the previous FY.—Shwe Khine *(Translated by KTL)*

Border exports at Lwejel decline 38%

MYANMAR'S exports to China via the Lwejel border checkpoint over the past nine months of the current fiscal have declined by 38.37 per cent compared to the same period in the previous FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce. The drop in exports is linked to a decline in Myanmar's exports of rice, broken rice, and maize to China. The export volume is expected to rise if the Chinese authorities increase Myanmar's rice export quota and reduce the current import duties on broken rice and maize, said border merchants. From 1 October to 28 June in the current FY, the bilateral border trade between Myanmar and China via the Lwejel gate totalled US$133.6 million, with exports touching $119.4 million and imports crossing $14.2 million. Compared with the corresponding period of the 2017-2018FY, exports have declined by $74.35 million, while imports have risen by $4.7 million.

Myanmar conducts border trade with China mainly through Muse, Lwejel, Chinshwehaw, Kanpikete, and Kengtung. Of the gates, Muse sees the largest volume and value in terms of border trade.

Between October and June, trade at Muse gate reached $3.8 billion. The Lwejel border trade camp was opened in August, 1998. Goods are delivered via the 57-mile Bhamo-Momauk-Lwejel route. At present, the 47-mile Momauk-Lwejel stretch is badly damaged on account of the movement of cargo trucks and is in need of repair, according to local merchants. According to the Commerce Ministry's official statistical report, as on 28 June, the value of trade across all border points exceeded $8 billion, an increase of $1.2 billion in comparison with last FY. Myanmar predominantly exports agricultural, fishery, and forest products, minerals, and manufactured goods. It imports capital goods, consumer goods, semi-finished products, and CMP raw materials. —Swe Nyein *(Translated by KTL)*

Honesty, sacrifice, and truthfulness build integrity

WE owe a great debt of gratitude to our martyrs, led by Bogyoke Aung San, for their sacrifice for our independence.

The 71st Martyrs' Day will be celebrated this year. It marks the day when Bogyoke Aung San and seven Arzarni (martyred) leaders — Thakhin Mya, Deedok U Ba Cho, U Abdul Razak, U Ba Win, U Mahn Ba Khaing, U Sao San Tun, and U Ohn Maung — were gunned down. Ever since then, 19 July, 1947 has been observed as a day of mourning by the entire nation.

All the people of Myanmar pay tributes on this day by performing meritorious deeds and sharing the merits thus gained.

The martyred leaders are always on our mind, and have an important place in our collective memory. What is the reason we can never ever forget them? Because, each and every one of us knows that the martyrs sacrificed their lives for the country.

> The integrity of a community or society will be high, if it has people of great integrity like Aung San. Such integrity is needed to raise our national prestige.

Whenever we mention Bogyoke Aung San, we speak of his integrity.

Without any doubt, we have accepted Bogyoke as an ideal and exemplary leader of high moral character, and one who had an excellent mental and physical constitution. As Bogyoke happened to be the greatest and most perfect of organizers, leaders of today are sure to emulate Bogyoke as their role model in the line of duty, as we work together in elevating the image of the country.

Bogyoke had high moral character, and practised complete honesty and displayed a work-hard attitude, truth-loving patriotism, and showed selfless but extreme love for the country. He showed no sign of self-interest, but an attitude of sacrifice till his death. He discarded power and authority and chose a life of extreme simplicity, without flamboyance. He never took a dime from the government budget for personal use, and displayed devotion and faithfulness to family life. One can praise him endlessly.

His greatest trait was his absolute dislike of corruption and graft. When he received any gifts in cash or kind, he used them to fund the independence struggle.

He was a man of vision who only thought for the good of the nation and its people, a man with a pure and simple heart, who just wanted to work for the country.

The integrity of a community or society will be high, if it has people of great integrity like Aung San.

Such integrity is needed to raise our national prestige.

Integrity cannot be faked as it is accompanied by honesty, sacrifice, love of truth.

Boundless gratitude to UNESCO, Heartiest congratulations to Lovers and stakeholders of "Bagan World Cultural Heritage Site"

Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt
(Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja, Sithu)

NEWS in all media, home and abroad on the evening of 6 July 2019 and headline news in all printed dailies and weeklies 7 July 2019 tempted the writer to send this article to the highly esteemed daily The Global New Light of Myanmar.

These are the reasons why the writer could not resist the temptation to write this article. He was the Director-General of Archaeology Department for four years before his the retirement. He was involved in the restoration and preservation of monuments heard hit by two earth quakes. He himself is academically interested in old city Bagan, through his PhD specialization is International Relations. He was assigned to the duty of State Tour Guide. He worked with many research students whom he gave all possible help. He co-operated with foreign researchers and UNESCO experts working in Bagan Area.

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

A superb panorama view of Bagan. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Bagan Historic Period covering nearly over three centuries had 55 kings all professed Theravada Buddhism ...

Bagan Historic Period covering nearly over three centuries had 55 kings all professed Theravada Buddhism, taking Emperor Asoka as their role model, Bagan Kings not only built religious monuments but also dug, constructed networks of wells, tanks. Water reservoirs and irrigations for water human consumption and for feeding dry cultivation. They put on the record of their religious and economic and socio-cultural merits in stone inscriptions which run into thousands.

