Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives ROK Ambassador

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat meets with Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Mr Lee Sang-hwa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khan Myat received Mr Lee Sang-hwa, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, at Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. During the meeting, they exchanged views on cooperation between the governments of Myanmar and ROK, the parliaments and friendship ties between people of the two countries.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)

Nearly 1000 jade lots worth Euro 60 mln sold on 8th day of Gem Emporium

THE Mid-Year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2019 entered its eighth day yesterday, with 975 jade lots sold for 60.968 million euros through open tenders at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Jade lot numbers 3912 to 5211 were put on sale yesterday. Gem merchants observed jade lots on display outside the hall, which opened at 7:30 am, and submitted their tenders. Jade lot numbers 5212 to 6511 will be sold on 24 September and lot numbers 6512 to 7811 on 25 September. A total of 1,300 jade lots will be sold each day under the open tender system. SEE PAGE-7
Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment, hear cases

UNION Supreme Court sits at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning with Chief Justice of the Union Supreme Court U Htun Htun Oo and all Union Supreme Court judges to pass judgments on five special civil appeal cases. It also heard five special civil appeal cases. — MNA

Joint Committee on Amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 38/2019

MEETING 38/2019 of the Joint Committee on Amending the 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 Myit Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung (o) 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 and members who were Hluttaw representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. — MNA

Meeting 38/2019 of the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution in progress in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister for Construction visits CHID bank

UNION MINISTER for Construction U Han Zaw visited the Construction, Housing and Infrastructure Development Bank in Dagon Township, Yangon, yesterday morning.

The CHID banks is under the auspices of Ministry of Construction, and was established in 2013 as a Semi-Government Bank.

During the meeting with Board of Director members, shareholders and staff members of the bank, the Union Minister asked to follow rules and regulations in banking services and to update its operating systems.

The bank also held its the Board of Directors meeting 10/2019 on that day.

The Union Minister then proceed to the headquarters of Committee for Quality Control of High-Rise Building Construction Projects (CQHP).

Dr Aung Kyaw Myat, the Chairman of CQHP explained its works, formation of expert working teams and future plans.

The 33-member CQHP was formed to inspect the qualities of 12-storey and above buildings and the under-12 storey buildings that can accommodate over 500 people in major cities of Myanmar.

Then, the Union Minister and party visited Yangon City Gallery where the booths of real estate projects for urban development are displayed. — MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

24th Myanmar-India border officials hold meeting in Nay Pyi Taw

THE 24th Myanmar-India border officials’ regional level meeting was held at Aureum Palace Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting representatives from the two sides discussed security, drugs, border management, detained persons from the two countries, MoU on wild life trade and human trafficking and capacity raising matters. Regional level meeting minute will be signed by heads of representatives of the two countries on 24 September.

Border officials’ regional level meeting were held alternatively in Myanmar and India since signing of an MoU by Myanmar-India border officials on 21 January 1994 and the 24th meeting was held in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by Ministry of Home Affairs’ Minister Office Director General U Khang Tun Oo, India Ministry of Home Affairs Joint Secretary Mr Shri Satyendra Garg and officials.—MNA

PHOTO: MNA

The 24th Myanmar-India border officials’ regional level meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA
Electrical Identification System introduced to UEC

CHAIRMAN of Union Election Commission U Hla Thein and the officials observed the Electrical Identification System introduced by the Mitsubishi Research Institute (MRI) from Japan.

The system to identify voters in the elections was demonstrated at the training hall of Union Election Commission in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, and it was attended by General Manager of Digital Innovation Division Mr Tomoki Takahashi of MRI and party, officials and staff members of UEC.

The General Manager of MRI explained the system that can be used to check voter lists and their information before they cast their votes at the polling stations.—MNA

(Myanmar and ROK are cooperating in a wide range of sectors, and the forum is under the joint plan for giving assistance in public administration of Myanmar. He also remarked international experiences and knowledge are crucial for reform processes in the country.

Mr Yoon Jong-In, the Vice Minister for Interior and Safety of ROK, expressed thanks for organizing the forum to Union Minister for Union Government Office U Min Thu, Deputy Minister U Tin Myint and officials from Nay Pyi Taw Council and Yangon Region.

The Korean Vice Minister recounted the Korean War broke out just after the country gained independence from the 36-year period of colonial rule. At that time GDP of each Korean people was US$67. While the country was experiencing bitter consequences of the war, Myanmar helped ROK with $50,000 worth of rice without expecting anything in return. It was very supportive for ROK, and the Korean people are still kept it in mind.

The President of ROK made a friendly visit to Myanmar from 3 to 5 September.

The two governments agreed to build mutual trust, to promote cultural industry and to share experiences of ROK development programmes with Myanmar that is implementing sustainable development goals from 2018 to 2030. The plan includes the strategies for capacity building in public administration and promotion of public services.

He added the forum will share knowledge on these matters, and it is expected to strengthen friendship and trusts among administrative officials of the countries.

Then, the senior officials of both countries posed for a documentary photo.

At the forum, officials discussed matters related to local administration, public service, human resource management and capacity-building of civil service personnel, disaster management and intelligent transportation system.

The forum was attended by 80 Myanmar officials and 13 Korean counterparts.

In the afternoon, Union Minister U Min Thu met with the Korean Vice Minister Mr Yoon Jong-In at Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)
Myanmar, India conduct UN peacekeeping training course in Nay Pyi Taw

Yesterday morning,
Present at the opening ceremony were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, high ranking officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Nay Pyi Taw Command commander, Indian Ambassador Mr. Saurabh Kumar, Military Attaché Col. Kekan Arun Mohiter; training officers from India’s Centre for UN Peacekeeping (CUNPK) and Tarmadaw officers attending the course.

First Vice Senior General Soe Win and Indian Ambassador Mr. Saurabh Kumar delivered opening speeches followed with a power point presentation by a training officer from India’s CUNPK on India’s participation in UN Peacekeeping Operations. Next Vice Senior General and party took a commemorative group photo with ceremonial attendees, CUNPK training officers and trainees attending the course and then observed the displayed photo of the course.

