Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe inaugurates Myanmar Embassy in Havana

The Union Election Commission (UEC) initiated a series of coordination meetings between the UEC and sub commissions with a launch ceremony at Grand Amara Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

A collaboration with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the meetings will take place from 7 to 10 October.

During that time, participants will discuss implementation of the strategic plan for effectively organizing the 2020 General Elections, reviewing electoral data, cybersecurity, organizing multi sectoral meetings, compiling mechanisms for coordination committees, and establishing a case tracking system.

UEC Chairman U Hla Thein first spoke at the opening ceremony. He said they are implementing action plans in a designated timeline to ensure the strategic plan for the 2020 General Elections is successfully carried out.

He said the monitoring group has to regularly give updates to the commission so it can make informed decisions and the sub commissions need to make systematic reports on the tasks assigned to them.

U Hla Thein said the elections are based on the information of previous organized elections and shares it publicly through its website and other means. He said the gradual integration into an e-Government system will open opportunities for potential cyberattacks and this is why it is paramount to understand cyber policies and guidelines to counteract perceived attacks.

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Union Minister U Thein Swe receives French Ambassador

UNION Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe meets with Ambassador of France Mr. Christian Lechervy in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe received the Ambassador of France to Myanmar, Mr Christian Lechervy, at the former’s office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed the immigration procedures of Myanmar, French investments, activities of the French Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, employment of local staff in French companies in Myanmar, capacities-building and safety measures for the labours, drawing labour law with the assistance of ILO and the discussion of minimum wages among the government, the employers and the employees.

They also exchanged views on issuing e-Visa for the visiting French people to Myanmar, implementation of Unique ID for each citizen, digitalization of national ID cards and assistance of France in immigration and security checks in the country.

Afterwards, the UEC Chairman took a documentary photo with attendees and commenced the first day of the meetings. The opening ceremony was attended by members and staff of the UEC and its office, officials from the regions/states sub-commissions and IFES in implementing the system.

Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment and hears (Certiorari) civil and criminal cases

CHIEF Justice of the Union U Htin Htun Oo, Supreme Court judges U Myo Tint and U Soe Naing of Special Appellate Bench sat at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning.

First Mandalay Gems Emporium aims to sell 5,000 jade lots

THE first gems emporium in Mandalay will be displaying about 5,000 jade lots for sale and will be held from 23 to 29 October at Mandalay Convention Center, said U Aung Win Oo, Secretary-3 of the Mandalay Gems & Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association.

“This emporium will be conducted in Myanmar currency,” said U Aung Win Oo, “We started accepting jade lots on 28 September and we will continue to accept more as long as space exists. Also, the emporium in Nay Pyi Taw asked for 18.5 per cent tax but this emporium only asks for 13 per cent. Organized by the regional government and managed by Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association, sellers will have to pay 13 per cent of sales while buyers have to pay 5 per cent. Officials say they are negotiating with government departments to further lower the rates and the sales will be conducted in an open tender system.

The floor price for both un-refined and refined jade lots is K1 million. Sellers will be able to display lots up to 1,000 kilos and have to submit their wares in metal cases. — Khine Sett Wai

MP to issue new postage stamps to celebrate World Post Day

MYANMAR Post (MP) under the Ministry of Transport and Communications will issue a special postage stamps of K200 denomination to commemorate the 145th anniversary of World Post Day. The special stamp will go on sale at 9:30 am from 9 October (11th waxing of Thadingyut 1381 ME) at all post offices in the states and regions.

As a special programme, the Central Post Office of Nay Pyi Taw, the Yangon General Post Office, and the Mandalay General Post Office will stamp the postmark and date on the commemorative stamps and First Day Covers purchased on 9 October. The commemorative stamps and First Day Covers will also be stamped the postmark and date at the Office No 2 of the Ministry to celebrate 145th anniversary of World Post Day ceremony on 9 October. — MNA

UEC, sub-commissions hold series of electoral coord meetings

FROM PAGE-1

The UEC Chairman said holding regular meetings with all relevant personnel will allow for better understanding of a region’s issues and help allocate electoral assistance. He determined that the formation of the successive election coordination committees helped reduce the number of disputes in the recent by-elections.

U Hla Thein said it is important for all members of the committee to be unbiased and for the process to follow legal procedures. He said using a case tracking system will make recording information easier and be more appealing to the public. He urged everyone to wisely use the technology provided by IFES in implementing the system.

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(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

(Translated by Aung Khin)
Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe inaugurates Myanmar Embassy in Havana

The Union Minister and the Minister of Public Health discussed ways and opportunities to enhance cooperation in health sector, particularly in the areas of pharmaceutical industry, human resource development and research. At the meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the two Ministers exchanged views on further consolidating the traditional ties of friendly relations and cooperation, promoting trade and economic cooperation between the two countries as well as in the health sector, enhancing contacts between Myanmar and Cuba and the Myanmar Government’s efforts to achieve peace, stability and national reconciliation in Rakhine State. He expressed his appreciation to the Minister and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba for their support in establishing Myanmar Embassy in Havana. In the evening of 4 October 2019, the Union Minister attended the reception to launch the official establishment of Myanmar Embassy in Havana and gave remarks. In his remarks, he stressed that the establishment of Myanmar Embassy reflects the importance of how Myanmar attached her relationship with Cuba and signifies wide opening of windows of opportunities for promotion of bilateral cooperation, trade and investment between the two countries. Mr. Rogelio Sierra Diaz, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba also delivered remarks. Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba and Ambassadors and Heads of Missions of ASEAN member countries and diplomatic corps in Havana attended the event. The establishment of Myanmar Embassy in Havana will further consolidate the relations and cooperation between the two countries as well as promoting cooperation with the countries in the Caribbean region.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein to attend sports ministers meeting in Philippines

DEPUTY Minister for Health and Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein left Yangon International Airport yesterday morning to attend the 5th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Sports (5th AMMS) and the related meetings in the Philippines.

She was seen off at the airport by officials from the Department of Sports and Physical Education.