Local and foreign researchers, academics, technicians or experts from almost every filed and every local or international organization are subject to the splendor and spell of Bagan. Mr Charles Forchmer a German medical doctor of Switzerland first became the super intendant of the Epigraphic office at Bagan, a branch of Indian Archaeological Survey of British Indian Empire. He was so fascinated by old Bagan that he overworked to the limit of his early pass-away leaving many valuable research works on Bagan. [e.g. 6 Elephant size Vols. of Epigraphia Birmanica and several research papers.] His successor Mr Taw Sein Kho, Myanmar born Chinese scholar of high repute, Mr Dreresall, a French scholar of many research works, U Mya of Irrigation Department and J.S. Furnivall, an I.C.S of Economic department by Mr Charles Dourosellaes the glory and greatness of Bagan in their studies of Bagan stone inscriptions that they became Bagan experts in their own fields.

To crown it all the following are the foreigners and Myanmar natives of all generations who fell under the spell of Bagan. To begin with Mr. G.H. Luce and U Pe Maung Tin. Mr. G.H. Luce joined Yangon University as a Professor of the English Department. U Pe Maung Tin was scholar of the Department of Oriental Students [Pali, Burmese and Related Languages and Literature] Mr Luce got married to U Pe Maung Tin's sister. Every holiday season U Pe Maung Tin visited old Bagan for his study of stone inscriptions, Mr Luce joined him. These two scholars agreed or agreed to disagreed to the point of occasional heated debate in interpreting the stone inscriptions and other visual arts of Bagan temples. The happy result of their Bagan visits was that Luce became a converted Bagan researcher-historian. U Pe Maung Tin became a de facto Bagan Archaeologist U Pe Maung Tin told us "we used to say that when we talked about Bangan History, we keep a stick on our shoulders because in the event of heated arguments we beat each other to assert out own views." Please don't do it now. Instead of keeping the stick on your shoulders, keep spades on your shoulders. To know the truth you did up the past-excavate. How wise is his advice we have not finished excavations.

On retirement, as he was about to return to his mother country England. Luce turned to his Burmese friends and students and weepingly says to them " I have done all good deeds, therefore accordingly to Buddhism, I'll be born human so that I'll come back to continue my unfinished research on Bagan."

Mr Luce had produced a magnum opus [Great Booth] entitled "Old Burma; Early Bagan" 3 elephant size volumes. One illustrations –Pictures, Drawings and Photographs. Second Writings His Views, His appreciations. Third—Bibliographies and Indexes.

Good Lord! He had finished only Early Bagan. Middle Bagan and Late Bagan he still had to compile. Luce had passed away. By now he could have been reborn human. Whether reborn Luce was back in Bagan nobody knows.

As Director-General of Archaeology Department, the writer had a young German scholar named Tilman Frash from Berlin University. In his field trip to Bagan, he was attracted by an old stone inscriptions, on Ther Soe Taung hill in the remote area. He asked permission from me to camp on that hill for his research on stone inscriptions. In spite of the writer objections on ground of security, his daily meal and health, he insisted that he would be all his responsibility. His Embassy agreed. So young German spent nearly two years on that remote, desolate Thet Soe Taung without any danger from nature, weather, no food and toddy palm juice or local whiskey made by moonshiners. Could he be Mr Luce reborn back to Bagan. When the writer checked the birthdate of young scholar and death date of the Mr. Luce they do not tally to say that young German scholar was Luce-reborn.

The foreign expert who fell in love with the greatness and glory of Bagan was Mr Piere Pich and who was sent by UNESCO to make an Inventory of Bagan monuments. He finished 13 volumes of Inventory. He said he had not finished.

He would like to come back to compile another volume of Inventory. The more you clear bushes, the more you dig on the ground or in water more remains of monuments are being discovered. Two Myanmar whom Bagan had bewitched. Whom I know very well are U Aung Kyaing and family pen named Minbu Aung Kyaing as he was a native of Minbu Town. Now they live in Bagan. Next is Daw Tine Sein who toured on motorbike with her husband around the world cast to the west and back to Burma. Now she settled in Bagan.

The next was the late Mon. Bo key a native pathein, formely called Bassein town in Ayeyawady Region. He never returned to his native town. He died a bachelor and believed to have become nat spirit looking after the Bagan monuments.

Messages of Gratitude and congratulations appeared in media 7.7.2019 by Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and others. The writer would like to draw and alert the attention of all Myanmar that we are now obliged to preserve conserve and maintain Bagan according to their ruler, regulation procedure and standard of UNESCO because Bagan is now not only our heritage but also it belongs to the world. Therefore all Gout ministers, all departments are involved in these tasks especially Tourism, Infrastructure Ministries are primarily concerned with UNESCO standard.

Announcement on road closure on Martyrs' Day

Some Yangon roads will be closed on 19 July on account of the 72nd Martyrs' Day ceremony at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Bahan Township from 4 a.m. till the completion of the ceremony.

While roads will remain closed, bypass routes will be kept open for vehicles passing through West Shwegondine Road to the Link Junction, Dhammazedi Road and Inya Road junction, Dhammazedi Road and U Wisara Junction, West Shwegondaing Road and U Wisara Junction.

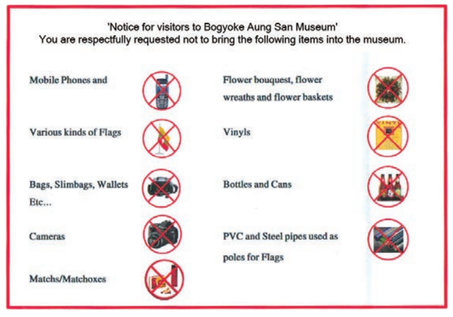
Arzarni Road, and the eastern, western, and southern archways of the Shwedagon Pagoda, Arzarni Street, and the northern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda (Thwaysaykan Road) will also remain closed.

