Daw Khin Kyi Foundation hands over mobile libraries, equipment, publications to MoI

STATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi observed a ceremony to hand over mobile libraries, equipment, books and publications donated by Daw Khin Kyi Foundation to the Ministry of Information, and to sign memorandum of understanding for cooperation with community centers at Thaingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The ceremony was also attended by former President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin, Union Ministers Dr Pe Myint, U Min Thu, Thura U Aung Ko, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Dr Win Myat Aye, U Ohn Maung, Nai Thet Lwin; Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung and its members, state/region ministers, deputy ministers, local and foreign donors, invited guests, officers and staff members of MoI and officials.

In delivering a speech at the ceremony, Chairperson of Daw Khin Kyi Foundation and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that the mobile library was introduced by the foundation in the country. The idea had been developed since the foundation was set up. She said the first person she needed to thank was her great Dr Ohn Mar Moe Myint. The country needed many libraries. People needed to read a lot. However, it would take time to build libraries in every town, and it would not be pragmatic. After a brief argument about this idea, Dr Ohn Mar Moe Myint decided to give in and agreed to implement the mobile library project.

She devoted herself entirely to the project, and never expressed her reluctance although she resisted the idea. She brought this project to a successful conclusion. Donors from Japan, Taiwan and other countries helped in the project.

Although she thought the project would not be successful, all the books on a mobile library were borrowed by the readers within two hours in the first day. It was very encouraging to see a long queue of children. It was also understood that the project has a great potential for success. Then, the mobile library project was expanded across the country.

The State Counsellor also remarked that Myanmar people loved reading, but they had no books to read. The mobile libraries were mainly targeted for the children with the use of attractive and colorful designs. Actually, the (state-owned) libraries in many towns failed to attract both children and adults. For example, most of the books and publications at these libraries were outdated and discarded books donated by private donors. Thus, these interesting books could not attract readers.

SEE PAGE-3
Joint Committee on Amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 40/2019

THE Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution held its meeting 40/2019 at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Committee Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung, Joint Committee Secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe, Joint Committee members who were Hluttaw representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

—MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Co-leader of Myanmar Delegation to 74th Session of United Nations General Assembly, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin meets Foreign Minister of Australia

U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, who is currently in New York to attend the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, met with Australian Foreign Minister The Hon Marise Payne at the United Nations Headquarters on 23 September 2019. At the meeting, bilateral relations between the two countries and the issue in Rakhine State including repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine State were discussed.—MNA

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin meets with The Hon Marise Payne, Foreign Minister of Australia, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. PHOTO: MNA

UEC Chair meets with Swedish Amb, Int’l IDEA delegation separately

UEC Chairman U Hla Thein meets with Swedish Ambassador Mr Staffan Herrstorm in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

UEC Chairman U Hla Thein first received Swedish Ambassador Mr Staffan Herrstorm at the UEC office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they openly discussed the implementation of the strategic plan (2019-2022) for successfully organizing the 2020 General Elections, ensuring inclusivity for 18-year-olds voting for the first time, ensuring domestic migrant workers and IDPs can exercise their right to vote, conducting electoral education programmes, organizing advanced voting processes and right to vote for citizens working abroad, and increasing female participation in the election process.

Afterwards, the UEC Chairman received a delegation from the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), led by Executive Director (Headquarters, Stockholm) Ms Fiona Rowley, around 2 p.m. There they discussed preparations to make the upcoming general elections free, fair, transparent, reliable, and trustworthy, implementation of STEP Democracy with the support of International IDEA, plans to distribute a guide to election ethics for media personnel, conducting electoral education programmes with social media, and inviting domestic and international monitoring groups.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

UNION Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein meets with Swedish Ambassador Mr Staffan Herrstorm at the UEC office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution held its meeting 40/ 2019 at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Committee Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Chairman of the Joint Committee Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung, Joint Committee Secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe, Joint Committee members who were Hluttaw representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

—MNA

(Translated by TTN)
Daw Khin Kyi Foundation hands over mobile libraries, equipment, publications to MoI

The Foundation to handle it alone. The Foundation to handle it alone. It has become impossible for the Foundation to handle it alone. It has become impossible for the Foundation to handle it alone. The project had grown dramatically. As the project had grown dramatically, it has become impossible for the Foundation to handle it alone.

The Foundation handed over 17 vehicles for mobile libraries, 346 sets of computer and equipment, over 110,000 books and 27 skilled personnel.

The Daw Khin Kyi Foundation has invested over K 1 billion since it established the mobile library project. It would be extended by signing the MoU. As the project had grown dramatically, it has become impossible for the Foundation to handle it alone.

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It had developed into a State project. It had been proven that the mobile libraries could reach many corners of the country, and the project is therefore handed over to the government.

The State Counsellor also expressed her satisfaction for the success of this project and thanked all persons concerned with the Information Minister, including from the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation.

She also recounted her experience in a literary talk with university students that a student insisted their real lives do not seem to relate with the message in the books. The State Council explained that different matters were almost in the same degree of importance to be known like own experiences. She also suggested that it was necessary to avoid seeing the world in a narrow scope as both personal and global views were important. Someone could compare own experiences with those of others.

She also said that it was necessary to know the dos and don'ts by taking lessons from others as reading was good for all ages and that it was necessary to take time for reading every day.

The mobile library project was started in Kawhmu township, and the success of this project had required more infrastructure such as parking spaces for mobile library cars, the storage of books, and accommodation for staff members. After discussing with the Information Minister, it was decided to base the mobile libraries in the community centers. These centers were being used for public discussions, reading and computer training courses.

