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VP U Henry Van Thio calls for public-private cooperation to promote sugar, marine industries



Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses the coordination meeting concerning the sugar and marine products industries at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. **PHOTO: MNA**

VICE PRESIDENT U Henry Van Thio suggested the state-departments and the private sector to work together in promoting sugar and marine products industries in line with the existing laws and regula-

tions.

The development for these sectors was discussed at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Vice President U Henry

Van Thio who is leading the Steering Committee for Farmers Rights, Protection and Promoting of Interests, made an opening remark at the coordination meeting which was also attended by Union Ministers Dr Aung Thu, U Win Khaing and Dr Than Myint; Deputy Ministers U Hla Kyaw and U Aung Htoo; the permanent secretaries, the directors-general and the representatives from Myanmar Sugar and Sugarcane Products Entrepreneurs Asso-

ciation and Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

In his opening remark, the Vice President made discussions on finding ways to overcome challenges and limited market access for the major crops such as paddy, beans, corns and sugarcane which are the major crops in Myanmar.

He also said the government has discussed with the persons from relevant sectors of paddy, beans and sugarcane, and the sugar forum on 19 Sep-

tember adopted 12 policies for short term and long term to support sugarcane industry from cultivation to market.

While Myanmar marine products have lesser restrictions compared with other export items, the local entrepreneurs from sugarcane, sugar and aquatic products industries need to discuss on finding solutions for these sectors, added the Vice President.

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Committee for Supporting Peace and Stability in Rakhine State holds coordination meeting

THE Committee for Supporting Peace and Stability in Rakhine State led by Chairman of the committee and Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung holds a coordination meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, the committee coordinated their

efforts for writing up final report.

The meeting was attended by Vice-Chairman 1 of the committee Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint and Secretary Deputy Minister for Office of the Union Government U Tin Myint.—MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)



Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint and Deputy Minister for Office of the Union Government U Tin Myint hold coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar highlights support for humanitarian assistance in annual ExCom plenary session

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Dr Win Myat Aye, attended the 70th Annual Plenary Session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (ExCom), held at the UN assembly hall, in Geneva, Switzerland, on the morning of 7 October.

During the opening ceremony, Ms Amina J Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Mr Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, delivered separate opening speeches.

The plenary session will take place from 7 to 11 October and include the high-level meeting on statelessness, general discussions from each UN member nation, the opening ceremony for the Nansen refugee award, and other side events.

The following is Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye's statement delivered at the opening ceremony of ExCom:

"It's a privilege to participate in this Plenary Session of the Executive Committee. We take note of the High Commissioner's remarks yesterday. I am pleased to recall the visit of the High Commissioner to Myanmar in May this year and the signing of the MoU between our Ministry and the UNHCR during the visit."

"Although Myanmar is not a party to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, the Government has committed to achieving the realization of human rights based on international humanitarian principles."



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye attends the 70th Annual Plenary Session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (ExCom) in Geneva. **PHOTO: MNA**

"Myanmar voted in favor of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) and welcomed the measures outlined in there to prevent and reduce irregular pathways of migration around the world. Myanmar underscores the importance of state-led approaches to managing the migration issues affecting them, based on unique circumstances and security concerns."

"Myanmar also supports the 'I Belong Campaign' launched by the UNHCR. We participated in the Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the High Level Segment on Statelessness, held in May this year."

"Myanmar has experienced 70 years of ethnic strife, 5 decades of military rule, and a few years of democratic transition. National reconciliation and peace is the highest priority of the government. We believe that ending armed conflict will contribute to resolving conflict-related issues including internal and cross-border displacement."

"Myanmar holds the view that systematic documentation

is of paramount importance in addressing the issue of undocumented people throughout the country. With that in mind, national verification cards (NVC) are issued, in accordance with Myanmar's 1982 Citizenship Law. It is procedure applied to all in the whole country including the displaced persons from Rakhine State and returnees from Thailand."

"NVC is a path to citizenship. The NVC process to citizenship, which took 2 years, has now been shortened to 6 months. Our new Child Rights Law guarantees the right of register at birth for all children, regardless of race, religion, and gender. Birth registration is conducted nationwide free of charge with the aim to achieve 'no child left behind'. Mobile teams are sent to remote areas; pilot projects for the online system are in progress in some States."

"As someone who is deeply involved in the entire process. I wish to share with you the situation obtaining on the ground with regard to the displaced persons

from Rakhine State. As a result of ARSA terrorist attacks in 2016 and 2017, many people were displaced. Myanmar is ready to receive those displaced persons who had resided in Myanmar. The agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh calls for the issuance of identity cards to the returnees."

"The displaced persons now in Cox's Bazar, who had been residents in Rakhine, have different legal status. We cannot classify all of them as stateless. Some have identity cards issued by the Myanmar government. Those who qualify for citizenship under the existing Law will be issued citizenship cards. Those who do not have any identity card will be issued NVCs immediately. They will proceed with the process to apply for citizenship, at the same time."

"NVC guarantees freedom of movement to the extent that the security condition allows. The holders of NVCs can even travel to Bangladesh, by using border pass. I behooves them to cooperate fully with Myanmar

authorities in the national verification process. We cannot ignore the fact that there have been social restrictions on the freedom of movement. We are addressing it by building trust and harmony among communities."

"As we feel suffering and plight of all displaced persons, our priority now is to expedite repatriation. Myanmar delegations visited the Camps in Cox' Bazar 3 times to address the delay of repatriation. I, myself, met with displaced persons and explained to them the benefits of holding NVCs. During my first visit in April 2018, it was learned that the agreed forms were not distributed and the information on repatriation process was not disseminated among displaced persons. Thus, during our visit in July this year, we distributed information sheets which clearly explain repatriation process and benefits of getting national verification cards."