In the Philippines, the Deputy Minister will attend the 1st ASEAN Plus Japan Meeting on Women and Sports and the 2nd ASEAN Plus Japan Senior Officials Meeting on Sports (2nd SOMS+ Japan) on 8 October, and the 5th AMMS on the following day. — MNA

MADB expands loans for 8 strong demand crops

THE Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank under the Ministry of Planning and Finance will give loans for the strong demand crops under eight categories in 2019-2020 FY, in addition to the existing 14 items of agricultural produce.

The new scheme will cover four beans (haricot bean, lablab bean, rice bean and green bean), two crops edible oil (flaxseeds and sunflower seeds), and two kitchen crops (onion and chili). The loans for these crops will be given commencing this winter at K100,000 per acre like other crops.

To support the small-scale farmers, the government increased this amount from K20,000 per acre in 2017-2018 FY and K50,000 per acre in 2018-2019 FY respectively, while the loan for paddy was increased to K150,000 per acre from K100,000 per acre in 2016-2017 FY. — MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)
Mr. Kazuyuki Takimi, Head of Economic and Development Assistance Section at the Embassy of Japan. PHOTO: MNA

Mr. Masayuki Karasawa, Chief Representative of JICA Myanmar Office. PHOTO: MNA

Mr. Kazuyuki TAKIMI and Mr. Masayuki KARASAWA. The demonstration of live broadcast was conducted among MRTV’s studio in Yangon, the headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) and the People’s Park in Yangon. The newly installed equipment in this project is similar to the system, quality and design of the NHK studio in Japan. The expansion included content transmission, three vans for Digital Satellite News Gathering (DSNG) vans, also known as outside broadcast (OB) van, upgrading the studio and the installation of world standard broadcasting equipment with advanced security system, totally worth of 2,263 million yen.

The new system will help MRTV to broadcast additional 110 programmes in 110 hours of airtime per week. —MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)
MNA welcomes new ATR 72-600 aircraft

MYANMAR National Airlines received 11th ATR aircraft at the Yangon International Airport on 6 October.

Officials of the MNA welcomed the new aircraft, which was manufactured by ATR Company in France. The new aircraft rented by the MNA from the GECAS company in the United States arrived at the airport on 6 October eight days after the previous ART 72-600 XY-AMT plane on 29 September. The new aircraft will be added to the services on the MNA’s local and foreign destinations. As MNA bought new six ATR aircrafts from the ATR company, the company has provided assistance to establishing the workshop for maintenance, repair and overhaul—MRO services of ATR aircraft operating and MNA got EASA certificated in October, 2018.—MNA

Seven armed men rob villagers, kill cattle in Yathedaung Township

SEVEN armed men robbed gold and cash from five houses in two villages of Yathedaung Township and shot dead two cows on the morning of 6 October.

On the morning of 6 October seven armed men speaking Rakhine language and in civilian clothing fired shots into the air and entered Yathedaung Township Sinkondaing village. They robbed 12.247 gm of gold from Abdu Khoran, K 800,000 from Abdu Zabor and a tical (16.3293 gm) of gold and K 300,000 from Ma Sajida. Similarly in Luntaung village, they robbed a tical (16.3293 gm) of gold and K 500,000 from Mabia Khatu and 4 ticals (55.3172 gm) of gold from Majida after breaking into the houses. A total of 6 ticals and 12.247 gm of gold and K 1,600,000 were robbed. In addition to this two cows owned by Ma Sachida of Sinkondaing village were shot and killed by the armed men. A case has been opened at Zedipyin Police Station, according to the news from Myanmar Police Force.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Comparison chart reflecting foreign tourist arrivals at international airports, sea ports, and border gates

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Comparison chart reflecting foreign tourist arrivals at international airports, sea ports, and border gates

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DMA plans to install AIS on coastal vessels for maritime security

THE Department of Marine Administration (DMA) is planning to install automatic identification systems (AIS) on coastal vessels to ensure maritime security and lay an information sharing network, according to the department.

“The AIS is an automatic tracking system. AIS stations will also be set up at ports. Myanmar’s coastal ships and fishing vessels will be equipped with AIS soon,” said U Ko Ko Naing, the Director of the DMA.

All inland water transport ferries and coastal ships will have AIS by 2021. Installations will start at the end of this year.

At present, there are about 600 cargo and passenger ships and 4,000 fishing vessels. With the inclusion of small vessels, the total number of vessels crosses 10,000. They all will get AIS, according to the DMA.

169 patients get free eye surgery in Laikha S-Shan State

THE Cherry Myittar Foundation organized its 29th free eye surgery and eye care camp from 5 to 6 October in Laikha, Loilum District, southern Shan State.

Patients were offered services of eye specialists free of charge at the camp. A total of 3,230 people got their eyes tested at the camp. Of them, 2,413 were prescribed glasses and 169 patients underwent eye surgeries from 5 to 6 October at the Township People’s Hospital in Laikha.

—Kay Thi (IPRD) (Translated by La Wonn)

Officials distribute rice bags to over 1,000 IDPs in MraukU Town

OFFICIALS from the Natural Disaster Management Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement on 6 October handed over rice bags to 1,240 IDPs from 336 households at Shwehteearung, Myatazaung, Dinekyi, and Koe-nawin monasteries in MraukU Town.

Meanwhile, a team led by U Ye Htu Kyaw, a deputy officer from the department, handed over rice bags to 517 IDPs at four camps in MraukU Town.

To implement the plan, the DMA is discussing setting up AIS stations at 19 jetties with the Myanmar Port Authority. The range of the AIS would stretch to 30-50 miles. The stations would control the AIS and exchange navigational information.

The AIS would also help track illegal activities of ships, according to the DMA.

While Myanmar is making efforts to adopt AIS, the neighboring countries have been using the systems since 2004, according to the Inland Water Transport (Dawbon). —Myint Maung

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

GAP certificate validity to be extended to two years

THE validity of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certificates will be extended to two years, according to the Agriculture Department.

Good Agricultural Practices ensure food safety, and GAP growers can get more market access, locally and internationally, according to the department. In addition to food safety, GAP also ensures worker safety, health and welfare, and conservation of the environment, it added.

Therefore, the Agriculture Department is planning to extend the validity of certificates to two years.

“Fruits and vegetables produced under GAP can fetch good prices. They ensure food safety and traceability. So, the department is raising awareness of GAP among growers by providing courses,” according to the Agriculture Department.