The Information Minister has expected more people to use these centers as these facilities standing among each other.

She said that reading was for understanding others, and quoted a researcher’s appraisal of writing as a greatest revolution for human beings as reading and writing could develop human lives by sharing knowledge for the following generations.

She also said reading and writing could develop human history and culture. She then expressed her appreciation to the Information Ministry for taking over the responsibility and leading role to manage and maintain the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation and the mobile libraries.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint’s speech

Next, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint delivered a speech. The library of the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD), more commonly known as the IPRD office, were working under certain limitations. From that situation, the mobile library began lending new books in Kawhmu Township. Training courses for computer skills, English proficiency and other skills essential for youths were given in conjunction with the mobile library, and that this became interesting prospect for us, said Union Minister Dr Pe Myint.

The Union Minister went on to say that if the overlooked IPRD libraries could be transformed into community centers then they would become livelier and vibrant and the staff assigned there would become more self-confident. Furthermore, these places would become more essential for their community and that this was a vision that was clearly emerging, said Dr Pe Myint.

He then said that this was the reason why they decided to transform the IPRD offices and libraries into community centres and they wished to thank the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation for giving them the necessary support and motivation to initiate that objective. The Union Minister said the IPRD offices were usually located in the centre of towns or districts but the books would be old and the buildings decrepit. He said renovation would be costly but they strived to achieve that while seeking assistance from interested persons. He said that while the project had grown lately to begin, they initiated whatever activities of a community centre were possible in those old buildings.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech at the handover ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

The Daw Khin Kyi Foundation has invested over K 1 billion until now since it established the mobile library project. It would be extended by signing the MoU. As the project had grown dramatically, it has become impossible for the Foundation to handle it alone. It had developed into a State project. It had been proven that the mobile libraries could reach many corners of the country, and the project is therefore handed over to the government.
Ministries discuss cooperation in disaster responses

A COORDINATION meeting for discussing more effective responses to natural disasters and better cooperation of the relevant ministries and states/regions was held at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was taken part by Union Minister for Government Office U Min Thu, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein and officials.

At the meeting, Union Minis- ter Dr Win Myat Aye said all the countries, including Myanmar, are suffering from the global climate change, and that it is important to set up mechanisms for disaster management and response among the ministries and states/regions.

He also advised the previous plans to be reviewed in accordance with the changing types of natural disasters and modern technologies. After 2008 Cyclone Nargis, Myanmar adopted plans to address the nine natural disasters under the categories of urban fire, forest fire, flood, earthquake, storms, tsunami, drought, landslide and frost.

The Union Minister asked the relevant agencies to update the plans in line with the 2013 Natural Disaster Management Law and 2015 Disaster Management Regulations to meet the needs of respective areas in attracting public participation.

Union Minister U Min Thu then said the State Counsellor has instructed the relevant ministers to maintain the awareness of existing short and long-term plans with the ongoing situations.

He also remarked better coordination is needed among the relevant government agencies, social communities and NGOs during the recent disasters happened in Mon and Kayin states.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint delivers the speech at the handover ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung explained the disaster management laws and regulations for preparations, emergency responses and rehabilitation works.

At the meeting, the senior officials of relevant ministries discussed the existing disaster management works and the Union Ministers coordinated the requirements. —MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

...even though the mobile library had already been handed over to the Ministry of Information, the duties related to it were not over yet.
Vice President U Myint Swe meets with Senior Lieutenant General Phan Van Giang, the Chief of the General Staff of the Viet Nam People’s Army in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar delegation attends 74th Session of United Nations General Assembly

THE MYANMAR delegation led by U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, attended the opening session of the General Debate of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the United States of America on 24th September 2019. The Myanmar delegation also comprises Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Permanent Representative of Myanmar to UN U Hau Do Suan and Myanmar Ambassador to US U Aung Lin.

Leaders from 193 United Nations member states including Heads of States, Heads of Governments, ministerial level representatives, UN Secretary-General Mr Antonio Guterres and the chair of the assembly Mr Tijjani Muhammad-Bande attended the session.

The session opened with statements by UN Secretary-General and the chair of the assembly. Leaders from 37 countries, including US President Mr Donald Trump, delivered statements on the first day of the assembly.

The General Debate will be held from 24 to 30 September 2019 and Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe is scheduled to deliver a statement at annual General Debate on 28 September 2019.—MNA

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr CHHOUK Bunna as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr CHHOUK Bunna was born on 5th October 1985 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. He studied at the Royal University of Phnom Penh from 2002 to 2006 and obtained Bachelor of Education. He also studied at the Royal University of Law and Economics from 2003 to 2007 and obtained Bachelor of Economics (Rural Economic Development).

He joined General Department of ASEAN of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia in 2007. And he has served various capacities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia and currently, he is serving as the Deputy Director General of the General Department of ASEAN of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia.

Mr CHHOUK Bunna is married and has two children.—MNA

New stamp to commemorate 150th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi

MYANMAR Post under the Ministry of Transport and Communications will launch a special postage stamp of K100 denomination to commemorate the 150th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. The special stamp will go on sale at 9.30 a.m. from 2 October (fourth waxing of Thadingyut 1381 ME) at all post offices in the states and regions. As a special programme, the Central Post Office of Nay Pyi Taw, the Yangon General Post Office, and the Mandalay General Post Office will stamp the postmark and date on the commemorative stamps and First Day Covers purchased on 2 October.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)
UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint attended the meeting on development of community centers, at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Present at the meeting were, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council, ministers of regions and states, officials of Ministry of Information and executive member Dr Thant Thaw Kaung from Daw Khin Kyi Foundation.

