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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VI, No. 171, 7th Waxing of Thadingyut 1381 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Saturday, 5 October 2019

State Counsellor receives ASEAN SG



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Secretary-General of ASEAN Dato Lim Jock Hoi at her residence in Nay Pyi Taw on 4 October 2019. PHOTO: MNA

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 col-

laboration 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 ■

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.

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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 Nang of the Electricity and Energy Development Committee, members U Kyin Wan 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



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat holds talks with Vice President of Korea Development Institute (KDI) Mr Youngjae Lim in Seoul, the Republic of Korea yesterday **PHOTO: 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 Riikka Johanna Laatu and other officials. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Finnish Under-Secretary of State for External Economic Relations Ms Nina Irmeli Vaskunlahti seen off by Finnish Ambassador Ms Riikka Johanna Laatu at Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

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 10 years of age received the National Verification Cards.

These displaced persons, who have returned of their own volition, were received by the responsible officials from 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 ■



Officials from Rakhine State Government and the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) hand over humanitarian aid to returnees at the reception centre. **PHOTO: MNA**

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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 Innpawkhon 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 Kywal 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



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi observes making jewellerys at Sein Thamadi Gold and Silver Smith Industry in Heya Ywama Village, Shan State yesterday. **PHOTO: THET AUNG**

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 oppor-

tunities.

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)



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi taking boat trip exploring Inle Lake yesterday. **PHOTO: THET AUNG**

VP U Henry Van Thio attends opening ceremony of 7th AMMDM and related meetings in Nay Pyi Taw



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**

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, Chairman of Natural Disaster Management Committee addressed ASEAN Day for Disaster Management, opening ceremony of 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) and related meetings held at Shwe San Ein Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

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 ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (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 highlighted 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 mean 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 co-

ordination 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

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

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

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%, 13% and 12% respectively. Due to recent flooding generated by tropical cyclone PODUL in Lao PDR, Flood and

ter risk reduction and resilience building. Firstly, we need to ensure policy coherence amongst global, regional, national and local levels since this will greatly determines the impact of our interventions and implementations for minimizing disaster risks and cascading effects of disasters.

Therefore, we need to foster horizontal and vertical coordination for the realization of global agendas including Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development Goals. Besides, these global agendas should be fully spelt out in our regional, national and local level priorities.

Secondly, we need to have partnership and knowledge exchange. This plays a crucial role not only in responding to disasters but also in promoting the capacities of our nations. In our region, ASEAN Agreement

on Disaster Management and Emergency Response is serving as important foundation for disaster management counter-measures 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.

Given the strong linkage between climate change and the frequency of disasters, our member states are experiencing the localized disasters more than ever before.

In this context, thirdly, we need to empower our people and enhance local coping capacities in dealing with disasters before the public help is in place.

Therefore, people-to-people connection at all level is the key to narrow the capacity gaps and solving the common issues that we have mostly encountered these days. Lastly, we need to enhance technical transfer and effective information management since these help our people to raise awareness on disasters as well as receive earlier warnings when a hazard is likely to occur.

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

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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 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 our 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.

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 Min)

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 Htet Oo)



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, ASEAN Secretary-General and ministers from member countries pose for a photo at the 7th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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 a mission: 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 9-9.30 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 legendry 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



Bima Suci is the Indonesian Navy's newest and largest sail training ship, which was launched in 2017. PHOTO: EMBASSY OF INDONESIA

Visitors throng Mogok Town after trip route upgrade

WITH the aim to boost the hotels and tourism sector in Myanmar, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism added three destinations, including Panling-Bernard village and Kyauk Pyathet, to the Mandalay-Madaya-Singu-Thabeikkyin-Mogok trip plan in February. A total of 24 tourists traveled around Mogok Town of Mandalay Region between 1 and 3 October, under the arrangement of travel agencies and with the permission of the Mandalay Region Government. They visited tourist spots in Mogok Town, including the Mani Mingalarhtar gems market, Kyauk Latnhyoe Taung, Kyauk Pyathet Pagoda, Daw Nankyitaung, Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda, Mogok night markets, caves, and other famous pagodas. They observed mosaic gem art, and explored green tea plantations, Kin Chaung waterfall, and other famous places during the trip.—MOHT (Translated by La Wonn)

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 guide-books 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 Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun said it is important to ensure students receive the textbooks on time and this year they are printing



Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi delivers the speech at the meeting for printing and distribution of school textbooks for 2020-2021 academic year yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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 commit-

tee 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)



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 buidling

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-ni' 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 Yaung Sin's 'Chit-tel' novel today.