“Next, the department is planning to introduce digital touch for seeking GAP certificates soon. Online applications can reduce red tape, and help bring smooth and quick service to growers,” it added.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has encouraged farmers to use its GAP protocol in a bid to boost productivity, profitability, market access, and competitiveness in the agricultural sector. The GAP protocol and guidelines include the most consumed and major export items — mango, pomelo, honeydew, watermelon, avocado, chili, tomato, onion, cabbage, corn, sweet potato, and coffee. —Htet Myat

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)
Lower imports pull down external trade in 2018-2019FY

A significant drop in Myanmar’s imports in the previous fiscal year led to a lower total trade figure compared with the 2017-2018FY.

Between 1 October and 30 September in the 2018-2019FY, Myanmar’s external trade plunged to $34.97 billion from $35.89 billion in the previous FY.

The figure included an estimated $473 million from import capital goods, raw materials, industrial materials, and consumer goods.

Between 1 October and 30 September in the 2018-2019FY, Myanmar’s exports increased by $1.38 billion to $4.39 billion from $3.01 billion in the previous FY.

The figure included an estimated $16.9 billion in exports and $18.65 billion in imports.

Compared with the 2017-2018FY, exports increased by $473 million, while imports declined by $1.38 billion, which helped bring down the trade deficit.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, raw industrial materials, and consumer goods.

The country’s export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. Export earnings from the CMP (cutting, making, and packaging) garment businesses are rising, while reliance on natural resources, such as natural gas and jade, is lessening.

The government is trying to reduce the trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting exports, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

— GNLM

SEZs rake in investments of over $360 mn in 2018-2019 fiscal

FOREIGN investments of US$362.28 million flowed into the special Economic Zones (SEZs), under the Special Economic Zone Law, in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, according to figures released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

A total of 106 enterprises from 18 countries and four local businesses have ploughed in $1.84 billion so far in the zones, data on FDI of existing enterprises shows.

Japan topped the list of foreign investors in the previous fiscal year, accounting for more than 36 per cent of the overall investment, followed by Singapore and Thailand. FDI also flowed into the SEZs from the Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, the UK, Australia, the UAE, Malaysia, Austria, China (Taipei), Panama, China, Brunei, Viet Nam, France, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.

Currently, 74 businesses are operating in the Thilawa SEZ, and 18 businesses are beginning to export goods. The SEZ is employing over 20,000 workers, including permanent and construction workers, according to the management committee.

The Myanmar-Thaiaw SEZ Holdings Public Limited’s annual report for 2017-2018 stated that 97 per cent of Thilawa Zone A and 61 per cent of Zone B have been sold. Over 68 per cent of businesses in Thilawa are domestic-oriented manufacturing enterprises, while 40 per cent are export-oriented manufacturers, according to a press statement issued by the company in June this year.

A company exporting at least 75 per cent of the production value is registered as a Free Zone investor, and is exempt from paying corporate tax for 7 years from the time it starts commercial operations. Companies such as logistics, which support export-oriented manufacturing, can also be free zones companies.

Domestic-oriented manufacturing companies are regarded as promotion zone companies and they are eligible for a five-year holiday on corporate tax.

There are other tax incentives for free zone and promotion zone investors on importation of capital goods, raw materials, and merchandise, and consigned goods and vehicles.

Further details about the tax system are available on http://www.myanmarthilawa.gov.mm.

While the manufacturing sector has absorbed the largest share of foreign investments, FDI has also flowed into the trading, services, transportation and logistics, real estate, and hotel sectors in the past.

Myanmar is currently implementing three Special Economic Zones — Thilawa, Kyaukpyu, and Dawei. Out of the three, Thilawa is leading with better infrastructure and successful businesses.

— Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

NyaungU Tsp corn farmers make a profit despite Fall Armyworm invasion

CORN farmers in NyaungU Township of NyaungU District are continuing to cultivate corn in spite of a Fall Armyworm invasion as they are earning a good profit due to high demand, according to a grower.

Villages along the NyaungU-Thilawa road, including Myingyan-Pakokku road in NyaungU Township, Nyaung District, comprise the corn belt, and farmers in the area solely cultivate different varieties of corns throughout the year.

“Growers are still cultivating corn though their fields were destroyed by the Fall Armyworm (FAW) the previous year,” said U Tin Win, a corn grower.

“With the corn market becoming stable due to high demand from corn brokers from rural regions, farmers made a profit in spite of the FAW problem,” according to U Min Nye, a farmer from Taungphantan village.

Farmers also earned more profits by cultivating corn as it can be harvested quickly in just two months, said U Win Tin.

“After two months, growers can pluck corns from the fields and sell them along the highway road,” he said.

“Most of the customers are people traveling on the highway and brokers from Myingyan, NyaungU, Ngathayaung, and Pakokku towns, and the Palin Kantha elephant camp. Last year, the corn fields in NyaungU endured an FAW invasion, and most of them yielded poor-quality corn. However, corn in high demand and corn fields are flourishing year after year. Some fields use river water and some use private wells for irrigation,” he added. — Ko Htun (Ngathayaung)

(Translated by La Won)

Coconut shell lantern makers expect good sales during Thadingyut festival

COCONUT shell lanterns, which are a work of art, will sell well during the Thadingyut lighting festival, said Ko Pho Zaw, a coconut shell lantern artist.

During the lighting festival, people hang the lanterns in their homes.

“I learned the art three years ago. To create art on a coconut shell, we need to have artistic as well as sculpting skills. Most foreigners like to purchase lanterns with good-quality designs. They especially purchase coconut shell lanterns bearing paintings during the Thadingyut festival,” said Ko Pho Zaw, a coconut shell artist from Pandyau Township, who is showcasing his paintings at the Bogoyoke Aung San market.

Coconut shell art was first invented in Myanmar, he said.

“To create art on coconut shells, we first collect good-quality and hard coconut shells. Then, we clean the shells and draw paintings,” he added.

There are over 50 types of coconut products sold in the market, including coconut shell rings, coconut shell combs, coconut shell kettles, and coconut shell cups.

