Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN, at her residence in Nay Pyi Taw at 8:45 am on 4 October 2019. During the meeting, they exchanged views on the recent developments in Rakhine State and on the possible areas of collaboration between Myanmar and ASEAN as well as the implementation of the recommendations of Preliminary Needs Assessment conducted by the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN ERAT) to identify possible areas of cooperation between Myanmar and ASEAN to facilitate the repatriation process. Present at the meeting were Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

—MNA

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State Counsellor receives ASEAN SG

Displaced persons return from Bangladesh camps of their own volition, resettled

NINE displaced persons (3 males and 6 females from a single household), from Rakhine who were in Cox’s Bazaar in Bangladesh returned of their own volition. They were verified and received at Nga Khu Ya Reception Centre in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State on 2 October 2019. In accordance with the existing immigration regulations, the responsible officials of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population issued the National Verification Cards (NVC) to 4 individuals who are over 10 years of age.

SEE PAGE-2
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets with KDI Vice President in Seoul, RoK

DURING his goodwill visit to the Republic of Korea yesterday, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat held a meeting with the Vice President of the Korea Development Institute (KDI), Mr Youngjae Lim. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and cooperation, assistance received from KDI, and promoting collaboration between the governments, peoples and parliaments of both countries.

Accompanying the Speaker in the meeting were Chairman U Tin Htwe of the Pyithu Hluttaw Justice and Legal Affairs Committee, Chairman U Kyi Moe Naing of the Electricity and Energy Development Committee, members U Kyi Win and U Tun Kyaw of the Ethnic Affairs and Internal Peace Implementation Committee, and Myanmar Ambassador U Thant Sin. Later in the day, the Speaker and entourage visited the Sejong Government Complex and SK Telecom. —MNA

Finnish Under-Secretary departs from Yangon

Finland’s Under-Secretary of State for External Economic Relations, Ms Nina Irmeli Vaskunlahti, and delegation departed from Yangon at 6:20 pm yesterday. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Finnish Ambassador Ms Rükka Johanna Laatu and other officials. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Displaced persons return from Bangladesh camps of their own volition, resettled

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Similarly, a total of 27 displaced persons (16 males and 11 females from 14 households) also returned voluntarily to Myanmar on 25 September 2019 and they were verified and received by the responsible officials. Out of those returnees, 20 persons (12 men and 8 women), who are over 10 years of age, were issued the National Verification Cards by the immigration officials. In addition, on 30 September 2019, a total of 15 displaced persons (9 males and 6 females) from 5 households returned voluntarily to Myanmar. They were also verified and received by the responsible officials at Nga Khu Ya Reception Centre. Among those returnees, 12 persons (7 males and 5 females) who are over 19 years of age received the National Verification Cards.

These displaced persons, who have returned of their own volition, were received by the concerned ministries, the Rakhine State Government and the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) at the reception centre and provided with humanitarian assistance at the centre. Later on, they were transferred to Hla Phoe Khaung Transit Camp where they were supplied with foodstuffs and consumer goods and were subsequently transported to the villages for resettlement.

The displaced persons from the camps in Bangladesh have been steadily returning to Myanmar of their own volition and arrangements. As of today, Myanmar has already received over 300 displaced persons who voluntarily returned to Myanmar.—MNA.
State Counsellor visits Inle Lake in southern Shan State

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visited the Inle Heritage Foundation and the Khit Sunn Yin Lotus, Silk and Cotton Hand Weaving Centre in Impawkhon Village, and the Sein Thamadi Gold and Silver Smith Industry in Heya Ywama Village in Nyaungshwe Township in southern Shan State yesterday.

During the visit, the State Counsellor was accompanied by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Dr Aung Thu, U Ohn Win, Dr Myint Htwe and Deputy Minister U Hla Maw Oo. They arrived at the Heho Airport at 10:35 am from Nay Pyi Taw.

They were welcomed by Shan State’s Chief Minister Dr Lin Htut, State Hluttaw Speaker U Sai Lone Khan, Chief Justice of Shan State High Court U Kyaw Kywal, state government ministers, local Hluttaw representatives and officials at the airport.

The State Counsellor and party observed the conservation of Inle Lake by motorboats.

In the afternoon, they visited the Inthar Heritage House of the Inle Heritage Foundation, where they looked around the local traditional souvenir shops, the conservation of Myanmar cat species brought back from foreign countries, Inle Heritage Aquarium, cooking room, garden fed with natural organic humus, and free cooking class conducted by the foundation.

The Inle Heritage Foundation is a non-profit organization that preserves the nature and culture of Inle Lake, and is developing the area into a convenient place for living and a tourist site with many employment opportunities.

It is also a place to study local fish and tortoise species, preparing traditional foods, culture and lifestyles of the Inle area.

The State Counsellor and party also visited Khit Sunn Yin Lotus, Silk and Cotton Hand Weaving Centre. U Myint Thein Tun, the owner of the centre, explained the products and the market.

In the afternoon, the State Counsellor and party proceeded to Sein Thamadi Gold and Silver Smith Industry in Heya Ywama Village. Owner of the enterprise U San Linn and responsible personnel explained about the production, status of sales and demand. They then arrived at Nyaungshwe Township where they rested for the night. —MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)
Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses the opening ceremony of 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

The event was also attended by Union Ministers U Thein Swe and Dr Win Myat Aye, Deputy Ministers U Aung Hla Tun, U Hla Kyaw, Dr Ye Myint Swe and U Soe Aung, ASEAN Ministers in charge of disaster management, ASEAN Secretary-General, high ranking representatives from ASEAN disaster management organizations, representatives from ASEAN Secretariat and AHA Centre), Permanent Secretaries, directors general, representatives from partner organizations and officials.