There will be literary ex-

changes 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)

5,000 psychotropic tablets confiscated in Taunggyi

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)



Daw Aye Aye Aung (a) Thone San seen with seized psychotropic tablets. **PHOTO: MPF**

Trade Mark Ads

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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 slid to K409 million and K396 million in February and March, as share prices fell. In April, 102,682 shares worth K506 million were traded on the YSX. Starting from May, the value of shares traded crossed K1 billion. It touched a new peak of K1.4 billion with 275,325 shares traded in May, K1.32 billion with 233,994 shares traded in June, K1.22 bil-



Visitors seen outside Yangon Stock Exchange in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

lion with 256,241 shares traded 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 K3,000. 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. The YSX has also sought the government's support to get more public companies to participate in the stock market and to help more institutional investors, such as financing companies, investment banks, and insurance companies, to emerge. Additionally, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar, under the Ministry of Planning and Finance, issued a press statement on 12 July, announcing that foreigners would be allowed to invest in shares listed on the YSX within three months.

The YSX and the Securities Companies will monitor the daily trades of foreigners, in keeping with the rules and regulations, so that they do not exceed the shareholding limit set for each listed company.

With the aim of increasing the number of individual investors in Myanmar's financial market, support the growth of business enterprises, develop the ecosystem of the Myanmar

capital market, and bring about financial literacy among people, the YSX Expo 2019 was held on 1 September at the Novotel Yangon Max Hotel, according to the YSX.

In 2016, shares of only three companies were traded on the YSX — First Myanmar Investment, Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings, and Myanmar Citizens Bank. One more public company, First Private Bank, was listed on the YSX in 2017. Last year, TMH Telecom Public Co Ltd debuted on the exchange.

More than 2.5 million shares of three listed companies were traded on the YSX in 2016, and their value was estimated at K70 billion. In 2017, despite an increase in the stock trading volume to 2.6 million shares, the trade value was only K22 billion. In 2018, 2.3 million shares of five companies, worth K11.5 billion, were traded on the exchange, according to the annual report of the YSX. — GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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, solidity, 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 Lwin, 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



Sterculia gum (locally known as Saekalamat). PHOTO: ZAYARTU (MAGWAY)

Lin Aung, a merchant.

"A merchant identified as Ko La Pyayt, who grows hundred acres of Sterculia gum in Pakokku had 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)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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 40 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 \$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 Ei Myat Mon)

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The gap between local and global issues are shrinking

FOLLOWING a prolonged closed door policy, Myanmar has sunk to the list of least developed countries and saw its relations with other nations diminish to the point where its situation and foothold were swarmed with uncertainty. Unable to see from a global perspective, the people of Myanmar boasted that their rivers, mountains and forests were plenty and green and their natural resources were prosperous. However, the truth is that the natural greenery and prosperity has diminished by quite a bit. In fact, it does not even equal the natural greenery of other countries around the world, including our own neighbors.

We were not aware of the encroaching natural disasters and climate change making their way to us. We wrongly believed that these natural disasters would never arrive upon our nation. But they did, slowly and surely.

The system used to ignore the calls from experts and the voice of the public to implement changes and even exercised severe punishments on critics of these issues. Thus, the people had to silently sink further and further into poverty. But when that situation reached the lowest state, it set off a public unrest for democratic transitions and revolutionary changes to existing systems. Hence, the authoritarian system had to give way for democracy. They could no longer ignore the strength of the people and consequently allowed the people's representatives to partake in the executive, legislative and judiciary pillars. The theme for this year's UN General Assembly was: 'Galvanizing multilateral efforts for poverty eradication, quality education, climate action and inclusion.' All of these need to be immediately implemented in present day Myanmar without fail. It is no surprise that the objectives set out by the UN to resolve global issues, give priority to underdeveloped and improvised nations, and focusing on climate change is aligned with the needs of Myanmar. After all, we are all part of one global family and we need to work together to bring about actual change.