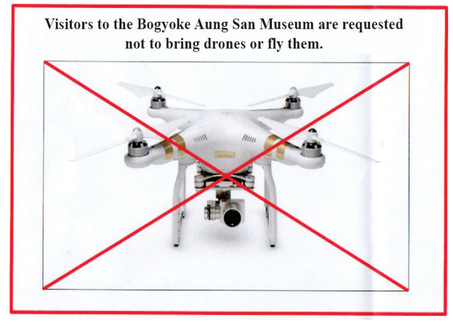
The Yangon Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee

Announcement on closure of Bogyoke Aung San Museum Road on Martyrs' Day

For the convenience of visitors headed to the Bogyoke Aung San Museum on Martyrs' Day (19 July), the Bogyoke Aung San Museum Road will be closed from 5 a.m. until the museum's closing time. Commuters are advised to use other routes while the road is temporarily closed.

Yangon Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee





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Flood-hit farmers in Taungdwingyi get over K18 mln in aid

OFFICIALS on 11 July disbursed over K18 million in cash as aid to farmers affected by floods last year in Taungdwingyi Township of Magway Region.

At a ceremony held at 11 am on 11 July, the Township Administrator delivered a speech, and U Zaw Min Tun, the Regional Hluttaw representative, explaining the reasons why the aid was distributed, said the authorities are planning to provide the necessary aid to farmers.

After heavy rains struck Magway Region in September and October, 2018, farmlands were flooded and crops were destroyed.

Therefore, the regional government is disbursing more than K18 million in cash to 16,137 farmers owning 36,004 acres of flood-hit farmland, including summer and monsoon sesame farms.

The regional representatives and officials handed over the cash meant for farmers to the ward and village administrators on Thursday. —Naing Win (Taungdwingyi)

Translated by La Wonn)

An offical of Taungdwingyi Township provides cash assistance to farmers affected by flooding in Taungdwingyi, Magway Region. **PHOTO: NAING WIN**

YCDC earns K180 mln a year from Aungmingala, Dagon Ayeya bus terminals

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon City Development Committee earns roughly K180 million every year in rent from shops and bus gates at the Aungmingala and Dagon Ayeya highway bus terminals, said U Maung Maung Soe, the Yangon Region Development Affairs Minister.

"At present, the Aungmingala Highway Bus Terminal has a total of 616 shops and 259 bus gates. The YCDC collects a monthly rental of K2,000-K7,000 from shops, based on their size, earning K85.113 million a year. It collects a monthly rental of K3,000-K7,000 per bus gate, earning K17.046 million per year. The annual income generated from the YCDC's leasing out of shops and bus gates at the terminal exceeds K100 million," he added.

"Currently, there are 209 shops and 82 bus gates at the Dagon Ayeya Highway Bus Terminal in Hlinethaya Township. The YCDC collects a monthly rental of K3,000-K5,500 from shops, depending on their size, earning approximately over K72.5 million per year. It collects a monthly rental of K5,500 per bus gate, earning over K5.4 million per year. The annual income thus generated exceeds K78.2 million," said U Maung Maung Soe at the fourteenth meeting of the second Yangon Region Hluttaw's ninth regular session, held on Thursday.

The YCDC began leasing out shops and bus gates at the Aungmingala terminal in 2002, and at the Dagon Ayeya terminal the following year.

"The income generated by the YCDC is vital for Yangon Region. The current capital expenditure is higher than the income. The gap between income and expenditure is about 7 per cent. The construction sector accounts for a major portion of the capital expenditure," he added. (*Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)*

Palm craftsmen thriving in Chauk, Yenangyoung towns

WITH people beginning to use products made of palm, craftsmen from the central regions of Myanmar said they are doing a thriving business.

Palm trees are common to the central regions of Myanmar, including Chauk and Yenangyoung townships, and most locals are eking out a living by making handicrafts from palm trees, leaves, and fibers.

Palm trees are used for making homes and furniture, such as palm chairs and tables, and palm fiber is used for making baskets.

"Palm chairs and benches are ideal in hot weather because they are cool and long-lasting, and they are cheap. Palm products are used in both homes and factories. The baskets are being sent to 10 towns, as well as Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, and Yangon cities," said a palm chair seller.

Palm chairs are priced between K4,000 and K5,500, and palm baskets can fetch K5,000, depending on the size and quality.—San Nyunt

(Translated by La Wonn)

Four students missing after boat capsizes in Mindon Tsp

A boat carrying 18 passengers from Paukkaing Village, Mindon Township, Magway Region, was overturned at the convergence of Mindon Creek and Mu Creek around 2:45 pm yesterday.

Some of the passengers were able to swim to shore while the rest were swept away with the current. Township Administrator U Kyaw Thu Soe, Township Chief Firefighter U Khin Zaw Aung, police and other villagers conducted search and rescue operations.

They saved 4 students close to Ku Pyu Village and Pyaung Pyar Village, while four remaining students are still missing. Authorities are continuing the search for the missing students, who were returning home for the school break.—Mindon IPRD (*Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

Township Administrator, Police and villagers conducting search for missing students in Mindon. **PHOTO: MINDON IPRD**

Japan's trade, defence policies in focus as election looms

TOKYO — Countries that have important ties with Japan will be keeping a watchful eye on the country's upcoming upper house election, with South Korea hoping a trade row can be resolved after the poll and others focusing on Tokyo's defense policy.