The training course is the seventh of its kind to be conducted and from 2016 to 2019 a total of 96 officers and 84 other ranks attended the courses. This course is attended by 30 officers and the course covers history of UN Peacekeeping Force, organization, regulations, works conducted, ethics of UN Peacekeepers, protecting civilians, protecting children, military-civilian cooperation, conducting patrols, convoy security, construction of company base camp, Blue Helmet exercise etc. and will be held until 4 October, according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA (Translated Zaw Min)

Deputy Commerce Minister receives delegates from Mekong Institute, EIF

Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo received Mr. Dutta Madhuriya, the Director of Trade and Investment Facilitation Department (TIF) from Mekong Institute, at 11 am yesterday at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed collecting information about implementation of special economic zones in Mekong countries by using SEZ Online Platform, capacity building for employees at the SEZs and preparations to attract foreign investments there.

At 2 pm in the same venue, the Deputy Minister also held talks with the delegation led by Mr. Ratnakar Adhikari, the Executive Director of Secretariat office of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), about its assistance in capacity building, e-commerce and further cooperation in development of trade sector.

In partnered with 51 countries, 24 donors and eight agencies, the EIF works closely with governments, development organizations and civil society to help Least Developed Countries (LDCs) use trade as an engine for development and poverty reduction.— MNA

Nay Pyi Taw Council Investment Committee holds Information Event on Myanmar Investment Law, Myanmar Companies Law and Procedures

Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myin Tun delivers the opening speech at the event in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

WITH the guidance of Nay Pyi Taw Council Investment Committee, ‘Information Event on Myanmar Investment Law, Myanmar Companies Law and Related Procedures’ which was organized by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory Office held on 23 September 2019 at the Mount Pleasant Hotel in the capital.

At the event, U Aung Myin Tun, the Council Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council and Nay Pyi Taw Council Investment Committee delivered the opening speech. The members of Nay Pyi Taw Council Investment Committee, the officials from investment related departments, business associations, businessmen and media, approximately 90 persons, attended the event.

During the event, the topics on the laws and procedures relating to investment, company registration, taxation and labour employment were presented and the questions raised by the attendees were answered and discussed.— GNLM
Saudi National Day celebrated in Yangon

THE Embassy of Saudi Arabia celebrated the Saudi National Day at the Wyndham Grand Hotel in Yangon yesterday evening.

It was attended by Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw and wife, and the event started with national anthems of the two countries.

The ceremony was also attended by ambassadors from the foreign missions in Yangon, charge d'affaires, representatives of UN agencies in Myanmar and the invited guests.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Water Economic Forum shares knowledge on water resource management

A FORUM to discuss water supply in Yangon was held at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on 22 September afternoon.

Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe made an opening remark at the forum.

U Mynint Naing, the chairman of May Kha Hostel Foundation, explained the event, followed by the presentations of Economist Dr Thein Swe, Deputy Director of YCDC Daw Thwe Naing Oo and Assistant Director U Zaw Win Aung.

They discussed the existing and future water distribution systems in Yangon, and the need of all inclusion in producing fresh water as one billion of people are expected to face shortage of household water, out of an estimated 10 billion people in the world by 2050.

Chief Editor of Eco Echo Journal performed as a moderator to lead the forum.

Distribution of water in Yangon reached to just tens of thousands of people in 1842.

Kandawgyi and Inya lakes were developed in 1879 and 1884 respectively. In the following years Hlawga Reservoir emerged in 1904, Gyobyu Reservoir in 1940, Phugyi Reservoir in 1980, and Ngamoyeik Reservoir in 2014.

About 205 million gallons of household water is distributed to people in Yangon for 13 hours each day—90 per cent is from the reservoirs and the remaining 10 per cent is from tube wells.

Charges for water are K 200 per unit in Mandalay, K 110 in Nay Pyi Taw and K 88 in Yangon. These rates are the lowest charges among ASEAN countries.

The experts also suggested at the forum to avoid excessive use of water in Myanmar, giving an example of Dubai where cash fines could reduce from 491 cases for reckless use of water in 2012 to 378 cases in 2013.

The YCDC has also planned to get water from the new projects of Kokkowa and Toe rivers.—Aung Thura

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Tourists enjoys traditional Naga dance in Homalin

NINE DANCE troupes representing the Naga ethnic tribe performed traditional dances, including the bodri dance, at the Naga Cultural Grounds in Homalin, Sagaing Region yesterday for a group of tourists.

The group comprised about 43 tourists. They were visiting the town as part of their cruise along the Ayeyawady River.

They went to Homalin to observe the traditional culture and customs of the Naga ethnic tribe in the town.

This is the fourth such visit by tourists this year to the town.—Lin Lin (IPRD)

(Translated by Zaw Min)

First in Myanmar: Implementation of “Garbage Home” system starts in Yangon

It is learnt that Doh Eain (Our Home) Social Enterprise started implementation of Myanmar’s first “Garbage Home” system in Yangon on 22 September.

The new “Garbage Home” system was being implemented in back alley gardens of 35th Street and Ma Ha Bandoila Park Road (upper block) and between 30th Street and 31st Street.

Yangon was facing challenges about refuse or garbage and Doh Eain started a “garbage to gold” movement two months ago. Doh Eain group, officials from relevant government departments and the financial supporter of Doh Eain group—Building Markets—were jointly conducting studies to reduce refusals or garbage in Yangon. After the studies, surveys were conducted on some people in Pabedan and Kyauktada townships and found the matter of wet and dry garbage.

Garbage Home specifically designed for wet garbage was being introduced to strengthen the people’s capability to manage it.

“Peoples in the ward near the Garbage Home will bring their wet garbage and discard it there. Garbage collectors that we select and employ will segregate wet and dry garbage, discard the west garbage at Garbage Home and the dry garbage will be sent to dry garbage place for recycling,” said Ma Aye Myat Thu of Doh Eain news.(Translated by Aung Khin)

THE Global New Light of Myanmar

24  SEPTEMBER   2019

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
Bago Region marks one year without elephant poaching

THE Bago Region Government held an event on 23 September to mark one year without a single elephant found killed in the region by poachers. The event was held at the Oakthar Kyaw Hotel along the Yangon-Mandalay Highway Road in Bago Town. Dr Saw Nyo Win, the Bago Region Minister for Natural Resources, Environmental Conservation and Development Affairs, said the region has seen zero elephants being poached in one whole year, and the number of poachers has also depleted.