The prices range from K5,000-K10,000 for coconut shell rings, K3,000-K5,000 for coconut shell combs, K70,000 for coconut shell lanterns, and up to K200,000 for coconut shell kettles and cups. — Myint Maung Soe

(Translated by Huy Mar)
We must exercise common sense when using social media

Big-doll dances help keep alive Rakhine traditions

The National Education Law (NEL) states that Early Childhood Care and Development (ECD) curriculum includes the "Curriculum" development, which aims to inculcate appropriate methods for children from birth to age five. Preschool is for children aged three to five years. It is a platform for communicating and sharing, and it can also be a tool to estimate, destroy, spread hatred, or attack people or organisations. We must keep this in mind and remember that Facebook is a platform, an intermediary for social and business transactions, and benefits.

Social media is an emerging tool for spreading thoughts, generating new ideas, finding, humour, accomplishments, progress, among other things. That’s more it is easily accessible. This makes it simple for people to showcase their talents and also provides benefits for observers.

However, since social media is accessible to everyone, we must use our reasoning skills to discern what is true and what is false, and whether it is actually beneficial. In a network with large numbers of users, there will be both helpful individuals and malicious troublemakers.

Opinion National

8 October 2019

THE Global New Light of Myanmar

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

The President’s Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures acting on tip-offs

THE Office of the President issued Press Release No. 38/2019 this week, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs’ arrests and seizures in the fight against illegal drug trafficking.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President by citizens.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 9th October issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar. -GNLM

U Myo Tint presents credentials to President of the Republic of Chile

U Myo Tint, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Chile, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Sebastián Piñera Echenique, President of the Republic of Chile, on 2 October 2019, In Santiago. -MNA

Forecast valid until afternooon of the 8th October, 2019

Isolated rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Upper Sajing and Tanintharyi Regions and Kayin State, fairly widespread in Chin and Rakhine States, scattered in Lower Sajing, Mandalay, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, (Northern and Southern) Shan and Mon States and isolated in the remaining areas. Lotung, Thadingyut and Tazawung festivals will be observed. When big-doll dancing goes around at each town and vicinity of the town. Local fans earnestly bow to the big dolls and they simply believe that evil spirits are expelled from the town by means of big-doll dancing.

During the full moon days of such festivals, Rakhine people, almost all people from each and every town in Rakhine State hold festivals of communal offering provisions and various articles to the monks which keep dancing for the enjoyment of the townpeople.

(Translated by Arakan Sein)

The suggested "ABC Environmental Alphabet Chart" is also meant to be used in vocabulary development of the children, who would continue to be used, as it is referred to in the many lessons that are in the said English Text and "best" the objects - lets say an Apple or Mango or a Flower; would increase their "perception" of the same and hence enhance knowledge. While the mind is being deeply opened the body should be too. Play outdoors, as well exercising, improve strength and stamina, learning to walk distances, run and jump, should be includ-

In case natural or man-made disasters happen, should also be included. It will help them better prepare to react to such events.

We need to ensure good physiological and mental development in early childhood through better nutrition if we are to nurture healthy future citizens who would be able to contribute fully to society. With individual and collective learning and communicating and becoming a common sense to and the advantages and the utilizes to the negative and avoidables of the utilization. 

Suggestions on Early Childhood Learning and Development

We need to ensure good physical and mental development in early childhood through better nutrition if we are to nurture healthy future citizens who would be able to contribute fully to society. With individual and collective learning and communicating and becoming a common sense to and the advantages and the utilizes to the negative and avoidables of the utilization.

The ABC Environmental Alphabet Chart suggested.

The suggested traditional ABC Chart is amending my suggestions with a Far-fur-lunging carousels usually ask me if big-doll dressing is going to take place in the Rakhine State. Big-doll dancing goes round every monk and caseny of the town, children are very happy and the townpeople love it. When the unfulfilment of Thadingyut is near around, the people of the town are waiting for bid-doll dancing.

In the past, big-doll were made of thin bamboo strips; nowadays, they are made of plastic and wear wearing different kinds of clothes yearly in order not to get bored.

Big-doll dances, which often take place across town, help promote Buddhism, and the money collected can be used to obtain provisions and articles for monks.

Big-doll dancing follows the sanghas and runs to the enjoyment of well-wishers who raise a good deed. Big-doll dances, which often take place across town, help promote Buddhism, and the money collected can be used to obtain provisions and articles for monks.

In order to celebrate the communal offerings of provisions and various articles to monks, a big doll and his wife keep dancing around the town to collect donations. When the beginning of Thadingyut is drawing near, the relatives and friends in the white stockings and white shoes.

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Mogok: Tourists numbered over 1,000 up to Sept this year

A total of 1,030 tourists visited Mogok, the Ruby Land of Myanmar, in Mandalay Region, according to the figures of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism of Mandalay, said. Daw Phyu Phyu Myint, the chairwoman of local gems merchants association, said, “Tourists visited Banard village of Lisu people, and it is an icy village like a Korean style. They also reached a gems trading village.” They also experienced traditional cultures and customs of local people during their visits to this area. The number of tourists usually increased in high season, and most of them were from China, Thailand and the European countries.

Mandalay Region government has allowed tourists access to Mogok since September last year.— Khing Set Wai (Translated by Aung Khin)

Iraq armed force says ‘ready’ to back government amid protests

BAGHDAD (Iraq) — Iraq’s powerful Hashed al-Shaabi force said Monday it was ready to implement government orders to prevent “a coup d’etat or a rebellion” after protests that have left more than 100 dead. Faleh al-Fayyadh, who heads the force mostly integrated into the state, told reporters in Baghdad he wanted “the fall of corruption, not the fall of the regime.”

The rallies began on Tuesday with calls to reduce youth unemployment and corruption but have spiralled to demand a total overhaul of the Iraqi political system.

Iraqi government has announced a series of reforms to create jobs, boost social welfare and root out corrupt officials but have also accused “saboteurs” of infiltrating the protests. “We know who stands behind these protests. The plan to bring down the regime has failed,” Fayyadh said. His words echoed a statement earlier Monday by Iran’s supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei who accused “enemies” of trying to drive a wedge between Tehran and Baghdad.

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Saudi, UAE talk military cooperation after Yemen rebel truce offer

ABU DHABI (United Arab Emirates) — Top officials from Saudi Arabia and the UAE, key players in a coalition fighting Yemeni rebels, have discussed military cooperation following a positive response by Riyadh to a truce offer from the insurgents.