"We have been aware of many obstacles including destructive movements in the camps to hinder repatriation and exploit the plight of displaced persons. That also needs to be addressed. Despite obstacles, including killings and threats by ARSA, some 300 people from Cox's Bazar have returned under their own arrangement and on their own volition. They have resumed their lives in conditions of safety and dignity. It is also learnt that many people want to return to Myanmar. The speedy repatriation of those who have long expressed their desire to return including the some 400 people of Hindu faith should be allowed."

VP U Henry Van Thio calls for public-private cooperation to promote sugar, marine industries

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Dr Aung Thu, the Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, briefed on the situations of these industries.

U Soe Lin, the Chairman of Myanmar Sugar and Sugarcane Products Entrepreneurs Association, discussed the productions

of sugar and ethanol from sugar mills, challenges in this industry, manufacturing value-added items from the byproducts, technologies for substituted energy, distribution of electricity from the sugar mills; U Tin Maung, the member of Association also presented sugarcane cultivation, sugar export, recycling of sugarcane byproducts and em-

ployment opportunities in sugar and sugarcane productions.

U Htay Myint, the Chairman of MFF, held talks on production of seafoods, requirement of modern equipment, factories, breeding technologies and financial investment in livestock sector; and manufacturing value-added products; Dr Toe Nandar Tin, the Senior Vice Chairperson

of the federation, discussed the necessary for a shift from traditional to modern breeding system, breeding other seafoods as in neighbouring countries and tests for modern technologies in livestock industry.

Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint, Union Minis-

ter for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu, Managing Director of Myanma Agriculture Development Bank U Min Thu, and Secretary of Myanmar Investment Commission U Thant Sin Lwin discussed development of sugar and marine products industries. —MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe arrives back after attending the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

LEADER of the Myanmar Delegation and Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe arrived back in Yangon on 9 October 2019 after attending the General Debate of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly held in New York, and paying an official visit to the Republic of Cuba as the Special Envoy of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

During the high-level week of the 74th Session from 24 to 30 September, Leader of the Delegation Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe delivered a statement at the General Debate on 28 September.

While attending the UN General Assembly in New York, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe had separate meetings with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam Mr Pham Binh Minh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand Mr Don Pramudwinai, US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Mr David Hale, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Mr Filippo Grandi, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Mr Peter Maurer, and Chairman of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) Mr Thomas G Walsh.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe attended the Myanmar-China-Bangladesh informal trilateral meeting held at the UN headquarters on 23 September on the sideline of

the General Assembly. Also present at the meeting were State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China Mr Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh Dr A K Abdul Momen and United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Myanmar Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener. During the meeting, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe said that the only way forward to address the issue of displaced persons is a cordial dialogue between the two countries and reiterated preparation and readiness of Myanmar to resolve the issue based on bilateral agreements signed between Myanmar and Bangladesh. The meeting reviewed the progress and preparation made by the two countries in the repatriation work and agreed to resolve the issue through negotiation including promoting economic development and people's livelihood in Rakhine State.

Moreover, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe attended the Welcoming State Luncheon by Secretary-General and the reception hosted by the President of the United States on 24 September and working lunch hosted by United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Myanmar Ms Christine Schraner Burgener on 30 September.

After attending the General Debate of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe paid an official visit to Cuba as the

Special Envoy of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar from 2 to 5 October 2019.

During the visit to Cuba, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe called on Vice President of the Council of State Mr Roberto Morales Ojeda and had separate meetings with Minister of Public Health of Cuba Mr Jose Angel Portal Miranda, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba Mr Bruno Eduardo Rod-

the only way forward to address the issue of displaced persons is a cordial dialogue between the two countries and reiterated preparation and readiness of Myanmar to resolve the issue based on bilateral agreements signed between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

riguez Parrilla. Union Minister also attended the reception to launch the official establishment of Myanmar Embassy in Havana on 4 October and gave remarks.

The Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe left Jose Marti International Airport in Havana for New York on 5 October and arrived back in New York's Newark Airport on the same day.

Alternative Chairman of the Myanmar Delegation and Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin participated in the High-level events namely, Climate Action Summit, High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. He also attended the

Global Call to Protect Religious Freedom Side event, 70 years of the Geneva Conventions Side Event, Commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Ministerial Meeting of Non-aligned Movement (NAM), 43rd Annual Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of G-77, Informal ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (IAMM) and 6th ASEAN-Pacific Alliance Minister-

rial Meeting, ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting with the United Nations Secretary-General and the President of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (AUMM).

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin held separate meetings with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia the Hon Marise Payne, Minister of Development Cooperation of Denmark Mr Rasmus Prehn, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway Ms Eriksen Søreide, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Venezuela Mr. Ruben Dario Molina, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflicts Ms Vir-

ginia Gamba and Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict Ms Pramila Patten, European Union Special Representative on Human Rights Mr Eamon Gilmore and President of World Economic Forum (WEF) Mr Borge Brende.

During the meeting with Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway on 26 September, the Union Minister signed the Memorandum of Understanding to establish Foreign Offices Consultations between Myanmar and Norway.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin also attended the reception hosted by European Union on 24 September and Luncheon by Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority on 25 September.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin presented Myanmar's Instrument of Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (CRC-OPAC) to the United Nations Secretary-General who is the depositary, through Chief of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs during the United Nations Treaty Event of 2019 held on 27 September.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin held an interview with VOA Burmese Programme on 30 September. He also received Ms Debra Eisenman, Managing Director of Asia Society Policy Institute on 3 October 2019 and exchanged views on recent developments on Myanmar's democratic transition and bilateral relations between the Myanmar and the United States.—MNA

Anti-Corruption Commission launches trial run of CPU toolkits

THE Anti-Corruption Commission organized a ceremony to test the corruption prevention unit toolkit (CPU toolkit) at Nay Pyi Taw's Kempinski Hotel yesterday. The toolkit is supported by the innovative beneficiary engagement programme of the World Bank and aims to eliminate petty corruption.