The event started with the playing of the anthems of Republic of the Union of Myanmar and ASEAN.

First and foremost, it is my great pleasure to be here and to have met with all the Ministers in-charge of disaster management from our ASEAN member countries. I would like to convey warmest greetings and best wishes to each of you on behalf of the Government of Myanmar and on my own behalf. I am very glad that Myanmar could celebrate this year ASEAN Day for Disaster Management with the theme “Bridging Disaster Recovery to Resilience”. This year’s focus on the nexus between recovery and resilience is inspired by our experiences and lessons learnt from past disaster events.

This notion is also backed by many studies that highlight on that disaster recovery as still needed area to further strengthen while investing more for disaster mitigation and response. Disaster recovery yields an opportunity to integrate disaster risk reduction into multiple sectors aspiring resilience building of the affected areas. Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development trajectory is sometimes a daunting task for all of us due to many reasons including limited financing and technical know-how. Therefore, we would like to find out alternative means of ensuring risk-informed development planning and implementations; that is “disaster recovery” through which we could bring sustainable and resilient development for the people. In the case of Myanmar, we have National Disaster Management Committee chaired by me with the membership of all the Cabinet Ministers. According to the disaster management law, we also established Disaster Management Fund that can be annually refilled with 20 Billion Myanmar Kyats. Keeping resilience building in mind, Disaster Management Fund has been effectively utilized for disaster prevention, response and recovery. Moreover, we have set up a coordination body for rapid recovery of disaster-affected areas starting from last year to enable closer cooperation and greater resource mobilization for rebuilding better and stronger. In fact, the mandate of this coordination body, its mechanism and funding can help us turn words into practical action in the pursuit of resilient recovery. We hope that the best practices of risk-informed recovery can be a strong stimulant and model for further integration of DRR into development programmes.

As we all know, climate variation and extreme weather events are now a new normal to us. This year is evidence also shows that some countries suffer both droughts and flooding at the same time. Across our ASEAN Region, studies reveal that in terms of earthquake and tsunami risk, the Philippines and Indonesia; are at the highest rank and in terms of flood risk, Myanmar, Lao, Viet Nam and Cambodia have stood at the highest rank. According to the disaster statistics, ASEAN region has experienced about 1,400 disasters of various scales from January 2012 to September 2019. Out of these reported disasters, flood is the most frequent disaster with over 60 per cent. Other disasters caused by strong wind, storm and landslide are reported to be around 18%, 15% and 12% respectively. Due to recent flooding generated by tropical cyclone PODUL in Lao PDR, Flood and landslide in Myanmar and Viet Nam, tornado incidents in Philippines, earthquakes and tsunami in Indonesia and the others have proven that our Region is now a disaster epicenter. Furthermore, climate change makes the disasters more inevitable, unpredictable and uncontrollable. In this sense, we need to make endless efforts in disaster management and Emergency Response is serving as important foundation for disaster management countermeasures at all the national and sub-national levels. Synergies and collective endeavors in the light of disasters where ten member states come together also demonstrate our dedication and commitment to operationalizing One ASEAN, One Response Declaration. I deeply acknowledge the support and confidence of our member countries, ASEAN Secretariat and AHA Centre rendered to Myanmar during these years. For us, Myanmar will always be available to make our best effort to cooperate with our fellow member states to build a disaster resilient and prosperous ASEAN.

... our Region is now a disaster epicenter. Furthermore, climate change makes the disasters more inevitable, unpredictable and uncontrollable: VP U Henry Van Thio
FROM PAGE 4

This will also allow us to obtain accurate information and adequate lead-time to take proactive measures for disaster preparedness and support risk-informed decision-making.

In conclusion, our ASEAN countries are complementary to each other in many ways over a 50-year period. I truly believe that our collaboration in the face of disaster can further solidify our mutual ties and friendship amongst our countries and people. Realizing resilience building as our shared value and common interest in disaster management, Myanmar has been looking forward to deepening our relation and cooperation in our ASEAN family. In this occasion, I hope AMMDM and ACDM will be able to strive for the achievement of ASEAN’s vision to become a global leader in disaster management by 2025. I wish you all, a successfully meeting today and enjoyable stay in Nay Pyi Taw. Thank you.

Next ASEAN Secretary-General Dato Lim Jock Hoi delivered a speech and then a video clip on ASEAN cooperation in natural disaster was shown.

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

ASEAN strengthens cooperation in disaster management

THE ASEAN Day for Disaster Management was held in conjunction with the 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management, and the Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response in Shwe San Eain Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

The rotating Chairman position for the ministerial meeting was held by Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, and the Joint-Chairman position was held by Mr Kristoffer James Purisima, Assistant Secretary/Deputy Administrator for Administration. The ASEAN Secretary-General and ministers from member nations discussed managing natural disasters in the region including policies, action plans and individual experiences as a nation.

Dr Win Myat Aye discussed Myanmar’s efforts on managing natural disasters, rehabilitation, development, the importance of being well aware and informed on natural disasters, and cooperation with other ASEAN nations.

The Union Minister then discussed ASEAN’s cooperation and future plans regarding receiving and resettling people in Rakhine State. This was followed by a session for reviewing and approving the results of the three-day meeting.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Indonesian Navy ship Bima Suci visits Yangon to celebrate 70th Anniversary of bilateral relations

THE Indonesian Navy Tallship Bima Suci will arrive at the Thilawa Port, at 10 am today. Acting as an Indonesian ‘floating ambassador’, the ship sails to Myanmar on an assignment to promote Indonesia’s tourism, to increase the cooperation between the two countries.