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Cities Working: Reforms Underway Across Myanmar to Realise the Potential of the Property Tax

By Dan Jollans 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). In Myanmar however, the property tax is under-utilised. Despite the many costly challenges faced by cities - from traffic congestion to flooding - many citizens pay little more than the cost of a cup of tea in property tax each year¹.

In recent years, things have begun to change. Several cities across Myanmar have taken up the challenge of property tax reform. Cities, which have the power to experiment with their own reforms under the 2008 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. Unless the efficiency of property tax collection is improved it will be difficult to introduce further reforms. The Asia Foundation

and Renaissance Institute are supporting collection reforms in a number of cities. Yangon, Taunggyi, Pathien, Hpa-An, Mawlamyine, and seven cities in Magway, for example, have all introduced new technology to speed up tax collection². In Yangon digital payments have been introduced, improving the payment experience for citizens. Nonetheless, stories of missed collections, 'ghost properties' and corruption are still common and should be a priority for cities to address.

Updating the way properties are valued for property tax purposes. Changing the way properties are valued is the most effective way to quickly raise revenue as properties are commonly undervalued for property tax purposes in Myanmar. In Yangon's affluent Bahan township for example, properties are currently being valued at approximately 1% of their true market value³. This severely limits available property tax revenues. Again, reforms in this area are already underway. In 2018 the Asia Foundation worked with Malamyine Develop-

ment Affairs 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

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

valuation formula simpler and fairer. Valuation is an area where we hope to see further reform.

Bringing all properties onto city records. This is the most difficult step and requires sustained effort over a long period. Property tax records are often far from complete, meaning that many properties don't pay the tax at all. Satellite images from Hpa-An and Taunggyi suggest that this 'coverage

gap' could be as large as 50% of properties in some cities. Nonetheless, cities are working to add buildings to their records. In Sagaing Region and in Mandalay, for example, comprehensive city surveys have been carried out to identify properties. In Hpa An, collection software is being

property tax fairer, more efficient and raise more revenue. The recent Asia Foundation City 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 to provide platforms for reformers to share their lessons. Cities are already leading the way on property tax reform, in many cases pioneering tax reforms not tried before in Myanmar. They have a lot to learn from each other's experiences. As one of the only fully devolved taxes in Myanmar, the property tax is a good opportunity to demonstrate 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, will demonstrate the value of decentralisation and will also start rebuilding the social contract between people and the state. We hope to see this pattern of successful reform continue.

In October 2019, The Asia Foundation and Renaissance Institute will be releasing four new policy notes that will catalogue the variety of reforms taking place across the country and share the lessons learned from these. More information about the Myanmar Property tax and our efforts to support reform can be found at AsiaFoundation.org and RIMyanmar.org.

Dan Jollans is an ODI fellow working at the Renaissance Institute.

James Owen is the Program Manager for the Asia Foundation's Urban Program.



A Climate Change: An Unstoppable Movement Takes Hold

By António Guterres



Climate change is the defining issue of our time. GRAPHIC IMAGE: BT

neutrality and to move to 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030.

Countries from Pakistan to Guatemala, Colombia to Nigeria, New Zealand to Barbados vowed to plant more than 11 billion trees.

More than 100 leaders in the private sector committed to accelerating their move into the green economy.

A group of the world's largest asset-owners — responsible for directing more than \$2 trillion — pledged to move to carbon-neutral investment portfolios by 2050.

This is in addition to a recent call by asset managers representing nearly half the world's invested capital — some \$34 trillion — for global leaders to put a meaningful

price on carbon and phase out fossil fuel subsidies and thermal coal power worldwide.

The International Development Finance Club pledged to mobilize \$1 trillion in clean energy funding by 2025 in 20 least developed countries.

One-third of the global banking sector signed up to align their

businesses with the Paris agreement objectives and Sustainable Development Goals.

The Summit also showcased ways in which cities and global industries like shipping can achieve major reductions in emissions. Initiatives to protect forests and safeguard water supplies were also highlighted.

These steps are all important — but they are not sufficient.

