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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VI, No. 143, 9th Waxing of Tawthalin 1381 ME | www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com | Saturday, 7 September 2019

President receives outgoing Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam



President U Win Myint meets with outgoing Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam Mr Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Pahlawan Colonel (Rtd) Dato Paduka Haji Abdu'r Rahmani bin Dato Paduka Haji Basir at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRESIDENT U Win Myint received outgoing Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Myanmar Mr Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Pahlawan Colonel (Rtd) Dato Paduka Haji Abdu'r Rahmani bin Dato Paduka Haji Basir who is leaving Myanmar after completion of his tour of duty in Myanmar at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to promotion of existing friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Min Thu, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and other officials. —MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Yangon Airport reopens day after plane skidded off runway

FLIGHT operations returned to normal at the Yangon International Airport from 6 am yesterday, a day after a military transport aircraft skidded off the runway on Thursday.

"The runway at the Yangon International Airport (YIA) has been cleared of all obstructions, and normal flight operations resumed at 6 am," according to a statement released by the airport authorities yesterday.

"However, some delay to flights can still be expected. The YIA encourages all travellers to check for flight updates with their respective airlines," the airport authorities stated.

A military transport aircraft skidded off the runway at the Yangon International Airport on Thursday morning, while preparing for a training flight, resulting in the temporary closure of the runway.

No one was injured, and there was no damage to the plane, according to a news release from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA

Committees meet to discuss centennial of Yangon University

SEVENTEEN working committees under the Yangon University Centenary Ceremony Holding Steering Committee held a coordination meeting at the university yesterday to discuss future tasks for the centennial of the university.

The meeting was chaired by Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, who is also the secretary of the steering committee. The steering committee is led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Speaking at the meeting, the Union Minister called for making arrangements for holding the centennial, meeting the objectives of emerging universities, which meet international standards.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses 2019 Union Tax Bill, CBM reports

AT THE 21st-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 13th regular session held yesterday, Hluttaw representatives discussed 2019 Union Tax Bill and Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) Financial Policy Implementation Report and Financial Stability Report for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.



Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 13th regular session is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Parliamentary delegation trip to attend general assembly of 40th AIPA put on record

First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced a parliamentary delegation trip to attend the general assembly of the 40th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly-AIPA held in Bangkok, Thailand from 25 to 30 August 2019. The 19-member parliamentary delegation consisting of seven Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, five Amyotha Hluttaw representatives and two State/Region Hluttaw representatives was led by Leader of the Advisory Team to Promote Legislative Capacity-Building Pyithu Hluttaw Representative Daw Su Su Lwin. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced further on putting the parliamentary delegation trip on record.



MP U Ohn Lwin of Nyaungdon constituency. **PHOTO: MNA**



MP Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of Bago Region constituency. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses 2019 Union Tax Bill

Next Hluttaw representatives continue the discussion on 2019 Union Tax Bill.

In her discussion Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of Bago Region constituency 3 spoke of businesses facing financial difficulties and tax relaxation during this period would be a remedial action prompting money to flow into the economy increasing total local purchasing power supporting economic development. The money that flow into the economy due to the tax relaxation should be used for investment in basic infrastructure development, job creation and works that support the increase in export.

U Ohn Lwin of Nyaungdon constituency on the other hand cautioned that the tax relaxation could be seen as favoring tax avoiders over honest and regular tax payers who pay their annual taxes. Care must be taken to ensure that tax relaxation moves do not change outlook of regular tax payers making them to see avoiding tax as a better alternative and suggested for this tax relaxation to be the final and the last one.

U Sai Ngaung Sai Hein of Maukmai constituency, U Nyan Lin of Shwepyitha constituency, U Win Htut of Pyapon constituency, U Than Soe (a) Than Soe (Economic) of Yangon Region constituency 4, Daw Wint War Tun of Shadaw constituency, Dr Than Aung Soe of Minhla constituency, U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency, U Kyaw Ni Naing of Shan State constituency 11, U Bo Bo Oo of Sangyaung constituency, U Khin Maung Myint of Kachin State constituency 9 and U Zaw Win of Htantabin constituency also discussed the 2019 Union Tax Bill.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses CBM reports

Afterwards U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency, U Kan Myint of Thayet constituency and U Bo Gyi of Chauk constituency discussed the CBM Financial Policy Implementation Report and Financial Stability Report for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 and 2017-2018.

The 22nd-day meeting of Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 13th regular session will be held on 9 September. — Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Prizes to be given for World Post Day letter writing competition

THE Directorate of Communications under the Ministry of Transport and Communications has announced winners in the 48th English letter writing competition, and the awards will be given on 9th October to mark the 2019 World Post Day.

The annual competition was held under the inspirational theme 'Write a letter about your hero' sent by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) for this year and organized for the young people up to the age of 15.

A total of 2,488 school children participated in the national-level competition which was held on 15th December 2018 at the basic high schools across the country, and it was jointly organized by the Directorate of Communications and the Department of Basic Education under Ministry of Education.

The first prize went to Ma Shun Lei Win of Grade 9 class from CAE Private School in Nay Pyi Taw, the second place to Mg Kyaw San Wai of Grade 10 class from Sittway Township in Rakhine State, the third one to Mg Kaung Htet Thaw of Grade 8 class from Tanai Townsip in Kachin State, and the special prize to Ma Eint Thanzin Oo of Grade 9 at BEHS (1) Dawei in Thaninthayi Region.

The prize-giving ceremony will be held at the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay PyiTaw.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Over 100 year old Thitpok Tree in University of Yangon marked with YHT's blue plaque

OVER 100 year old Thitpok Tree in the University of Yangon campus received the Yangon Heritage Trust's 32nd Blue Plaque and the first blue plaque which commemorates the natural heritage of Yangon yesterday. The tree has been in the campus since University of Yangon was set up in 1920. Thitpok Tree is considered the main icon of University of Yangon, along with the Convocation Hall, Judson Church, the Inya Lake and Gangaw trees (Ironwood).

The installation ceremony is attended by Union Minister for Education, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, the Chief Minister of Yangon Region Government U Phyo Min Thein, the Speaker of Yangon Hluttaw U Tin Maung Tun and distinguished guests. Thitpok (Tetrameles nudiflora. R. Br. Datiscaceae) is a deciduous tree and one of the most well-known trees in Yangon.



Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun sprinkles scented water on the blue plaque of the over 100-year old Thitpok Tree in Yangon University.
PHOTO: THAN HKIKE

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi expressed thanks to the YHT for marking the historic tree with blue plaque which is the sixth plaque of the Ministry of Education.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein expressed delight for the installation of the blue plaque at the tree at a time when the university is receiving renovation to mark its centennial. "Throughout its life, the tree has welcomed and said goodbye to generations of students. It has witnessed student movements since the colonial times. It has featured in literature portraying the university. The tree is not only important to the University of Yangon, which itself will celebrate its centennial in 2020, but also invaluable for the city of Yangon," said the Yangon Heritage Trust in its statement.—Than Htike ■

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko receives Ambassador of Thailand

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko received Ambassador of Thailand Mrs Suphatra Srimaitreephithak at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed collaboration on religious and culture affairs and further cooperation between the two countries. — MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)



Union Minister U Aung Ko holds talks with Mrs Suphatra Srimaitreephithak, Ambassador of Thailand, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations attends 51st ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting



Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun attends the 51st ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting in Bangkok. **PHOTO: MNA**

MYANMAR Delegation led by Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, U Thaung Tun attended the 51st ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting and related meetings in Bangkok.

The opening ceremony of the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting and related meetings were held in the morning of 6th September 2019 at the Shangri-La hotel in Bangkok. Prime Minister of Thailand Prayut Chan-o-cha delivered the opening address and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Commerce, Jurin Laksanawisit spoke words of welcome. The event was attended by Ministers from the ASEAN Member States and delegates and ASEAN Secretary General.

The opening secession was followed by the 33rd ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) Council Meeting, the 22nd ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) Council Meeting and the 51st AEM Meeting.

The Union Minister and delegation also attended the 11th CLMV Economic Ministers' Meeting on 5th September 2019. The meeting discussed matters relating to the CLMV the Framework on CLMV Development.

The Union Minister and delegation will attend the meetings with ASEAN plus 1 Free Trade Partners, dialogue partners - Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Russia and the United States.

The 7th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Ministerial Meeting (7th RCEP MM)will also be held in Bangkok from September 7 to 10. — MNA ■

Education Ministry holds press conference about Mandalay University Students protest

THE Ministry of Education held a press conference yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw about protest camp opened by Mandalay University Students Union since 2 September.

At the press conference, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun explained about the ministry's action on the protest.

The protest was staged as a food court was under construction, which was intended for the attendees to the events of research paper reading and international conferences at Mandalay University.

The Mandalay University Students Union lodged a verbal complaint to the Union Minister at the welcoming conference for the New Generation Outstanding Students Club (Central) held at Mandalay University on 2 August 2019, insisting there were no transparency, rules and procedures in permission of this food court.

As a result, the Ministry of Education formed an investigation body on 6 August, chaired by Mandalay Technological University Rector Dr Sint Soe, University of East Yangon Rector Dr Kyaw Kyaw Khaung, Bago University Rector Dr Aye Aye Tun, Deputy Director-General of Education Ministry Daw Mar Mar Cho.

However, the students organized the protest camp on 2 September. The members of investigation body met with seven protest students at Mandalay University at 9:20 pm on 4th September to discuss the five salient points presented by the students.

The protest students were informed about formation and works of the investigation team, and the formation of an inter-departmental investigation body led by Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun and comprised of Director-General of Department of Myanmar Examinations U Myo Nyunt, and Rector of Mawlamyine University Dr Aung Myat Kyaw Sein as members on 5 September to investigate the complaint about the allegation of inappropriate permission for construction of food court. Mandalay University Rector Dr Thida Win was accused of breaching the directive of the President as she allegedly gave permit for the construction of food court to a businessperson close to her.