The ship, which consists of 83 Indonesian naval cadets led by Commanding Officer Waluyo, will be open to public on the same day from 4 to 6 pm and tomorrow from 8 am to 3.30 am.

Bima Suci’s Drum Band Team would display their Reog Ponorogo mastery on 6 October in People’s Park, Yangon. Reog Ponorogo is a worldly known dance from Ponorogo Regency, Indonesia, involving a huge lion shaped mask and dynamic movements; and telling various stories, such as the struggle of a prince to woo a beautiful princess or the effort of a king in maintaining his power. The performance will last from 9.30 am and is going to be followed by an art walking performance to the Indonesian Embassy in Yangon.

Bima Suci is the Indonesian Navy’s newest and largest sail training ship, which was launched in 2017. It is 112 meters long and 53 meters high. The ship is named after a Javanese legendary hero who is a symbol of force, bravery and righteousness.

The Indonesian Embassy in Yangon has planned to conduct a series of activities to highlight the 70th anniversary of bilateral relations between Myanmar and Indonesia.

This year, Bima Suci is making a tour around the world, with the total of 96 days journey, visiting 11 countries and sailing the distance of 13,876 miles. The ship has visited Manila, the Philippines; Osaka, Japan; Busan, South Korea; Shanghai, China; Brunei Darussalam; Lumut, Malaysia; Phuket, Thailand; and it is now coming to Myanmar. On 8 October, it will bid adieu to Myanmar and sail to Padang, West Sumatra, Tanjung Benoa, Bali; and Darwin, Australia before returning to Surabaya.—GNLM

Afterwards the Vice President took commemorative group photo with event attendees and then released peace doves in commemoration of ASEAN Day for Disaster Management.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

5   OCTOBER   2019

VP U Henry Van Thio attends opening ceremony of 7th AMMDM...

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(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)
School textbooks for new academic year in full swing

THE School Textbook Printing and Distribution Committee held a coordination meeting yesterday to discuss the printing and distribution of textbooks for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Speaking at the meeting held at the Ministry of Information, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said there are about 50,000 basic education schools across the nation, including private schools and monastic education schools, which provide education to more than 9.7 million students. He expressed his gratitude to MoI and printing houses for their cooperation on ensuring these students all receive their textbooks every year.

The Union Minister said they are working to finalize the textbooks and teacher guidebooks for the new curriculum in the next academic year. He said while ensuring the new textbooks meet international standards takes time, it needs to be finished swiftly so that the printing and distributing process is not delayed.

Next, committee chairman and Deputy Minister for Information, U Aung Hla Tun spoke a few words. He said MoI’s undocumented major contribution to the nation is printing the textbooks for students all across Myanmar. He said the number of subjects, classes and students have increased through the years and this has required them to outsource to private printing houses.

The Deputy Minister said they outsourced 69 million books last year but it was estimated at increase to 77 million this year. He said they will utilize the lessons learned and challenges faced from the previous year to make this year’s overall process more efficient.

Next, Textbook Distribution Subcommittee Chairman Depu- ty Minister U Win Maw Tun said it is important to ensure students receive the textbooks on time and this year they are printing in correspondence with the number of villages, wards, districts and townships in the country.

This was followed by briefings on their respective duties and tasks by committee vice-chairman Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, and committee secretary Director General U Aung Myo Myint.

Afterwards, attendees began discussing the finer details of printing and distributing the school textbooks and Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi provided suggestions where necessary.

—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

THE DRUG Enforcement Division 25 of Taunggyi searched the house of a man identified as Chit Oo in Payarphyu Ward on a tipoff. They instead found another person named Daw Aye Aye Aung (a) Thone San and confiscated 165 psychotropic tablets from her purse, 2,000 tablets from the toolbox of a motorcycle nearby, 3,200 tablets from the TV stand in the bedroom and a cellphone. Both suspects are being charged with the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, according to the report of Myanmar Police Force.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

5,000 psychotropic tablets confiscated in Taunggyi

Bookworms are seen at the book stall at the Shwe Udaung Hall of the NPE in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

Lin Loon Khin Sarpay introduces books at NPE building

A ceremony to introduce books published by Lin Loon Khin Sarpay Publishing House and a corresponding book sale was held at the News and Periodicals Enterprise (NPE) building on Theinbyu Road, Yangon, yesterday.

Firstly, Sayar Aung Zin Min and Sayar Myay Latt Maung Myint Thu delivered opening remarks. Next, Author San San Nwe (Thayawady) introduced ‘Thayawady-yin-pyin-nil’ and other poetry collections and Author Min Wai Hin introduced ‘Pone-yeik-sit Do-yea Tin-kay-ta’.

U Thein Lwin from Lin Loon Khin Sarpay said they will introduce Sayamagyi Natmauk Ani Cho’s magazine novels and Sayar Lin Yung Sin’s ‘Chit-te’ novel today.

There will be literary exchanges between authors and their readers and the book sale is offering 20 to 30 per cent off on most books in addition to paintings. The book sale will continue to 6 October.

The Shwe Udaung Hall of the NPE is available for hosting literary and artistic seminars and ceremonies, at no cost.

—Than Zin Win (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)
**YSX records highest stock trades in September**

The value of stocks traded on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) hit a peak of K2.47 billion this year in September with 421,358 shares traded on the exchange, according to the monthly report of the YSX.

At present, shares of five listed companies — First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB), First Private Bank (FPB), and TMH Telecom Public Co Ltd — are being traded on the stock exchange.

In January, 89,576 shares worth K526 million were traded on the exchange, and the trade value was K489 million and K396 million in February and March, as share prices fell. In April, 102,682 shares worth K506 million were traded on the exchange.