From the beginning, the Summit was designed to jolt the world and accelerate action on a wider scale. It also served as a global stage for hard truths and to shine a light on those who are leading and those who are not. Deniers or major emitters have nowhere to hide. I will continue to encourage them to do much more at home and drive green economic solutions around the world. Our planet needs action on a truly planetary scale. That cannot be achieved overnight, and it cannot happen without the full engagement of those contributing

most to the crisis.

If our world is to avoid the climate cliff, far more is needed to heed the call of science and cut greenhouse emissions by 45 percent by 2030; reach carbon neutrality by 2050; and limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees by the end of the century. That's how we can secure the future of our world.

Too many countries still seem to be addicted to coal — even though cheaper, greener options are available already. We need much more progress on carbon pricing, ensuring no new coal plants by 2020, and ending trillions of dollars in giveaways of hard-earned taxpayers' money to a dying fossil fuel industry to boost hurricanes, spread tropical diseases, and heighten conflict.

At the same time, developed countries must fulfill their commitment to provide \$100 billion a year from public and private sources by 2020 for mitigation and adaptation in developing countries. And I will make sure that the

commitments that countries, the private sector and local authorities have made are accounted for — starting in December at the UN Climate conference in Santiago, Chile. The UN is united in support of realizing these initiatives.

Climate change is the defining issue of our time.

Science tells us that on our current path, we face at least 3 degrees Celsius of global heating by the end of the century. I will not be there, but my granddaughters will. I refuse to be an accomplice in the destruction of their one and only home. Young people, the UN — and a growing number of leaders from business, finance, government, and civil society — in short, many of us — are mobilizing and acting. But we need many others to take climate action if we are to succeed. We have a long way to go. But the movement has begun.

António Guterres is Secretary-General of the United Nations.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 4th October, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the Central Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 5 October, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Eastern Shan State, fairly widespread in Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Kachin and Northern Shan States, scattered in Magway and Taninthayi Regions, Southern Shan and Chin States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfall in Mandalay Region. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3–6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Shan States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 October, 2019: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 October, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5 October, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Naypyitaw and Yangon Region and scattered in Mandalay Region.

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

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Tourists visiting Myanmar on cruise ships

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 CoLtd, and under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

The tour group travelled the Yangon-Mandalay- Mingun-Nwe Nyein- Zin Chaung, Gyar Hnit-Katha-Shwegu- Shwepaw Kyaung, Bamaw, Shweku-Wah Ma elephant camp-Moe Thar-Nabar-Ta Kaung-Nandawk-yaungywar-Mandalay-Shwe Kyatyetseik-Bagan-Popa-Bagan-Yangon circuit. Then, they flew home from the Yangon International Airport.

Another tourist group comprising 26 Swiss citizens visited Myanmar on board the RV Anawrahta Myanmar 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 Swiss tourists took the Yangon-Mandalay-Yes- ayo-Ahmyint-Monywa-Ahl-



PHOTO: MOHT

on-Mu Htaw village-Thin Thaw village-Mawkataw village-Kalaywa-Khintat-Sitthaung village-Phaungpyin-Shwe-bataung-Bowintaung-Bagan-Yangon-Mandalay route, and then departed from Yangon and Mandalay.

A group of 46 tourists from the Netherlands also visited Myanmar on board the RV Anawrahta Myanmar cruise ship from 17 September to 28 September.

The tourist groups visited Myanmar on board cruise ships

because they wanted to observe the natural scenic views, 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 provided 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 numbers 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, bicycles, and on cruise ships. —GNLM
(Translated by Hay Mar)

DICA plans to go digital to curb corruption

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 DICA.

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 comprised leading American entrepreneurs.

“They asked us about our future plans as the Myanmar Companies Online (MyCO) registry system has been successful. We told them we are planning to implement digital services. Carrying out work processes in digital form can help reduce paperwork, help businesses, and fight corruption. We will provide an online link for investment application proposals through the DICA website,” said U Thant Sin Lwin.

During the visit, American businessmen discussed taxation and financial policies, responsible business, and business expansion. Representatives from

Abbot, Amazon, Bower Group Asia, Chevron, Chubb, Coca-Cola, Ford, Diageo, Google, Jhpigo, Mastercard, and Visa card were part of the delegation and took part in the discussion.