At the meeting, they discussed community based mobile libraries, computer courses, children’s reading rooms, mini museums, public talks, reading sessions and contests which are conducted in collaboration with Daw Khin Kyi Foundation. They also discussed funds for the activities.—MNA (Translated by Alphonsus)

The Senior General and the Chief of the General Staff took the salute of the Guard of Honour and inspected it. They then introduced each other to the senior military officers from their respective countries. The two leaders then held a meeting at the meeting hall of the Zeyathiri Beikman.

During the meeting, they discussed the need for unity, cooperation and strengthened relations among the militaries of ASEAN member nations in order to ensure sustainable development and stability within the region.

They also discussed matters related to promoting bilateral economic relations, trade and tourism, organizing goodwill visits between the two militaries, training and medical cooperation, working together on technical, cultural, sports and other sectors, fighting drug trafficking, information exchange, and the progress of Myanmar’s peace process, according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. —MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Ministry of Information to develop community centres

Myanmar Delegation attends United Nations Climate Action Summit 2019

The Summit was attended by the Heads of States/ Heads of Governments and Ministers from many states, private sector; civil society and other international organizations to enhance ambitious solutions in six areas including a global transition to renewable energy; sustainable and resilient infrastructures and cities; sustainable agriculture and management of forests and oceans; resilience and adaptation to climate impacts; and alignment of public and private finance with a net zero economy.—MNA
Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor who is currently in New York attending the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, met with US Under Secretary of States for Political Affairs Mr David Hale at the United Nations Headquarters on 24th September 2019.

At the meeting, they discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations, progress of democratic transformation, peace and national reconciliation processes in Myanmar and developments in Rakhine State including the preparation for the repatriation work of displaced persons.

On the sideline of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Union Minister of the Office of the State Counsellor, U Kyaw Tint Swe met Mr Peter Maurer, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on 23rd September 2019.

During the meeting, they discussed emergency aid and humanitarian assistance provided by ICRC to people affected by the conflict in Myanmar including ensuring the people’s access to basic services in those areas. —MNA

Officials provide rice to displaced people at IDP camps in MraukU Township

OFFICIALS from Disaster Management Department of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday provided rice bags for a month to the displaced people at two IDP camps in MraukU Township, Rakhine State. Officials led by U Aung Zan Hein, Deputy Head of Township General Administration Department, and Daw Nan Moe Nwe, Head of District Disaster Management Department, provided 27 rice bags for one month to 93 displaced people of 27 households at Naratsar Ordination Hall in Myothit, Aung Tat Ward.

The officials also went to Tein Nyo Village and provided 852.5 bags of rice for one month to 2,842 displaced people of 712 households at the village’s IDP camp.—MraukU/IPRD

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Public announcement for remonstration

DANU National Democracy Party, headquartered near the Office of the Immigration & National Registration Department, Bahan Road, Shyin Taung Ward, Thaketa Township in Yangon Region, is a political party already allowed to be registered as a political party in accord with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law. In their application they mention that they will use the emblem as described here under.

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

Emblem of Danu National Democracy Party

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 186/2019
12th Waning of Tawthalin, 1381 ME
25 September, 2019

Permission to register as a political party

Naga National Party (NNP), headquartered at Zeephyugone Ward, Kamit Township in Sagaing Region, has been permitted to register as a political party in accordance with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 25 September 2019.

The registration number of Naga National Party (NNP) is 120.

(Hla Thein) Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 187/2019
12th Waning of Tawthalin, 1381 ME
25 September, 2019

Permission to register as a political party

The People’s Power Party, headquartered at No 143/A, Sittaung Street, Ward 6, Shwepyitha Township in Yangon Region, has been permitted to register as a political party in accordance with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 25 September 2019.

The registration number of the People’s Power Party is 121.

(Hla Thein) Chairman
Union Election Commission
Base price for rice will safeguard farmers’ interest

D I F F E R E N T kinds of dangers occur daily in different parts of the world. Floods, fire, storms, earthquake and landslides have caused a lot of dangers, pushing millions of people to flee their homes with loss of their properties and collapses of their houses and buildings. People have faced a lot of problems—illnesses, injuries, threats of loss, destruction of crops, mental disorders and social ills such as continuation of education and a crisis of survival.

Disaster should be viewed with three categories of natural disaster: man-made disaster and disaster caused by human involvement. Natural disasters have begun since the beginning of our planet earth. Such disasters do not involve human activities nor conditions due to human beings. Emergence of earthquakes, tsunami, volcanic eruptions are good examples of natural disaster. Man-made disasters came after social civilization; fire, collapses of bridges and buildings, dams, radioactive radiation are cases that are man-made disasters.

The third one involves creating human activities for their own advantages. For instance, raising the level of sea water and global warming, emergence of extreme climates, disorderly [an] extreme weather, severe drought and abnormal flooding are disasters caused by human involvement. The emergence of storms, landslides, collapses of mountains could occur due to either natural phenomena or human deeds. Such disasters are normal- ly named natural disasters, but they could happen because of industrialization, excessive carbon emissions, deforestation, mining and exploitations of quarries.