U Aung Kyi's remarks

ACC Chairman U Aung Kyi delivered the opening remarks where he said the CPU toolkit is a mechanism for gathering the suggestions on the service provided between an ordinary citizen and a department official. He said it is not meant to replace the existing reporting mechanism nor supplement it.

U Aung Kyi said an anti-corruption officer at the Union Minister's office or Nay Pyi Taw headquarters can contact a person obtaining services at a regional government office via SMS and inquire on the status of the service and provide additional support as necessary.

The ACC Chairman said this will prevent the common petty corruption prevalent in these offices from occurring. He said this programme is part of the three indispensable components of good governance, which include accountability, transparency and offering resolution.

Currently, there are 37 CPUs under 17 union ministries and 5 Union-level institutions and all of them are assigned



Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi delivers the opening speech at the ceremony to undergo trial the corruption prevention unit toolkit (CPU toolkit) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

three objectives and six agendas. He said ten important union ministries will begin testing the toolkits in some townships starting from today. He added that the remaining ministries will begin testing them too.

U Aung Kyi said prevention is more effective than resolving a lawsuit after something has occurred. He said having mechanisms in place to prevent civil servants from committing offenses reduces possible losses for the individual as well as for the nation. He urged all relevant persons to adopt a family spirit to ensure the CPUs can carry out their tasks effectively.

WB Head of Office's remarks

Next, the Head of Office

of the World Bank, Mr Gevorg Sargsyan, said corruption is an impediment to economic and social development as well as an obstacle to eradicating poverty, one of the global objectives for 2030.

He said the daily actions of civil servants may have a prominent effect on the citizens. He said former World Bank President James Wolfensohn likened corruption to cancer 20 years ago, pointing out that it has taken root and implored everyone to work together to eradicate it.

Mr Sargsyan said innovative approaches using technology help eradicate minor corruption in the public sector, make better public services and strengthens trust between the government and citizens.

He said the World Bank has provided similar assistance in Pakistan and Albania and is delighted to be doing the same for the ACC.

Next, a documentary video on testing the CPU toolkits in the ten most public-service oriented union ministries and institutions was played. This was followed by attendees observing 13 CPUs using their toolkits to gather information from data entry operators, sending SMS messages to people accepting services and receiving feedback from the public.

Myanmar Police Force, Department of Fire Services, General Administration Department, Road Transportation Administration Department, Immigration Department, Popu-

lation Department, Labour Department, Trade Department, Basic Education Department, Medical Services Department, Internal Revenue Department, Customs Department, Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, and Anti-Corruption Commission Office will begin trial contacts to citizens who have applied for government services. The CPU's mobile short-code is '1111'.

In the second half of the ceremony, USAID's Promoting the Rule of Law in Myanmar explained Myanmar's corruption survey for 2019. They collected information from 3,096 people throughout the states and regions with a questionnaire containing 99 questions.—MNA ■
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State holds meeting

A COORDINATION meeting on the surveys conducted by the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State was held at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung said relevant ministries were working together with the Rakhine State government for implementing stability, peace and development in the state.

The Committee conducted a field survey in Rakhine State from 29 September to 4 October 2019. The field survey and the findings and reports of the United Nations Secretary-Gen-



Deputy Minister U Soe Aung attends the coordination meeting on the surveys conducted by Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

eral's Special Envoy will be discussed, the deputy minister said.

The deputy minister then said the finding and reports are to be explained and discussed by

relevant ministries, and the meeting was to coordinate the surveys over the relevant ministries.

Dr Aung Thurein, the Director-General of the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State, then explained the matters related to fulfilment in basic needs, such as food, clothing, shelter, healthcare, education and security, of the displaced people after meeting with them, construction of shelters for them, repatriation and resettlement under the UEHRD programme, and the condition of IDP camps.

Afterwards, representatives from related ministries explained their ministry's performances which were then coordinated by the deputy minister.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

MOLIP, ILO-Luxembourg Project discuss medical reform in social health protection

THE Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population held talks with the ILO-Luxembourg Project about the medical reform program for social health protection in Myanmar.

Union Minister U Thein Swe hosted Project Manager Mrs Marielle Phe Goursat at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

He explained the goals and objectives for the welfare of workers across the country in accordance with the Social Security Law 2012.

The Social Security Board

under this ministry is implementing the medical reform with the assistance of the International Labour Organization by setting three prioritized plans and linking with IT reform.

The Union Minister also asked for sharing knowledge on a proper design and detailed plans for the Social Security Board in developing social health insurance programme that is appropriate for the existing social and economic situations of the country.

The manager of ILO-Lux-



Union Minister U Thein Swe holds a meeting with Project Manager Mrs Marielle Phe Goursat at the office of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

embourg Project, Mrs Marielle Phe Goursat, presented two PowerPoint technical notes on “Support to the Extension of Social Health Protection in

South-East” that is related with the medical reform of Social Security Board.

The Director-General of Social Security Board explained

the reform plan before the Union Minister and attendees discussed on the topic.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

National Nutrition Steering Committee discusses five-year action plan



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe addresses the second coordination meeting of National Nutrition Steering Committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE second coordination meeting of National Nutrition Steering Committee was held at the Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, the chairman of the committee, presided over the meeting, with emphasizing the importance of nutrition for the multi-sectoral development of the country.

He also said his ministry is implementing the five-year Multi-sectoral National Plan of Action on Nutrition (MS-NPAN) 2018-2023, while Myanmar is expanding vaccination programme and actively participating as a member country in the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement for reducing malnutrition in

accordance with its slogan of “1,000 Days: Change a Life, Change the Future”. The movement covered dissemination of nutrition knowledge in states and regions and nutrition campaigns for pregnant women and under-2-year children started in 2013 by setting up five networks involving experts and organizations from relevant sectors.