3 killed, 2 missing after boat capsizes in Kyunsu Township

A boat carrying 16 persons from Waryit village-tract in Kyunsu Township, Taninthayi Region capsized around 2 pm on 22 September, leaving three villagers dead and two missing.

During rescue operations, two bodies were fished out in the evening and one body was recovered after a day. Residents of nearby villages have launched a search for the two missing persons, according to U Win Cho, the Pyin Nge Village Administrator. Fifteen vessels have been enlisted for the search, he added.

According to reports, the 30x4 motor boat was on its way from Tawtan Village to Waryit Village on the Taninthayi River, when it struck a tree stump. The boat keeled over and sank. At the time, five of the 16 passengers were not used to the bus fare will depend on the travel distance. Experts are working on this,” said U Hla Aung. “At the preliminary stage of the e-payment project, cash boxes will be continued for some time, in case passengers face difficulties using e-tickets. Most commuters will not be used to it at first and may face some issues. The YRTA is working to make sure passengers can get tickets easily,” he added.” — Kyaw Zeya Win, the Joint Secretary of the YRTA.

Over 1,500 YBS buses to get e-ticketing machines in initial phase of e-payment project

OVER 1,500 buses will get e-ticketing machines in the initial stage of the YBS e-payment project, according to Asia Starmar Transport Intelligent Co Ltd, the tender winner for the YBS card system.

“At first, e-ticketing machines will be installed on 1,500 YBS buses. Shortly thereafter, more buses will get the machines,” said Daw Ni Ni Khin from Asia Starmar Transport Intelligent Co Ltd.

“The electronic ticketing system is complex, and it will take some time to implement as legal, financial, and technical matters are involved. The Asia Starmar Transport Intelligent Co Ltd is implementing the e-ticketing system for YBS buses,” according to the YRTA.

“The YBS e-ticket system will be the first priority for the YRTA this year. At present, we are studying the routes to set a fair price,” according to the YRTA.

“We are thoroughly caring and systematically observing the bus lines to achieve a balance for both commuters and bus lines. The company is preparing to install the machines. We are still discussing which bus route and bus line we should start,” said U Hla Aung, the Joint Secretary of the YRTA.

Under the e-ticket system, the cost of the trip will depend on how far a passenger travels, and the related experts are working out the fares.

“The bus fare will depend on the distance travelled. Two machines will be installed on each bus near the front and rear doors. When passengers get on the bus, they will pass both machines which will record information about the time when they boarded the bus and cut the bus fare depending on the travel distance. Experts are working on this,” said U Hla Aung.

“The conflict between residents and wild elephants has also decreased due to collaborative action by respective departments, and officials will continue with elephant conservation operations, he added.

Afterwards, Dr Saw Nyo Win and Bago Region Forest Department Director U Saw Oo presented awards to 10 officials — 20 Forest Department staff and 60 members of the Forest Police Force and Myanmar Police Force.

In Bago Region, outbreaks of elephant poaching have been set up at elephant pastures, and the concerned departments have been raising awareness on wildlife preservation and poaching. — Tin Soe (Bago) (Translated by La Wonn)
Nearly 1000 jade lots worth Euro 60 mln sold on 8th day of Gem Emporium

Jade merchants check the quality of a jade stone during the mid-year Myanma Gem Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE THAN

Traders evaluate jade stones at the 8th day of Mid-Year Myanma Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE THAN

FROM PAGE-1

Yangon regional tourism committee endorses projects worth K10.537 bln

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Mineral exports down $635.8 mln in current fiscal

Elephant foot yam price fetches double

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Elephant foot yam price fetches double
To combat noise pollution, laws alone are not enough. Most people are familiar with the three most common types of environmental pollution: air, water, and land. Other types of pollution—noise, light, thermal, and visual—are less known. Noise pollution, in particular, has been on our minds lately.

Noise pollution is among the environmental issues facing Myanmar. High noise level affects many things, and is prevalent everywhere nowadays, especially in populous cities. Higher-threshold-permissible levels of sound from loudspeakers on vehicles participating in processions across the cities, music from stage shows held in wards, and during religious festivities. In a nutshell, any sound that disturbs peace is noise, regardless of whether people are aware of it or not. But we have ever stopped to think about the effects of noise pollution on health?

The social and behavioural effects of noise exposure are complex, subtle, and indirect. They give rise to aggressiveness, unfriendliness and disengagement—attributes that are beginning to define the residents of overcrowded and unplanned cities. Noise pollution also impairs performance at school and work, reduces motivation, and increases the risk for psychological diseases. A democratic system guarantees democratic rights and human rights to the people. However, we must respect the rights of other people while we are enjoying our rights. We must try to prevent any form of pollution which can impact others.

Civic and democratic practice involves cultivating behaviour that does not cause any harm to others or disturb the peace in any manner.

The present Ward or Village-tract Administration Law prohibits any noise that is deemed loud enough to be considered a public nuisance. The use of loudspeakers on vehicles should be prohibited in any manner.

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PARIS (France) — A blockbuster Tutankhamun show set a new all-time French record Sunday, with 1.42 million visitors flocking to see the exhibition in Paris, the organisers said.

The turnout beat the previous record set by another Tutankhamun show billed as the “exh-ibition of the century” in 1987, when 1.24 million queued to see “Tutankhamun and His Times” at the Petit Palais.

“Tutankhamun: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh” — which has been described as a “once in a generation” show — will open in London in November. The last time a show of comparable size visited the British Museum.

More than 150 treasures from the monarch’s tomb — including 60 which have never left Egypt before — have been assembled for the show. The Egyptian Ministry for Antiquities said this was the largest number of Tutankhamun artefacts ever to have left Cairo. Almost all of the 3,400 exhibits come from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo’s Tahrir Square, and are never likely to leave the country again.

‘Unparalleled collection’

Its unparalleled collection is being transferred to the enor-mous new Grand Egyptian Mu-seum near the pyramids at Giza, which is due to open next year.

Mostafa Waziry, the Egyptian ministry’s secretary general, said the show — which also visits Sydney next year — will help pay for the new Giza museum.

The country’s Minister of Antiquities, Khaled El-Enany, said he was “sure that the immense interest in the exhibition will en-courage millions of visitors to visit Egypt’s museums and re-mar-kable sites.”