After the explanation, the Deputy Minister and officials answered the questions of media persons.

The press conference was also attended by the Directors-General of the Ministry of Education, officials and the invited media organizations.—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Ministry of Education holds press conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Information Minister meets with MRTV staff in Yangon



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint addresses the meeting with Myanmar Radio and Television staffs in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint and Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun visited Myanmar Radio and Television on Pyay Road in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting with the staff members in the Studio (A), the Union Minister said that the meeting aims to know difficulties of staff members and their idea for developing MRTV.

He also suggested the staff members to update their knowledge by learning modern technologies and to provide the best services in their works.

The staff from different divisions at MRTV presented their difficulties, requirements and trainings for modern technologies. The Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung and officials responded to the discussions. The Deputy Minister also advised them to take pride in their works, to develop good teamwork skills in the works of media and to have job satisfaction.

The Union Minister then facilitated and attended to the needs of the staff.

After the meeting, the Union Minister, the Deputy Minister, the Permanent Secretary and officials inspected the broadcasting building, studios and the workplaces in MRTV.—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

71st Founding Anniversary of DPRK celebrated in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin delivers the speech at the reception to mark 71st Founding Anniversary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A CEREMONY to mark 71st Founding Anniversary of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was held at Shwe San Eain Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

It was attended by Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and wife Daw Lwin Lwin Hman, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Airforce) General Mya Tun Oo and wife Daw Thet Thet Aung, Office of Commander in Chief of Defence Services (Army) Lt-Gen Than Tun Oo and wife, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Myint Maw and wife, Ambassador of Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr. Jong Ho Bom and wife, the diplomats and the invited guests.

The attendees stood for the national anthems of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, followed by the extended greetings of Ambassador Mr Jong Ho Bom and Union Minister U Kyaw Tin.

They later posed for documentary photos together with the attendees at the ceremony, and enjoyed the dinner to honour the founding anniversary.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Aung Khin)*

MCC receives four complaints of unfair competition in a year

By Nyein Nyein

THE Myanmar Competition Commission (MCC) has received four complaints of unfair competition in the local market in one year, said U Ko Ko Lay, the director of the commission.

He made the remarks at a media conference, led by U Than Maung, the vice chairman of the Myanmar Competition Commission, held yesterday at the Department of Trade, Export/Import office (Yangon branch), No 228/240, Strand Road, Yangon.

"Since its formation on 31 October, 2018, the competition commission has received four letters of complaint and it has launched an investigation into the complaints. An investigation committee has been formed to look into unfair competition in the market," said U Ko Ko Lay.

"In developing the nation's economy, the entrepreneurs' role is very important, in the sense that they participate in ensuring free and fair competition among businesses," said U Than Maung. "The MCC needs to ensure fair competition in order to strengthen the economy. On the other hand, entrepreneurs must respectfully obey the competition law," he added.

The competition law is not a law that constrains the business community and it is meant for the protection of businesses, said U Aye Han, a member of the MCC. "This law is for the protection of entrepreneurs. It is not a curbing for businesses. We are ensuring entrepreneurs abide by this law," he added.

The competition law prohibits unfair coordination such as price fixing, restricting production, collusion in tendering or auctioning, discrimination among businessmen, denial of supply of products or their sale to other businesses, fixing unfair prices, abusing market dominance, and exchanging secret information such as price among competitors.

Those who violate the competition law will be imprisoned for upto three years, face a fine of upto K15 million, or both.

The Myanmar Competition Commission was formed to implement the competition law, which was enacted in 2015. The commission has the Minister for Commerce as its chairman, besides five representatives from related ministries and another five representatives of lawyers and entrepreneurs. ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Myanmar Competition Commission held a media conference in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: NYEIN NYEIN**

Efforts on to get geographical indication tag for Shwebo Pawsan paddy



Workers harvesting paddy in Wetlet, Shwebo. **PHOTO: MOE THAUK (SHWEBO)**

THE Shwebo Pawsan Rice Producers and Exporters Association (Central) is making efforts to get a geographical indication tag for Shwebo Pawsan, a high-quality rice variety, according to the Agriculture and Market Information Agency (AMIA).

"Five items, including Shwebo Pawsan, have been selected in the preliminary stage for GI designation. Farmers play a vital role in efforts towards GI tagging. Seed production is also required for GI. A seed exporters association has been formed. Next year, seed production will start," the chair of the Shwebo Pawsan Rice Producers and Exporters Association (Central) told AMIA. In order to get a patent for Shwebo Pawsan, the related organizations and farmers are working together to meet quality and GI criteria.

Pawsan rice was previously grown in the Ayeyawady delta region. Now, it is cultivated across the country. There are about 1.3 million acres under Pawsan cultivation every year.

Pawsan varieties vary depending on the region and harvest season.

A GI is a specific intellectual property right that designates a product from a specific region, and whose characteristics result from both the natural conditions of its origin and the expertise of local producers. — AMIA ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Polio vaccination drive to cover 13,567 children in Kyaukme

AN awareness meeting on polio vaccination programs was held at 10 am on 6 September at the Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association hall in Kyaukme Township.

At the event, U Ye Htut Naing, the chair of the Township Management Committee, delivered the opening speech, and Dr Nan Yee Hlaing Oo, the Deputy head of the District Public Health Department, explained the reasons for conducting polio vaccination programs.

Regional polio vaccination programs will be conducted for children under 5. Moreover, 67 teams will administer polio vaccinations to 13,567 children from 10 to 12 September at the village and ward administration offices in Kyaukme Township. —District IPRD ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

Scania buses to ply Yangon circular route from Sept-end; round-trip fare set at K1,000

By Nyein Nyein

A fleet of 39 Scania buses will operate on the Yangon circular route from the Aungmingala Highway Bus Terminal from the end of this month, with a round trip costing K1,000, said U Hla Aung, the Joint Secretary of the Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

He announced the new service at a press conference held on Wednesday at the YRTA head office, located at No65, Manhaung Ward Laydaukkan Road, Tamway Township.

"The YRTA is endeavouring to start the service from the last week of September. The City Transit Company conducted a survey on routes last month, provided training to drivers, and installed telematics and GPS on the buses to ensure smooth transportation for the public. The company also decided to delay the launch of the service to September-end, and the YRTA pushed them to run the service anyway," said U Hla Aung.

With a fleet of 39 Scania buses, the circular service will run from and end at the Aungmingala Highway Bus Terminal, with the round fare set at K1,000, according to the YRTA.

"The circular route will run from Aungmingala to Thanthumar-Botahtaung-Kyimyindine and end at the Aungmingala terminal. The bus fare has been fixed at K500 for a single trip from Aungmingala to Thakhinmya Park, and so, the return trip will also cost the same. The fare for a round trip has been set at K1,000," said U Hla Aung.

"The City Transit Company inspected the routes in August. It is also trying to install bus-stop announcement systems, which would be helpful for commuters, on the Scania buses," he added.

The City Transit Company planned to start Scania buses on the Yangon circular service last month. However, the project took longer as the company had to construct a terminal, said U Hla Aung.

The YRTA is supervising the Yangon Bus Service in the region. As commuters in the commercial hub of Yangon depend on bus services, the YRTA is working to offer better services to the public than the All Private Bus Lines Control Committee.

The YBS was launched on 16 January, 2017, during the incumbent government's term. At present, over 100 bus lines are operating 4,300 buses on about 130 routes, along with the Airport Shuttle. The number of daily commuters has been estimated at 1.8 million.

The YRTA was formed to improve the transport facilities in Yangon for the convenience of the public. Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein was appointed as the patron of the transport authority, while Daw Nilar Kyaw, the Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Industry, and Transportation, was made the Chairwoman.

In April, 2019, the number of members was increased to 22 from 16, with the YRTA appointing the Security and Border Affairs Minister as Vice Chairman 1 and Yangon Mayor as Vice Chairman 2, besides officials from related departments and organizations. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

People shifted from villages, low-lying wards in Shwegyin Town as water level rises

WARDS and villages near Shwegyin and Sittoung rivers in Shwegyin Town, Bago Region, were inundated by river water again on Thursday morning.

The danger mark of Shwegyin River is 700 centimeters, and the Sittoung River is 1,070 centimeters. The water level in Shwegyin River reached 693 centimeters and the Sittoung River crossed the danger mark to reach 1,167 centimeters.

People living in villages along the river bank and low-lying wards were temporarily shifted to their relatives' homes and religious buildings. — Tun Tun Zaw (IPRD)

(Translated by La Wonn)



Houses and buildings get submerged in river water in Shwegyin, Bago Region. **PHOTO: TUN TUN ZAW (IPRD)**

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Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Guidebook published for expats working in Myanmar

By Nyein Nyein

A GUIDEBOOK titled Respecting Myanmar Culture in the Workplace was published on 5 September for expatriates working in Myanmar.

The guidebook aims to help foreigners understand Myanmar culture to prevent cross-cultural misunderstanding in the workplace as well as in the local communities.

The guidebook highlights some topics such as dressing, eating, greetings, and gestures. The illustrations in the guidebook were made by famous Myanmar cartoonist Saya Aw Pikyel.

The guidebook also mentions the importance of learning from and listening to the local people in order to prevent misunderstandings and to achieve greater economic success.

Though the book is focused mainly on developing mutual respect and understanding, foreigners also need to be aware of laws in Myanmar such as labour, health, security, and environmental conservation laws, said officials.

"Responsible investment is respectful investment. Respect for diverse cultures and traditions will undoubtedly contribute to the achievement of the wider goals of our government, including sustainable peace," said U Thaung Tun, the Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

"Minor cultural misunderstandings harbored by foreign employees can escalate into wider grievances, including those with local communities, which can ultimately jeopardize investments. They can also contribute to less motivated and less productive workplaces," said Ms Vicky Bowman, the Director of the Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business (MCRB).