The emergence of a storm depends on three fundamental factors; the factor is low pressure area followed by the second factor of high temperature on the sea water and also, one is the acidity rate high on low pressure area. The earth rotates at a length of 23 degrees from a centigrade around its own axis and completes one round around the sun about 365 days, thus making the wind more quickly here and there as the result of natural forces on earth. As a consequence, low pressure area and high pressure area could occur all over the world. Although low pressure area is a natural phenomenon on the earth; high temperature and high acidity rate are consequences relating to human deeds. Extensive carbon dioxide emissions cause high temperatures on land and sea areas. Dams and sea and ocean water absorb continuously carbon dioxide produced on earth, thus raising acidity rate in the sea water. The storm is fundamentally natural phenomena. It frequently occurs due to human deeds, causing more dangers and loss of lives.

Similarly, landslides and collapse of mountains are natural phenomena of geological movements of underground water currents due to human deeds. Earth digging, mining and exploitations of quarries, extension of land areas, transportation of earth and rocks from the mountain sides in order to pave the roads, creation of mountain-top pond and lake, creation of a new cultivation after clearing natural weeds and that of artificial waterfalls on the mountain sides. Creation of spring gates and hollowing of perennial trees, construction of buildings on the mountain sides and river banks without systematic construction of earth walls and installations of towers of human deeds cause landslides, collapses of mountain edges and river banks.

The Social Security and Rescue and Rehabilitation Ministry headed by Vice-President U Henry Van Thio as Chairman and the Ministry’s Deputy Minister as Secretary, was composed of Union advisers, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, States and Regions Prime Ministers; an advisory committee was formed to give valuable advice to the Ministry. As I am a professional analyst about disasters, I usually submit an advice on disasters at meetings of main committee and the advisory committee. Personal field trips to the States for analysis were made to submit suggestions to the main committee and the Governments concerned.

In last August, the field trips to Paung township, Mon State were made to ensure the landlides and the collapses of the mountains in order to submit the findings, considerations and suggestions under the given duties of the management committee on natural disasters from 27-28 August, these trips were also made to Mawlamyine township, Mon State, Zengeik and Kwaychan villages. I was accompanied by Dr Soe Win Nyin, an advisor for public health, irrigation exp. U Victor and U Ye Hto, a management expert on natural disasters.

Upon arrival in Mawlamyine township, Mon State, we discussed with the State Government officials, headed by the State Prime Minister about the programs on the field trips at a meeting room of the State Government Office. On 20th August, our group of experts together with the Minister for the Immigration and Manpower Ministry of the State visited the sites of landlides and collapses of the mountains in Paung township which caused loss of lives and also to 12 sites where landlides and collapses of mountain area could probably occur. Based on the findings and these areas in Thpehpun village and the foot of the Malat Mountain in Paung township, we conclude that the disasters were perhaps the result of human activity rather than any geological processes. Extension of land areas after the explosions of the mountains, earth-digging and its transportation and using of quarries will cause much problems. The local people who speak about these activities from an evidences approach.

Because of these activities, Malat Mountain and nearby mountains where earth and rocks stand solid, heavy rainfalls occur in these mountains due to seeping water into the soil and rocks on the top and sides of the mountains. The pebbles formation of Malat mountain is not similar to those of nearby mountains, collapsing at the rapid rate within a period of few months, leaving the lives and properties of people.
109 migrant workers repatriated to Myanmar

Global New Light of Myanmar

THE 13th Tachilek-Chiang Rai border cooperation on anti-trafficking meeting held in Thailand

MYANMAR received 109 migrant workers — 101 men and 9 women — on the evening of 25 September at the Kawthoung border gate. They were handed over by officials from Thailand’s Ranong Immigration Department, the labour department, and the anti-trafficking in Person Police Force, the Labour Department, and the Disaster Management Department received the migrant workers. The Township Public Health Department provided the necessary healthcare to the workers and thereafter, they were sent back to their native towns. — Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

(Translated by La Wonn)

13 injured after bus overturns in Mahlaing Township

A PASSENGER bus over-turned on the morning of 25 September near Thapyaypin village in Mahlaing Township after the driver lost control of the vehicle while trying to avoid a head-on collision with a car. Thirteen passengers were injured in the accident.

The mishap occurred between mileposts 10/7 and 11/0 of the Meiktila-Mahlaing road in Mahlaing Township. Wai Phyo Aung, who was driving the passenger bus, swerved to avoid an approaching car, but lost control of the vehicle, and the bus overturned. The driver of the car has been identified as U Tun Zaw Oo.

The bus was carrying 45 passengers — 31 men and 14 men. Thirteen passengers were injured in the mishap and were taken to the Meiktila People’s Hospital. The Mahlaing Township Police have filed a case of reckless driving against U Tun Zaw Oo under Sections 338 and 337 of the Penal Code. — Thein Myint Kyaw (Meiktila)

(Translated by La Wonn)
The value of Sino-Myanmar border trade through the Muse gate plunged by US$1.3 billion between 1 October, 2018 and 13 September, 2019 in the current financial year from $5.94 billion recorded in the year-ago period, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

In the eleven-and-a-half month period, exports through the Muse gate dropped significantly to $2.95 billion, while imports were valued at $1.6 billion, totaling $4.62 billion.

Exports through Muse gate have declined owing to tightening and trade suspension by China since October, 2018, coupled with the suspension by China since October, 2018, coupled with the tightening confiscated and trade gate have declined owing to China clamping down on illegal goods.

China through the legitimate channel as they find the tax levied by China too high. Therefore, rice confiscation and price manipulation often occur.