And the Louvre, which loaned the greatest piece in its Egyptian collection, the statue of Amon — the king of the gods — protecting Tutankhamun, also hailed the show’s runaway suc-cess.

“It confirms, if confirmation were needed, how passionate the French people are about Egyptian antiquity,” it said. — AFP

PARIS Tutankhamun show sets new record with 1.42 mln visitors

Japan roboticists predict rise of the machines

SEIKA (Japan) — Set in 2019, cult 80s movie “Blade Runner” envis-aged a neon-stained landscape of bionic “replicants” genetically en-gineered to look just like humans.

So far that has failed to mate-rialise, but at a secretive research institute in western Japan, wild-haired roboticist Hiroshi Ishig-uro is fine-tuning technology that could blur the line between man and machine.

Highly intelligent, self-aware and helpful around the house — the robots of the future could look and act just like humans and even become their friends, Ishiguro and his team predict.

“I don’t know when a ‘Blade Runner’ future will happen, but I believe it will,” the Osaka Universi-ty professor told AFP.

“Every year we’re developing new technology — like deep learning, which has improved the performance of pattern recogni-tion,” he added.

“Now we’re focusing on in-tention and desire, and if we im-plement them into robots whether they become more human-like.”

Robots are already widely used in Japan — from cooking noodles to helping patients with physiotherapy.

Marketed as the world’s first “cyborg-type” robot, HAL (hybrid assistive limh) — developed by Tsukuba University and Japanese company Cyberdyne — is helping people in wheelchairs walk again using sensors connected to the unit’s control system.

Scientists believe service robots will one day help us with household chores, from taking out the garbage to making the perfect slice of toast.

Stockbrokers in Japan and around the world are already de-ploying AI bots to forecast stock

market trends and science fic-tion’s rapid advance towards sci-ence fact owes much to the likes of Ishiguro.

He previously created an android copy of himself — using complex moving parts, electron-ics, silicone skin and his own hair — that he sends on business trips in his place.

Wake up, time to die’

But Ishiguro believes recent breakthroughs in robotics and artificial intelligence will accel-erate the synthesis of man and machine.

“As a scientist, I hope to de-velop self-conscious robots like you see in ‘Blade Runner’ to help me understand what it is to be hu-man,” he said. “That’s my motiva-tion.”

“The point at which that line between humans and machines converges has long been a source of anxiety for some, as depicted in popular culture.

In “Blade Runner”, Harrison Ford plays a police officer who tracks down and kills replicants that have escaped and are living among the population in Los An-geles. The “Terminator” series starring Arnold Schwarzenegger centres on a self-aware computer network which initiates a nuclear holocaust and, through autono-mous military machines, wages war against human survivors.

“I can’t understand why Hol-lywood wants to destroy robots,” shrugged Ishiguro, who in 2007 was named one of the top 100 liv-ing geniuses by global consultants firm Synectics.

Look at Japanese cartoons and animations — robots are al-ways friendly. We have a totally different cultural background,” notched the professor. It’s not just Hollywood that has concerns over AI. Tesla’s Elon Musk has called for a global ban on killer robots, warning technological advances could revolutionise warfare and create new “weapons of terror” that target innocent people.

But Ishiguro insists there is no inherent danger in machines becoming self-aware or surpass-ing human intelligence. “We don’t need to fear AI or robots, the risk is controllable,” he said. “My basic idea is that there is no difference between humans and robots.”

— AFP

Deputy Minister meets ROK Vice-Minister of Interior and Safety

DEPUTY Minister for Office of the Union Government U Tin Myint met a delegation led by Republic of Korea Vice Min-ister of the Interior and Safety Mr Yoon Jong-In in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The Korean Vice Minister and delegation were in Myanmar to attend the Myanmar-Korea Cooperation Forum on Public Administration.

At the meeting, matters re-lating to administrative reform works of Ministry of Union Gov-ernment Office, conduct of One Stop Shops and works toward raising the capacity of the per-sonnel were openly discussed.

Present at the meeting were General Administrative Depart-ment (GAD) Director General U Myint Tha, Union Civil Serv-ice Board Deputy Permanent Secretary U Myint Swe, GAD Deputy Director General Daw Swe Swe Naing, Deputy Direc-tor General U Nyi Nyi Min and officials. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)
As Abe heads off to NY, Japan-US trade deal, Iran in focus

NEW YORK — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe embarks Monday on a trip to New York with two deals in mind — an envisaged Japan-US trade agreement and the strained Iran nuclear accord at the center of rising tensions in the Middle East.

Abe is scheduled to attend the UN General Assembly for the seventh straight year, giving a speech on Tuesday that will emphasize Japan’s support for a multilateral approach to tackling global issues ranging from climate change to marine plastic debris.

One major highlight of his trip, however, will be his meeting with US President Donald Trump on Wednesday as they will likely sign a bilateral trade deal after negotiations that began with Washington dangling the threat of higher auto tariffs.

The deal, which Trump may claim as a victory, would see Japan cut tariffs on beef and pork and help mollify US farmers who say they have been at a disadvantage since the entry into force of free trade agreements without the United States, including a revised Trans-Pacific Partnership.

High on the priority list for Japan is to secure assurances from the United States that it will not impose higher tariffs on auto imports. In the run-up to the summit, Japan’s top negotiator Toshimitsu Motegi, who recently became foreign minister, and US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer plan to finish off the remaining work on the deal.

Trade may steal the spotlight in the Abe-Trump meeting but Iran is also on the agenda. Triggered by Washington’s withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and major powers and re-imposition of economic sanctions, the US-Iran standoff has intensified.

Tension in the Middle East has spiked since recent drone attacks on oil facilities in Saudi Arabia that have sent crude oil prices higher due to supply concerns.

Yemen’s Houthi rebels claimed responsibility for the attacks, which the United States has blamed on Iran. Tehran has denied its involvement.

On Friday, the United States stepped up its sanctions on Iran and also decided to send more US troops to Saudi Arabia.

Japanese officials say Abe is expected to ask Trump not to escalate tensions and avoid unintended military clashes in the region. As stability in the Middle East is critical for Japan, which relies heavily on energy imports from the region, Abe is set to call for dialogue with Iran.

Before meeting with Trump, Abe will sit down with Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani on Tuesday, looking to stress the importance of talks with the United States, according to the officials.