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu also explained the objectives of his ministry to produce nutritious food items through good agricultural practices and hygiene water programme, and implementation of Nutrition Sector Reform Contract in Ayeyawady Region and Shan State with direct grant of 70 million euros and additional funds of 42 million

euros from EU.

Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win pledged for the full participation of his ministry in nutrition programme of the country.

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi discussed school health programme of his ministry.

The officials concerned presented implementation of decisions from the first steering committee meeting, and drafting State/Region plans for the five-year Multi-sectoral National Plan of Action on Nutrition.

The chairman and members of steering committee and the Union Ministers coordinated the works of the committee.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar highlights support for humanitarian assistance in annual ExCom plenary session

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“We continue our efforts in creating more conducive condition for all returnees. While we are implementing the recommendations on Rakhine, the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement, and Development – UEHRD is implementing the projects to be ready for repatriation and resettlement.”

“ASEAN also joined our endeavors in the course of repatriation. The UNDP and UNHCR teams are implementing 34 Quick Impact Projects under the MoU. Our Ministry is in close cooperation with the UNHCR in implementing programmes to meet the basic needs of the returnees. With regard to the IDPs, we have recently developed a nationwide IDP camps closure Strategy. This National Strategy will be followed by action plans.”

“Myanmar is facing several challenges in its delicate democratic transition. The issue in Rakhine is one of the most complex challenges. As we address

the delicate and sensitive issue deeply rooted since colonial time, we cannot see and address any issue in isolation. We need to look at the issues from the multidimensional perspective. We must listen to the voices of all communities.”

“We are taking a holistic approach for long term stability, security and sustainable development. For successful repatriation, Myanmar will continue its committed efforts with genuine political will and strict adherence to the signed agreements.”

“While we appreciate the support given to us by many friends and partners, we look forward to practical assistance and constructive cooperation from international community in our efforts to ensure that all displaced persons can resume their lives in conditions of safety, dignity and full enjoyment of the rights they deserve. I thank you.”

Attending the meeting were member and non-member nations to the executive committee of UNHCR, observers, UN agencies and NGOs.—MNA

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Union Minister for Information receives UNESCO Regional representative

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint received Ms Min Jeong Kim, Regional Representative of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to of-

fering Media and Information Literacy-MIL courses in collaboration with the Information and Public Relations Departments nationwide.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and officials. — MNA ■
(Translated by TTN)



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint holds talks with Ms Min Jeong Kim, Regional Representative of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ministry of Transport and Communications celebrates 2019 World Post Day



Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung presents prize to winner Ma Shwan Le Win in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE 2019 World Post Day was celebrated at the meeting hall of Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung said the World Post Day celebration was held to mark the establishment of Universal Post Union on 9 October 1874. The World Post Day was first declared on 9 October at the 1969 UPU Congress in Tokyo, Japan. This year also marks the golden jubilee or 50th anniversary celebration of the World Post Day.

The Union Minister then added postal services in some countries were facing difficulties due to ICT and technology development. However, according to findings of Universal Post Union, postal services could provide bet-

ter services with the use of those developed ICT and technology.

According to Universal Post Union, Postal Service in Myanmar has been ranked 126th in 2016, and improved to 91st in 2018, while Integrated Postal Index for Postal Development score was 20.41 in 2016 and 31.96 in 2018, the union minister said.

He then said, like other postal services around the world, Myanmar Post was providing postal services for the public, connecting with international postal services including neighboring countries in accordance with rules and policies laid down by Universal Post Union.

Afterwards, U Myo Swe, the Director-General of Directorate of Communications, delivered a speech, and Deputy Director General Daw Ni Ni Han read the 2019 World Post Day message

sent by Director-General of Universal Post Union.

Afterwards, Under the age of 15 international youth letter writing (local level) competition assessment group chairman U Ko Lay Win of Basic Education Department explained about the competition.

This was followed by Union Ministers for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung presenting prizes to winner Ma Shwan Le Win and first runner-up Mg Kyaw San Wai Under the age of 15 international youth letter writing (local level) competition.

Then, Deputy Ministers U Tha Oo presented second runner-up prize to Mg Kaung Htet Thaw and Permanent Secretary U Soe Thein presented consolation prize to Ma Eint Thanzin Oo.

Myanmar Post Managing Director U Kham Aung then presented awards to officials from post offices that provided special services, in addition to routine postal works.

Director-General U Myo Swe and Deputy Director-General U Than Tun Aung presented World Post Day commemorative gifts to the Union Minister, Deputy Minister and officials.

On behalf of the international youth letter writing competition winners, Ma Shwan Le Win expressed words of thanks.

The Union Minister, Deputy Ministers and officials then observed the 2019 World Post Day exhibitions.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Save Myanmar Film receives outstanding film preservation award

SAVE Myanmar Film (SMF) recently received the 2019 award for best film preservation and a prize of US\$1,000 from the Southeast Asia-Pacific Audio Visual Archives Association (SEAPAVAA).

SMF has been working with the Film Promotion Sub-department of the Ministry of Information to archive and preserve Myanmar films. They were conferred the award by SEAPAVAA during its meeting in New Caledonia and SMF said they will use the prize money to deep clean their office, film cleaning station and other ne-

cessities.

SEAPAVAA was conceived during an ASEAN conference workshop for audio, video and film retrieval, restoration and archiving in Manila, 1993, and formally established in 1996.

SMF has built a positive reputation at home and abroad for its work in the two years since its founding. Their enthusiasm, good results and officials support from the Ministry of Information were the deciding factors for the SEAPAVAA award.—Thein Naing (FDC)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Man attacked by crocodile in Bogale, Ayeyawady Delta

A CROCODILE attacked a man while he was emptying water out of his boat near the edge of a river on 8 October at a village in Bogale Township of Ayeyawady Region.

Nay Lin Oo, aged 22, of Hlaylonekwe Village was bitten by the crocodile and is currently undergoing treatment at a local station hospital. His condition is stable.