Saudi’s deputy defence minister Prince Khalid bin Salman met with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan in the UAE capital to discuss “coordination and joint action in defence and military affairs”, Emirati state news agency WAM reported on Monday.

The two officials, who spoke late Sunday, also discussed the “challenges” facing the Gulf region and “their implications on the security” of the region, WAM said. Last week, Prince Khalid said on Twitter that a truce offer made last month by Yemen’s Huthi rebels was “perceived positively” by the kingdom and hoped it would be “implemented effectively”.

The conflict has killed tens of thousands of people, most of them civilians, according to humanitarian organisations, and left Yemen faced with what the UN terms the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

Saudi’s Papua

More than 16,000 flee unrest in Indonesia’s Papua

JAKARTA (Indonesia) — More than 16,000 scared residents have fled an unrest-hit city in Indonesia’s Papua region, the military said Monday, as one of the deadliest eruptions of violence in years sparked calls for an independent probe. Several dozen people were killed when violence broke out in Wamena city last month, with some victims burned alive when buildings were abashed, and others stabbed in the chaos, according to authorities. Since mid-August, Papua has been hit by waves of mass protests and violence fuelled by racism against indigenous Papuans from other parts of the archipelago, as well as calls for self-rule in the impoverished region. The majority of Papuans are Christian and ethnic Melanesian with few cultural ties to the rest of Muslim-majority Indonesia.

On Monday, the air force said about 11,400 people — mostly migrants — had been evacuated aboard military aircraft. Several thousand more have left aboard commercial aircraft since late September, it added.— AFP
Nobel season opens with Medicine Prize

STOCKHOLM (Sweden) — The announcement of the Nobel Medicine Prize on Monday opens an unusual 2019 Nobel season in which two literature laureates will be crowned after a scandal postponed last year’s award, amid speculation Greta Thunberg could nab the prestigious Peace Prize.

The winner of the Medicine Prize will be revealed on Monday at 11:30 (0930 GMT) in Stockholm. It will be followed by the prizes for physics on Tuesday, chemistry on Wednesday, literature on Thursday, and economics on Monday, 14 October.

In between, the Peace Prize will be awarded in Oslo on Friday, 11 October, with Swedish teen climate activist Greta seen as the favourite on betting sites such as Ladbrokes.

Predictions about possible winners are notoriously difficult as the prize-awarding institutions keep the names of the nominees secret for 50 years.

For the Peace Prize, the Norwegian Nobel Committee has only disclosed that it received 301 nominations this year.

Traditionally sensitive to issues gripping the public’s attention, the committee has undoubtedly noted the recent “Greta phenomenon” and the enthusiasm she has sparked among young generations in her campaigns to raise awareness about climate change.

Experts remain however divided on whether there is an actual link between armed conflicts and climate change.

The head of the Peace Research Institute of Oslo, Henrik Urdal, therefore deemed it “extremely unlikely” the 16-year-old would win, adding her young age could also work against her.

The youngest laureate so far is Malala Yousafzai, who won the 2014 Peace Prize at the age of 17.

Other names circulating are Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who clinched a peace deal with arch foe Eritrea, and NGOs such as Reporters without Borders and the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Lithium batteries?

For the Medicine Prize, the Karolinska Institute has received 633 nominations.

According to Swedish public radio SR, the honour could go to Lebanese-born American geneticist Huda Zoghbi for the discovery that a genetic mutation leads to the brain disorder Rett Syndrome.

Sweden’s biggest daily Dagens Nyheter (DN) meanwhile said immunologists Marc Feldmann of Australia and Indian-born British researcher Ravinder Maini could win for their work on rheumatoid arthritis.

American Mary-Claire King, who discovered the BRCA1 gene responsible for a hereditary form of breast cancer, was also mentioned.

DN said meanwhile the Physics Prize could go to quantum physics research, citing US scientist John Clauser, Alain Aspect of France, and Austria’s Anton Zeilinger.

Ronald Hanson of the Netherlands could win for his work on quantum entanglement, SR said.

For the Chemistry Prize, American John Goodenough, who invented lithium batteries, could become the oldest ever winner of a Nobel, at the age of 97.

But it could also go to two women, Emmanuella Charpentier of France and Jennifer Doudna of the US, for the gene-editing technique known as the CRISPR-Cas9 DNA snipping tool, a type of genetic “scissors” used to cut out a mutated gene in a human embryo and replace it with a corrected version.

Chilean-born American Feng Zhang also claims to have discovered the technique, which could also be eligible for the Medicine Prize.—AFP

Global Extinction Rebellion protests begin in Australia

SYDNEY (Australia) — Dozens of protesters were arrested across Australia and New Zealand on Monday as Extinction Rebellion activists kicked off a fortnight of global civil disobedience demanding governments take urgent action on climate change.

Hundreds joined a sit-in on busy inner Sydney road, which police brought to an end by dragging away demonstrators. Thirty people were later charged.

A small group of activists also locked themselves to a bridge in Brisbane, where police said they arrested and charged seven people. Meanwhile, demonstrators shut down part of Wellington, New Zealand’s capital, by chaining themselves to a bright pink car. Police said 30 people were arrested later in the day of protest, but none were charged.

They were the start of planned disruptions in 60 cities around the world over the next two weeks by Extinction Rebellion, which is warning of a looming environmental “apocalypse”.

Thousands are expected to join other events this week in Australia, including a bee die-off enactment, a nude parade and a funeral procession for the planet.

“We have tried petitions, lobbying and marches, and now time is running out,” Australian activist Jane Morton said.

“We have no choice but to rebel until our government declares a climate and ecological emergency and takes the action that is required to save us.”

Australia is ruled by a conservative government that has resisted taking comprehensive action to tackle climate change, while backing lucrative coal exports. Prime Minister Scott Morrison last month snubbed a United Nations climate summit after he was not invited to speak because of his lack of new climate announcements.

“Our governments are lying to us about the state of the climate and ecological emergency,” Melbourne-based climate activist Christine Canit told AFP.

“I have got four small young children and I want to be able to look them in the eye and tell them when I found out the extent and the severity of the crisis... I did absolutely everything within my power to be able to try and reverse that.”