The guidebook has been written in English, Myanmar, and Chinese, and is available on www.dica.gov.mm and www.mcm.org.mm. Japanese, Korean, and Thai versions of the guidebook will also be made available at the end of this year.

The guidebook will be available in DICA's state and region offices. It will be distributed in ministries and organizations, and can also be purchased at the MCRB. The guidebook was developed by the MCRB in partnership with the DICA, with contribution from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Vocational course on bamboo-based handicrafts opens in MraukU Tsp


PHOTO: TOWNSHIP (IPRD)

THE RURAL Development Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Department has launched a bamboo-based handicraft vocational training course in MraukU Town of Rakhine State.

The course is aimed at creating job opportunities for local residents on a manageable scale and to bring about regional development. The course covers production of basic handicraft items such as handbags, tissue boxes, stationery baskets, photo albums, and shopping baskets, according to Daw Moe Moe Thein, a trainer.

At present, three trainers are conducting the course for 50 trainees — 20 men and 30 women. — IPRD ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

Over 3.6 mln acres of monsoon paddy cultivated across Ayeyawady Region

UNDER the supervision of the Regional Agriculture Department, over 3.6 million acres of monsoon paddy is being cultivated in six districts of the Ayeyawady Region in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Of the total area under cultivation, paddy is being grown on 740,417 acres in Pathein District, 529,964 acres in Hinthada District, 521,964 acres in Myaungmya District, 588,580 acres in Labutta District, 384,361 acres in Maubin District, and 868,392 acres in Pyabon District.

Paddy is being cultivated using three methods — direct planting, spreading, and seeding. In the current FY, paddy acreage in the region has risen by 23,111 acres compared with a year ago.


Rain-fed field is put under paddy in, Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG MYINT (IPRD)**

The Ayeyawady Region government is conducting soil lab tests, farmland treatment, distributing pedigree seeds, establishing agri service centres, encouraging the shift to industrialized farming, and raising awareness about growing methods among farmers. — Maung Maung Myint (IPRD) ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

Committees meet to discuss centennial of Yangon University

FROM PAGE-1

"According to the master plan for Yangon University, the Ministry is carrying out tasks in four areas, which include promoting the university with its own charter, establishing a framework which can improve the quality and qualifications offered by the university, encouraging teaching, learning, research, and services through use of modern strategies and approaches, and upgrading the physical features of the university for its sustainable development," said Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi.

He also urged attendees to discuss ways for promoting peace and development of the university through effective implementation of priorities, while the ministry is promoting the use of ICT, development of the university's library and labs, and the upgrade of teaching aids.

Afterwards, the Chief Minister of Yangon Region, U Phyo Min Thein, who is also the joint-secretary of the steering committee, and Dr Pho Kaung, the Rector of the Yangon University, discussed measures being taken by the committee.

Chairmen from the 17 work committees also discussed their respective works, and the committee meeting ended with concluding remarks by Dr Myo Thein Gyi and U Phyo Min Thein.—MNA ■ *(Translated by GNLM)*



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi attends a coordination meeting under the Yangon University Centenary Ceremony Holding Steering Committee at the university in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Nepal chopper makes emergency landing near Buthidaung Township



MI 8 MTV-1 helicopter from Nepal landed near Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State.
PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

A helicopter from Nepal landed on a vacant land between Sitaung and Ye Khaung Chaung villages of Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State, around 11 am yesterday morning, due to a severe weather condition.

The incident happened as the MI 8 MTV-1 helicopter was heading to Indonesia to help extinguish forest fire there.

The permissions to fly over Myanmar airspace and to land at Yangon International Airport have been asked to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Transport and Communications through the Indonesia Embassy in Myanmar. After the weather condition returned to normal, the helicopter took off and arrived at Sittway Airport at 11: 50 am. The Rakhine State's Security and Border Affairs Minister and officials visited the airport and provided necessary assistance to the crew of helicopter, according to the report of Office of Commander in Chief of Defence Services.—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Correction

Please read "FDI into Myanmar reaches $4.1 bln; $1.7 bln needed to meet MIC target" for the headline of the story "FDI into Myanmar reaches ..." on page-11, 6 September Issue of *the Global New Light of Myanmar*.— GNLM ■

Truck overturns after crashing into guard rail

A truck overturned after crashing into a guard rail on Wednesday on the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw road in Hlegu Township, Northern District, Yangon, according to traffic police.

According to witness accounts, at 10:05 pm on Wednesday, the truck carrying a consignment of garments crashed into the guard rail and overturned near Milepost 16/0 after the driver, identified as Tin Maung Soe, 45, lost control of the vehicle. The truck was headed to Nay Pyi Taw from Yangon, and had one passenger on board, identified as Than Han, 54, from South Dagon Township.

Nobody was injured in the accident. The truck had been issued a highway permit by the Ministry of Construction. The highway police have initiated action against Tin Maung Soe, under Section 19 of the highway traffic law. —Naing Lin (Hlegu) ■ *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Narcotic drugs seized in Shan, Kachin states

SECURITY forces confiscated 1,950 kilos of caffeine in Tachilek Township in eastern Shan State on Thursday, while the Anti-Narcotic Task Force arrested 0.66 kilos of heroin and 39,900 stimulant tablets in Momauk Township in Kachin State on the same day.

Acting on a tip-off, the security forces in Tachilek inspected a Hilux car en route from Kyaiklat village to Tarlay town near milepost 22. The driver, identified as Ar Chi, from Wanpon village was arrested with K 100 million worth of 1,000 kilos caffeine.

While a Hilux Vigo car on the same route was tried to stop, the driver, identified as Ar Ro, from Kyaw Aung village of Tarlay town, ran away from the car. However, a live warning shot hit his ankle and got a non-serious injury. He was then arrested with K95 million worth of 950 kilos caffeine smuggled from the other country.



Suspect Nyan Tun Lin (a) San Aung, from Myitkyina Township seen together with seized drugs. **PHOTO: MNA**

Moreover, the Anti-narcotic Task Force stopped a Crown car en route from Lwal Kyal to Momauk at noon on the same day.

The driver, identified as Nyan Tun Lin (a) San Aung, from Myitkyina Township was arrested with K66 million worth of 0.66 kilos heroin in 66 soap cups and K79.8 million worth of 39,900 unlabeled stimulant tablets.

Myanmar Police Force have reported the cases have been filed under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, and the measures are being taken to arrest the related suspects in these cases.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Aung Khin)*

7 SEPTEMBER 2019
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Understanding, resolving environmental issues can help save Inle Lake

THE government has drawn up long-term action plans to preserve Inle Lake, which was designated as Myanmar's first Biosphere Reserve under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme in 2015.

The lake is a natural resource, which helps form an ecological connect between living things and nature, and attracts local and foreign travelers.Hence, we must take measures to prevent the degradation of the lake, which is spread over an area of 63 square miles.

> Regulations against felling of trees in a 20-mile radius of Inlelake must be strictly enforced, and afforestation efforts must be made in the areas. Efforts must also be made to prevent the flow of silt and sediment from four major rivers into the lake.

There are three main factors responsible for the degradation of Inle Lake: deforestation around the lake, increased deposition of silt and sediment in the lake, and degradation of water quality in the lake.

The lake received 36.5 inches of rainfall on average annually from 1992 to 2016. Meanwhile, 29 creeks are flowing into it.

The lake has shrunk in size not only due to low rainfall, but also because of a buildup of sediment, with an estimated 310,000 metric tons of silt entering the lake each year from the creeks flowing through the watershed area.

The conservation and management of Inle Lake involves long term and ongoing measures, which are crucial to practice an integrated approach focusing on biodiversity conservation, preserving the integrity of the lake environment, and improvement of the livelihoods of local communities.

Regulations against felling of trees in a 20-mile radius of Inle Lake must be strictly enforced, and afforestation efforts must be made in the areas. Efforts must also be made to prevent the flow of silt and sediment from four major rivers into the lake.

The local authorities and the Irrigation Department have been dredging drains and removing sediment every year to conserve the lake.

A balance between active participation of local communities and assistance from key stakeholders is crucial for the conservation of the lake.

Conducting research, raising awareness, and organizing local communities to participate in conservation efforts, and adopting effective tasks every financial year must also be prioritized.

Besides, there is need for monitoring and managing systems to evaluate the progress of conservation efforts.

We would like to urge all stakeholders to pull in the same direction with trust, cooperation, and coordination for environmental sustainability.

It is of paramount importance to address the environmental issues as early as possible and build a systematic, holistic, and long-term approach. This will require strong leadership and coordinated efforts of all stakeholders involved – the government, non-governmental organizations, and local communities.

Financing Competency Standards Based Training of Workers

By Lokethar

IT IS generally accepted that occupational competency standards based skills training of workers is likely to better meet employers' needs for skilled workers. Such training should enable the worker to attain competency in the chosen occupation to the extent that their performance will meet required outcomes.

It is up to the employers to provide such training to workers whether On-the-Job in the workplace or in Training Centres operated by Accredited Training Providers. However providing such training will incur some expense to the employer.

Investment in training of workers by employers will of course yield benefits to the employers in that the quality of performance of the workers will increase. The trained skilled worker is more likely to attain the specific standards of performance required as well as lessen the cost of wastage and rework.

As the training of workers will benefit the employer, it is logical that the employer should bear the cost as well. However many employers are reluctant to invest in having their workers systematically trained and certified as they are afraid that the certified worker will leave their employment for better pay offered by other employers.

It is true that systematic training and certification raises the "worth" of the worker; and so the competitors are willing to pay more for the trained and certified worker. If that is so the current employers may lose their trained workers. Such "job-hopping" of course is linked to the availability of the certified skilled workers in the labour market. More certified skilled workers will translate in to "less job-hopping".