The recent decision by the government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to place tighter controls on exports of chip materials to South Korea partly reflects his Liberal Democratic Party's bid to appeal to its conservative support base before the July 21 election, a source in the South Korean Embassy in Tokyo said.

Given the export restrictions would damage both countries' economies, the source said he hopes "there will be room for Tokyo to deal with South Korea in a calmer manner" if the LDP manages to win the election.

Since July 4, manufacturers have been required to file applications with the Japanese government before exporting to South Korea certain products needed for semiconductors and displays for smartphones and televisions.

China is watching to see whether Japan will push ahead with amending its pacifist Constitution. Abe has persistently sought to make the role of the Self-Defense Forces clearer in the supreme law, with his third and last term as the LDP president ending in 2021.

"If pro-amendment forces win two-thirds (of upper house seats), he could seriously work toward amendment," a Chinese government source said. A two-thirds majority in both houses of the Diet is needed to initiate a referendum on a change in the Constitution.

Japanese Prime Minister and Liberal Democratic Party leader Shinzo Abe makes a speech in Takamatsu, Kagawa Prefecture, on 9 July, 2019, during campaigning for the July 21 House of Councillors election. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Relations between Tokyo and Beijing have been improving recently but Abe's hawkish security views have fueled concerns in countries such as China, where bitter memories of Japan's past militarism run deep.

The United States is paying particular attention to an electoral district in northeastern Japan — Akita Prefecture — which is one of the two prefectures where the government plans to deploy a US-developed missile defense system. Errors were found recently in the government's geographical survey that was used to select the prefecture as a candidate location for the Aegis Ashore missile defense system, sparking local criticism.

A US Embassy source said the introduction of the system could "be delayed if an opposition candidate opposed to the deployment wins."

Russia would welcome an "outcome that would increase the centripetal force of Abe's government" given Abe's continued efforts to strengthen bilateral ties and pave the way toward resolving a longstanding territorial dispute, a Russian Embassy source said.

The dispute over four Russian-held islands, called the Northern Territories in Japan and the Southern Kurils in Russia, has prevented the two countries from signing a formal peace treaty after more than 70 years since World War II. —Kyodo News ■

India lifts 271 mln people out of poverty in 10 years: UN report

MUMBAI — India lifted 271 million people out of poverty over a 10-year period from 2005-2006 to 2015-2016, said a United Nations report released late Thursday.

According to the report, India registered a fast absolute reduction of poverty in the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) value.

The poverty reduction was measured on a significant drop in some deficiencies of the 10 parameters including assets, cooking fuel, sanitation and nutrition.

However, despite the massive gains achieved in reducing multidimensional poverty, 373 million Indians continued to experience acute deprivations and additionally, 8.8 per cent of the population lived in severe multidimensional poverty and 19.3 per cent of the population was vulnerable to multidimensional poverty, the report said.

Developed in 2010 by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the global index tracks 101 countries on deprivations across 10 indicators on health, education, and standard of living. It also tracks poverty in terms of the deprivation faced by people in their daily lives.

"The MPI captures the huge progress India has made in reducing multidimensional poverty across the country, while also providing a more complete picture of who is deprived, how they are deprived, and where they live," said Shoko Noda, the UNDP's India resident representative.

The poorest parts of the country are more quickly lifting people out of poverty demonstrates India's commitment to ensuring no one is left behind, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the government's own priorities, Noda said.—Xinhua ■

A farmer KusumbenParmar works near solar panels, which help to pump water to irrigate her fields in the village of Dhundi, some 90km from Ahmedabad. **PHOTO: AFP FILE**

Singapore sees slowest growth in decade as US-China trade war bites

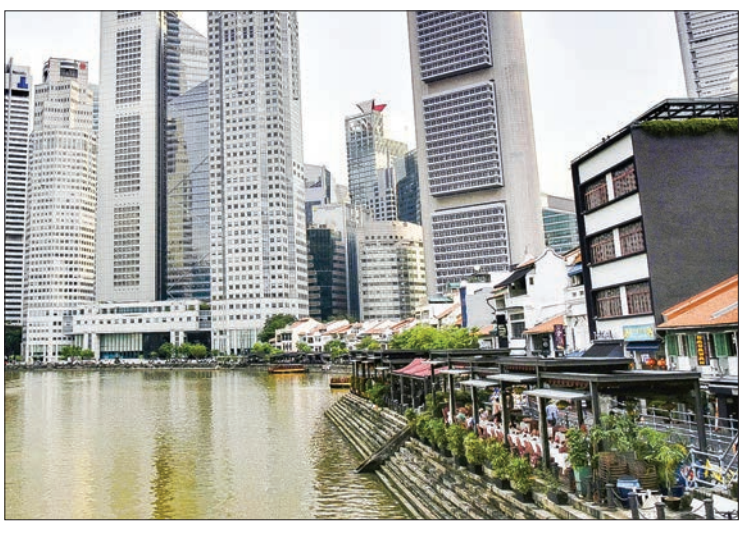


Photo taken on 27 November, 2018 shows high-rise buildings on Raffles Place, the center of the financial district in Singapore. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

SINGAPORE — Singapore's economy expanded by its slowest rate in a decade in the second quarter of this year amid the US-China trade tension, raising fears of a technical recession, government figures showed Friday.