Abe has been seeking to mediate between the United States and Iran. He visited Iran in June, becoming the first sitting Japanese leader to do so in over four decades. Abe also plans to encourage Iran to follow commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal. Iran has been seeking to speed up uranium enrichment in apparent protest against the United States for stepping away from the accord.

Japan, which is not a signatory to the deal, has consistently backed it. Abe is also scheduled to meet with Jordan’s King Abdullah II, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and European Council President Donald Tusk on the fringes of UN meetings.

Motegi is making his debut as foreign minister in New York, while Shinjiro Koizumi, Japan’s rising political star who assumed the role of environment minister in this month’s Cabinet reshuffle by Abe, will attend a UN meeting on climate change.

Motegi will likely meet with his counterparts, including US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo during his stay through Friday.

The focus is on whether Motegi will hold talks with South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung Wha amid deteriorating bilateral ties over trade and war-time history issues. Japanese government sources have said they could meet Thursday.

After leaving New York, Abe plans to travel to Belgium to deliver a speech at a forum on the Asia-Europe relationship on Friday. He will return to Japan on Saturday.

Indonesia blames 737 MAX design for Lion Air crash: report

NEW YORK (United States) — Indonesian authorities have cited failures in the Boeing 737 MAX design and oversight as contributing to the 2018 Lion Air plane crash, the Wall Street Journal reported on Sunday.

The report into the crash, which will be formally released in early November, also blames pilot error and maintenance issues for the crash that killed 189 people shortly after the flight departed from Jakarta last October; the newspaper said.

The Boeing plane model was later grounded worldwide after a Malaysian Airlines 737 MAX crashed after taking off from Addis Ababa in March, killing 157 people.

Preliminary investigations into both accidents have implicated the MCAS anti-stall system, designed specifically for the 737 MAX.

Indonesian investigators could still change their findings, which have been shared with the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), the Journal said.

US officials are scheduled to visit Indonesia at the end of September to discuss the report, in which Indonesian investigators list some 100 factors in the crash.

While the NTSB is unlikely to object to the findings, Boeing and the FAA are worried that the report “will unduly highlight design and FAA certification mistakes,” the newspaper reported, citing unnamed sources familiar with the matter.

“Boeing continues to support the investigation as the accident report is being completed,” a spokesman for the company told AFP.

The FAA and NTSB declined to comment, referring questions to the Indonesian authorities.

“For the time being we cannot comment since the final report is still being processed by the relevant parties so they can provide input,” HaryoSotamiko, deputy chairman of Indonesia’s National Transportation Safety Committee, told AFP on Monday.

The NTSB is preparing to announce “around the end of the month” recommendations to improve pilot and crew training, and to the FAA’s certification process for new airplane models, according to the Journal.

A panel of international regulators set up by the FAA is also expected in the coming weeks to submit a report critical of the relationship between Boeing and the agency.

New FAA head Steve Dickson is to meet with his international counterparts on Monday ahead of an International Civil Aviation Organization meeting in Montreal to discuss Boeing’s proposed changes to the 737 MAX and its eventual return to service.—AFP

Typhoon Tapah leaves 30 injured, downgraded to extratropical cyclone

TOKYO — Typhoon Tapah, which left dozens of people injured in southern and southwestern Japan, weakened to an extratropical cyclone Monday in the Sea of Japan, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The season’s 17th typhoon, which traveled over the sea through Monday morning, has left 30 injured in Okinawa and Kyushu regions as it brought strong winds and heavy rains to the Japanese islands, the agency said.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is scheduled to attend a UN meeting on climate change, is expected to hold talks with his counterparts, including US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo during his stay through Friday.

The focus is on whether Motegi will hold talks with South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung Wha amid deteriorating bilateral ties over trade and war-time history issues. Japanese government sources have said they could meet Thursday.

After leaving New York, Abe plans to travel to Belgium to deliver a speech at a forum on the Asia-Europe relationship on Friday. He will return to Japan on Saturday.

Dengue fever death toll climbs to 75 in Bangladesh

DHAKA – The mosquito-borne dengue fever has claimed 75 lives and infected over 85,000 persons across Bangladesh so far this year.

The death toll climbed to 75 on Monday as the Bangladeshi government confirmed seven more dengue fever deaths including four this month and three last month, according to the latest figure reported by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) under the Ministry of Health.

According to report, the deaths included two in April, six in June, 32 in July, 31 in August and four this month. —Xinhua

File photo shows Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS
‘Thrones’ wins top drama Emmy as ‘Fleabag’ springs a surprise

LOS ANGELES (United States) — “Game of Thrones” took the top Emmy for best drama Sunday but dark British comedy “Fleabag” was the surprise big winner of television’s glitziest night, dominating the comedy prizes at a star-studded ceremony in Los Angeles.

“Thrones” — the most decorated fictional show in the history of the Emmys, television’s Oscars — finished with 12 awards overall for its final season.

“Thank you to the hardest working crews in show business — the dragons who shot for 70 nights straight in freezing Belfast rain, the wolves who shot all around the world — you are amazing, all of you,” said showrunner David Benioff.

Peter Dinklage won his fourth best supporting actor statuette for his portrayal of sharp-tongued dwarf Tyrion Lannister.

But the blood-soaked fantasy epic’s run of going out with a new record numbers of Emmys for a single season was derailed after it failed to convert nominations in directing, writing and the other acting categories. —AFP

Keeping the thread alive at a Viet Nam silk village

NAM DINH (Viet Nam) — Cocooned bob in boiling water as silk is rapidly teased out, spinning cocoons skillfully operated by women in Nam Dinh’s Co Chat village, where households have been making thread for more than a century.

Dozens of workers, mostly women, in bustling workshops stir the vats, gently unwinding the fibre from the cocoons through clouds of rising steam.

Once the yellow and white fibres are spun onto wooden reels, workers hang them in the sun to dry.

“Production from the silk cocoons depends on 90 percent on the weather,” says workshop owner Pham Van Ba, whose family has been spinning thread for three generations.

“Our products will be ruined” if it’s not dried under the sun, he tells AFP, explaining that even good quality thread can be marred by inclement weather. Around 30 kilogrammes of cocoons are processed by each worker every day, and the final threads are sold to traders exporting to Laos and Thailand.