Job-hopping also depends on the "Employee Retention Strategy" of the current employers. That is, how willing the employers are to invest in hiring, employing, retaining and developing the skills of workers in their employment. This is particularly true of highly skilled workers who, when they leave, would incur much cost to the employer concerned in retraining new workers.



Skilled workers and technicians conduct training for new workers at the Construction Ministry's Central Training School (Thuwunna), Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

> The trained skilled worker is more likely to attain the specific standards of performance required as well as lessen the cost of wastage and rework.

The solution that many countries have adopted is for the employers to collectively share the cost of training of the skilled workers. This is done through imposing a system of "levies" on the employers through enacting legislation by the parliament, and setting up a "Skills Development Fund" or the like of it. In fact several countries in ASEAN, and many countries beyond are currently practicing the system.

The 2013 Employment and Skills Development Law of Myanmar prescribes such a system and the setting up of a "Skills Development Fund". It requires a "levy" to be imposed on the employer which may vary from 0.5% to 2% (depending on the Type and Size of the Enterprise) of the monthly wage bill of the skilled workers employed. The levy is to deposited in to the "Skills Development Fund" Account, held in a Government or Private Bank, to be administered by the responsible Ministry or Agency.

In some countries the Governments initially contributes the "Seed Money" to the fund. This of course has to be through appropriate Government budget allocation. The employers pay in the "levy" into the fund monthly, depending on the wage bill of the skilled workers. The legislation may authorize donations to the fund by corporate bodies and organizations, local and foreign, as well as by individuals.

The employers who systematically train of workers at the workplace or send the workers to training schools or centres operated by Accredited Training Providers recognized by the Skills Development Fund Authority can reclaim, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the reimbursement, the cost of such training from the "Skills Development Fund".

■ ■ ■

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 6th September, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 07th September, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, scattered in Mandalay Region and Northern Shan State, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw and Chin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavyfalls in Bago Region, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and isolated heavyfalls in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (9 –13) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 07th September, 2019: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 07th September, 2019: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 07th September, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Naypyitaw, widespread in Yangon Region and scattered in Mandalay Region.

Protected together: A powerful strategy to preserve health, protect dignity and save lives when emergency strikes

By Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh
Regional Director,
South -East Asia Region,
WHO

ON 26 December 2004, a magnitude 9.1 earthquake struck the ocean floor off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia. The earthquake then triggered a tsunami that rumbled out across the Indian Ocean and onto the coastlines of surrounding countries. Almost 200 000 people were killed; at least five million were affected.

Owing to its sheer scale, the Indian Ocean tsunami looms large in the WHO South-East Asia Region's collective memory. It has also loomed large in how the Region approaches all-hazard emergency risk management and response: to prevent and manage public health emergencies, we must manage risks, and to manage risks, we must identify and remedy vulnerabilities.



Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh

That approach has seen the Region become a global leader in the field. The Region's 12 benchmarks of emergency preparedness and response, for example, are a one-of-a-kind initiative. So too is the South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund (SEARHEF), which now aims to strengthen preparedness, not just response.

Since 2014, when emergency risk management became one of the Region's Flagship Priorities, Member States have made strong gains. All 11 now conduct annual assessments of core capacities as they relate to the International Health Regulations (IHR). Almost all have successfully completed Joint External Evaluations – a key means of identifying and remedying vulnerabilities. The Asia Tripartite, which is comprised of WHO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Organization for Animal Health (OIE), has formalized operations. It is working with Member States Region-wide to secure vulnerabilities at the human-animal-ecosystems interface.

We have come a long way. We have a long way to go. As outlined in several key instruments, from WHO's new General Programme of Work to the Global Health Security Agenda, identifying, mitigating and responding to threats requires ongoing vigilance and the scaling up of capacities to achieve full IHR compliance – the gold standard for securing health in the face of evolving threats.

On that score, the Delhi Declaration, which was just issued at the Seventy-second session of the Regional Committee, and its accompanying five-year Strategic Plan, will fill a crucial need. Not only will the Declaration and Plan ensure the Region's momentum is sustained, and that it is aligned with the global drive to achieve full IHR compliance and better protect 1 billion more people from health emergencies by 2024, but they will also spur accelerated progress, especially as it relates to the Region's own path-breaking innovations. As the Declaration is applied, and the Plan is implemented, Member States must act on each of the 'four I's' outlined therein.

That means, first, continuing to IDENTIFY risks. While all Member States have already participated in comprehensive risk mapping as documented in the Regional Office's Roots for Resilience publication – ongoing monitoring is crucial. This is particularly important as climate change proceeds, and as the hazards Member States face evolve, including from the density and spread of disease vectors or the frequency of natural disasters such as cyclones and flooding. Complacency is not an option.

Second, Member States should further INVEST in people and systems for risk management. The capacities of national IHR focal points, for example, should be enhanced by leveraging the newly created Regional Knowledge Network of IHR NFP+ – an online platform designed to facilitate peer-to-peer learning. Likewise, the capacities of Emergency Medical Teams should be augmented and standardized as per WHO's quality assurance and accreditation system. Health systems infrastructure can meanwhile be fortified by attending to both structural and non-structural factors.

Third, Member States must develop and IMPLEMENT national action plans for health security (NAPHS). To their credit, five Member States (Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand) have already devised and costed an NAPHS and are rolling it out. Other Member States are expected to do the same in the coming year. As this happens, it is imperative that reliable funding is secured, including via increased government allocations, as well as – where appropriate – through public-private partnerships.

And fourth, together we must better INTERLINK sectors and networks to close gaps and maximize buy-in. Intersectoral coordination mechanisms such as the Asia Tripartite are crucial to building bridges across sectors, and to ensuring that human, animal and environmental health are addressed together. As part of this, collaborative partnerships with the non-government, private and academic sectors should be actively pursued, ensuring the whole of society is mobilized and engaged.

As a Region, we cannot afford anything less. We know the risks. We are aware of the costs. And we now have the Delhi Declaration and Strategic Plan to build on our progress and scale up emergency preparedness and response capacities Region-wide. Though we cannot always anticipate an acute event, we can ensure that we are protected together before it transpires. In doing so, we can continue to preserve health, protect dignity and save lives when emergency strikes.

■ ■ ■

N. Korea seeks reduction of UN aid staff in country

NEW YORK — North Korea has urged the United Nations to scale back its workforce in the country by the end of the year, a spokesman of the U.N. Secretary General said Thursday.

Spokesman Stephane Dujarric admitted in a daily press briefing that the United Nations received the letter dated Aug. 21. In the letter, North Korea calls for reduced staff presence for U.N. organs such as the United Nations Development Program and the United Nations Children's Fund.

"We're in dialogue with the government at this point," the spokesman said, adding that over 2 million people in North Korea received humanitarian aid in 2018 through the international body and non-governmental organizations.

To maintain the current level is "vital for ensuring continued U.N. support for critical food security, water, nutrition programming, as well as mobilizing resources," Dujarric said.

According to Reuters, North Korea said in the written letter that U.N. aid programs failed "due to the politicization of U.N. assistance by hostile forces."

North Korea has been under strict sanctions by the U.N. Security Council over its nuclear and missile programs. —Kyodo News ■



People visit Pyongyang's Mansu Hill, where statues of former North Korean leaders — the country's founder Kim Il Sung (L) and his son Kim Jong Il — stand, on Aug. 25, 2019, the Day of Songun, a national holiday commemorating the beginning of the military-first policy adopted by Kim Jong Il. **PHOTO : KYODO NEWS**

Taliban supporters cheer US withdrawal plans

KANDAHAR — Taliban loyalists are cheering the prospect of a deal with the US that after 18 years of gruelling conflict will see "defeated" American "invaders" finally go home.

While details of the deal have not been announced, it is widely expected the Pentagon will slash its troop presence in Afghanistan in return for various Taliban commitments.

AFP spoke to several Taliban fighters and supporters in and around Kandahar — the southern Afghan province that is the birthplace of the Islamist movement and a key stronghold.

'Islamic values'

Mohammad Manzoor Hussaini, who previously fought for the Taliban, was until two years ago hiding out in Pakistan but returned to Kandahar as the group's influence strengthened.

All Afghans want is a peace founded on "Islamic values,'' he said, using the same stock phrase the Taliban have used in talks with the United States.

The term is seen as contentious because it is open to broad interpretation, and the Taliban are known for pushing some of the most extreme views of the Islamic faith, including an almost total denial of all freedoms for women.

"Afghans wish for peace, moreover they want a dignified peace based on Islamic values, and peace among all Afghans," Hussaini said.

"Afghans should trust each other, and should be honest to each other, and should not pay attention to any foreigners".

But if things are handled poorly, the war could go on for another 20 years and spread to other countries too, Hussaini warned. — AFP ■



(FILE) US troops in Afghanistan. **PHOTO: AFP**

US states announce antitrust probe of Facebook



(FILE) This file photo taken on November 20, 2017 shows logos of US online social media and social networking service Facebook. **PHOTO: AFP**

WASHINGTON — A coalition of US states announced Friday an antitrust investigation of Facebook to determine if the social media giant has hindered competition and put users at risk.

New York state Attorney General Letitia James released a statement announcing the action on behalf of seven other states and the District of Columbia.

The move marks the first official US antitrust action against one of the so-called Big Tech companies — although a landmark case had targeted Microsoft back in the 1990s.

"Even the largest social media platform in the world must follow the law and respect consumers," James said.

"We will use every investigative tool at our disposal to determine whether Facebook's actions may have endangered consumer data, reduced the quality of consumers' choices, or increased the price of advertising."

Joining the action were attorneys general of Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, according to James.