The flash estimates released by the Ministry of Trade and Industry show that gross domestic product only grew 0.1 per cent year-on-year in the April-to-June quarter of this year.

The last time that GDP growth was lower than 0.1 per cent was in the second quarter of 2009, when it shrank 1.2 per cent, following the global financial crisis triggered by the collapse of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. For that whole year, it grew 0.1 per cent.

"The latest advance estimates released by MTI today reflects the heightened uncertainties and risks in the global economy, especially with the US-China trade tensions," Deputy Prime Minister Heng-SweeKeat, who is also finance minister, said in a Facebook post.

However, he added that the government is not expecting a full-year recession at this point.

The second quarter numbers this year, which came in below economists' expectations, showed that the China-US trade friction and a slump in global trade are taking a toll on Singapore's economy, said Taimur-Baig, chief economist at DBS Group Research, a financial analysis firm.

This has also raised concerns among Singapore-based economists that a technical recession, defined as two consecutive quarters of negative growth, could be brewing. —Kyodo News ■

US plans Gulf naval escorts after Iranians menace UK oil tanker

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon said Thursday it was discussing military escorts for vessels in the Gulf one day after armed Iranian boats threatened a British oil tanker.

The White House's nominee to become chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark Milley, said Washington was attempting to put together a coalition "in terms of providing military escort, naval escort to commercial shipping."

"I think that that will be developing over the next couple weeks," Milley told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Tensions in the Gulf have increased in the past few weeks, with Iran's economy in free fall following the re-imposition of US sanctions after President Donald Trump pulled out from a 2015 international agreement to curb Iran's nuclear program.

The rapid chain of events further complicates Britain and other European allies' efforts to salvage the 2015 JCPOA nuclear agreement despite the US withdrawal.

Milley's statement came after London accused Tehran on Thursday of deploying three military vessels to "impede the passage" of a 274-meter (899-foot) BP tanker, the British Heritage.

"We are concerned by this action and continue to urge the Iranian authorities to de-escalate the situation in the region," a Downing Street spokesman said.

Iran's menacing of the BP supertanker on Wednesday appeared to be in retaliation for Britain's seizure of the Iranian Grace 1 tanker off Gibraltar on 4 July.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards denied involvement in the British Heritage incident but said the United States and Britain would "strongly regret" British detention of the fully-loaded Iranian tanker off Gibraltar for violating sanctions on Syria, allegedly the planned recipient of its cargo.

Washington and Riyadh previously blamed Iran for allegedly using limpet mines to blow holes in Gulf-area ships in May and June, and Trump came close to ordering an attack on Iran in retaliation.

- A constant naval presence -

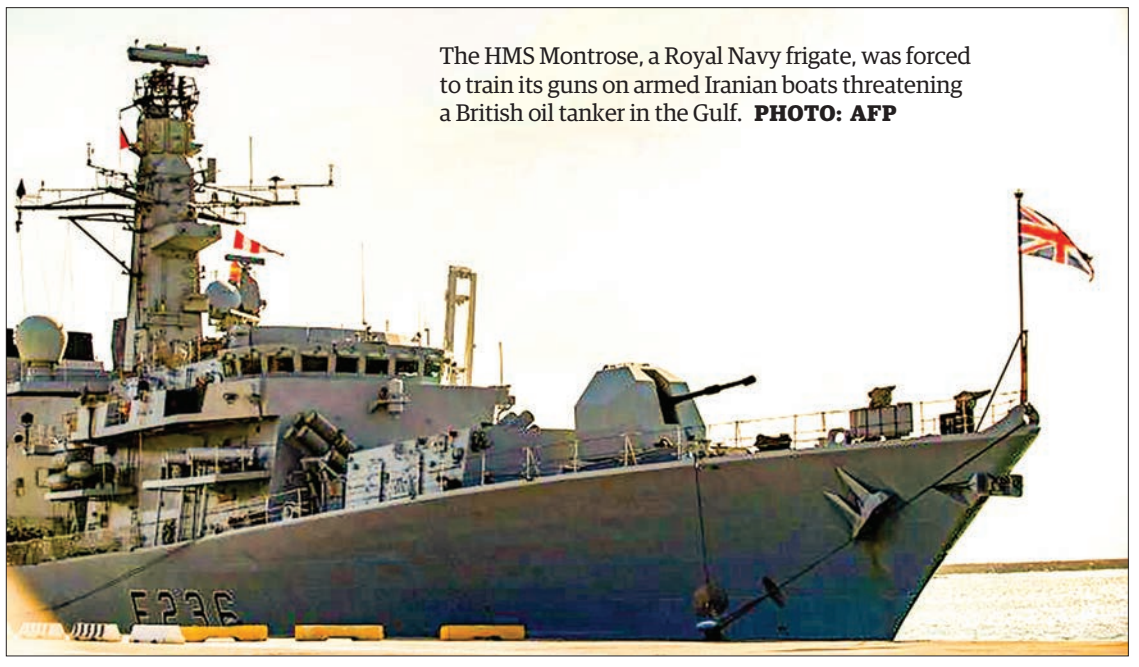
Officials in Britain and France would not confirm the discussions on a tanker escort operation.

Both, like the United States, maintain a constant naval presence in the Gulf.

But London and Paris have been reticent to join in Washington's "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran to force it to pull back on its involvement in conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

British media reported that the possible deployment of more Royal Navy ships to the region was "being looked at" in the aftermath of the newest incident.