Extinction Rebellion’s tactics in Australia have prompted senior conservative politicians to call for protesters’ welfare payments to be cut and for public denunciations.—AFP
Asia stocks mostly up on US jobs but growth, trade fears persist

HONG KONG (China) — Asia stocks mostly up on US jobs but growth, trade fears persist as May's US jobs data for May eased, but at the same time in four months, wages fell for a third time this year. All three main indexes on Wall Street rallied more than one percent as dealers breathed a sigh of relief that the jobs figures did not miss badly, with most still expecting another Fed rate cut at its next meeting this month.

"As the US unemployment rate dropped to its lowest level in 50 years, worries over an US recession eased, but at the same time expectations for further rate cuts remain untouched," Hideyuki Ishiguro, senior strategist at Daiwa Securities, said in a commentary.

Most Asian markets followed the lead from New York.

Sydney rose 0.7 per cent and Singapore added 0.6 per cent with Seoul gaining 0.1 per cent, while Wellington jumped 0.8 per cent and Taipei put on 0.4 per cent. Mumbai and Bangkok also rose.

Tokyo closed 0.2 per cent down as yen strengthened on bets for another Fed cut, while there were also losses in Manila and Jakarta. Hong Kong and Shanghai were closed for a public holiday.

In early trade, London fell 0.3 per cent, Paris lost 0.4 per cent and Frankfurt was off 0.2 per cent.

After using the phrase "worsening" — the most pessimistic expression adopted by the government for March and April, the office upgraded the view, saying that downside movements had come to a halt in May and the two following months.

The latest downgrade of the evaluation followed the release of weak industrial output, shipment and employment data for August. As "worsening" indicates Japan is highly likely to have fallen into recession, the assessment appears to contradict the government's official view that the economy has been recovering at a moderate pace, supported by solid domestic demand, as shown by its monthly economic report.

The Cabinet Office also said the leading index of business condition, which predicts the trend in the coming months, dropped 2.9 points to 91.7 from the previous month to 93.3 against the 2015 base of 100, the lowest since September 2016. After using the phrase...
WHO regional meet opens to tackle key priorities

MANILA — The World Health Organization started the annual regional meeting of its Western Pacific office on Monday, aiming to further the discussions on its priorities for the next five years.

Health ministers and city officials from 37 countries, as well as from non-governmental organizations, attended the first day of the five-day summit in the Philippine capital, where policy recommendations for member states in a region home to 1.9 billion people will be made.

The WHO Western Pacific Regional Office identified its key priorities as health and security, including microbial resistance; non-communicable diseases and aging; climate change, the environment and health; and reaching the unreached.

Moriarty paid tribute “to the many amazing former Thomas Cook employees” who helped to make the operation successful.

WHO—Photo: AFP

UK completes Thomas Cook repatriation of passengers

LONDON/United Kingdom — Britain's government on Monday completed the country’s biggest peacetime repatriation that returned 140,000 UK-based Thomas Cook customers stranded abroad after the collapse of the holiday operator.

The final flight arrived at 8.31 am (0731 GMT), touching down at Manchester airport in northern England from Orlando, Florida, said a spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

The flight, with 392 passengers onboard, marks the end of a two-week-long Operation Matterhorn — Britain's biggest repatriation since World War II.

Matterhorn, which involved 150 aircraft from 50 partners worldwide, “required an extraordinary effort from all involved,” CAA chief executive Richard Moriarty said in a statement.

WHO—Photo: AFP

Myanmar Port Authority

“Notice of High Tide”

Exceptionally high spring from 20.11 feet to 20.21 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in the Yangon River during the period of October 15th to October 17th, 2019. Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum in order to take precautionary measures to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.
**US forces start Syria border pullback, alarming Kurds**

QAMISHLI (Syria) — US forces in Syria started pulling back Monday from Turkish border areas, opening the way for Ankara's threatened military invasion and heightening fears of a jihadist resurgence.

The withdrawal from key positions along Syria's northern border came after the White House said it would step aside to allow for a Turkish operation President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said could come at any moment.

The move marks a major shift in US policy, and effectively abandons the Kurds, who were Washington's main ally in the years-old battle against the so-called Islamic State group.

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), the Kurdish militia that controls much of northeastern Syria, said early on Monday in a statement that “US forces withdrew from the border areas with Turkey”.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor confirmed that US forces had pulled back from key positions in Ras al-Ain and Tal Abyad.

A Kurdish official also told AFP that US forces had started withdrawing from the border, making way for a Turkish invasion, the scope of which remains to be seen. Turkey has sent reinforcements to the border in recent weeks, and Erdogan said Monday in televised remarks the long-threatened offensive could “come any night without warning”. His comments came after Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Twitter that Turkey was “determined to ensure our country’s existence and security by clearing terrorists from this region.”

He was referring to the SDF, which has ties to Kurdish militants inside Turkey and which Ankara considers a terrorist organisation.

**At all costs**

“The United States Armed Forces will not support or be involved in the operation, and United States forces, having defeated the ISIS territorial ‘Caliphate,’ will no longer be in the immediate area,” the White House said.

Ankara says it wants to urgently establish a “safe zone” on the other side of the border in which to send back some of the 3.6 million refugees who fled the eight-year war in Syria and live on Turkish soil.

But the Kurds argue that Turkey’s goal is to weaken the Kurdish presence in the region by modifying the demographics of the area with the return of mostly Sunni Arab refugees.

The SDF, which has repeatedly complained that US President Donald Trump’s declared intention to pull out of Syria was a historic betrayal, warned of the risks that a Turkish invasion would carry for the region.

The organisation, which spearheaded — with backing from the US-led coalition — several of the most significant battles against IS over the past five years, vowed to resist any Turkish attack.

“As the Syrian Democratic Forces, we are determined to defend our land at all costs,” it said in a statement posted on social media. — AFP

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**Dissidents under late Uzbek leader still out in the cold**

TASHKENT (Uzbekistan) — Journalist and former prisoner Dilmurod Saidov knows a thing or two about the brutal rule of Uzbekistan’s first leader, the late Islam Karimov.

His house is full of reminders of the wife and daughter who died in a 2009 car crash that he never accepted was an accident, on route to visit him in a jail where he should never have served time.