In May, the value of shares traded crossed K1 billion and the YSX has doubled its volume of trade so far this year. In June, 102,682 shares were traded at K526 million, while in July, and K1.9 billion with 322,176 shares traded in August.

In September, the shares of FMI closed at K12,000, MTSH at K4,100, MCB at K8,200, FPB at K26,000, and TMH at K2,000. The volume of trade was the highest this year so far.

The YSX was launched three years ago to improve the private business sector. It disseminates rules and regulations regarding the stock exchange and knowledge of share trading through Stock Investment Seminars. The YSX has doubled its stock trade matching time from two to four per day. In addition to this, it held a promotional event to attract new investors and encourage existing investors to trade more actively.

**Over 50% drop in Sterculia gum price this year in Magway**

The price of Myanmar Sterculia gum (locally known as Saekalamat) has declined in the China market, and is likely to continue its slide, according to merchants. In addition, the price of the gum has dropped by more than half in the Magway market this year compared to the year-ago period, they said.

While Myanmar Sterculia gum fetched up to K40,000 per viss in the first week of October, 2018, the price plunged to K16,000 this year.

Regardless of quality, the price of Myanmar Sterculia gum depends on the color, solubility, fiber content, and market choice. Some of Myanmar Sterculia gum is cultivated, while some is found growing naturally.

The price of the gum is likely to decline this year,” said U Htay Lin Aung, a Myanmar Sterculia gum seller from Magway Region.

“Generally, the market price of Sterculia gum is between K5,000 and K16,000 per viss in Minbu Township. And, foreign merchants prefer to purchase Sterculia gum with good-quality fiber, which is priced around K150,000 and K200,000 per viss,” said Ko Yan Lin Aung, a merchant.

“A merchant identified as Ko La Pyat, who grows hundreds of acres of Sterculia gum in Pakokku has displayed Myanmar Sterculia gum at an SME expo held in Japan. The sale of Sterculia gum has increased six-fold in Japan, and fetches more money. But, the gum needs to be organic. If we can take care of the quality of Sterculia gum, we can export the product to Japan at a high price. We don’t need to rely on the China market,” said Ko Moe Kyaw, a Myanmar Sterculia gum seller from Minbu Township.

Locals are growing Myanmar Sterculia gum on fallow and virgin land, farmland, and private forest land in Magway region. Businessmen have made over a hundred investments on 10 acres of land, excluding the land’s value, said Ko Aung Nyein, a grower from Magway Region — Zayartu (Magway).

**Local, foreign investment projects create over 180,000 jobs in 2018-2019 FY**

By Nyein Nyein

Over 180,000 jobs were created for local residents from domestic and foreign enterprises in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

A total of 171 local enterprises endorsed by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) in the last financial year created over 18,000 jobs for locals, including 96 additional jobs created by previously endorsed businesses, as per data released by the DICA.

Meanwhile, the MIC gave the greenlight to 282 foreign businesses, which created about 150,000 jobs for local people. Previously permitted enterprises increased their staff by 16,000.

Besides local residents, the enterprises employed over 5,000 foreigners.

During the last fiscal year, foreign direct investment of US$4.5 billion flowed into the country. The total figure includes investment of US$362.28 million in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, expansion of capital by existing enterprises, and capital of $2.76 billion obtained from the permitted 282 foreign businesses.

Meanwhile, 171 local enterprises were allowed to invest in various sectors, with estimated capital of over K1.432 billion and $379.65 million. Thus, domestic investments by Myanmar citizens reached K1,694 billion and $473.29 million by the end of the current fiscal, including expansion of capital by existing enterprises, according to a press release issued by the Myanmar Investment Commission.

(Translated by El Myat Mon)
Cities Working: Reforms Underway Across Myanmar to Realize the Potential of the Property Tax

By Dan Jollands and James Owen

PROPERTY taxes are an important source of revenue for cities worldwide: they are a sustainable, fair and efficient source of revenue (see part 1 of this article). However, the property tax is under utilised. Despite the many challenges it faces, such as traffic congestion to funding - millions of people pay little or nothing more than the cost of a cup of tea in property tax each year.

In recent years, things have begun to change. Several cities across Myanmar have taken on the challenge of property tax reform. Cities, which have the power to experiment with their own reforms under the 2018 constitution, are already in the midst of some impressive reforms across the following three areas.

Improving the administration of the property tax.

Collection of the property tax in Myanmar is often paper-based, slow and inconsistent. Although the efficiency of property tax collection is improved it will be difficult to introduce further reforms. The Asia Foundation and Renaissance Institute are working with Malamute Development Alliance Organisation (DAO) to communicate to citizens the impact of a change in the way the DAO values properties. In Taunggyi, with technical support from the Renaissance Institute and the Asia Foundation, a new valuation system will be introduced in October 2019 to make the city’s calculation of the property tax fairer, more efficient and raise more revenue.

The recent City Foundation Asia Life Survey 2018 indicated that there is appetite for these reforms amongst residents; 74% of respondents agreed that they would be willing to pay more property tax in return for better urban services in their city. They are also hungry for more information. They want to know why policy changes take place and to see where their tax money is being spent.

The Asia Foundation and Renaissance Institute are continuing to provide technical support to property tax reforms across Myanmar and provide platforms for reforms to share their lessons. Cities are already leading the way on property tax reform, in many cases pioneering the process in large scale in Myanmar. They have a lot to learn from each other’s experiences and also how to deal with the many devolved taxes in Myanmar. The property tax is a good opportunity to demonstrate the state and region’s ability to raise their own revenue and experiment with their own reforms.