But in France, a government official told AFP that they were not planning for the moment to expand their presence in the Gulf.—AFP ■



The HMS Montrose, a Royal Navy frigate, was forced to train its guns on armed Iranian boats threatening a British oil tanker in the Gulf. **PHOTO: AFP**

In this file photo taken on 22 August, 2017 Russian S-400 anti-aircraft missile launching system is displayed at the exposition field in Kubinka Patriot Park outside Moscow during the first day of the International Military-Technical Forum Army-2017. Turkey received the first batch of Russia's S-400 missile defence system on 12 Jul, 2019, the defence ministry said, after the purchase caused tensions in relations with its NATO ally the United States. **PHOTO: AFP**

Turkey receives first Russian missile delivery, risking US ire

ISTANBUL — Turkey received the first batch of Russia's S-400 missile defence system on Friday in a move expected to raise tensions with the United States, which has repeatedly warned against the purchase.

The delivery at an air base in the Turkish capital Ankara comes after Washington warned this week that there would be "real and negative" consequences if Turkey bought the defence system.

"The delivery of the first shipment of parts of the S-400 long range regional air missile defence system began as of July 12, 2019 to Murted air base in Ankara," Turkey's defence ministry said in a statement. It was not immediately known where the defence system would be deployed or when it would be operational.

"It will be operational in a manner determined by relevant authorities once the system is entirely ready," Turkey's Presidency of Defence Industries (SSB) said in a statement, adding that the delivery of the system's other parts would continue "in the coming days".

Russia's Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation confirmed the delivery to the TASS news agency. TASS also quoted a Russian military-diplomatic source as saying that another plane carrying S-400 parts will depart for Turkey "in the near future", while a third delivery consisting of 120 guided missiles will be shipped by sea "most likely at the end of the summer".

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists on Friday that "everything is happening in strict accordance with the agreements and signed contracts, all obligations are being carried out".—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (131 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (131 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13-07-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/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 SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

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Buddha statue inside the Gawdawpalin tample. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Gawdawpalin temple. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Gawdawpalin
and its architectural wonders

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

AS a World Heritage Site, Bagan, an Archaeological zone in Myanmar, is inscribed by UNESCO during the 43th session of the world Heritage Committee held from 30 June to 10 July in Baku, Arzerbaijan. Bagan is famous not only in Myanmar, but also in the world. Although is Bagan is a historic place which was the seat of the first Myanmar Kingdom, its history is shrouded with the fables. But its ancient pagodas stand witness to its historical importance.

Religious edifices

Lying on the east bank of Ayeyawady River, the area of Bagan today's is 13 kilometres long and six kilometers wide. According the saying, which goes, "Hle-win-yoe-than Ta-nyan-nyan" (the sound of rolling bullock-carts), the area had 4446 pagodas.

Bagan had 4474 pagodas, according the census collected during the reign of King Moehnyin of Inva period in 1427-1480, and 4445 pagodas according to the list recorded in possibly during the Konbound period.

But the survey conducted by the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library showed that the area had 2217 pagodas. Another list compiled by Pierre Pichard, a French architect, with the assistance of the UNICEF, during the years between 1982 and 1991, the number was 2834. Another census was conducted in the area after Bagan was hit by a strong earthquake on 24 August 2016. It showed that Bagan had 3822 religious buildings including the rebuilt structures that were excavated in 1997-98, and the structures still lying beneath the mounds.

Generally, religious structures of various types are divided into temples, which house a large interior space, and stupas, which are solid structures. Most of the temples including the Gawdawpalin were built by kings.

Gawdawpalin

Gawdawpalin Temple, with its mysterious background stories, is located in the southwest of Old Bagan and north of Bagan Archaeology Museum. Of the ancient Bagan pagodas, Dhammayangyi is the largest, Thatbyinnyu is the tallest, and Ananda is the most beautiful.

Gawdawpalin was built by Narapati Sithu, a grandson of King Alaung Sithu, in AD 1175. According to a fable, King Alaung Sithu lost vision as he affronted his ancestors as the persons whose power was less than him. The king regained vision when he made statues of his ancestors, placed them on a throne, and asked pardon. According to the traditional belief, his grandson, Narapati Sithu, built a pagoda on the spot where the throne was placed, and the pagoda got it's name "Gawdawpalin". It is said that Shinpyintlin (Pagoda No. 1635) in the north of Gawdawpalin was built on the spot where King Alaung Sithu regain his sight.

Another version is that Gawdawpalin got its name from the two statues of — Gawda and Hawdaw — situated in the left and right sides at the frontage of the temple.

The temple has other stories and one of them says like this. When King Narapati Sithu ordered people to build Gawdawpalin, a monk by the name Pant-thagu, appeared and blocked the project. So the king expelled the monk. But when Pant-thagu was planning to leave Bagan for Sri Lanka, the king visited him and made an apology. The King then built the temple at the place where he paid respect and made apology to the monk.

According to the book on the historical pagodas of Bagan, Narapati Sithu died before he could finish the temple. So, his son took over the job and completed it on 26 (Friday) March 1227.

Gawdawpalin is a large temple, whose structure resembles that of Sulamuni and Htilominlo pagodas. First, Gawdawpalin was designated as three-storey temple. But the earthquake in 1975 exposed a secret corridor-like space. So, Gawdawpalin is a four-storey temple.