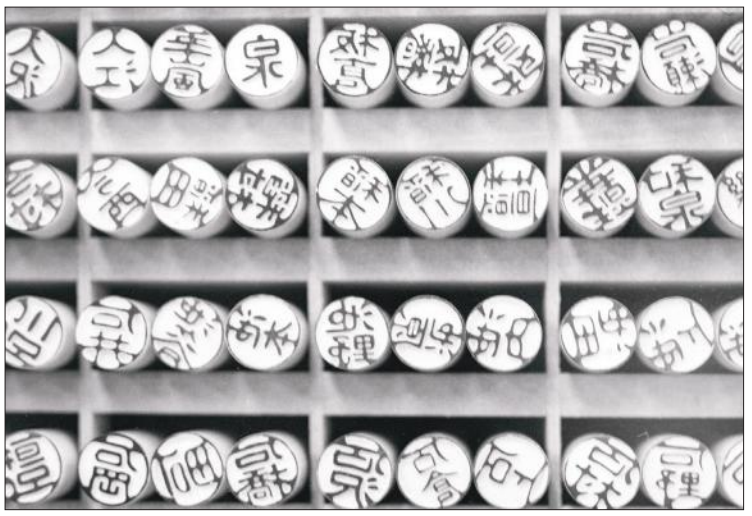
Facebook did not immediately respond to an AFP query on the announcement.

Earlier this year, the US Justice Department said it would launch a "review" of major online platforms to determine if they have stifled innovation or reduced competition.

It was not immediately clear if the states would be working in coordination with federal officials.

Facebook, by far the largest social network, in the past has claimed it is not a monopoly and that consumers have many choices for how to connect with people online.— AFP ■

Japan gov't to use "family name first" order in alphabet in documents



File photo shows Japanese name stamps. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

TOKYO — The government on Friday decided to follow the family-name-first order when using the Roman alphabet to write Japanese names in official documents, in a break from the long tradition of reversing it in line with other languages such as English.

"In a globalized world, it has become increasingly important to be aware of the diversity of languages that humans possess. It's better to follow the Japanese tradition when writing Japanese names in the Roman alphabet," education minister Masahiko Shibayama said at a press conference. Shibayama proposed the idea and won approval from his fellow Cabinet ministers at their meeting on Friday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said details still need to be worked out but the government will step up preparations for making the change.

Critics doubt whether that change is necessary and note Japanese are used to writing their given name first when using a foreign language such as English. The practice began in the 19th to early 20th centuries amid the growing influence of western culture.

Shibayama is not the only member of the Cabinet of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to call for an end to reversing the name order.—Kyodo News ■

City of hope rises from Madagascar garbage site

ANTANANARIVO — When he was six, Liva spent his days rummaging around an enormous landfill overlooking the hills of Madagascar's capital Antananarivo.

"You couldn't tell the humans from the pigs and dogs," he recalled. Thirty years later, Liva Louis de Gonzagues teaches mathematics.

He says he owes his salvation to Father Pedro — a beloved Catholic figure who has helped to lift thousands of Malagasy out of misery.

Fr. Pedro's association, Akamasoa, has constructed a town on a rubbish dump, making it a sanctuary, and built dozens of schools in neglected villages, providing education for children.

Pope Francis — who is touring Madagascar this week as part of his second trip to sub-Saharan Africa — is expected to stop at the town on Sunday as part of his visit.

Pedro created Akamasoa — which means "good friends" in Malagasy — three decades ago.

The town it built on landfill on the outskirts of the capital Antananarivo has grown into a home, which locals dub "Cite Akamasoa," for more than 25,000 people. Its small pastel houses seem drawn from a fairy tale.

Liva considers Pedro "the arm of God."

"Under my feet used to be the dump," he said, walking along a neatly paved street lined with jacaranda trees.

But stench and flies are a staunch reminder of the rubbish piled up nearby, which is many metres (feet) thick.—AFP ■



Hope from despair: The town built on rubbish. **PHOTO: AFP**

Afghanistan's women pioneers fearful as US-Taliban deal looms

KABUL — The historic deal between the US and the Taliban leaves unresolved the fate of Afghan women, whose fragile gains could come under threat as the brutally repressive insurgents seek to expand their influence.

Strictly patriarchal Afghanistan has long been one of the world's worst places for women, but for a relatively small group — mainly in urban cores like Kabul — key freedoms such as education and the right to work proliferated after the Taliban fell in 2001.

AFP spoke to several pioneering women around the Afghan capital who have deep fears about what comes next.

'The Taliban have not changed'.

Suraya Pakzad directs a women's empowerment group and runs various shelters, educational centres and job training workshops across Afghanistan.

She notes that Afghan women have scored tremendous advances in the past 17-plus years, including in politics and business. But for her, the coming months pose a grave danger. And once again, it is mainly men who are deciding women's fate.—AFP ■



24-year-old artist and designer Zahra in Kabul is one of many Afghan women who fear what a deal between the US and the Taliban will bring. **PHOTO: AFP**

Coffee and quacks served up at Chengdu duck cafe

CHENGDU — Crowds in a Chinese eatery ignore their drinks to gather adoringly around four fluffy white ducks, phones poised ready for pictures, at the latest addition to the country's growing list of popular animal cafes.

"Hey! We go", a business in the centre of the southwestern city of Chengdu, is proving perfect fodder for the social media-savvy generation.

The four call ducks — a domesticated breed imported from Europe — can retail for the hefty price of 10,000 yuan (RM5,800) per duck.

But the cafe's star attractions are not for sale, and waddle around from table to table to the delight of customers.

For 78 yuan, patrons can spend up to 90 minutes with the ducks, which appear unflustered as they are held up in front of cameras and smartphones for duck-selfies.

"They're really fun and very obedient — not like those swimming ducks, they're not obedient," said customer BBQ Suen, a university student who said she came immediately to visit the cafe after reading about it online.

The 26-year-old Luo Yaochi co-founded the popular duck cafe with three others, and said the idea sparked when he recently raised his own pet duck.

"Everyone loves ducks," he told AFP.

Visitors to the cafe can also spend time with the newest arrivals — two miniature "teacup pigs", who are also residents of the cafe, and fit neatly inside a pink miniature shopping trolley. —AFP ■

Zimbabwe ex-president Mugabe dies aged 95

HARARE — Robert Mugabe, who led Zimbabwe with an iron fist from 1980 to 2017, has died aged 95, the country's president announced Friday.

First heralded as a liberator who rid the former British colony of Rhodesia of white minority rule, Mugabe used repression and fear to hold on to power in Zimbabwe until he was finally ousted by his previously loyal military generals.

"It is with the utmost sadness that I announce the passing on of Zimbabwe's founding father and former President... Robert Mugabe," Emmerson Mnangagwa said in a tweet.

"Mugabe was an icon of liberation, a pan-Africanist who dedicated his life to the emancipation and empowerment of his people. His contribution to the history of our nation and continent will never be forgotten."

Mugabe had been battling ill health, and his humiliating fall from office in November 2017, his stamina seeped away rapidly. He was hospitalised in Singapore for months for an undisclosed ailment, Mnangagwa had confirmed earlier this year.

No further details were immediately available about the circumstances of his death, or where he died. The Mugabe years are widely remembered for his crushing of political dissent, and policies that ruined the economy.

The former political prisoner turned guerrilla leader swept to power in the 1980 elections after a growing insurgency and economic sanctions forced the Rhodesian government to the negotiating table. In office, he initially won international plaudits for his declared policy of racial reconciliation and for extending improved education and health services to the black majority.

But that faded as rapidly as he cracked down on opponents, including a campaign known as Gukurahundi that killed an estimated 20,000 dissidents.—AFP ■



Mugabe was an intellectual who initially embraced Marxism before becoming an icon of African independence. **PHOTO: AFP**

Cameroon opposition leader goes on trial in military court



Maurice Kamto, leader of the Cameroonian opposition party Movement for the Rebirth of Cameroon (MRC) faces rebellion charges. **PHOTO: AFP**

YAOUNDÉ — Cameroon's main opposition leader Maurice Kamto, who was runner-up in last year's presidential election, on Friday goes to trial in a military court on insurrection charges that have sparked international outcry.

Kamto and dozens of political allies and supporters face charges of insurrection, hostility to the motherland and rebellion, crimes which could carry the death penalty.

His trial will go ahead despite repeated protests from France, the United States and the European Union, who have been calling for his release from detention for eight months.

"There is no justification for Mr Kamto and his supporters to have been incarcerated for eight months in these conditions," their French lawyer Antoine Vey told AFP. "None of them took part in acts of violence, none called for acts of violence or rebellion, there is no reason for their arrest other than a political motive."—AFP ■

North Carolina faces 'long night' as Dorian's Bahamas toll rises

CHARLESTON/MARSH HARBOUR — North Carolina braced for a "long night" of strong winds and driving rain as Hurricane Dorian moved near the US state's coast Friday after devastating the northern Bahamas, where it left at least 30 people dead and thousands homeless.

Authorities in the state of Florida — which was largely spared by the storm — blamed six more deaths on the hurricane, US media reported, though they occurred as the victims were preparing for the storm's arrival or were evacuation-related.

"Dorian should remain a powerful hurricane as the center moves near or along the coast of North Carolina," the Miami-based National Hurricane Center (NHC) said Friday morning, after downgrading it to a Category 1 storm.

It warned that although weakening, the hurricane was still packing winds of 150km/h, with some areas of the Carolina coast forecast to see dangerous storm surges of up to 2.1 meters and between six and 12 inches of rain. "We know we're in for a long night and we'll be eager to see the sunshine in the morning," North Carolina's Governor Roy Cooper told CNN on Thursday night.