Crocodile attacks are common in Myanmar's delta region. While they occur each year, there are no specific data that show how frequent they are or at what time of the year the

attacks are most widespread.

The Meinmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary is located at the mouth of the Ayeyawady River. The sanctuary attracts visitors keen on viewing crocodile hatching camps and conservation projects in the region's mangrove forests, which have been in a steady decline due to deforestation in the area.

Wildlife conservation groups have erected warning signs to alert villagers of the threat posed by crocodiles in the area. — Moe Sat (Bogale)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Coordination meeting held to produce annual report of NCRPD

A REPORT writing team chaired by Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun organized the first coordination meeting to produce an annual report of National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (NCRPD).

The Deputy Minister presided over the meeting held at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

He explained the formation of NCRPD in 2017, its working committee in the following year and a report writing committee to compile the facts and data of sub-committees.

U Win Naing Tun, the Director-General of Department of Rehabilitation, collected documents, photos and information from sub-committees, relevant departments and related organizations for preparing the report.

The monthly reports of Myanmar Federation of Persons with Disabilities and State/Region offices were assessed and recorded at the meeting with the discussions of departmental officials.

The coordination meeting was concluded with the closing remark by the chairman of the report writing team.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun delivers the speech at the meeting for annual report of National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (NCRPD) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Channel News Asia films Myanmar travel documentary



Channel News Asia crew shooting women crafting on lacquerwares in Bagan. PHOTO: MNA

THE Channel News Asia filmed a travel documentary in and around ancient Bagan, the UNESCO Heritage Site of Myanmar.

On 8 October, the Singapore-based television crew shot the scenes of Bagan temples,

hot air balloon ride and interview with a well-known puppeteer U Sein Myint Aung.

The documentary will also include puppetry, production of lacquer wares, hand-paintings, Mount Poppa, the pantheon of spirits including 37 Nats and

the local gods.

The CNA's Secrets of Empire programme will also air an interview with archaeologist Dr Pye Phyo Kyaw at the Bagan Archaeological Museum.—Myo Win Aung

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Tragic Russian drama selected for October's film analysis

Leviathan, a 2014 Russian drama directed by Andrey Zvyagintsev, has been selected for the 27th Film Analysis event at the Film Development Centre this 13 October.

An aspect of the Cinematheque Program, everyone interested is invited to join

the screening at the centre located in No 50, Golden Valley Road, Yangon. Film Promotion Committee member Dr Aung Min will once again be leading discussions on the movie.

Director Zvyagintsev's film won Best Screenplay at the 2014

Cannes Film Festival. It follows the story of a Russian fisherman who fights back when a corrupt mayor tries to seize possession of his ancestral home. He enlists the help of a lawyer friend but meets a worse fate.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Japanese documentary crew films Yangon daily life

A film crew from a Japanese travel video production company, ytv Nextry Co Ltd, filmed lethwei training at Kanyaw Thai club in Twantay Township a few days ago. The club is run by champion Saw Thae Aung.

The film crew also shot scenes of people going about their daily lives from atop Hledan overpass and other prominent locations in Yangon

for episode 18 of their global travel programme. They will next film the crocodile farm in Thakayta and the Drug Elimination Museum.

The documentary will promote international interest in Myanmar and will be broadcast on Japan's Yomiuri TV.—Win Thein (FDC)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Film crew shooting the crocodile farm in Thaketa. PHOTO: MNA

6 wounded in clash between Tatmadaw, ethnic armed group

SIX civilians were wounded in a clash between a local regiment of the Tatmadaw and an ethnic armed group yesterday in Hsenwi, Lashio District, northern Shan State.

One woman, identified as Daw Khin Nan Soe, sustained

two bullet wounds on her left thigh, while her husband was injured in the back. The other civilians sustained minor injuries. They were all taken to the township hospital. — District IPRD

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

To alleviate poverty, ensure communities drive development projects

MYANMAR was recognized as the fastest growing regional economy by the Asian Development Bank in 2016. At the time, many rural areas in the country lacked basic infrastructure, such as paved, all-weather roads, access to electricity, and flood prevention measures.

A democratic, people-centric leadership has helped bring about many opportunities for the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the people.

While developing physical infrastructure such as roads and bridges, access to electricity and safe drinking water, the projects should also focus on mental security and development of the rural people.

also focus on mental security and development of the rural people.

At the same time, efforts for the development of vocational businesses, which can increase income and reduce poverty, should be accelerated.

The Rural Development Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has achieved success in improving the socio-economic conditions of rural people in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, with 4,281 water supply projects and the construction of over 260 miles of agro product transportation roads, over 234 bridges, and 527 houses. Also, about 2,530 villages have gained access to electricity. Besides, the department has built about 800 units under the Emerald Green Village Project, undertaken village development projects in some 2,746 villages, and organized 1,154 vocational training sessions.