Structure

Gawdawpalin is counted as one of the

Thinnpoat, decorated stand. **PHOTO: SUPPIIED**

nyu-cube-shaped, with Buddha images on the four sides of the ground floor, with several refinements. It features the use of full pediments over the windows and stairways that ascend through the walls rather than from within the central cubes. The top of the restored sikhara, which toppled off in the earthquake, reaches 55 metres in height. Gawdawpalin is considered the crowning achievement of the Late Bagan period.

Architectural designs

Built by the two successive kings, Gawdawpalin showcases the largest number of artistic artifacts of Bagan period. The architectural design of the 12th century temple was so splendid. The temple has an excellent lighting and ventilation system provided by its 32 portals. It has double ornamental backdrops, pagoda-shaped ornamental backdrops and ornamental backdrops portraying the tongue of

Pagodas in Bagan. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

largest pagodas of Bagan. The four-storey temple features the late style. It is square in plan with porticoes on all four sides but the eastern portico projecting further than the others. In the ground storey, images of the Buddha are mounted among four sides of a vaulted corridor running around a central block.

This site houses four Buddha images on the upper storey and 10 Buddha images in the ground floor. A stone image of sitting Buddha in a house is placed at the north-east corner of the brick platform. It is an original artwork. Due to lime wash by the devotees of later period frescoes are faintly visible. While there an octagonal pagoda with two bell posts at the south-east corner of the precinct, at the north-east corner is a zedi of later period.

In plan the temple is somewhat similar to the Thatbyinfire. The temple was built with bricks each measuring 43 centimetres in length, 22 centimetres in width and six centimetres in thickness. Gawdawpalin is the most beautiful square-based temple in Bagan. Eighty per cent of the original works of the pyramidal spire remained till the pagoda was hit by an earthquake in 1975.

The standard of the method in bricklaying and bricking of the temple was high. Some of the remaining terracotta plaque at the walls can be seen till now. Between the decorated bars and ornamental motif in stucco depicting an ogre clutching a garland with both hands are ovolo mouldings. The halls of the temple are underpinned by stone columns. The backdrops of the Buddha statues portrayed the Bo Tree and the Throne and the temple houses and the Buddha statues, with the hand touching the ground. Most the murals on the walls of the chambers where Buddha images are placed were destroyed. Decorated stands are placed in the respective places to offer meals, flowers, water. Texts for swearing in are placed on some of the decorated stands.

Except from Thatbyinnyu, most of the temples including Gawdawpalin in Bagan have four Buddha images each on the first and second floors. (Thatbyinnyu has only one Buddha statue on the upper floor). The temple is surrounded by square-shaped double fence. The outer fence has on one archway each on all its four directions. Each archway has a pagoda on it. As the original doors are no more, they are now replaced with iron doors.

The inner fence is built with a row of three feet five inches high brick pillars. In the southeast corner of the compound are a Bagan-period pagoda and two poles to support a bell. The southeast corner houses a pagoda that was built after the Bagan period.

Many pagodas were damaged by the earthquake that hit Bagan on 8 July 1975, and Gawdawpalin was one among them. All the damaged parts were rebuilt in accord with the original style. Relics found during the time were enshrined in the Pagoda.

Of the eight pagodas built by King Narapati Sithu, Sulamuni, Dhammayazaka and Gawdawpalin were the most famous. Of the pagodas built by his son, King Nardaungphya, Htilominlo, Mahabodi, Setanagyi and Gawdawpalin were most splendid.

The 800-year old Gawdawpalin still stands as the religious edifice with the excellent architectural designs and is a must-visit pagoda of Bagan.

(Translated by Tin Maung Than)

Mandalay Youth Team A wins MPT U-14 Football tourney

THE Mandalay Youth Football Team A won the MPT U-14 Football Tournament 2019 by beating the Mandalay Youth Football Team B by 2-0 in the final match, held yesterday at the Mandalar Thiri Stadium in Mandalay.

An awards ceremony was held after the match.

At the ceremony, Aung Hein Min from Mandalay Youth Football Team B got the medal for the 'best striker' and a cash prize of K20,000.

Aung Myint Myat from Kyaukse Youth Football Team was adjudged the 'best midfielder' and awarded a medal and K20,000 as cash prize.

Phone Myat Thu from the Mandalay Youth Team B received the medal for the 'best defender' and a cash prize of K20,000.

Wai Phyo Aung from the Social Welfare Youth team walked away with the medal for the 'best goalkeeper' and a cash prize of K20,000.

Shine Ko Ko Htet from the Social Welfare Youth team received the medal for the 'best player in the tourney' and a cash prize of K30,000.

The winning team, Mandalay Youth Football Team A, was awarded a trophy and K1 million. Medals were handed to individual players on the team.

The runner-up team, Mandalay Youth Football Team B, received a trophy and K500,000, along with medals for individual players.

The third placed team, Social Welfare Youth Team, also got a trophy and K300,000, and medals were awarded to individual players. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

The Mandalay Youth Football Team A receive their trophy after winning the MPT U-14 Football Tournament 2019. **PHOTO: MNL**

Southern striker Kaung Sithu to miss match with Rakhine United

SOUTHERN Myanmar F.C. striker Kaung Sithu, who was handed a ban in Week 16 of the Myanmar National League, will miss his team's match against Rakhine United at the Mawlamyaing Stadium on 13 July.