The slow-moving monster storm also spawned several tornadoes but there were no immediate reports of casualties.—AFP



Waves crash as Hurricane Dorian make its way to Cape Hatteras in North Carolina, which the state's governor warned is facing a "long night" from the storm. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Opposition says Kremlin 'stacking deck' in Saint Petersburg vote

SAINT PETERSBURG – A gaffe-prone acquaintance of President Vladimir Putin is expected Sunday to sail to victory in the Saint Petersburg gubernatorial vote in the absence of opposition following a controversial campaign.

The main competitor of the acting city chief Alexander Beglov, Vladimir Bortko of the Communist Party, suddenly withdrew his candidacy a week before the vote.

"I don't want to play these games," said the 73-year-old prominent Soviet-era filmmaker.

"There are five aces in the deck," he said. Russians will vote in local polls across the country on Sunday, including in gubernatorial elections in 16 regions.

But the race for the governor's seat in Saint Petersburg has been the most controversial campaign outside Moscow where tens of thousands protested against the exclusion of opposition candidates from the ballot this summer.– AFP ■

Lebanon envoy summoned over anti-Turkey 'provocations'

ANKARA – Turkey's foreign ministry summoned the Lebanese ambassador after protesters unfurled an anti-Turkish banner on its embassy in Beirut, state media reported on Friday.

The meeting with Ambassador Ghassan Mouallem on Thursday came several hours after a small group of Lebanese protesters hung out the banner, which featured an image of death mixed with the Turkish flag. In Ankara, the foreign ministry denounced "these provocative acts" to the ambassador and called for quick action to protect Turkish interests in Lebanon, according to news agency Anadolu. It said the banner had been put on the Turkish embassy by supporters of Lebanese President Michel Aoun. It also comes several days after Aoun triggered anger in Turkey by referring to the "state terrorism" of the former Ottoman Empire in a ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of Lebanese independence. – AFP ■

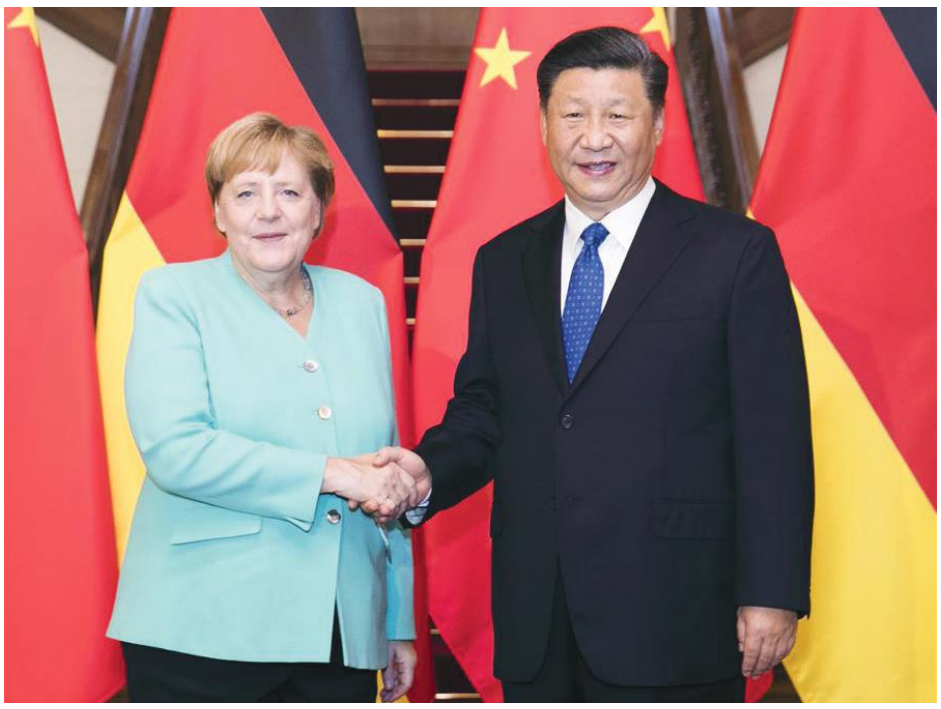
China will match words with deeds to expand opening up: Xi

BEIJING — Chinese President Xi Jinping said Friday that China will match its words with deeds to expand opening up.

Xi made the remarks when meeting with visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Beijing.

"The Chinese market is large enough and will grow larger as China develops," said Xi.

Xi said China's greater opening up is gradually extending from the manufacturing sector to financial and service sectors, which will bring more new opportunities to Germany and the rest of the world. —Xinhua ■



Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Beijing, capital of China, 6 September 2019. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

S Korea's two major cities pass bill to boycott "war crime" firms

SEOUL — South Korea's two largest metropolises on Friday each adopted an ordinance labelling as "war crime companies" certain Japanese firms over their purported use of forced labor or production of military supplies during World War II.

The legislative body of the southern port city of Busan passed its measure in the morning, becoming the first municipality in the country to do so, and the Seoul Metropolitan Council of the capital followed suit in the afternoon.

Their decisions come as bilateral ties are increasingly strained over historical and territorial disputes. It is unclear how the ordinances will be applied in the future and whether they will have an actual impact on the companies concerned.

Under the nonbinding ordinances, 284 Japanese companies including Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. are to be given the designation, with the mayors and other officials of the cities being requested not to purchase products from them in the future.

In the case of Busan, there is also a provision that stickers saying "product of a war crime company" be attached to products that have already been purchased.

The Japanese firms are on a list, drawn up in 2012 by the South Korean prime minister's office, of companies it said committed "war crimes" against Koreans.—Kyodo News ■



Photo shows the Busan city council in South Korea. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ANGEL VOY. NO. (0179-509W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI ANGEL VOY. NO. (0179-509W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 07-09-2019 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.

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Tokyo's famed Okura hotel gets Olympic makeover

TOKYO — The original Okura Hotel hosted US presidents and was also the accommodation of choice for fictional superspy James Bond.

Tokyo's famous Okura Hotel, which has hosted US presidents, British royalty and even fictional superspy James Bond, offered a peek at its rebuilt interior Friday as it prepares for its grand re-opening.

The beloved hotel was torn down in 2015 despite a passionate campaign to preserve it and is poised to open again next week after an extensive modernisation and renovation just in time for the 2020 Olympics.

Located on a hill in central Tokyo just across from the US embassy, the hotel has welcomed American leaders Richard Nixon and Barack Obama, as well as Britain's Prince Charles and Princess Diana.

It was the obvious choice of lodgings for 007 while in Japan, as proved by Ian Fleming's novel "You Only Live Twice."

Reporters were offered a sneak preview ahead of the September 12 re-opening, revealing nods to the past in the lobby that will delight nostalgics in terms of the general style and parts of the furniture such as the famous hotel lanterns.

But the rest has been revamped in a sober but modern fashion dominated by wood, aiming at foreigners who lap up the minimalist Japanese style.—AFP ■



The original Okura Hotel hosted US presidents and was also the accommodation of choice for fictional superspy James Bond. **PHOTO: AFP**

Floods, landslides kill five, leave three missing in Viet Nam

HANOI — Floods and landslides, sparked by heavy rain in Viet Nam over the past few days, have killed five people, and left three others missing.

As of Thursday afternoon, the floods and landslides had claimed three human lives in central Ha Tinh province, one in central Quang Binh province and one in northern Lao Cai province, the country's National Committee for Disaster Response and Search and Rescue said on Friday.

Of the three people listed as missing by Thursday afternoon, two are in Lao Cai province and one in Quang Binh province.

A recent tropical depression has resulted in heavy rain in central provinces from Nghe An to Quang Tri, causing partial flooding in many localities, according to the committee.

Viet Nam is one of the countries most affected by natural disasters and climate change, according to the United Nations Development Program. It faces six or seven typhoons every year on average. —Xinhua ■

Wooden Ornamental Backdrops of Thrones of Myanmar Artistic Handiwork

By **Maung Thar** (Archaeology)

"DAGE" defined in Myanmar Dictionary as the backdrop of a throne is Myanmar traditional artistic handiwork of wood carving and decorative work of floral arabesque in relief with stucco. In Myanmar architecture, 'Suu-lit-mun-chun" called finials used to be made of wood, stone, cement, gold, silver, brass or iron. Myanmar architects usually shape finials in various ways such as relief, figure or statue in the round, as well as sculpt motifs of ogre, garuda, kinnara, Indra/ Sakka, peacock, elephants and lion in floral arabesque.

Out of these finials, wooden ornamental backdrops of Myanmar traditional handiwork can be found mostly in religious edifices such as pagodas, stupas, temples, monasteries and roofs of terraced streets across the country. "Dage" is called "Palin Dage" in combination with "Palin" which is defined in Myanmar Dictionary as the high seat made for noble ideals to sit. Accordingly, "Dage" is the ornamental backdrop of a throne decorated with floral arabesque.

"Palin Dage" consists of 12 parts, namely, lion, flying elephant, deity revered by the world, fan made of peacock tail feathers, net-like ornamentation on each side of Lion throne, Dagar Taing, Indra/Sakka, Kinnara, Virtuous Deva, stylized figure resembling a lion with flowing mane, Lotus, Floral motif on either side of the Indra figure on the upper part of the Myanmar throne. Lion is mostly sculpted on the lower part of the throne.

In addition to wooden ornamental backdrop of a throne, "Mok-kat Dage" / backdrops attached to the entrance of Ceti and pagoda can be found. ဖုိ "Mok" is descended from Pali ဖဝ meant for the entrance. There can be seen cement ornamental backdrops at the places of arched ones at the upper parts of the entrances. Cement ornamental backdrops decorated with floral arabesques and lotus flowers are fastened at the window and doors of the entrance as "Mok-kat Dage".