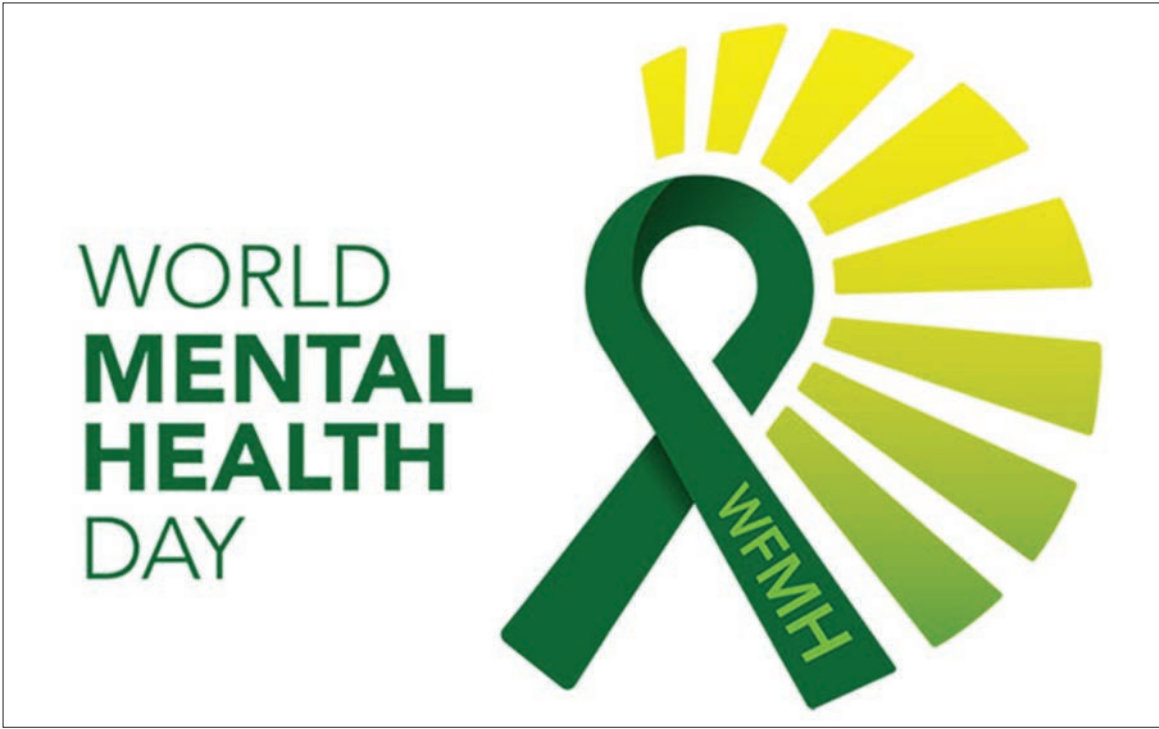
Despite these achievements, we should keep in mind that we are not out of the woods yet. There are still poor rural communities which can benefit from improved communication and access to local and government services.

To alleviate poverty in Myanmar, the approach needs to change from state-controlled development to community-driven development. We should encourage communities from poor areas to handle funds and spend them efficiently and effectively. Only once they have the proper infrastructure can they boost production and live without worrying about their basic needs.



World Mental Health Day 2019: focus on Suicide Prevention

By Dr Aung Tun (Ministry of Health and Sports)



THE World Mental Health Day is a global Mental Health Day celebrated every year on October 10 with the overall objective of raising awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health. The Day provides an opportunity for all stakeholders working on mental health issues to talk about their work, and what more needs to be done to make mental health care a reality for people worldwide. The main theme of 2019 World Mental Health Day is ‘Suicide Prevention’.

Every 40 seconds, someone dies by Suicide

Suicidal behaviour has existed throughout history, but due to several complex things, it's increased gradually in all areas of the planet and, in the past couple of decades, has reached alarming statistical levels.

According to WHO, more than 800 000 people die by suicide a year and there are several individuals who attempt suicide. Every suicide is a tragedy that contains long-term results on the people left behind and affects families, communities and countries. Suicide occurs during the lifespan. With regard to age, suicide rates are highest in persons aged 70 years or over for both men and women in almost all regions of the world. In 2016, Suicide was the second leading cause of death among 15-29 year-olds globally.

Suicide does not only occur in high-income Nations, but is a global Happening in most areas. In reality, over 79 percent of global suicides occurred in low- and middle-income countries in 2016. However, since suicide is a sensitive issue, and even illegal in some countries, it is very likely that it is under-reported.

Suicide rates vary by sex. In high-income countries, three times as many men die of suicide than women do, but in poor countries, the male to female ratio is much lower at 1.5 men to each woman. Globally, suicide accounts for 50% of all violent deaths in men and 71% in women.

Current situation of Suicide and Suicide attempts in Myanmar

In 2001, WHO, in collaboration with UNAIDS, UNESCO, and UNICEF, and with technical assistance from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), initiated the development of the Global School-based Student Health Survey (GSHS). Since 2003, Ministries of Health and Education around the world have been using the GSHS to periodically monitor the prevalence of important health risk behaviours and protective factors among students. School Health Division of Department of Public Health conducted the Myanmar GSHS during 2007 and 2016. The purpose of the GSHS is to provide accurate data on health behaviours including suicidal behaviours and protective factors among Myanmar students.

According to Myanmar Global School-based Student Health Survey 2007, in MYANMAR, overall, 1.1 % of students seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months. Male students (1.1 %) are significantly more likely than female students (1.2 %) to seriously consider attempting suicide. Overall, 0.1% of students made a plan about they would attempt suicide during the past 12 months. Male students (0.1%) are not significantly than female students (0.1 %) to seriously consider attempting suicide.

According to Myanmar Global School-based Student Health Survey 2016, in MYANMAR, overall, 9.2 % of students seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months. Female

- Changing eating and/or sleeping habits
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge
- Taking risks that could lead to death, such as reckless driving
- Talking or thinking about death often
- Displaying extreme mood swings, suddenly changing from very sad to very calm or happy
- Giving away important possessions
- Saying goodbye to friends and family
- Putting affairs in order; making a will

Suicides are preventable

Suicides are preventable. There are a number of ways that can be taken at population, inhabitants and individual levels to stop suicide and suicide attempts. These include:

- reducing access to this means of suicide (e.g. pesticides, guns, certain medicines);
- reporting by media in an accountable way;
- school-based interventions;
- introducing alcohol policies to reduce the harmful use of alcohol;
- premature diagnosis, treatment and care of individuals with mental and substance use disorders, chronic pain and acute emotional distress;
- the practice of non-specialized health employees in the assessment and management of suicidal behaviour;
- follow-up care for men and women who attempted suicide and provision of community support.

Working towards a comprehensive national response for suicide prevention

The prevention of suicide has not been adequately addressed due to a lack of awareness of suicide as a major public health problem and the taboo in many societies to openly discuss it. Raising community awareness and breaking down the taboo is important for countries to make progress in preventing suicide.