Successful reform of the property tax will generate the own-source revenue needed to invest in urban services. It will demonstrate the value of devolved taxes and the need to keep the national government from becoming too reliant on transfers from cities. While the City Foundation and the Global Social Contract will continue in the coming years.

Collection of the property tax in Myanmar is often paper-based, slow and inconsistent. Although the efficiency of property tax collection is improved it will be difficult to introduce further reforms.

In October 2019, the Asia Foundation and the National Bank of Myanmar will release four new studies investigating the value of devolved taxes in Myanmar. They want to know why policy changes take place and to see where their tax money is being spent.

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In the same way, cities need to communicate their value in the areas they serve, to both the municipal authority and citizens. They also need to engage with their state and state authorities, to find ways where their local issues mesh with national issues and vice versa. They also need to work with civil society groups, the media and the public to build awareness and support for their reforms.

Cities have a long way to go when it comes to communicating their value to the public and decision-makers. But when that situation reaches the lowest state, it sets off a chain of events, economic and social, that are hard to stop and are difficult to manage.

We wrongly believed that these natural disasters would never arrive upon our nation, but they did, slowly and surely.

In November 2019, we are going to celebrate four years of the 2008 constitution. In four years, things have changed dramatically in Myanmar. The economy is reaching the low point, the political climate is confused, floods, typhoons, and other natural disasters are raining upon us. We are left to wonder: how could our leaders have allowed the people’s representatives to partake in a system that would never work for them?

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Tourists visiting Myanmar on cruise ships

By Nyein Nyein

THE Directorate of Investment and Company Administration will digitize work processes for the convenience of businesses and to curb bribery and corruption, according to U Thant Sin Lwin, the Director-General of the Investment, according to U Thant Sin Lwin.

He made the remarks during the visit of an American delegation to the DICA office on 30 September. The delegation was led by Mr Michael W Michalak, the senior vice president and regional managing director of the US-ASEAN Business Council, and comprising leading American entrepreneurs.

“The visit showed the economic potential of the country,” said Dr Maung Maung Lay, the vice president of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The government of the Republic of Union of Myanmar and the United States of America signed an Investment Incentive Agreement in 2013. US businesses have shown a keen interest in expanding investments in Myanmar.

At present, the US is ranked 13th in the list of investor countries, with an estimated FDI of US$412 million flowing through 20 enterprises. Bilateral trade between Myanmar and the US stood at US$487 million in the eleven months from October in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, with exports worth US$171 million and imports valued at US$276 million. The trade figure is up US$29 million compared with the year-ago period. (Translated by El Myat Mon)

Over 30 highway accidents reported in September

THIRTY-TWO traffic accidents on the Yangon-Mandalay highway led to the loss of eight lives in September, according to the Nay Pyi Taw highway police. A total of 61 people were injured in the accidents.

“With the number of deaths pegged at eight and the number of injured at 77, because they wanted to observe the natural sceneries, the living standard of the fishermen, elephant camps, traditional pottery, and watch the sunsets along the Ayeyawady and Chindwin rivers, according to travel operators. The Trails of Indochina Travels and Tours has organized four trips between 1 January and 30 September. The company has already arranged tourism services to 110 passengers. There are unique natural scenes, eco-tourism locations, and archaeological sites in Myanmar; and the country now has a culture-based tourism industry through which tourists can observe the traditions and cultures of the ethnic people. As a result, a larger number of tourists are visiting Myanmar. Tourists are arriving in Myanmar by sea, air, and road. Tourists also entering Myanmar through the border gates and touring the country on vehicles, motorbikes, and on cruise ships. —GNLM (Translated by Hay Mar)

DICA plans to go digital to curb corruption

A group of 55 British tourists visited Myanmar and took a cruise ship to Mandalay from 11 September to 20 September, through an arrangement made by the Myanmar Hotels and Cruises Co.Ltd, and under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

The tourism groups visited Myanmar on board cruise ships from 17 September to 20 September, through an arrangement made by Trails of Indochina Travels and Tours, under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.


A group of 46 tourists from the Netherlands also visited Myanmar on board the RV Aravantha-Mandalay-Moeman cruise ship from 17 September to 28 September. The tourism groups visited Myanmar on board cruise ships through the Yangon International Airport.

Another tourist group comprising 26 Swiss citizens visited Myanmar on board the RV Aravantha-Mandalay-Moeman cruise ship from 3 September to 14 September, through an arrangement made by Trails of Indochina Travels and Tours, under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

The tourism groups visited Myanmar on board cruise ships through the Yangon International Airport. Another tourist group comprising 26 Swiss citizens visited Myanmar on board the RV Aravantha-Mandalay-Moeman cruise ship from 3 September to 14 September, through an arrangement made by Trails of Indochina Travels and Tours, under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

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In 2018, 474 road accidents left 103 persons dead and 884 injured. In 2017, 555 collisions on the Yangon-Mandalay expressway left 116 dead and 863 injured. In 2016, 744 traffic accidents were reported with 167 persons killed and 1,304 injured, according to statistics provided by the Highway Police. —Aye Cho (Translated by Hay Mar)
Trump says North Korea talks going ahead despite missile test

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump on Thursday brushed off North Korea’s test of a sea-launched ballistic missile, saying that planned nuclear talks with Pyongyang will go ahead.

“They want to talk and we’ll be talking to them,” Trump told reporters at the White House in his first public reaction to North Korea’s claim to have entered a “new phase” with the test of a submarine-launched missile.

“We’ll see,” Trump added, when asked if the test had gone too far for him.