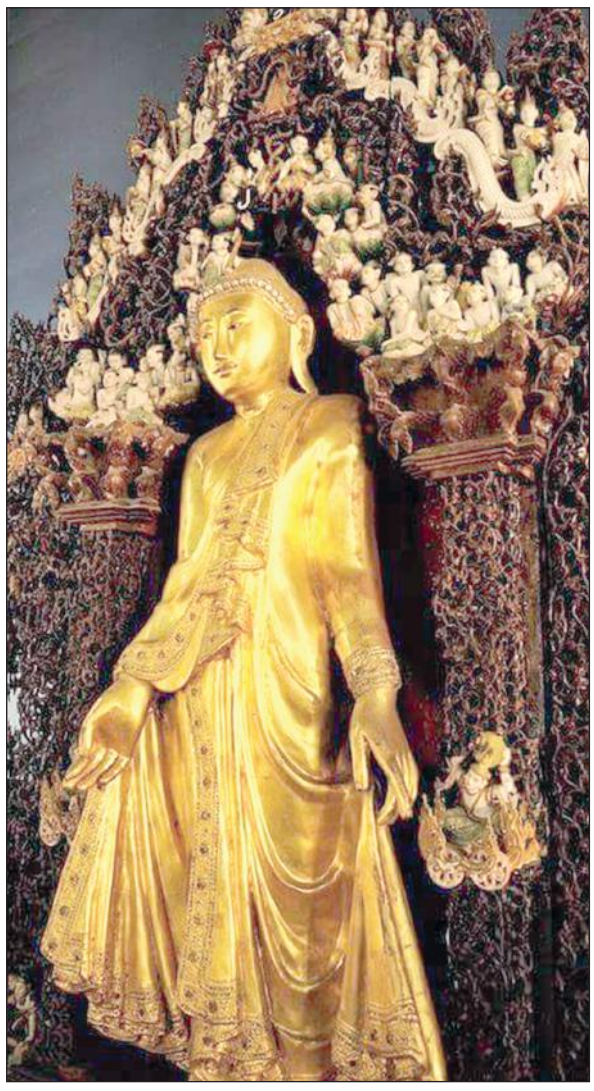
"Mok-Dages/ornamental backdrops attached to entrances" of ancient monasteries were mostly made of wood and in floral arabesques of those backdrops statues of Indra/ Sakka, Deva, Peacock and others were sculpted. The plots of Jakata/ Buddha's life stories and Niparta/birth stories of Buddha had been described in floral arabesques in those wooden ornamental backdrops of thrones made of 5 layers of planks of wood. These were delicate Myanmar Traditional Artistic handiworks. Now that most of the wooden backdrops of thrones made in the Eras of Bagan, Innwa and Nyaungyan had fallen to decay we can mostly see those of Konbaung Era's handiworks presently.

Ornamental backdrops of thrones in statues in the round and those in relief

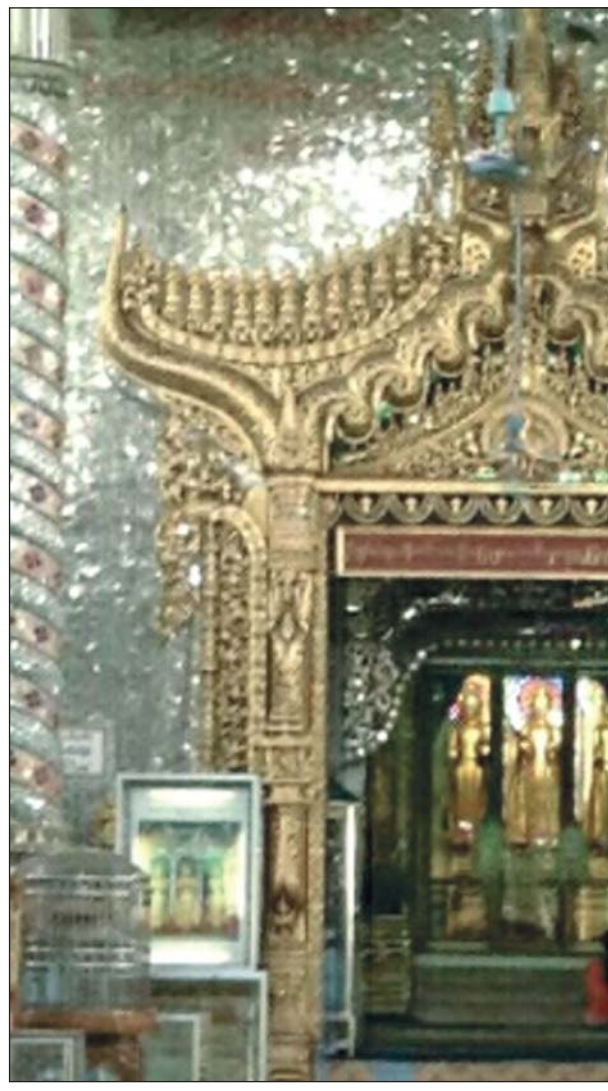
In wooden ornamental backdrops of thrones, statues used to be sculpted in the round, in relief and in arched forms. Statues in the round can be seen from 6 directions—left and right, in front and from backward & upward and downward. Statues in relief cannot be seen from all 6 directions likewise statues in the round but they are remarkably prominent as the former ones. Arched statues are the sculpted ones so that they can be made visible from the front side only whereas statues in the round have been sculpted so that the whole can be viewed in detail. Statues in relief and arched ones are usually sculpted attached to the places they are to be placed.

The ornamental backdrops of thrones with floral arabesques sculpted statues in the round, in relief and arched statues on wood differ in decoration depending upon the time and places. Since prior to the Konbaung Era, wooden and ornamental cement backdrops had been sculpted, those of Konbaung Era's handiwork had been full of delicate description, hence becoming the most artistic handiwork.

Out of the holy ornamental backdrops of the thrones decorated by making in layers "Shwegu Dagetaw" in Pakkoku is famous and always crowded with those who come to view. The original holy Dagetaw at "Thihoshin" Pagoda was the one of extremely artistic handiwork but it was burnt to the ground. Thus, today we can view its photograph only.



Buddha statue and world famous backdrop of throne being seen in Shew Ku Pagoda. **PHOTO: MAUNG THA(ARCHAEOLOGY)**



Wooden ornamental backdrop of Thihoshin Pagoda in Pakokku. **PHOTO:MAUNG THA(ARCHAEOLOGY)**

Pakkoku in Magway Region is the second largest town where there are famous Dages situated.

Located on the west bank of the Ayeyawady River, Pakkoku Township touches the borders of Myaing, Yesagyo, Nyaung U, Hseikphyu and Pauk townships. 75 miles far from south west of Mandalay abounds with religious edifices and monastic Buddhist literature teaching schools. "Thihoshin alias Payagyi" "Shwegu Pagoda" and "Shwe Mokehtaw Pagoda" are the famous pagodas in downtown area of Pakkoku, as is the "Shwe Tant Tit Pagoda" in the township.

Two holy ornamental backdrops of Thihoshin Pagoda

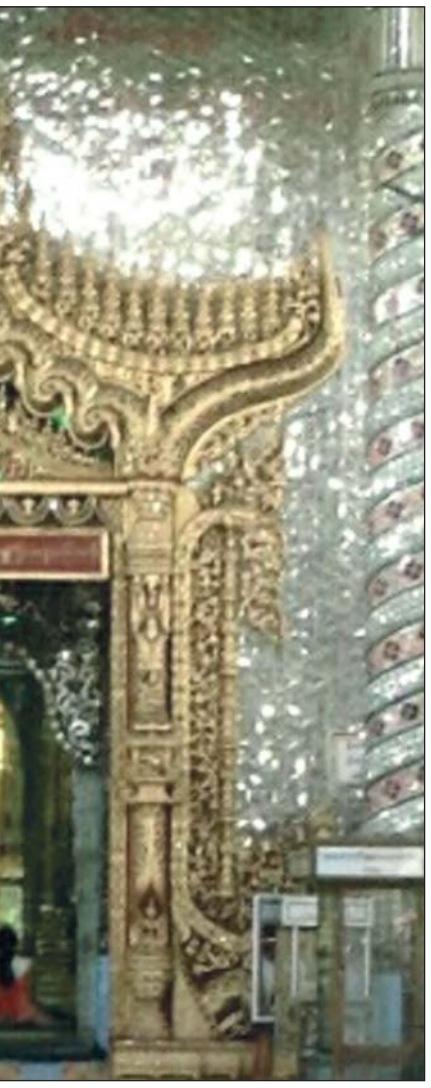
"Thihoshin Pagoda" in Pakkoku is the Buddha Statue donated by King Alaung Sithu in AD 1117. King Asoka had the holy wood 'Dakkhina Tharkhar Maha Bodhi' which was presented by King Thiho/ Ceylon/ Sri Lanka sculpted, hence naming after 'Thihoshin Pagoda'. At the Thihoshin Pagoda there are 3 Buddha images, one donated by King Alaung Sithu and the other two by the village-head.

Till 1964, Thihoshin Pagoda had holy wooden ornamental backdrops of thrones, with the eastern one situated at the entrance to the 3 Standing Buddha Statues and the western one behind the said 3 Statues. In April 1964, the two 'Dages' were burnt to the ground, together with 'Ganda Gudi/ special chamber for the use of Buddha and roofed passage of 'Thihoshin Pagoda'. In place of the burnt 'Dages' the new one had been built with the present day's architectural handiwork, standing as a grandeur.

The original eastern 'Dage' sculpted beautifully with finials had been as if hanging a big festoon to worship the Buddha by beings, deities and Brahma. It was sculpted on the full moon day of Waso, 1275 ME, by the sculptors named U Kan Gyi and son U Tay. The donors were U San Hla and wife Daw Kyu of Mezaligon Village of Pakkoku Township who commissioned U Kan Gyi and U Tay to have sculpted it, at kyat 1000 charge of service rendered.