“We need to convert the government-to-government (G2G) agreement into a sustainable pact. Myanmar requires G2G or business-to-business (B2B) agreements for trade of pulses and beans, corn, sesame, fish, and shrimp to grab a share of the Chinese market. The government and the private sector also need to move forward in harmony through public private partnerships (PPP),” according to U Ye Min Aung, the President of the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Myanmar exports rice, sugar, pulses, sesame seeds, corn, dried tea leaves, fishery products, minerals, and animal products to China, while it imports agricultural machinery, electrical appliances, iron and steel-related materials, raw industrial goods, and consumer goods from the neighbouring country. — GNLM (Translated by EMM)

The price of gold in the domestic market has touched a high of K1.246 million per tical (0.016 kilogram) due to price surge in the global market, according to traders.

On 25 September, gold opened at K1,246,000 per tical in the domestic market, according to the Yangon Gold Entrepreneurs Association. Gold is currently priced at US$1,528 per ounce or, 0.016 kilogram due to a rise. But, gold trading has cooled as the price of gold in the market, said gold traders.

With prices on the rise, the Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association has warned members of legal action if any fraudulent case is detected against them. Traders have also been asked to clear payments at once, according to the association.

With global gold prices on the uptick, the domestic price has hit fresh highs this year, reaching K1,059,200 per tical between 17 and 29 January, crossing K1,060,000 (16 January-7 February), climbing to 1,070,000 (8-18 February), and then K1,080,000 (19-21 February) to reach a fresh peak of K1,110,000 on 21 June. Thereafter, the price gradually increased, and hit a new record of K1,200,000 on 7 August.

According to gold traders, the lowest price for gold in May was K1,035,200 (2 May) and the highest was K1,059,200 (14 May).

In June, gold prices touched the lowest level of K1,055,000 on 1 June and the highest level of K1,125,500 on 25 June. The prices moved in the range of K1,099,000 (1 July) and 1,149,400 (31 July) in July. Last month, the prices ranged between K1,141,500 and K1,263,000. — GNLM (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

The 2019 Mid Year Myanmar Gems Emporium concludes, fetches Euro 506.913 mln

The 2019 Mid Year Myanmar Gems Emporium was held for ten days and concluded yesterday, earning a total of 506.913 million euro. Over 5,845 jade lots and 40 gem lots were sold at 506,534,417 euro and 378,889 euro respectively.

General Manager of Myanmar Gems Enterprise, U Min Thu said “At the event, 49 gem lots were sold out of 481 displayed. Some 5845 jade lots were sold out of over 711 displayed. The jade lot which earned the highest sale was sold at 16.3 million euro and the lowest one was 5000 euro. Most of the jade merchants were from China and gem merchants were from Thailand.

The 55th Myanmar Gems Emporium in 2018 sold 5,259 jade lots out of 6,765 displayed, but the payments were made for only 4260 lots.

In 56th event of 2019, some 5263 jade lots were sold out of 6973 displayed, but the payments were made for only 4,339 lots.

The General Manager said “Merchants have to pay 10 per cent deposit on the price. For example, if they want to buy 100,000, euro worth of jade lot they must pay 10,000 euro in advance for the deal. If they failed to make the agreement they will lose the deposit, instead we blacklist them.”

The 2019 Mid Year Myanmar Gems Emporium was held from 16 to 25 September at Mani Yada Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. About 5,000 local and international merchants from 3,325 gem companies attended the emporium. — Kyaw Thu Htet (MNA) (Translated by Alphonsus)

Gold price soars to K1.246 mln on back of gains in global market

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‘Media is lying’ about Amazon devastation, says Brazil’s Bolsonaro

Jair Bolsonaro, President of Brazil, tells the UN General Assembly that the Amazon rainforest is sovereign territory. PHOTO: AFP

UNITED NATIONS—Brazil’s President Jair Bolsonaro said Tuesday it was a lie that the Amazon was being devastated by fire and accused countries critical of him of having a “colonialist spirit.” Speaking first at this year’s UN General Assembly, the far-right leader also heaped praise on his American counterpart Donald Trump for respecting his country’s sovereignty.

The speech came a week after a Human Rights Watch report that accused Bolsonaro of giving a “green light” to illegal loggers and failing to protect those defending the world’s largest rainforest. “The Amazon is not being devastated or consumed by fire... The media is lying,” said Bolsonaro, whose 32-minute speech went more than double his allotted time. “It is a fallacy to say that the Amazon is the heritage of humanity, and a misconception confirmed by scientists to say that our Amazon forests are the lungs of the world,” he said. Bolsonaro also hit out at his detractors, saying that while every country had problems, sensational reporting in the international media “aroused our patriotic sentiments.” “Using and resorting to these fallacies, certain countries, instead of helping... behaved in a disrespectful manner and with a colonialist spirit,” he said.

“Trolls will never succeed in confusing the public,” he added. Making a clear reference to France, he said: “One of these countries during the recent G7 meeting dared suggest applying sanctions to Brazil without consulting or even listening to Brazil.” France and Ireland have threatened to block a trade deal between the EU and South American countries including Brazil because of Bolsonaro’s environmental policies.

Bolsonaro by contrast said he was grateful to Trump, “who summed up the spirit that should prevail among United Nation member countries: respect for the freedom and sovereignty of each of the member countries.”

EUROPEANS SEE LAST CHANCE FOR IRAN-US MEETING

UNITED NATIONS—US President Donald Trump and his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani face their last chance Wednesday for a historic meeting as European leaders raced to arrange talks aimed at defusing soaring tensions. A meeting between the arch-enemies would be historic but also come under a political cloud, with Trump’s Democratic rivals on Tuesday announcing an impeachment inquiry against him.