“The involvement of leading American companies shows that Myanmar is no longer isolated. 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 Government of the United States of America signed an In-

vestment Incentive Agreement in 2013. US businessmen 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 in through 20 enterprises. Bilateral trade between Myanmar and the US stood at \$847 million in the eleven months from October in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, with exports worth \$571 million and imports valued at \$276 million. The trade figure is up \$129 million compared with the year-ago period.
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Over 30 highway accidents reported in September

THIRTYTWO 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 63 people were injured in the accidents.

“There were 32 road accidents on the highway in September, resulting in the deaths of seven males and one female, while 63

persons were injured, including 42 males and 21 females,” said an official with the Nay Pyi Taw highway police.

Over-speeding, reckless driving, defective vehicles, and flat tires were blamed for the accidents. Of the 32 accidents, five were caused due to drowsy driving, seven due to high-speed driving, five due to undisciplined

driving by motorbikes, and 15 due to negligent driving.

Between 1 January and 30 September, there were 376 traffic accidents nationwide, which left 74 persons dead and 696 injured.

Myanmar records an average of 41 traffic accidents every day, with the number of deaths pegged at eight and the number of injured at 77.

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 107 persons killed and 1,304 injured, according to statistics provided by the Highway Police.—Aye Cho
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Write for us

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

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 ballis-



Members of the North Korean delegation arrive at Arlanda airport north of Stockholm, ahead of the expected resumption of working-level talks between the North and Washington. **PHOTO: AFP**

tic 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 a string of short range rocket

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 missile 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 ■



An Indian Air Force helicopter crashed on 27 February as Indian and Pakistani aircraft engaged in dogfights over Kashmir. **PHOTO: AFP**



Felix Dorfin, 35, was handed a capital sentence after his arrest last year, but his execution was commuted to 19 years in prison in August. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

French drug smuggler moving to Indonesia's 'Alcatraz' after escape bid

JAKARTA — A French drug smuggler who briefly 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 amphetamines when he was seized, but maintained he had no knowledge of the narcotics in his luggage.

The Frenchman made head-

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 Saptono 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 ■

Trump openly calls on Ukraine, China to investigate Biden

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump openly called on China as well as Ukraine to investigate his potential 2020 election 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 probe that threatens to make him only the third US president ever impeached in the House of Representatives, and face a trial

in the Senate.

As 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.”

Asked if he would request Xi do the same, Trump replied, “It’s certainly something we can start thinking about.”

Adam Schiff, the Democrat leading the impeachment probe in the House of Representatives, said Trump was acting “with impunity” in the face of the law.

“Once again we have a president of the United States sug-



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**

gesting, urging a foreign country to interfere in our presidential elections,” Schiff said.—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 \$15.2 million in the third quarter, far less than progressive rival Bernie Sanders or centrist mayor Pete Buttigieg.

The figures come as the former vice president has seen his lead in polls shrink in recent weeks, with progressive Senator Elizabeth Warren overtaking him in several surveys.

However average polling still puts Biden in first among Democrats vying for the party’s nomination in 2020 with 26.2 per cent support, according to web-



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**

site RealClearPolitics.

In total, Biden has 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 Senator Bernie Sanders, who is third in the average polling with 16.8 percent, brought in since entering the race in February, including \$25.3 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.

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 ■

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 administration 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 headquarters 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 “frightful 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**

NEWS In BRIEF

Canada Tory leader knocked after ‘pro-life’ and US citizenship reveals

OTTAWA — The leader of Canada’s conservative party, Andrew Scheer, found himself on the defensive twice Thursday, when he said he is “pro-life” — and when he revealed he is a dual American citizen.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s main rival in the upcoming elections, who is a devout Catholic and married with five children, has said since the start of the campaign that if elected he would shoot down any attempts to legislate a ban on abortion. But Scheer equivocate when pressed publicly for his personal views on the issue, including when it repeatedly came up in a debate with Trudeau and other party leaders Wednesday evening. “Personally, I’m pro-life,” he finally told reporters at a campaign stop in eastern Canada after weeks of ducking questions on abortion. — AFP ■

Mexico Supreme Court justice resigns over suspicious bank deposits

MEXICO CITY — Mexican Supreme Court Justice Eduardo Medina Mora resigned Thursday amid an investigation into claims he transferred millions of dollars into bank accounts in Britain and the United States.