The launch was by far the most significant since Pyongyang first began a dialogue with Washington in 2018 over pressure to give up its nuclear weapons.

Analysts said the new capability, if confirmed, marks a significant step in boosting that program.

“We assess that it was a short- to medium-range ballistic missile. And I would say that we have no indication that it was launched from a submarine but rather a sea-based platform,” a US military spokesman, Colonel Pat Ryder, told reporters. Trump has said he sees no problem with tests conducted previously by North Korea, while insisting his personal ties with the North’s leader Kim Jong Un remain good.

But a proven submarine-based missile capability would take the North’s arsenal to a new level, allowing deployment far beyond the Korean peninsula and a second-strike capability in the event of an attack on its military bases.

The launch came with working-level talks between Pyongyang and Washington slated to resume later this week.

A team of North Korean negotiators flew into Stockholm Thursday ahead of the talks.

Fired from underwater

The United Nations Security Council is expected to hold closed-door talks early next week on the latest test, diplomats said.

The talks were requested by Britain, France and Germany, as the European powers push for the world body to keep up pressure on Pyongyang which is under heavy US and UN sanctions over its weapons program.—AFP

India admits friendly fire downed helicopter in Kashmir clash

NEW DELHI — The Indian Air Force confirmed for the first time on Friday that it shot down one of its own helicopters during clashes with Pakistan in February over Kashmir; killing all six on board.

“A court of inquiry was completed and it was our mistake that our helicopter hit our chopper,” said the head of the Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Bhadauria.

“We will ensure such mistakes are not repeated in the future,” he told reporters.

The military helicopter crashed on February 27 as Indian and Pakistani aircraft engaged in dogfights over Kashmir in their most serious military skirmish in years.

A day earlier Indian aircraft had bombed what New Delhi called a “terror camp” used by the Jaish-e-Mohammed militant group in the Balakot area of Pakistan.

That followed a suicide bombing on February 14 claimed by Jaish-e-Mohammed that killed 40 Indian troops.

The Indian military at the time gave no reason for the helicopter crash although media reports cited unnamed sources as saying it was friendly fire.

Confusion still surrounds how many other aircraft were shot down, with Pakistan saying it downed two Indian fighter jets but India saying it lost only one.—AFP

French drug smuggler moving to Indonesia’s ‘Alcatraz’ after escape bid

JAKARTA — A French drug smuggler who barely faced execution in Indonesia will be transferred to a high-security prison island, dubbed the nation’s “Alcatraz,” following a second escape bid, a corrections official said Friday.

Felix Dorfin, 35, was handed a capital sentence after his arrest last year at the airport in Lombok, a holiday island next to Bali, but his execution was commuted to 19 years in prison in August.

Dorfin was carrying a suitcase filled with about three kilograms (6.6 pounds) of drugs including ecstasy and amphetamine when he was seized, but maintained he had no knowledge of the narcotics in his luggage.

The Frenchman made headline lines in January when he escaped from a police detention centre in Lombok and spent nearly two weeks on the run before he was recaptured.

A female police officer was arrested for allegedly helping him escape in exchange for money.

On Friday, Dorfin’s jailers in Lombok said they had discovered that the drug trafficker tried to dig out a hole in the wall of his prison cell using metal from an old sewer drain.

“IT was still too small for him to get through it,” said Tri Suptono Sambudji, head of the prison in Mataram city.

“Now he has been placed in an isolation cell because he is considered a high-risk inmate.”

—AFP
WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump openly called on China as well as Ukraine to investigate his potential 2020 reelection rival Joe Biden, taunting Democrats seeking his impeachment for inviting foreign election interference.

Speaking in Florida Thursday, Trump blasted his accusers as “maniacs” pursuing “impeachment crap” as he sought to turn the tables on a man he is only the third US president ever impeached in the House of Representatives, and face a trial in the Senate.

In a former State Department diplomat testified behind closed doors in Congress on his role in the Ukraine scandal, Trump doubled down by calling for Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky and Chinese leader Xi Jinping to go after Biden, who leads the race for the Democratic presidential nomination next year.

“I would say that President Zelensky, if it were me, I would recommend that they start an investigation into the Bidens,” Trump told reporters outside the White House. “Likewise, China should start an investigation into the Bidens, because what happened in China is just about as bad as what happened with Ukraine.”

As a former US vice president and former US Vice President Joe Biden speaks during the 2020 Gun Safety Forum hosted by gun control activist groups Giffords and March for Our Lives at Enclave on 2 October, 2019 in Las Vegas, Nevada. PHOTO: AFP

She has not released fundraising totals for the quarter running from July through September.

Candidates aren’t required to publish fundraising totals before 15 October, but often do so early if the results are strong.

The Buttigieg campaign announced on 1 October that the 37-year-old mayor of South Bend, Indiana, raised $19.1 million between July and the end of September from 580,000 unique donors.

However polls show his campaign stagnating, with support running around five per cent.—AFP

Biden lags in Q3 fundraising in Democratic primary race

WASHINGTON — Democratic frontrunner in the 2020 US election Joe Biden announced on Thursday he’d raised $36.7 million since his relatively late entry into the race in April, according to his campaign.

That is much less than the $61.5 million independent Sen. Bernie Sanders, who is third in the average polling with 16.8 percent, brought in since entering the race in February, including $23.3 million raised in the third quarter.

Warren, a Democratic senator from Massachusetts, has been consistently polling at an average of 24 per cent since the beginning of the summer, putting her in second place.