With world leaders gathered in New York for the annual UN General Assembly, French President Emmanuel Macron made a fresh push for Trump to meet Rouhani. Escorting a smiling Rouhani to a meeting with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Macron said that time was running short. “If he leaves the country without meeting with President Trump, honestly this is a lost opportunity because he will not come back in a few months,” Macron said. —AFP

French President Emmanuel Macron speaks with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani at the UN General Assembly. PHOTO: AFP

DEMOCRATS LAUNCH FORMAL TRUMP IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY

Nancy Pelosi, the speaker of the US House of Representatives, has resisted calls for Donald Trump’s impeachment for months, preferring to focus on the 2020 election. PHOTO: AFP

WASHINGTON—Top US Democrat Nancy Pelosi Tuesday announced the opening of a formal impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump, saying he betrayed his oath of office by seeking help from a foreign power to hurt his Democratic rival Joe Biden.

The dramatic move — the first step in a complex process that stands little chance of driving Trump from office — pushed US politics into a perilous new chapter just 14 months before new elections for control of the White House and Congress. Following the bombshell developments from Trump Tower in New York — after addressing the UN General Assembly—the president denounced the inquiry as “Witch Hunt garbage”—while also claiming it would help his re-election chances in 2020.

“The actions of the Trump presidency revealed the dishonorable facts of the president’s betrayal of his oath of office, betrayal of our national security, and betrayal of the integrity of our elections,” Pelosi told a highly anticipated news conference in the US capital.

“Therefore, today I’m announcing the House of Representatives moving forward with an official impeachment inquiry.” Pelosi, the speaker of the House of Representatives, and other Democratic Party leaders had resisted taking the step for months, preferring to focus on the coming election fight. —AFP

Two million children out of school in war-torn Yemen: UN

UNITED NATIONS—Two million children are out of school in war-torn Yemen, a fourth of whom have dropped out since the conflict escalated in March 2015, the UN children’s agency said Wednesday. The education of a further 3.7 million children is at risk as teachers’ salaries have not been paid in more than two years, UNICEF said in a statement. “Violence, displacement and attacks on schools are preventing many children from accessing school,” said Sara Beysolov Nyantai, UNICEF representative in Yemen. In five schools in the country, classes can never be used as a direct result of the conflict that has devastated Yemen’s already fragile education system, the UN agency says.

“Children out of school face increased risks of all forms of exploitation including being forced to join the fighting, child labour and early marriage,” Nyantai said. “They lose the opportunity to develop and grow in a caring and stimulating environment, ultimately becoming trapped in a life of poverty and hardship.” —AFP

French #MeToo founder faces verdict in defamation suit

PARIS—The woman behind France’s answer to the #MeToo campaign exposing male abusive behaviour on Wednesday faces the verdict in a defamation case brought by a media executive she accused of making lewd and sexist remarks. Sandra Muller started a viral hashtag in French in October 2017, #balancetonporc (expose your pig), which called on Frenchwomen to name and shame men in an echo of the #MeToo movement that began in response to allegations that toppled movie producer Harvey Weinstein. In another post sent hours later, the US-based French journalist had accused French TV executive Eric Brion of humiliating her with sexual remarks as a function in the town of Cannes in 2012.—AFP
Stock markets slide on Trump impeachment move, trade fears

NEW YORK—Vox Media announced a merger agreement Tuesday with New York Media, home of the prestigious “New York” magazine and a series of other titles.

A joint statement presented the move as a merger, although Jim Bankoff, the head of Vox will “lead all aspects” of the new company and the New York Times reported that New York Media would be “effectively taking a minority stake” in Vox.

Launched in 1968 "New York" magazine has become a prominent voice in culture and lifestyle in its home city and beyond. PHOTO: AFP

"Saturday Night Fever" was inspired by an article that appeared in the magazine, as was 2007’s “American Gangster” starring Denzel Washington. New York Media also owns a stable of websites

Launched in 1968 "New York" magazine has become a prominent voice in culture and lifestyle in its home city and beyond. PHOTO: AFP
South Korean President Moon Jae-in laid out his rosy vision for the last Cold War frontier in an address to the UN General Assembly on Wednesday morning.—Xinhua

S Korean leader proposes peace zone buffering North

On Tuesday proposed that the peninsula’s divide, currently fronted by a military build up on each side, be replaced by a zone that would turn the Korean Peninsula into a bridge nation that connects the continent and the Asian subcontinent, he said.

Moon voiced hope that the zone, which is four kilometers wide, would become the home of UN agencies dedicated to conflict resolution and the environment and eventually be declared a world heritage site by UNESCO, the UN cultural body.

"It can become an international peace zone in name as well as substance," Moon said. "The establishment of an international peace zone will provide an institutional and realistic guarantee for North Korea’s security," Moon said.

"At the same time South Korea will be able to gain permanent peace," he said.

The left-leaning leader, whose diplomacy paved the way for historic summits between President Donald Trump and North Korean strongman Kim Jong Un, laid out his rosy vision for the last Cold War frontier in an address to the UN General Assembly.

BEIJING—Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday announced the official opening of the Beijing Daxing International Airport. Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, attended the operation ceremony of the airport on Wednesday morning.—AFP

NEW YORK—South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Tuesday brushed aside an outcry from human rights activists to receive an award from the Gates Foundation in New York for his efforts to end open defecation.

The decision to honor the Indian leader provoked several withering op-eds and the ire of three Nobel prize winners, citing rising attacks against minorities under Modi’s tenure, while British-Asian actors Jameela Jamil and Riz Ahmed who had been due to attend dropped out. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation said it respected the critics’ views but defended its decision, saying sanitation is a neglected issue and Modi’s program can serve as a model for other countries.