“The Presidency of the Republic confirms that President (Andres Manuel) Lopez Obrador accepted the resignation of Justice Eduardo Medina Mora and will submit it to the Senate for their analysis,” a government spokesman said, without mentioning the cause for his departure. According to the Mexican constitution, resignations of Supreme Court justices are submitted to the president, and if accepted, sent to the Senate. The law says such judges may only resign for “grave reasons”. Mora, 62, was appointed to his position in 2015 by then-president Enrique Pena Nieto for a 15-year tenure. In June, Mexican media reported that Mora was suspected of having made 103 million-peso (RM21.75 million) transfers to bank accounts in the US and Britain that were not reported in his financial declarations.— AFP ■

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 was not in the “Gothic shouting chamber” of Britain’s Westminster parliament. “I’m getting away from the politics that makes it feel that (US

President Donald) Trump has never left London,” he added.

“I want to walk through every borough of this great city, to get back to us, on the ground, making change local and showing that the way we do it is not through division but through love.”

The 46-year-old Stewart turned into an unlikely social media star by ignoring UK conventions and challenging just about every passerby he met to debate him about Britain’s place in the world.

He feared Johnson’s threats to take the country 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 them 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 debates against grandees like Johnson and now-foreign minister Dominic Raab.

But he appeared to melt under the pressure on stage and his campaign ended in June.

Johnson rose to power 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.

‘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 out a letter about Johnson allegedly written by his headmaster at the elite Eton boys school.

The alleged letter did not paint the often-misbehaving Johnson in a kind light.—AFP



Rory Stewart used a social media platform to announce that he would not stand for re-election. PHOTO: AFP

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICTY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (5 / 2019–2020)

1. Open tenders for 2019–2020 fiscal year are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

| Sr No. | Tender No. | Description | Remarks |
|--------|------------------|---|---------|
| (a) | DMP/L-004(19-20) | 13 5/8" x 5K Annular BOP (1) No | Ks |
| (b) | DMP/L-005(19-20) | Swivel / Drill Pipe Power Tong (2) Items | Ks |
| (c) | DMP/L-006(19-20) | Travelling Block with Hook (2) Sets | Ks |
| (d) | DMP/L-007(19-20) | LAS-E350 Continuous Liquid Additive Skid (1) Set | Ks |
| (e) | DMP/L-008(19-20) | 840 KW Generator for Rig Engine (1) Set | Ks |
| (f) | DMP/L-009(19-20) | Water Cooled Electromagnetic Eddy Current Brake (2) Sets | Ks |
| (g) | DMP/L-010(19-20) | 2900 Series Well Head & Christmas Tree Equipment (4) Sets | Ks |
| (h) | DMP/L-011(19-20) | 1500 Series Well Head & Christmas Tree Equipment (2) Sets | Ks |
| (i) | DMP/L-012(19-20) | Single Pump SJS Cementing Unit With Engine and Accessories (1) Set | Ks |
| (j) | DMP/L-013(19-20) | Batch Mixer (1) Set | Ks |
| (k) | DMP/L-014(19-20) | 1.5 MW Gas Engine Driven Generating Set Attach With Switch Gear Panel (1) Set | Ks |
| (l) | DMP/L-015(19-20) | 900 Series Well Head & Christmas Tree Equipment (1) Set | Ks |
| (m) | DMP/L-016(19-20) | Lathe Machine with Motor (2) Items | Ks |
| (n) | DMP/L-017(19-20) | Steam Boiler / Foam Pump (2) Items | Ks |
| (o) | DMP/L-018(19-20) | Trolley Way (1) Set | Ks |
| (p) | DMP/L-019(19-20) | 50 Ton Hydraulic Mobile Crane (1) Unit | Ks |
| (q) | DMP/L-020(19-20) | Truck Mounted Double Drum Well Servicing Unit (1) Unit | Ks |
| (r) | DMP/L-021(19-20) | Marine Engine with Gear Box Assy; (2) Sets | Ks |
| (s) | DMP/L-022(19-20) | Caterpillar 3512 Engine with Generating Set (2) Sets | Ks |
| (t) | DMP/L-023(19-20) | Model 8040 D 10 Dual Cell Pressure Size Consistometer (1) Set | Ks |
| (u) | DMP/L-024(19-20) | Crawler Type Dozer (1) Unit | Ks |
| (v) | DMP/L-025(19-20) | Replacement & Installation of the Metering System For Shwe Taung GCS (1) Lot | Ks |
| (w) | DMP/L-026(19-20) | CNG Ground Storage Cascade (2) Sets | Ks |
| (x) | DMP/L-027(19-20) | Control & POS for Dispenser & Computer Communication System (1) Lot | Ks |
| (y) | DMP/L-028(19-20) | Skid Mounted Gas Dryer (1) Unit | Ks |
| (z) | DMP/L-029(19-20) | 400 KW Gas Engine Generator (Complete Set) (1) No | Ks |
| (aa) | DMP/L-030(19-20) | Cascade Tube Skid/Cascade Trailer/Tractor (3) items | Ks |
| (ab) | DMP/L-031(19-20) | Air Compressor Engine Driven Skid with Air Dryer (2) Sets | Ks |
| (ac) | DMP/L-032(19-20) | Container (2) Items | Ks |
| (ad) | DMP/L-033(19-20) | Excavator (2) Items | Ks |
| (ae) | DMP/L-034(19-20) | 6" x 8" R Mission Pump with Motor (2) Sets | Ks |
| (af) | DMP/L-035(19-20) | Mud Chemicals (1) Lot | Ks |
| (ag) | DMP/L-036(19-20) | Fuel Bowser (2) Units | Ks |