Suicide is a complex issue and so suicide prevention efforts require collaboration and coordination among multiple sectors of society, including other organizations such as education, labor, agriculture, business, justice, law,

protection, politics, and social media and the healthcare sector. These attempts must be comprehensive and incorporated as no single strategy could make an impact on an issue as complicated.

National and regional governments need to mobilize and coordinate the various sectors and define a culturally-specific response through a national strategy which aims for at least a 10% reduction in the suicide rate initially, as agreed in the WHO Mental Health Action Plan 2013-

2020, and a reduction by one third by 2030 according to the SDGs. A strong health system and universal health coverage are fundamental to improved mental health and suicide prevention.

Communities play a crucial role in suicide prevention. They can offer social support to vulnerable people and take part in follow-up maintenance, fight stigma and encourage those bereaved by suicide.

Currently, the Ministry of Health and Sports is committed to promoting and maintaining the mental health status of Myanmar people through various health care services including mental health promotion and prevention, with the support and participation of the related ministries and sectors, international and local NGOs and the community as a whole. However, specifically youth-focused mental health promotion and prevention programs including suicide prevention under Myanmar Youth Policy should be implemented as joint efforts between the Ministry of Health and Sport, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Welfare in collaboration with related ministries.

Let's work together to prevent suicide!

Ref:
-Live Life: Preventing Suicide, WHO, 2018
-Message from WFMH President, WMHD2019, WFMH, 2019
-Myanmar GSHS Reports, SH, DOPH, MOHS 2007, 2016
-‘Preventing Suicide: A Global Imperative’, WHO, 2014
-Suicide In America: Frequently Asked Questions, NIH, USA, 2019
-World Mental Health Day 2019 Toolkit, WHO, 2019



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 9th October, 2019)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 10 October, 2019: Weather will be partly cloudy in Eastern Shan and Kayah States. Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State, scattered in Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Chin, Kayin and Mon States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. 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 continuation of scattered to fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 October, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 October, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 10 October, 2019: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: **(1)** Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), **(2)** Own name and (if different) your penname, **(3)** Your level of education, **(4)** Name of your School/College/University, **(5)** A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, **(6)** A color photo of the submitter, **(7)** Copy of your NRC card, **(8)** Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.). – Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar

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Tourist arrivals at Mandalay Mahamuni Pagoda cross 50,000 in 3 months

OVER 50,000 international visitors visited the Mandalay Mahamuni Pagoda between July and September, according to data provided by the Mahamuni Pagoda trustee board.
The entrance fee for the Mahamuni Pagoda was fixed at K5,000 from 1 July. During the three months from July, entrance fees of over K25 million was collected from 50,104 international visitors.
Currently, tourists are being allowed to enter the Mahamuni pagoda only through the Tourist Information Center, located in the north of the pagoda. Another tourist information center is being constructed to serve the high number of tourists. Moreover, toilets, lockers, wet tissues, and other services are already being offered to international visitors, and security staff and direction boards have been placed at the entrance, according



A tourist takes a photo of a fellow tourist striking a bell at the Mahamuni Pagoda in Mandalay. PHOTO: THAN ZAW MIN (IPRD)

to U Thein Tun, a member of the Mahamuni Pagoda trustee board.
The fees collected will be spent on the renovation of the pagoda. According to official data, Mahamuni Pagoda received 16,348 tourists in July, 19,020 tourists in August, and 14,736 tourists in September. —Than Zaw Min (IPRD)
(Translated by La Wonn)

50 unlicensed mobile food stalls penalized last month

By Nyein Nyein

ABOUT 50 mobile food stalls were fined last month for conducting business without a license, said U Kyaw Min, the head of the Administration Department of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).
The authority started to take action against unlicensed mobile food stalls starting last month, with 44 cases filed in Latha Township, two each in Lanmadaw and Botahtaung townships, and one in Pazundaung Township, he said.
Unlicensed mobile food stalls will be fined

K10,000-K100,000 at the first instance. If they continue operating without a license, they will face a one-month imprisonment.
Licenses are not being issued to mobile food stalls in six townships of downtown Yangon to prevent them from conducting business on Yangon’s main roads.
“Even in other townships, cart vendors can operate only at fixed locations where vehicles can be stopped without causing traffic congestion. Also, sales must not be conducted the whole day,” said U Kyaw Min.
“Moreover, licensed mo-

bile food stalls will face legal action, or fines, or both, if they are found violating the rules embodied in the business permit. They can face three types of penalties. They may be fined, have their license suspended for one to three months, or have their license revoked,” he added.
The YCDC has been issuing licenses for mobile food stalls, yet unlicensed vendors are still operational.
Mobile food stalls can register with the YCDC if they hold an ‘E’ driving license issued by the Road and Transportation Administration Department

(RTAD) by presenting their vehicle registration book. Only Yangon licensed trucks can apply for a business license.
While seeking a license, the vendors have to present the vehicle registration book and a copy of the wheel tax receipt, census, tax receipt from the related Internal Revenue Department, and a commitment to follow the rules and food descriptions.
Currently, licenses have been issued to over 170 mobile food stalls, according to data provided by the YCDC.
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

1,440 acres of forest receive community forest certificates in Mohnyin Tsp

THE Mohnyin Township Forest Department has issued community forest certificates to 1,440 acres of forest on 9 October at Mohnyin Township, Kachin State.
At the certification ceremony, U Naing Naing Tun, the Deputy Director of the Mohnyin District Forest Department, explained the work of the community forest foundation, and distributed forest certificates

to 289 households who are developing a community forest.
The Township Forest has issued community forest certificates since 2010. At present, there are 13,884.38 acres, 46 groups, and 2,079 members holding certificates, according to the Township Forest Department.—Kyaw Kyaw Htway (Mohnyin)
(Translated by La Wonn)