“I dedicate this award to all those Indians who transformed the ‘Clean India Mission’ into a people’s movement and started giving cleanliness the highest priority in their daily lives,” Modi said after collecting the award from billionaire philanthropist and Microsoft founder Bill Gates. India’s government says it has built more than 100 million toilets under a $29 billion initiative begun in 2014 to address the issue of open defecation, particularly in rural areas, a major public health issue in the country. Under Modi’s plan, tribal households get $200 each for building latrines.

But ahead of the ceremony, Nobel Peace Prize winners Mairead Maguire, Tawakkol Abdel-Salam Karman and Shirin Ebadi said that under Modi’s leadership, “India has descended into dangerous and deadly chaos that has consistently undermined human rights, democracy. “This is particularly troubling to us as the stated mission of your foundation is to preserve life and fight inequity,” they wrote, urging the Gates Foundation to change its decision.—AFP

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The terminal of the new Beijing Daxing International Airport. PHOTO: AFP

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The terminal of the new Beijing Daxing International Airport. PHOTO: AFP

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South Korean President Moon Jae-in laid out his rosy vision for the last Cold War frontier in an address to the UN General Assembly. PHOTO: AFP

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S Korean leader proposes peace zone buffering North
Netanyahu, Gantz set for new talks on Israel vote deadlock

JERUSALEM—Israel’s president meets Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his challenger Benny Gantz on Wednesday as the clock begins ticking on a one-week deadline for him to name someone to form a government.

President Reuven Rivlin will receive official results from Israel’s deadlocked September 17 election on Wednesday afternoon, beginning the one-week timeframe, while his three-way meeting is set for 6 pm (1500 GMT). He could name someone to try to form a coalition as early as Wednesday, and speculation has run rampant over whether he will do so or wait until after the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah, which falls on Monday and Tuesday.

In either case, the person selected will face what could turn out to be an impossible mission: forming a governing coalition when neither man has a clear path to a majority. Gantz’s centrist Blue and White and Netanyahu’s right-wing Likud have started talks on forming a unity government, but they appear far apart on a range of issues, including who will lead it. Wednesday night’s meeting with Rivlin, Netanyahu and Gantz will be their second since the election, and the president has repeatedly made clear he would like to see both of their parties in a unity government. He has pledged to do all he can to avoid yet another election — which would be the third in a year’s time after April polls also ended inconclusively.

“I therefore believe that the right path for the state of Israel today is to build as broad a governing coalition as possible,” Rivlin said at a Wednesday reception for foreign diplomats to mark the Jewish new year. “It’s my opinion. I’m trying to do my best.” A rotation arrangement has been floated, but the question of who would be premier first remains a major stumbling block.

Chief negotiators for Likud and Blue and White met Tuesday, but emerged afterward with only vague statements. —AFP

EU backs sanctions on seven more Venezuelans

BRUSSELS—The EU has approved sanctions on seven more Venezuelan officials over torture and other human rights abuses, diplomatic sources told AFP on Tuesday, as the bloc seeks to keep up pressure on President Nicolas Maduro.

Ambassadors from the European Union bloc countries gave their backing to the measures in a meeting on Wednesday, bringing to 25 the number of Venezuelan officials under European travel bans and asset freezes. The EU has had sanctions in place against crisis-wracked Venezuela since 2017, with a ban in place on the export of arms and the equipment that could be used for repression, in addition to the individual measures. “The majority (of the seven) are members of Venezuela’s security and intelligence services involved in cases of torture and other human rights violations,” one diplomat told AFP ahead of the meeting. The measures will now be formally signed off by ministers from the 28 EU states at a later date. —AFP

New Zealand Finance Minister says economy “well positioned”

WELLINGTON—New Zealand Finance Minister Grant Robertson said on Wednesday that the country’s strong growth potential and resilience has been backed by another international report, saying “we are well positioned.”

“‘It follows the IMF’s report last week which said we had solid rates of growth, particularly in the context of the global economic volatility we are seeing’” the finance minister said. In its latest opinion on New Zealand on Tuesday, rating New Zealand as one of the few countries with its strongest “AAA” credit rating, the agency Moody’s just released its latest opinion on New Zealand on Tuesday, rating New Zealand as one of the few countries with its strongest “AAA” credit rating.

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“very high” and growth remains “robust.” It expects New Zealand’s economy to grow around its potential rate of 2.5-3 percent in the next few years, in line with the median for Aaa-rated countries. —Xinhua

Russian ‘advisers’ train new Syrian battalion

YAFOUR (Syria)—Wearing clean bullet-proof vests and knee pads, fighters from a new Syrian army battalion showcase the skills they have learned from Russia’s military advisers. In the countryside west of Damascus, the soldiers carry out a mock assault, fire mortar rounds and rockets, perform mine-clearing and first aid exercises. Large clouds of dust rise over the training camp as troops in camouflage fatigues open fire.

Russian military support has allowed Syrian government forces to retake large parts of Syria from rebels and jihadists since 2015, and now control around 60 percent of the country. —APF

World

UK MPs return after bombshell court ruling

LONDON—British MPs return to parliament on Wednesday following a momentous Supreme Court ruling that Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s decision to suspend the house was unlawful.