Democratic presidential candidate and former US Vice President Joe Biden speaks during the 2020 Gun Safety Forum hosted by gun control activist groups Giffords and March for Our Lives at Enclave on 2 October, 2019 in Las Vegas, Nevada. PHOTO: AFP

Four police officers killed, five wounded in Paris knife attack

PARIS — Four police officers were killed and five others wounded in a knife attack at Paris police headquarters on Thursday afternoon, the police union said.

The assailant, identified as an administrative worker in the intelligence unit, stabbed to death four of his colleagues inside the police prefecture after 12 noon local time. Loic Travers, local head of the Alliance police union, said on BFMTV news channel.

Travers described the perpetrator as a model employee who had worked in the police quarters for two decades and had not shown unstable behavior until the attack.

The assailant’s motive is not identified yet. But according to reports it could be related to a workplace dispute.

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo denounced the “trifling attack,” which had left “heavy casualties.”

“Several policemen lost their lives ... My first thoughts go to the families of the victims and their relatives,” she tweeted.—Xinhua

Cellphone photo taken on 3 October, 2019 shows police officers standing guard near the site of the knife attack in Paris, France. PHOTO: XINHUA

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump gestures as he arrives at the White House in Washington, DC, on 3 October, 2019 after returning from an event in Florida. PHOTO: AFP

Biden’s campaign said he’s raised $15.2 million in the third quarter, putting him in first among the candidates, according to his campaign.

In total, Biden has raised $36.7 million since his relatively late entry into the race in April, according to his campaign.

The figures come as the Democratic presidential candidate and former US Vice President Joe Biden speaks during the 2020 Gun Safety Forum hosted by gun control activist groups Giffords and March for Our Lives at Enclave on 2 October, 2019 in Las Vegas, Nevada. PHOTO: AFP

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Biden lags in Q3 fundraising in Democratic primary race

WASHINGTON — Democratic frontrunner in the 2020 US election Joe Biden announced on Thursday he’d raised $36.7 million in the third quarter, far less than progressive rival Bernie Sanders or centrist mayor Pete Buttigieg.

The figures come as the Democratic presidential candidate and former US Vice President Joe Biden speaks during the 2020 Gun Safety Forum hosted by gun control activist groups Giffords and March for Our Lives at Enclave on 2 October, 2019 in Las Vegas, Nevada. PHOTO: AFP

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PM candidate quits parliament to run for London mayor

LONDON — A British politician who took Twitter by storm with walking tours and viral clips during his leadership challenge against Boris Johnson said Friday he was quitting parliament to run for London mayor.

Rory Stewart used the social media platform to announce that he would not stand for re-election when a likely early general election rolls around in the coming months. “It is with sadness that I am announcing that I will be standing down at the next election, and that I have also resigned from the Conservative Party,” Stewart wrote.

He added he would be an independent candidate, arguing that the way to a less divisive, kinder politics turned into an unlike- social media star by admitting that an assistant argued that the conversations on his phone — he later admitted that an assistant helped him out — and then post from various spots around the country.

The #WhereisRory hashtag soon went viral. ‘Lawrence of Arabia’

The Guardian reported that Stewart first made the announcement “in front of an audience of thousands” Thursday at an event at which he read an alleged letter written by his assistant, his “no-deal Brexit” threat.

The alleged letter did not paint the often-misbe- lieved in the UK, but through love.”

He feared Johnson’s threats to take the coun- try out of the EU without a negotiated agreement and voted against Brexit in the 2016 EU referendum.

Stewart would record the conversations on his mobile phone — he later admitted that an assistant helped him out — and then post from various spots around the country.

The #WhereisRory hashtag soon went viral

and Stewart survived round after round of party votes to qualify for TV de- bates against grandees like Johnson and now-foreign minister Dominic Raab.

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Johnson rose to pow- er the following month and soon stripped Stewart and 20 other rebel Conservative MPs of their parliamentary party rights for opposing his “no-deal Brexit” threat.

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VISITORS to Bagan, the cultural zone of Myanmar, will notice the three large Buddha images that are placed in cramped chambers in a temple at Myingaba. The Buddha image at the centre is 14 metres (46 feet) high and is flanked by two Buddha images, each with the height of 10 Metres (33 feet). There is also a huge reclining Buddha image 27.4 metres (90 feet) long in an adjoining chamber at the back, with the head pointing to the north.

The religious edifice is renowned as the Manuha Temple or Manuha Pagoda built by King Manuha of Thaton. Some say that King Manuha purposely put the images in such cramped positions to denote his feelings under detention in Bagan. But it is just a legend, without any firm historical proof. The truth may be that the king wanted something special in building the temple and the Buddha images. Not only the images are large, the bowls in front of them are also big.

MANUHA OF THE HISTORY

According to historical treatises, King Anawrahta of Bagan sent a clever minister, together with royal gifts, to Thaton to ask the Three Pitaka from King Manuha. But Manuha was inhospitable, and did not give him the Pitaka. So, Anwrahta marched to Thaton with his army in 416 Myanmar Era (1056 CE) and
brought back 30 sets of Pitaka treatises and other sacred objects to Bagan. Anawratha also took King Manuha and his family to Bagan.

The glass palace history says that Manuha was accommodated at Myingaba together with his servants in Bagan; that whenever Manuha spoke, something like an aurora appeared in his mouth; that as Anawrahta was afraid of Manuha he plotted something mischievous that stopped Manuha's magical power.

But writer Paragu, an expert in history, said that the story was invented to discredit King Anawrahta, portraying him as a cruel and a repressive monarch. Normally past historians depicted any powerful person as the person who produced aurora from the mouth. Ancient historians also said aurora also appeared from the mouth of Kyansittha, who King Anawrahta was also afraid of. Some historical records say that Anawrahta donated Manuha to the Buddha as a slave of religion. But the story cannot be true as King Alungsithu, a grandson of Kyansittha, gave her daughter's hand to Naga Thaman, a great grandson of Manuha. No king would let his daughter married a descendant of a slave.