It took the two sculptors one year to have sculpted the 'Dage' in the form of a festoon by combing 3 logs of Yamanay wood/Gmelina Arborea, on which plots of Buddha's life—from preaching Dhamma Cekka Sutta to the Demise of Buddha were shaped in nearly 1000 figures in the round, in relief and in arched form of those including the King, the Queen, deities, Indra and Celestial Beings.

The western 'Dage' of the 'Thihoshin Pagoda' was donated by Daw Ein Min, Poedan Street in Pantaw Quarter of Pakkoku, who commissioned U Kan Gyi



ad U Tay as well, at the charges—3000 kyats. It took 3 years to finish sculpting it, completing on the full moon day of Tabaung, 1271 ME. On 8 floral layers made on one log of Yamanay wood, out of 25 scenes in total, acts of renunciation of the world in Buddha's Life & acts of Vidura Zat Taw the sculptors sculpted, 15 in the left and 10 in the right part. Amaegyioh U Aung Sein, the famous writer made Shwe Mann U Tin Maung play the act by looking at these sculptures, it was learnt.

Shweku Dage

The world-famous backdrop of a throne in which most visitors from home and abroad are greatly interested, has been restored in the glass box in the eastern part of the special chamber of Shweku Buddha Statue.

The wooden ornamental backdrop made of Yamanay wood with 5 feet 10 inches in length, 12 feet 10 inches in height and 8 inches in width is situated behind the Standing Buddha Statue of 5 feet 2 inches in height. Dagetaw on which 136 sculptures and 18 animal images had been sculpted on 8 tiers has exquisite handiworks.

The sculptors of the Shweku Dage were U Kan Gyi and his son. In the record, "Shwe Ku Dagetaw of the wonders of the world" posted nearby, it has been recorded that the sculptors who had been commissioned to make it accepted 4000 pieces of silver coins on 3rd Waning Day of Tabaung Month, 1269 ME, taking over 4 years period to make it, by linking with 5 pieces of logs.

Donors of this Dage were U Hinngar & wife Daw Zee Zan, their daughters Mae Thit & Mae Myit who resided in building no 575 of Kyaungtawyar Street, Old Market, in Pakokku. On the left floral arabesque of Shweku Dage the names—Sayar U Kan Gyi, son Maung Tay were written whereas on the right floral arabesque of the Dage the donors' names—Ma Zee Zan, Ko Hinngar, Ma Mae Thin were recorded.

U Sheinn, father of U Kan Gyi was a famous sculptor in the reign of King Mindon. The village, "Thitgyitaw Laytan" in which U Kan Gyi lived is the one who produced famous sculptors in the consecutive eras. U Kan Gyi and his son U Tay made over 50 tools for sculpting Shweku Dage, by themselves.

The two sculptors managed to sculpt 12 crucial scenes from the plays such as 'Deva Rawhana' 'Naymi' 'Thardina' & Bhimmi Sara'. On the uppermost tier of Shweku Dage 21 sculptures had been sculpted, describing the Lord Buddha preached Abhidhamma' to Mae Taw Mi god & audience in Tarwateinthar Celestial Abode, and thence the Buddha descended to Human Abode through the Gold, Silver & Ruby Stairways.

In carving the images describing that the Buddha descended to the human abode's southern gate of Theingathanago City through the Middle Ruby Stairway, there are 33 sculptures comprising of Martali, Visakyone god, Brahmas, conch shell blower, parasol holder, fan waver and musical troupe. Being greatly animated, the Shweku Dagetaw became a world-famous one.

In the right upper side of the Dagetaw the scene of Naymi Zat and in the left upper side scenes of Thardina can be seen respectively. In carving the images describing Naymi King & Thardina King had been brought to the Celestial Abode by 3-horse-drawn-carriage, it looks as if the cart is coming out of the 8-tier-flower. It makes us feel that we are being in the forest to see a mother bird feeding her young.

Images sculpted in the act of Bimmisara King were extremely exquisite that Amaegyioh U Aung Sein suggested to Shwe Man U Tin Maung to play as described in Dagetaw. It was learnt that the latter did in his dramas as suggested by the former.

Sculptor U Kan Gyi made a replica prior to carving Shweku Dage, showing it to the Venerable Sayardaws and donors. Devoting himself to carving his work to the best of his calibers and he had thrown away tools used in carving the Dage into the Ayeyarwady River after finishing his work, it was learnt.

Shwe Tant Tit Dagetaw

Shwe Tant Tit pagoda is situated 3 miles far from East of Pakkoku. In the special chamber of the pagoda, a sacred Buddha Image made of sandalwood had been placed on the throne shouldered by 14 elephants, being one of similar six ones. Its Dage is 13 feet 3 inches long and its breadth 10 feet. Its donors were U Toe, Daw Oh, son U Pe, Daw Bwint, grandson Ko Ngwe Zone and Ma Mya residing in the village of Shwe Tant Tit.

Sculptors, U Chan Thar of Shwe Tant Tit village & Sayar Aye of Pakkoku sculpted it from 1895 to 1898, lasting for 3 years 2 months and 10 days. They got paid silver coins 1500 for the work. It was carved by combining 13 logs—teak and Yamanay wood.

Including Dage in Pakkoku wooden backdrops of thrones of Myanmar Cultural Heritage were delicately carved. In the gates of Innwa Verkara Monastery and Pakhangyi Monastery wooden dages were attached at the entrances.

Wooden backdrops were made of wood. For them to last for long, they need to be placed under roof and shelter. Woods are prone to destruction due to weather, insects and human-made disaster such as fire. Only if wooden backdrops can be maintained by protecting them from various kinds of dangers will Myanmar cultural heritages be able to be relayed to generations to come.

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Translated by Khin Maung Oo



Kandawpalin Pagoda. **PHOTO:MAUNG THA(ARCHAEOLOGY)**

World Cup Qualifiers: Myanmar, Japan match to be broadcast live on free-to-air channels



THE preliminary joint qualification Round 2 match of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and AFC Asian Cup China 2023 between Myanmar and Japan will be broadcast live on free-to-air channels MRTV and Channel 7, and it will also be streamed live on MySports' Facebook page, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The match will start at 6:50 pm Myanmar Standard Time on 10 September at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

Tickets for away fans are available at the Myanmar Football Federation Office (Opposite the Thuwunna Football Stadium, Waizayanta Road, Thuwunna). Ticket sales started from 6 September, and tickets can be bought everyday between 9 am and 5 pm upto 10 September (12 noon). Original passports need to be presented for the purchase of tickets for away fan, according to the MFF.

The match is crucial for Myanmar to qualify for the 2022 World cup and AFC Asian Cup China 2023.

In earlier FIFA-recognized international matches with Asian teams and the South American team, Myanmar chalked up four losses, one win, and one draw.

Myanmar lost to Indonesia 0-2 on 25 May, was defeated 0-3 by Indonesia on 10 October, 2018, and drubbed Indonesia on 21 March, 2017.

Myanmar lost to South American team, Bolivia, 0-3 on 13 October, 2018, and also suffered a defeat against China on 26 May, 2018.

Myanmar's match with Lebanon ended in a 1-1 draw in the FIFA World Cup Asian Qualifying match. In its last international match on 5 September, Japan beat Paraguay by 2-0.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Spain, Italy battle to maintain perfect Euro 2020 qualifying starts

PARIS — Spain took a step closer to qualification for Euro 2020 on Thursday after surviving a scare in Romania to win 2-1 and continue their 100 percent record, while Italy also kept their perfect start with a 3-1 win in Armenia.

A Sergio Ramos first half penalty and a beautiful team goal finished off by Paco Alcacer were just about enough for Spain in Bucharest, and made their record five wins from five to maintain their five-point lead at the top of Group F in their first match since Luis Enrique stepped down as coach in June to look after his daughter Xana, who died late last month of bone cancer.

Spain are followed by Sweden, who are on 10 points after thumping the Faroe Islands 4-0, and Norway a further two points back after their comfortable 2-0 over Malta.

"We had an excellent first half, creating a lot of opportunities that should have allowed us go into the break with a bigger lead," said Ramos.

"We lost a bit of focus after the second goal and they were able to take advantage, they had nothing left to lose. We deserved the win but we have to learn how to manage these kind of matches." Ramos got the ball rolling for the away side from the spot after Dani Ceballos was brought down by Ciprian Deac, and the points looked secure two minutes after the break when Alcacer tapped home Jordi Alba's cross following a sensational pass from Ceballos.

However substitute Florin Andone made an almost immediate impact when he nipped in front of Ramos to nod one back just before the hour mark, and the hosts soon had the wind in their sails.

They received a further boost 11 minutes from time when Diego Llorente clumsily took down George Puscas as he raced towards goal in search of a leveller.—AFP ■



Paco Alcacer's goal proved decisive in Spain's Euro 2020 qualifier win over Romania. **PHOTO : AFP**

Myanmar finish 2nd at Int'l U-15 Girl's Football Tourney in Viet Nam



The Myanmar U-15 girls' football team pose for a group photo before their match against the Hong Kong team on 5 September in Hanoi. **PHOTO: MFF**

MYANMAR finished second in the International U-15 Girls' Football Tourney, which was held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, from 1-5 September.

Girls' football teams from Myanmar, Hong Kong (China), Iceland, and host Viet Nam competed in the tourney, which was held in the round-robin format.

Myanmar beat Viet Nam 3-0 on 1 September, tied 1-1 with Iceland on 3 September, and their match against Hong Kong ended in a goalless draw on 5 September.

Iceland which secured the highest points in the tourney was declared the champion. The team secured seven points from two wins and one draw out of three matches played.

Myanmar placed second with five points from one win and two draws out of three matches played.

Hong Kong came third with four points from one win, one draw, and one loss, and host Viet Nam stood last with a scoreless result from three losses.

The tourney was held under the UEFA Assist Programme that focuses on developing youth football, according to the tournament's organizers.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■