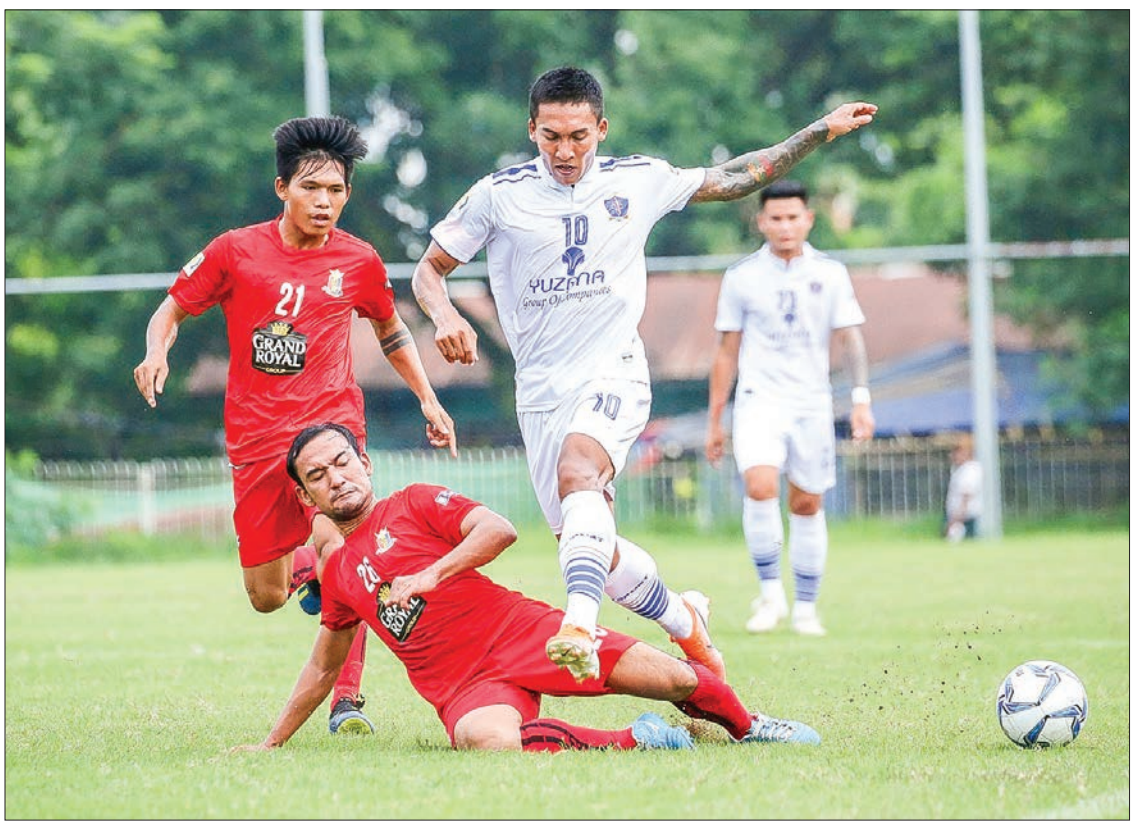
Kaung Sithu got three yellow cards in previous matches of the league and that resulted in the match ban, said a source with the Myanmar National League.

Considered a reliable player, Kaung Sithu has scored seven goals for his team in this season of the national league.

After playing 15 matches, Southern Myanmar F.C. is in the ninth place, with 15 points from four wins, three draws, and eight losses.

Meanwhile, Rakhine United is sixth on the standing table with 23 points from six wins, five draws, and four losses.

The match between Southern Myanmar and Rakhine United will be broadcast live on MRTV and MRTV-4 free-to-air channels, according to the Myanmar National League. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Striker Kaung Sithu (white) tries to get past Hantharwady United defenders during a previous national league match. **PHOTO: MNL**

Barcelona get Griezmann but Atletico contest 120 million euro fee

MADRID — Barcelona announced the signing of Antoine Griezmann on Friday for 120 million euros ($135 million), sparking a furious reaction from Atletico Madrid over the amount the La Liga champions paid for the World Cup winner.

In a statement, Barca revealed that they had paid the 120 million euros to activate the Frenchman's release clause, adding that he would sign a five-year deal that included a "buy-out clause of 800 million euros".

However, within minutes Atletico said they believed "the amount paid is insufficient to meet the release clause as it is obvious that the agreement between the player and Barcelona had been concluded before the release clause dropped from 200 million euros to 120 million euros" at the start of the month.

They said that Griezmann had gone to the headquarters of Spanish Football League (LFP) to "unilaterally" break his contract after Barca met the release clause, and added that they had already "begun appropriate procedures" to defend their "rights and legitimate interests".

The announcement was the latest episode in a spat between the two clubs and Griezmann after the 28-year-old failed to show up for Atletico's pre-season gathering on Sunday following his announcement in May that he would be leaving for an unnamed destination -- long-suspected to be Barcelona.

Last week Atletico accused Barcelona and Griezmann of a "lack of respect" after Barca president Josep Maria Bartomeu revealed the two clubs had held talks about the former Real Sociedad forward.

Replacement already signed

Atletico then claimed that Griezmann had told the club that he had struck a deal with Barcelona in March, just days before the second leg of their Champions League last-16 tie with Juventus, which saw them dumped out by a Cristiano Ronaldo hat-trick after winning the first leg 2-0 in Madrid.

Griezmann joined Atletico in 2014 and has scored 133 goals in 257 appearances, lifting the Europa League in 2018. He won the Golden Boot at Euro 2016 when France were beaten in the final on home soil by Portugal before helping to guide his country to World Cup glory in Russia last year.—AFP ■