Manuha Temple

Manuha Temple is the largest and most famous religious edifice in Myintgaba, Bagan. According to No.9 stone inscription in the repository of Mandalay Palace, Manuha built the temple, three sitting Buddha statues and one reclining Buddha statue in just six months and six days. It was built on 15 August 1067 CE and completed on 12 March 1068 CE, according to historical records. The temple was built at Thirizeyabon ward in the north-east of old Lawkananda jetty.

It is a square-shape double storey temple. The upper floor is smaller than the ground floor. There are also 37 mini ceties. All the three sitting Buddha images are placed in a tight chamber. If a pilgrim climbs up the stairways at the back of the temple, he can view the face of the sitting Buddha image closely from a higher position. The Manuha Temple has a large bowl that can hold 17 baskets of rice.

During the earthquake in 1978, the temple roof collapsed and the largest sitting Buddha image was hit by falling debris.

People living in Shwechan, Shwelae and Seingon wards sponsor the annual pagoda festival at the designated venue. Paper toy folding fair is the most interesting event for both the local and foreign visitors of the festivals.

Nanphaya

Beside the Manuha Temple is the charming brick-and-mortar Nanphaya Temple. This was King Manuha’s residence, and later became a temple. Inside, the central plinth is empty, but on the four central pillars are beautiful stone carvings of Brahma, the Mon patron saint. At certain times of the day of light comes through the perforated windows, illuminating sections of the carving (but take a flashlight along). The outer walls are crenellated, and some of the sandstone friezes remain intact. A modern concrete path surrounds the temple; make sure not to leave it, as the rough ground harbours some prickly briars.

The temple is adjacent to the Manuha Temple and was built by captive Thaton Kingdom King Makuta.[1]:150 It was built using mud mortar, stone, and brick, and was used as the residence of Manuha. The temple contains intricate carvings of Brahma, and also contains depictions of other Hindu gods. Also, because Manuha was a Mon, there are many figures and symbols of the Mon within the temple, including hinthas (figures of a mythical bird).

There is also another story saying that the shrine was originally Hindu. Supposedly his captors thought that using it as a prison would be easier than converting it to a Buddhist temple. But also some say that the temple was built by Manuha’s grand-nephew known as Prince Naga Thaman in the late 11th century. (Translated by Tin Maung Tham)

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Manuha Temple. PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)
Prepared to face Asian powerhouses: Myanmar U-19 on AFC group stage

As the Myanmar U-19 women’s football team will face Asian powerhouses in the Group B matches of the AFC Women’s Championship 2019, which will be held in Chonburi, Thailand, the team is undergoing special training in Yangon, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

Myanmar will take on Japan, China, and South Korea in the group stage of the tourney.

During the training session, team Myanmar head coach and players said they are preparing to face the football giants and would do their best to play against these teams. We will not feel fear and focus on preparing for each and every match with hopes of passing to the final round of the tourney,” she added.

Myanmar head coach Daw Thet Thet win said that the team will face football giants in the tournament. “I am proud that my team has got a chance to play against these teams. We will not feel fear and focus on preparing for each and every match with hopes of passing to the final round of the tourney,” she added.

Myanmar will play against Japan on 28 October, China on 31 October, and South Korea on 3 November.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Yangon United signs football star Kyi Lin

YANGON United recently signed former team member and current national football player Kyi Lin, as part of the team’s preparation for the 2020 Myanmar National League season, according to a statement issued by the football club.

Kyi Lin played for Zwekapin United in the 2019 Myanmar National League, and displayed good form in the season.

The 27-year-old said he was pleased about rejoining his former club. “I am very pleased to be back with my former football club Yangon United. And, I promise to do my best for the club. I will prepare for each and every match of the upcoming season,” said Kyi Lin.

The football star also thanked his fans. “I put all my fans inside of my heart (and mind), and thank you all my fans for supporting me. It is a great time for me to be back with my home club,” he said.

The head coach of Yangon United, U Tin Maung Tun, said: “Kyi Lin emerged as a player at this club, and I recognized him as a good player. I’m glad he is back here again. I will do my best for the next season, and work to build team unity.”

Kyi Lin started his national league football career at Yangon United FC in 2009, and he helped the club win the Myanmar National League trophy for three consecutive years — 2011, 2012, and 2013. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Chelsea boss Lampard backs Abraham to shine for England

LONDON — Frank Lampard has backed Tammy Abraham to score regularly for England after his impressive start to the season for Chelsea was rewarded with a call-up to the national squad.

The 22-year-old was named in Gareth Southgate’s squad for the forthcoming round of the tourney, which will be exciting as we are facing Asian powerhouses. We will play with our defense style and hope of advancing to the final round of the tourney,” she said.

Player Zun Yuya Oo said that as the team is hoping for the final, they would need to fight back all competitors, with all of their strength, to win the championship. “I want all my fans’ support,” she added.

And there’s competition there. When he steps into the forward’s shoulders.

“I think he has all the attributes to go there and be successful but it will be another step for him and I’m sure he has those attributes. I’m sure he has the attitude to take that challenge of being a goalscorer for England,” he said.

Lampard, whose Chelsea side travel to Southampton on Sunday, was cautious not to load too much pressure on the young forward’s shoulders.

“The young lad, as he should be proud to get a call-up.”

Abraham had flirted with switching his international allegiance to Nigeria, a country he qualifies for through his father; but will be committed to England if he appears in either forthcoming qualifier.