While a few households have invested in modern silk-reeling machines, the majority choose to unwind the cocoons using chopsticks, even if it means sweating through the summer heat in stuffy workshops. Doing it manually makes it easier to salvage usable silk thread from cocoons even if they are not good, Ba says.

Each labourer earns around $10 a day, but worker Tran Thi Hien describes the work as “precarious”.

“If the market price goes up, then we make some profit. Otherwise, it’s only enough to cover our expenses,” the 37-year-old says, sitting next to baskets of yellow cocoons, waiting to be sorted. —AFP

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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 24th September 2019

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in show business — the dragons who shot for 70 nights straight in freezing
Global stocks slip on trade, travel shares get Thomas Cook boost

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Stock markets fell on Monday after President Donald Trump ruled out a partial trade deal with China, casting fresh doubt on any early agreement.

A key survey pointing to weakness in the euro-zone economy also weighed on trade, though they came as China hailed progress in preparatory discussions ahead of a planned high-level meeting next month. “The hot and cold vibes” cast their shadow over risk assets, as the economic superpowers.

Investors remain unconvinced that a trade deal is about to see the light of day soon, and that’s likely to put a cap on any further gains in risk assets,” he said. “The longer it takes to strike a deal, the more economic damage will be felt.” Equity markets were also tracking comments from Trump saying he wanted to strike a full trade deal with Beijing, knocking back hopes for a piece-meal agreement between the two major factors.

The remarks tempered recent optimism on the talks, though they came as China ruled out a deal, the more economic damage will be felt.” Equity markets were also tracking comments from Trump saying he wanted to strike a full trade deal with Beijing, knocking back hopes for a piece-meal agreement between

**Myanmar Port Authority**

**“Notice of High Tide”**

Exceptionally high spring from 20.15 feet to 21.42 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of September 27th to October 3rd, 2019. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

**Claim’s Day Notice**

**MV UNIPROFIT**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNIPROFIT VOY. NO. (938 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-09-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of WILMAR where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

**Claim’s Day Notice**

**MV MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (107)**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (938 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-09-2019 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.

**Amended Prescribed Fees and Late Lodgement Fees under the Myanmar Companies Law 2017**

The Directorate of Investment and Company Administration issues the notification no (57/2018), prescribed fees and late lodgement fees under Myanmar Companies Law 2017 in the 9th July 2018.

- Prescribed fees shall be reduced from 250,000 Kyat to 150,000 for incorporation as a private company limited by shares (Form A-1).
- Prescribed fees shall be reduced from 250,000 Kyat to 150,000 for incorporation as a company limited by guarantee (Form A-3).
- Prescribed fees shall be reduced from 250,000 Kyat to 150,000 for incorporation as an unlimited company (Form A-4).
- Prescribed fees shall be reduced from 250,000 Kyat to 150,000 for registration as a private company limited by shares under the Special Company Act 1950 (Form A-6).
- Prescribed fees shall be reduced from 250,000 Kyat to 150,000 for registration as an overseas corporation (Form A-8).
- Prescribed fees shall be increased from 20,000 to 50,000 for Lodgement of Annual Return.
- Prescribed fees shall be increased from 20,000 to 50,000 for Lodgement of Annual Return of Overseas Corporation (Form E-7).

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration
BRIGHTON (United Kingdom) — Britain’s main opposition Labour Party was set Monday to decide on a new Brexit strategy at a fractious conference that has piled pressure on leader Jeremy Corbyn to openly campaign to remain in the European Union.

Labour’s identity crisis is being played out as Britain speeds toward a potentially chaotic “no-deal” departure from the EU on October 31 and a likely general election.

Opinion polls show Corbyn’s efforts to unite both the pro- and anti-Brexit wings of his party by either delaying a decision on departure or leaving it in voters’ hands have led to a dramatic drop in support.

Two surveys published over the weekend put Labour 15 percentage points behind Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s Conservatives and in danger of losing second place to the pro-EU Liberal Democrats.

Grass roots activists spent hours deep into Sunday night trying to come up with a single Brexit motion that could be put up for a vote at the conference on Monday.

They ended up with three.

One motion backed by regional party branches says Labour “must reflect the overwhelming view of its members and voters, who want to stay in the EU.

“Labour will therefore campaign energetically for a public vote and to stay in the EU in the referendum, while recognising the rights of those who want to argue another view.”

A dissenting proposal backed by the big unions offers “a public vote on a deal agreed with the EU giving people a final say between a credible leave option and remain”.

It would not see Labour officially campaign for either option and instead try to “build maximum consensus”. The third motion, proposed by Corbyn himself and backed by the executive, would see the party come to some sort of decision “through a special one-day conference, following the election of a Labour government”.

Jeremy Corbyn has tried to embrace both wings of his party by leaving the ultimate decision on Brexit to voters.

The party comes to one of its most fractious conferences with Corbyn already backed by a motion, proposed by his deputy Tom Watson, stating that a no-deal Brexit would be “a national disaster”.

“Labour’s foreign affairs spokeswoman Emily Thornberry said on the sidelines of the conference in the south coast resort of Brighton.

But unions and a powerful leftish lobby that helped Corbyn become Labour leader in 2015 want the party to embrace its working-class base which backs Britain charting its own course.

Thomas Cook collapses with 600,000 tourists stranded abroad

LONDON (United Kingdom) — British travel firm Thomas Cook collapsed into bankruptcy on Monday, leaving some 600,000 holidaymakers stranded and sparking the UK’s biggest repatriation since World War II.

The 178-year-old debt-plagued group, which had struggled against fierce online competition for some time and blamed Brexit uncertainty for a recent drop in bookings, failed to secure £200 million ($250 million, 227 million euros) from private investors and collapsed in the early hours.

Monday’s bankruptcy, which followed a lengthy period of chronic financial turmoil after a disastrous 2007 merger deal, left some 600,000 tourists stranded worldwide according to Thomas Cook, while its 22,000 staff are now out of a job.

The British government launched emergency plans to bring some 150,000 UK holidaymakers back home from destinations including Bulgaria, Cuba, Turkey and the United States.

‘No choice’

Thomas Cook said in a statement that “despite considerable efforts”, it was unable to reach an agreement between the company’s stakeholders and proposed new money providers.