“God gave me such a faithful wife and such a wonderful daughter,” he told AFP of his partner Baro, framed in a photo on a table in his flat, and five-year-old Rukhishona, who starred out from the desktop background of a battered computer in a festive frock.

“Then he took them back again.”

Saidov, 57, is one of more than 30 people imprisoned on politically motivated charges who have been released since Karimov’s death in 2016 as new leader Shavkat Mirziyoyev takes steps to reverse the country’s isolationist course.

Mirziyoyev’s reforms have won plaudits, and seen the ex-Soviet republic — long ranked as one of the world’s worst abusers of human rights — throw its doors open to tourists and foreign investments surge.

But the new president has not publicly renounced Karimov, a man he served as prime minister for more than 13 years before stepping up as acting head for more than 13 years before stepping up as acting head for more than 13 years before stepping up as acting head for more than 13 years before stepping up as acting head for more than 13 years before stepping up as acting head for more than 13 years before stepping up as acting head for more than 13 years before stepping up as acting head for more than 13 years before stepping up as acting head for more than 13 years before stepping up as acting head for more than 13 years before stepping up as acting...
North Korea boat collides with Japan sea patrol

TOKYO (Japan) — A North Korean boat collided with a Japanese fisheries agency patrol vessel in the Sea of Japan Monday, sending around 20 North Koreans overboard, Japan’s coastguard said.

“We rescued some 10 people but their condition has not yet been confirmed,” a coastguard spokesman told AFP.

Satoshi Kawahara, a Japanese fisheries agency official, told reporters the patrol boat was warning the North Korean vessel to leave the area, which falls under Japan’s exclusive economic zone. When foreign vessels illegally operate in Japan’s waters, Japanese patrol boats often send an audio message, display a warning sign on an electric bulletin board, or spray water at them, Kawahara said.

The North Korean ship, believed to be a fishing vessel, capsized after the crash with Japanese patrol boat Okuni, the spokesman added. Local media said no crew members on the Japanese patrol vessel were injured. The collision occurred in waters some 350 kilometres (217 miles) northwest of Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa prefecture in central Japan, said Kazuma Nohara, another coastguard spokesman.

“We’ve been strengthening patrols around the water there in cooperation with the fisheries agency,” in recent years following reports that many North Korean fishing boats were poaching fish and squids, he told AFP.

Experts say some fishermen from the North are travelling far out to sea in order to satisfy government mandates for bigger catches. But their old and poorly equipped vessels are prone to mechanical faults and other problems, including running out of fuel, and there are few ways for them to call for rescue.

A record 225 suspected North Korean fishing vessels washed up on Japan’s coast last year, according to the coastguard.

Boats have also washed up on Japanese shores with the crew on board dead — referred to as “ghost ships” by local media.

In 2018, 19 North Koreans rescued from a tiny wooden boat drifting off northern Japan were deported back to their country.

—AFP

Malaysia orders ex-PM’s brother to return money in 1MDB case

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia’s anti-corruption agency said Monday it has ordered the brother of former Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak to return money allegedly embezzled from a scandal-plagued state fund.

Najir Razak, Najib’s youngest brother and a former banker, was among the 80 companies, individuals, political parties and nonprofit organizations that are subject to the order issued by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission.

The agency traced 420 million ringgit ($100 million) paid out to the entities and individuals to funds allegedly funnelled into Najib’s personal bank accounts from the state fund, 1Malaysia Development Berhad, or 1MDB.

“We have given them two weeks to pay up the fine and the fine will be as low as the amount they received or as high as 2.5 times the amount they received,” agency chief Latheefa Koya said.

“We hope to recover as much as we can,” Najib, who is facing a total of 42 corruption charges, is accused of pocketing nearly $700 million from 1MDB, which he founded in 2009 just after he became prime minister. He resigned last year after his party suffered an electoral defeat. The sum was part of the more than $4.5 billion that authorities estimated had been misappropriated from 1MDB.

Najir, Najib’s brother, received 5.7 million ringgit of the embezzled money, according to the agency. The amount received by Najir is believed to be related to an election funding scandal in which Najib had reportedly transferred $7 million into Nazir’s personal bank account just before the May 2013 general election to be used to fund his ruling party politicians. Nazir has admitted receiving the money.

The entity that had received the largest amount of money among those named offenders on Monday under the anti-money laundering law was Solar Shine Sdn. Bhd.

The company received 134 million ringgit, the agency said.

Appearing as a witness during one of Najib’s trials, Lew Choon Lai, the company’s founder, admitted receiving money from Najib for campaign purposes. In June, the agency initiated a civil forfeiture proceedings against 41 individuals and entities to recover 270 million ringgit that also came from Najib’s personal bank accounts.

So far, the government has recovered over $300 million worth of 1MDB-linked assets with assistance from authorities abroad, including in the United States and Singapore. —Kyodo News

First Hong Kongers appear in court for defying mask ban

HONG KONG (China) — Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters arrested for defying a new face mask ban appeared in court on Monday following a weekend of unrest which saw bloody clashes with police and widespread vandalism that crippled the city’s train network.

The international finance hub convulsed with three straight days of rallies and riots after its pro-Beijing leader invoked colonial-era emergency powers to ban face coverings at protests.

Chief Executive Carrie Lam, who has record-low approval ratings, said the measure was needed to try and quash four months of huge and increasingly violent pro-democracy rallies.

But the ban did little to halt the chaos or stop huge crowds of masked protesters from hitting the streets in defiance as opponents decried the move as a slide towards authoritarianism.

On Monday morning, a male university student and a 38-year-old woman were the first people to be charged with illegally wearing masks as supporters packed the courtroom, many wearing face coverings.

They were both charged with unlawful assembly which carries up to three years jail time, and with defying the mask ban, which has a maximum one-year sentence. Both were released on bail.

Outside the court, demonstrators queued to get in, some chanting slogans like “Wearing a face mask isn’t a crime” and “The law is unjust.”

Many said they feared the mask ban was just the first of more emergency orders to come.

“It’s an excuse to just introduce other totalitarian laws, next is martial law,” one protester outside the court, who gave his surname Lo, told AFP.

Internet next?

In a radio interview, a government cabinet member suggested internet curbs could be introduced, a move which would have profound repercussions for the city.