The judgement has hit Johnson’s authority prompting calls for his resignation and cast further doubt on his promise to pull Britain out of the EU on October 31, come what may. The Conservative leader landed back in London at around 10:30am (0930 GMT) after his trip to New York, heading straight into a political maelstrom triggered by Tuesday’s damming court ruling that his decision to suspend parliament for five weeks was unlawful. Britain’s right-wing tabloids reacted angrily to the ruling, with The Sun saying it had been bombarded with letters from readers expressing “fury”. The Daily Telegraph said Johnson was “seen as the champion of the people against an establishment determined to stop Brexit”, while for the Daily Mail, “The real political vandals are the out of touch MPs blocking Brexit”. The Speaker of the House of Commons, John Bercow, announced that MPs would reconvene at 11:30 am (1000 GMT) on Wednesday, while the upper House of Lords said it would return later the same day.

“Labour opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn called on Johnson to resign but said he would not call a no confidence vote in parliament until the possibility of a no-deal Brexit has been eliminated. “Our first priority is to prevent a no-deal exit from the European Union on October 31,” Corbyn told BBC radio. Bercow said there would be no Prime Minister’s Questions—a weekly session held on Wednesdays—but there would be “full scope for urgent questions, for ministerial statements, and for applications for emergency debates”. —AFP

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PHOTO: AFP

New Zealand Finance Minister says economy “well positioned”
Myanmar prepares for World Cup qualifiers against Kyrgyzstan

THE Myanmar national football team is currently preparing for the qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 against Kyrgyzstan. The match is scheduled to take place on 10 October at the Dolen Omurzakov Stadium in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Myanmar head coach Miodrag Radulovic recently announced the names of 29 players chosen for the upcoming World Cup qualifier match, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

Four goalkeepers have been selected on the team — Kyaw Zin Phyo, Pyae Phyo Aung, Pyae Lian Aung, and Sann Sat Naing. The ten defenders selected on the squad are Zaw Min Tun, Soe Moe Kyaw, Zaw Lin, Zaw Ye Tun, Pyae Phyo Zaw, David Htan, Kyaw Zin Lwin, Win Moe Kyaw, Nanda Kyaw, and Hein Thiha Zaw.

There are eight midfielders on the team: Yan Aung Kyaw, Lwin Moe Aung, Nyein Chan Aung, Hlaing Bo Bo, Maung Maung Lwin, Kyi Lin, Si Thu Aung, and Suan Lan Mang.

The team also includes seven strikers: Kyaw Ko Ko, Aung Thu, Win Naing Soe, Than Paing, Kaung Sithu, Dway Ko Ko Chit, and Zin Min Tun.

Team Myanmar began their special training session on 25 September and will leave for Kyrgyzstan next month. Myanmar have met Kyrgyzstan twice at the group stage of the 2017 and 2018 editions of the AFC Asian Cup qualification. In their first meet on 10 October, 2017, Myanmar played to a 2-2 draw against Kyrgyzstan, and in the second meet, Myanmar lost 5-1 to Kyrgyzstan.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Myanmar senior women’s team beat junior team 3-2 in friendly football match

IN preparation for the 2019 South East Asian Games, which will be held in the Philippines in November and December this year, the Myanmar women’s national football team or the senior team beat the U-19 or junior team by 3-2 in a friendly match yesterday afternoon on the artificial turf in Bahan Township of Yangon.

The match proved to an exciting one, and both teams made all-out efforts to score. U Zaw Zaw, the vice president of the Asian Football Confederation and the president of the Myanmar Football Federation, came to watch the match and afterwards spoke words of encouragement to players from both teams.

The match was a good experience for both teams as players will be chosen from the two teams, according to officials. The women’s football event of the 2019 South East Asian Games will take place between 25 November and 9 December at the Binhai Football Stadium in Laguna, Philippines, and nations from ASEAN countries will participate in the event. The Myanmar women’s football team has already collected a bronze medal at the 2013 SEA Games, which took place in Myanmar.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Bayern Munich president ups stakes in Germany ‘keeper row

BERLIN (Germany) — Bayern Munich president Uli Hoeness has threatened to deprive the German national side of Bayern players if Manuel Neuer loses his number one goalkeeper spot, Sport Bild said Wednesday.

Barcelona ‘keeper Marc-Andre Ter Stegen, 27, is currently Neuer’s understudy and has voiced frustration at being kept out of the Germany side by the Bayern veteran.

The two players have traded barbed remarks with Ter Stegen last week accusing Neuer of making “inappropriate” comments.

Hoeness, however, has spoken up for Neuer and criticised German coach Joachim Low and the national federation for not backing the Bayern star more vocally.

“We will never accept that there will be a change,” the sports daily quoted Hoeness as saying.

“Before that happens we would prevent any of our players turning out for the national side.”—AFP

Alisson cannot wait to make Liverpool return

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker is back in full training and nearing a return to competitive action after six weeks out with a calf injury.

The Brazilian number one was carried off in Liverpool’s 4-1 victory over Norwich on the opening night of the Premier League season on 9 August.

“I’m on a good way, I think we are nearly there,” he told the Liverpool website.

“I can go outside to the pitch to do some goalkeeper work and I feel very well.

“I feel confident and I think now it’s just about getting all my power, all my confidence to come back and do what I love to do.”

Alisson was named men’s goalkeeper of the year at FIFA’s annual awards ceremony in Milan on Monday for his role in helping Liverpool win the Champions League last season.

Even without the inspirational goalkeeper, the Reds have also made a brilliant start in their quest to end a 30-year wait to win the Premier League, winning all six of their opening games to take a five-point lead over Manchester City. Stand-in ‘keeper Adrian, who only joined the club four days before the Norwich game, has overcome an uncertain start and was pivotal to a 2-1 win at Chelsea on Sunday.

And Alisson admitted the Spaniard’s form has allowed him not to rush his recovery.

“I think the boys are doing very well, all the team (and) Adrian especially,” he added.—AFP