“The company’s board has therefore concluded that it had no choice but to take steps to enter into compulsory liquidation with immediate effect,” it added.

The long-troubled group has been hobbled by mammoth costs arising from its disastrous 2007 merger with MyTravel, a deal which left it plagued with huge levels of debt.

The UK government said Monday it had hired planes to fly home British tourists, in a mass repatriation plan codenamed Operation Matterhorn which began immediately.

Launching Britain’s “largest repatriation in peacetime history”, Transport Secretary Grant Shapps added that the government and UK Civil Aviation Authority had hired dozens of charter planes to fly home Thomas Cook customers.

“All customers currently abroad with Thomas Cook who are booked to return to the UK over the next two weeks will be brought home as close as possible to their booked return date,” the government said. —AFP

Seven children killed, scores hurt in Kenya school collapse

NAIROBI (Kenya) — Seven children died and scores were injured early Monday when a school building collapsed in the Kenyan capital Nairobi, in an accident blamed on shoddy construction.

“So far we can confirm that we have seven fatalities and 57 others are in hospital,” government spokesman Cyrus Oguna said at the scene.

Hundreds of angry residents of Dagoretti, a poor suburb where many live in makeshift homes, swarmed around the site where rescuers picked through the debris of the two-story building, a semi-permanent structure made of concrete, iron sheeting and timber.

“I had just dropped my son to school, and heard screams on my way back, and that is when I found people assisting them out to hospital,” said Margaret Muthoni at Kenyatta National Hospital, whose four-year-old son was injured.

“I am just lucky my son survived with injuries. It is a very unfortunate incident because some children have died,” said Muthoni. Kephia Otieno said he lost his five-year-old daughter to the tragedy. “I just can’t believe. It is too hard for me and the family,” he said. —AFP

The operator needed £200 million ($250 million) to save it from collapse. PHOTO: AFP

Japan to expand app-using customs declaration ahead of Olympics

TOKYO — Japan will expand the use of electronic customs declarations at airports to facilitate the entry of increasing numbers of inbound passengers for next year’s Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

The system allows passengers to submit customs declarations electronically using a smartphone app while waiting for their baggage, according to the Japan Customs.

The e-Gate system, which has already been introduced at one of the terminals at Naha airport, will be operated at New Chitose, Haneda, Chubu, Kansai and Fukuoka airports starting next spring. Naha airport in Okinawa Prefecture will also use the system by March 2021, officials said.

Under the new system, travelers are required to download the app in advance, and at the e-Gate they scan their IC passport and QR code created with the app.—Kyodo News

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

News

GRANTS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

For a seamless travel experience at Tokyo Olympic & Paralympics 2020, according to the Japan Customs.

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DRC approves use of second experimental Ebola vaccine

GENEVA (Switzerland) — The Democratic Republic of Congo will introduce a second Ebola vaccine next month, the World Health Organization said Monday, as a top medical charity accused the UN agency of rationing doses.

DRC’s latest Ebola epidemic, which began in August 2018, will introduce a second Ebola vaccine next month, the World Health Organization said Monday. The second dose of vaccine will be used to combat a new outbreak in the eastern province of North Kivu, which has already killed more than 2,100 people. The first dose of vaccine was used in a previous outbreak, which ended in late 2018.

WHO has for months been pushing the Kinshasa government to approve the use of a second experimental product, made by Johnson & Johnson, to protect those living outside of direct transmission zones. The J&J vaccine had been rejected by DRC’s former health minister Olly Ilunga, who cited the risks of introducing a new product in communities where mistrust of Ebola responders is already high.

WHO’s resignation in July appeared to pave the way for approval of the second vaccine. WHO said in a statement that DRC planned to introduce the J&J product from “mid-October.” This vaccine, which is given as a 2-dose course, 56 days apart, will be provided under approved protocols to targeted at-risk populations in areas that do not have active Ebola transmission as an additional tool to extend protection against the virus.

WHO Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, praised the latest decision by DRC authorities, who he said have once again shown leadership and their determination to end this outbreak as soon as possible.—AFP

Free pads to tackle ‘period-shame’ school skipping in Bangladesh

DHAKA (Bangladesh) — Girls in rural villages will get free sanitary pads to stop them skipping school during their periods as a result of social taboos around menstruation, a Bangladesh minister said Monday.

So-called “period shame” in the highly conservative nation of 168 million people has caused more than 40 percent of Bangladesh schoolgirls to stay at home during menstruation, researchers say.

“This is very alarming. We cannot put their future at stake,” Junior Information Minister Murad Hasan told AFP.

Hasan said the “unavailability of menstrual pads” and “cost of hygiene products” were mostly to blame for the absences in village schools where some 63 percent of the population lives.

“Poor parents often prefer their girls to stay at home during their menstrual period rather than buying them hygiene products,” he added.

Hasan, a doctor and former junior health minister, said the government planned to roll out the scheme by early next year in some 90,000 villages.

Dhaka, together with aid agencies, has been trying to raise awareness about menstruation among parents and schoolgirls.

Only six percent of schools in the South Asian nation include menstrual hygiene in their curriculum, according to a recent World Bank report.

Leading women’s rights activist Maleke Banu welcomed the move.

“We have been demanding it for a long time. It’s a positive thing that such initiatives are seeing the light tackling this social stigma,” Banu, the general secretary of the female advocacy group Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, told AFP.—AFP

W. Antarctica’s crumbling ice sheet to redraw global coastline

MONACO (Principality of Monaco) — The fate of the world’s coastal regions and the hundreds of millions of people who inhabit them depend on a block of ice atop West Antarctica on track to lift global oceans by at least three metres.

It is not, according to available science, a matter of “if” but “when”.

Anders Levermann, a professor at the Potsdam Institute of Climate Impact Research in Germany and a top expert on Antarctica, spoke to AFP — days before the release in Monaco of a major UN report on oceans and Earth’s frozen zones — about how climate change is impacting the world’s coldest region.

Q. Does global warming affect Greenland and Antarctica the same way?

No. In Antarctica, 99 percent of all ice loss occurs when ice slides into the ocean. There is practically no ice melt on the surface — it is simply too cold.