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qtty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 4 October 2019 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than 14:00 pm on 4 November 2019.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time 4-11-2019, 14:00 pm
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 - 411206

Trade Mark Ads Call Thin Thin May. 09251022355,09974424848

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO TAI VOY.NO. (137 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (137 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-10-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/SSAMUDERASHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY.NO. (051 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY.NO. (051 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-10-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTER ASIA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouse and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 11th OCTOBER 2019 to 15th OCTOBER 2019 (Thadinkyut Public Holiday), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

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Buddha statue inside of the Manuha Temple in Bagan, Myanmar. PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)

Bagan and Manuha

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

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



Nanphaya Temple. PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)



Manuha Temple. PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)



brought back 30 sets of Pita-ka treatises and other scared 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 servents 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 pf 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 descend-ent 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 siting 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-mud 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 flash-light 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 Than)

Reference
Bagan research guide (U Bo Kay)
Bagan traeller (Paragu)
Glass Palace History
The pagodas and monuments of Bagan



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 the best they can, according to a post on the Myanmar Football Federation's Facebook page.

Player Zuu Latt Nadi said that the team is preparing to the best of their ability under the guidance of the head coach.

"Even our goalkeeper is keen to play the eleventh player position to assist the defense po-

sition. The upcoming AFC Women's Championship in Thailand 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.

Myanmar head coach Daw Thet Thet win said that the team will face football giants in the tourney. "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) ■



The Myanmar U-19 women's national football team pose for a group photo during an international friendly match. **PHOTO:MFF**

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 Zwegapin 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 football 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) ■



Football star Kyi Lin (L) holds the signing contract for his former club Yangon United. He will play for Yangon United in the 2020 Myanmar National League. **PHOTO:YUFC**

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 this month's Euro 2020 qualifiers in the Czech Republic and Bulgaria alongside Blues teammates Ross Barkley, Mason Mount and Fikayo Tomori on Thursday.

Abraham has eight goals in 10 appearances this season and Chelsea manager Lampard is pleased to see him back in the England squad after two previ-

ous friendly appearances in 2017.

"Everyone knows his form's really good. I think he's been in the equation probably for Gareth all season because of how he's played and it's a natural progression for him," Lampard said at his pre-match press conference on Friday.

"I'm delighted for him. I know he's a proud 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.

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

"And there's competition there. When he steps into the squad he'll see that there are great strikers in that squad already around him so it's a good challenge for Tammy."—AFP ■



Chelsea forward Tammy Abraham celebrates scoring a Champions League goal against Lille. **PHOTO AFP**