“At this stage, the government will consider all legal means to stop the riots,” Executive Council member Ip Kwok-him told Commercial Radio.

“We would not rule out a ban on the internet.”

Protesters use online forums and encrypted messaging apps to mobilise and organise.

On the mainland, Beijing flexed its muscles by pulling a top US basketball team’s games from state broadcaster CCTV after its manager posted a tweet featuring the message “Fight for Freedom. Stand with Hong Kong”.

The Houston Rockets tried to calm waters, issuing apologies from players and the manager.

Hong Kong has been battered by 18 consecutive weekends of unrest, fanned by widespread public anger over Chinese rule and the police response to protests. The rallies were ignited by a now-scrapped plan to allow extradition to China.

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SPORT

IN preparation for the upcoming qualifiers for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) U-19 Championship, the Myanmar U-19 men’s national football team is currently undergoing special training in Taunggyi, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The team took fitness training yesterday at the Fitness Gym Center of the Sports Stadium of Taunggyi.

Team Myanmar also played a friendly match against a local club, in spite of the cold weather in Taunggyi City last week.

Myanmar has been placed in Group I of the qualifiers for the 2020 AFC U-19 Championship with China, South Korea, and Singapore.

Myanmar will play China on 6 November, South Korea on 8 November, and Singapore on 10 November. All the matches will take place at the Thuwanna Stadium in Yangon.

The qualifiers, which are set to be held at the Thuwanna Stadium in Yangon, are crucial for team Myanmar to advance to the next round of the 2020 AFC U-19 Championship, which will be held in Uzbekistan from 14 to 31 October 2020.

The best teams and the best four runners-up teams from each of the 11 groups will advance to the championship, according to the AFC.

The Myanmar U-19 had entered the semifinal stage in the 2014 edition of the AFC U-19 Championship.

PHOTO: MFF

Myanmar U-19 players receive training yesterday at the Fitness Gym Center in Taunggyi Sports Stadium ahead of the 2020 AFC U-19 qualifiers.

PHOTO: AFP

LOS ANGELES (United States)—Kevin Na made it closer than it had to be, but shook off a triple-bogey to beat Patrick Cantlay in a playoff Sunday to win the US PGA Tour Shriners Hospitals for Children Open for the second time.

Korean-born American Na, who won his first tour title on the same TPC Summerlin course in Las Vegas in 2011, captured his fourth with a gritty finish as the shadows were starting to fall.

His one-under par 70 put him level on 23-under with Cantlay, who won the US PGA Tour’s Shriners Hospitals for Children title in 2017.

Na drained a 23-foot par-saving putt that sent them to the second playoff hole tied on 23-under.

Both players birdied the 12th, 13th and 15th before Cantlay took a one-shot lead with a birdie at 16, where Na was in the water on the way to a bogey.

It was Cantlay’s turn to find the water at 17, where Na drained a 23-foot par-saving putt that sent them to the 22nd hole tied on 23-under.

“I played really well,” he said. “I had a lot of puts I thought were going to go in today that didn’t. All in all I’m playing really well and I’ll take that momentum into next week.”

American Pat Perez finished alone in third on 263 after a three-under 68. Defending champion Bryson DeChambeau fired a 63 to head a group on 264 that also included Canadian Adam Hadwin and American Brian Stuard.

PHOTO:AFP

Korean-born American Kevin Na celebrates with the trophy after winning the US PGA Tour’s Shriners Hospitals for Children Open at the second playoff hole in Las Vegas.

Maung Maung Win

PHOTO: YUFC

Maung Maung Win next joined Rashine United for two years.

After that, he transferred to ChinHine (former GFA) for the 2016 and 2017 season.

Before joining Yangon United, he spent two years with Zwekapin United.

He has represented the national team at various youth levels.

The midfielder had also been selected on the Myanmar national football team in 2018. —Lynn Thit (Tgy)

The best teams and the best four runners-up teams from each of the 11 groups will advance to the championship, according to the AFC.

The Myanmar U-19 had entered the semifinal stage in the 2014 edition of the AFC U-19 Championship.

Na outlasts Cantlay in playoff to win US PGA Las Vegas title

against a local club, in spite of the cold weather in Taunggyi City last week. Myanmar has been placed in Group I of the qualifiers for the 2020 AFC U-19 Championship with China, South Korea, and Singapore.

Myanmar will play China on 6 November, South Korea on 8 November, and Singapore on 10 November. All the matches will take place at the Thuwanna Stadium in Yangon.

The qualifiers, which are set to be held at the Thuwanna Stadium in Yangon, are crucial for team Myanmar to advance to the next round of the 2020 AFC U-19 Championship, which will be held in Uzbekistan from 14 to 31 October 2020.

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The Myanmar U-19 had entered the semifinal stage in the 2014 edition of the AFC U-19 Championship.

Los Angeles (United States)—Kevin Na made it closer than it had to be, but shook off a triple-bogey to beat Patrick Cantlay in a playoff Sunday to win the US PGA Tour Shriners Hospitals for Children Open for the second time.

Korean-born American Na, who won his first tour title on the same TPC Summerlin course in Las Vegas in 2011, captured his fourth with a gritty finish as the shadows were starting to fall.

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It was Cantlay’s turn to find the water at 17, where Na drained a 23-foot par-saving putt that sent them to the 22nd hole tied on 23-under.

“A fighter” - “I came down way too close,” Na said. “I had a comfortable lead, I felt really comfortable. I hit a bad tee shot, got unlucky and made a triple and all of a sudden I felt like I was the underdog.

“Justice is the right thing” - “That putt on 17, I’m doing everything I can to make that putt.”

Cantlay, who won the US PGA Las Vegas title in 2017 and finished runner-up last year, said his sixth-putt for par at the second playoff hole “broke a little more than I thought.

“The first one was really slow,” added Cantlay, who said he couldn’t be too disappointed with his week.

“I played really well,” he said. “I had a lot of puts I thought were going to go in today that didn’t. All in all I’m playing really well and I’ll take that momentum into next week.”

American Pat Perez finished alone in third on 263 after a three-under 68. Defending champion Bryson DeChambeau fired a 63 to head a group on 264 that also included Canadian Adam Hadwin and American Brian Stuard. — AFP