In Greenland, half of the ice loss is due to melt water that runs into the ocean. When ice in Antarctica or Greenland slides into the ocean and becomes an ice shelf, it comes into contact with surface water. Even a tenth of a degree increase in the temperature of the water can lead to a significant ice sheet imbalance.

Greenland’s ice sheet is much smaller than Antarctica’s — seven metres of sea level equivalent vs. 55 — but sheds even more mass. That is because Antarctica, even if its topography has fewer barriers, is so much colder.

Q. What do we know about Antarctica that we didn’t know a decade ago?

Ten years ago the modelling of Antarctica showed no significant ice loss within this century. Indeed, there was some debate as to whether the continent might add ice mass.

Today, all the ice sheet models lose ice at a significant rate. The continent’s ice sheet has shed about 150 billion tonnes of mass every year since 2005, virtually all of it in West Antarctica. Ice loss in both Greenland and Antarctica is accelerating.

There is no longer any ambiguity. The studies we have in hand tell us that West Antarctica has passed a tipping point. It has become unstable and will discharge all its most vulnerable ice into the ocean. Period.

Q. How much will Antarctica add to sea level rise by 2100?

A study I did with numerous colleagues in 2014 estimated that we could get 50 centimetres of sea level from Antarctica by 2100 — which is huge. The last assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said 16 cm was the upward limit.

In 2016 an important study published in Nature — introducing new physical processes — proposed an even higher contribution, of up to more than a metre. That study has been much criticised, and the findings may be revised.—AFP

The file photo taken on 22 November 2017 from the British Antarctic Survey Twin Otter aircraft shows the Larsen C iceberg. PHOTO: AFP

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The file photo taken on 22 November 2017 from the British Antarctic Survey Twin Otter aircraft shows the Larsen C iceberg. PHOTO: AFP
Myanmar U-22 begin training for 2019 SEA Games

THE Myanmar U-22 football team began training for the 2019 Southeast Asian Games yesterday with a squad of preliminarily selected players.

The 40 preliminary players were selected by the team’s head coach Velizar Popov yesterday. They include five players above the age of 22 as the 2019 SEA Games have given the team a chance to use five players who are over 22 years old this year.

At present, some players from Yangon United and Shan United FC have not joined training as the 2019 General Aung San Shield is not over yet.

The preliminarily selected players include goalkeepers Phone Thitsar Min, Sann Satt Naing, Soe Aker, Tun Nanda Oo, and Zin Nyi Nyi Aung.

Defenders selected on the squad include Ye Min Thu, Ye Tint Aung, Soe Moe Kyaw, Thu Hein Khun, Zin Ye Naung, Kyaw Phyo Way, Aung Wunna Soe, Win Moe Kyaw, Kyaw Thu Tun, Htoo Khant Lwin, and Hein Phyo Win.


The Myanmar U-22 footballers begin training yesterday for 2019 SEA Games.

General Aung San Shield 2019: Pre-match press meet held ahead of final

A pre-match press conference was held yesterday ahead of the final match of the General Aung San Shield 2019 at the conference hall of the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

The final match of the tourney will take place between Shan United FC and Yangon United FC at 6 p.m. on 24 September.

The head coaches of the two teams, players, and media personnel were present at the conference.

U Aung Naing, the head coach of Shan United, said the team was under no pressure to win the shield. They would compete calmly to win the shield, he said adding, the team faced no pressure from the club’s owners.

“We will compete happily, without pressure, to get the shield. We are preparing to our best,” said the head coach of Shan United.

U Tin Maung Tun, the head coach of Yangon United, said his team is looking to win the shield.

“They are motivated. Although midfielder Koseke is not in our club, the team does not feel our midfield would be weak. The team will compete with the replacements of youth players. The coach and the players will cooperate with respect and faith,” he said.

“This is an important match for both teams, so it will be a good game. Yangon United will give its best in the 90 minutes of the final as this is the last hope for the shield,” he added. — Kyaw Khin

Colombia’s Munoz pulls out playoff win at Sanderson Farms event

LOS ANGELES (UNITED STATES)—Sebastian Munoz parred the first playoff hole on Sunday at the Sanderson Farms Championship to beat Im Sung-jae and earn his first US PGA Tour victory.

Munoz birdied the last hole in regulation to force the playoff, then returned to 18, where he rolled in a four-foot putt to pull out the victory over the 2019 tour rookie of the year.

“I am speechless. This is crazy,” said Munoz, who becomes just the second Colombian to win on the tour, joining Camilo Villegas.

“The putts weren’t going in but I just stayed confident. It was awesome.”

The 26-year-old Munoz fired 70 for an 18-under 270 total to tie Im, who closed with a 66 on Sunday at The Country Club of Jackson in Mississippi.

Im’s South Korean compatriot An Byeong-hun finished in third, one shot back of the leaders, after a 69 in the fourth round.

Munoz’s three prior professional wins have all come in Colombia — including the 2016 Colombia Championship on the developmental Korn Ferry Tour. He was coming off a tie for seventh at The Greenbrier last week.

“Munoz, who started the fourth round with a one-shot lead, becomes the seventh-first time tour winner of this event in the past eight years.

The last time Munoz had a 54-hole lead he finished tied for third at The Greenbrier in 2017. On the playoff hole, both players lanced in the rough, on either side of the fairway off the tee.

Hitting out of the left-side rough, Im flew his second shot over the flag stick and into the grandstand.

That opened the door for Munoz, who had found the right rough off the tee. But Munoz left his 168-yard second shot well short of the green. Munoz then made a nice chip to four feet and claimed the victory after Im missed badly from six feet on his first putt. Munoz had birdies in regulation on three, 11 and 18 and a bogey on 15. He forced the playoff by making a slow roller from 15 feet over an uphill slope.

“We decided on a line and tried to make it as simple as we could,” said the clutch putter.

Munoz is the second South American in as many weeks to win after Chile’s Joaquin Niemann captured his first title by six shots at The Greenbrier.

“Jaco’s win gave me the belief I needed, the little extra belief I’m good enough,” said Munoz.

Munoz, from Bogota, was in the final group with his former teammate at the University of North Texas, Carlos Ortiz, but the Mexican needed an eagle on 18 to get into the playoff and settled for a par.

Ortiz shot a final-round 71 to finish in a tie for fourth with American Kevin Streelman at 272, two shots back of Munoz and Im. — AFP