Mohnyin District Forest Department’s Deputy Director U Naing Naing Tun hands over a community forest certificate to a resident involved in the programme. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar exports 2.29 mln tons of rice worth \$691 mln as of 20 Sept



Accumulation of rice bags for export. **PHOTO: THAN ZAW MIN (IPRD)**

THE volume of rice and broken rice exported over eleven-and-a-half months since October in the previous financial year was estimated at over 2.29 million metric tons, worth \$691 million, according to an announcement from the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Myanmar currently ships rice to 65 foreign markets. China, which accounts for over 33 per cent of the total rice exports, is the main buyer of Myanmar rice, followed by the Philippines and Cameroon. Côte d'Ivoire is the fourth-largest buyer and Madagascar the fifth-largest buyer of Myanmar rice. The European Union countries account for over 20.88 per cent of rice exports, while 25.4 per cent of Myanmar's rice goes to African countries.

Myanmar exports broken

rice mostly to Belgium, followed by Indonesia, the Netherlands, China, and the UK. It is placed in 41 foreign markets.

Earlier, border trade was relatively high compared to sea trade in terms of rice exports. During the last financial year, border trade accounted for just 27 per cent of the total rice export, while maritime trade constituted 72.58 per cent.

Between 1 October, 2018 and 20 September, 2019, rice exports through the border gates helped the country earn an estimated \$187 million, whereas maritime trade generated an income of \$503.85 million, data from the Commerce Ministry showed.

Myanmar primarily exports rice to China through the border gates. However,

was halted on account of China clamping down on illegal trade. As a result, stocks of rice piled up at the Muse border gate in Q1 of this year, bringing down the price of rice in the export market.

Additionally, the prices of low-quality rice variety Ngasein and Aemahta were lower compared to the corresponding period of the previous year, according to the local market.

At present, rice is being exported to China through a government-to-government (G2G) agreement and a barter system, in exchange for Chinese goods.

Myanmar shipped 3.6 million tons of rice in the 2017-2018 financial year, which is an all-time record in rice exports.—GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Over 1.5 mln tons of corn exported in 2018-2019 FY

MYANMAR shipped 1.5 million tons of corn, worth US\$270 million, to foreign countries between 1 October, 2018 and 30 September, 2019 in the previous financial year.

During the previous fiscal, 200,000 tons of corn, worth over \$40 million, was shipped through maritime trade, while 1.3 million tons of corn, with an estimated value of \$230 million, was sent through the border gates.

As China is the major purchaser of Myanmar's corn, the price is positively related to demand from the neighboring

country. At present, corn price has plunged to K330 per viss (one viss equals approximately 1.6 kg) due to low demand from China. In addition, old stocks are piling up and newly harvested corn has started to enter the market.

Myanmar also exports corn to India, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, and Thailand. Yet, the volume of corn exports to those markets is small.

There are over 1.9 million acres of corn plantations, primarily in Sagaing and Magway regions, and Chin, Kayin, Shan,

and Kavah states.

It has been one year since China suspended the importation of some agro products through the border gates. Therefore, growers are struggling with the falling price.

As per data from the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar exported 1.4 million tons of corn, worth over \$290 million, in the 2017-2018FY; 1.2 million tons of corn, worth \$250 million, in the 2016-2017FY; and, 1.1 million tons of corn, worth \$300 million, in the 2015-2016FY. —GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Individual trades touch high at Myawady border gate in 2018-2019 FY

BORDER trade with the use of Individual Trading Cards (ITCs) reached a record K32 billion at the Myawady gate during the 2018-2019 financial year, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

But, the figure only reflects imports as individual trading card holders did not export goods through the Myawady gate.

The Trade Department issued 163 cards to individual traders between 1 October, 2018 and 30 September, 2019, and the card holders conducted trade worth K59 billion. Exports were valued at only 9.38 billion, while imports exceeded \$49.6 billion.

The value of trade carried out by individual card holders in the previous FY was registered at K3.8 billion at Tamu, over K33.6 million at Muse, K32 billion at Myawady, K97.8 million at Tachilek, K11.5 million at Lweijel, K1.97 billion at Kanpiket-

ee, K5.37 billion at Kawthoung, K1.65 billion at Reed, K12.3 billion at Mawtaung, K628 million at Htikhee, and K1.07 billion at Keungtung, as per data from the Commerce Ministry.

The trade values using ITCs stood at over K737 million for the period from 21 November, 2012 to 31 March, 2013; over K6.6 billion in the 2013-2014FY; over 9.3 billion in the 2014-2015FY; over K6.4 billion in the 2015-2016FY; over K18.5 billion in the 2016-2017FY; K45.9 billion in the 2017-2018FY; and K22.5 billion during the mini-budget period (April-September, 2018).

The trade department has issued 1,687 cards so far, with the aim to boost trade. Businessmen can trade goods worth K3 million per day using ITCs, and the Trade Department has granted trade of up to K15 million per day over five days. – Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Develop and implement strategies to prevent suicide and promote mental health

By Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia

SUICIDE is a public health problem. An estimated 800 000 people globally lose their life to suicide every year, equating to around one person every 40 seconds. Suicide is the leading cause of death among young people aged 15-29, with people of all ages vulnerable. Though suicide is a global issue, nearly 79% of suicides occur in low- and middle-income countries. The WHO South-East Asia Region is the world's most affected region, accounting for 39% of global suicide mortality.

As this year's World Mental Health Day emphasizes, suicide is preventable. Effective and evidence-based interventions can be implemented at population, sub-population and individual levels to prevent suicide and suicide

attempts, from locking up pesticides and firearms to encouraging responsible media reporting. The Region's Member States are taking important steps to address the issue. In line with the Regional Strategy on preventing suicide, all countries are working to develop and implement comprehensive, multisectoral suicide prevention strategies. Action in four key areas is needed.

First, leadership and governance for suicide prevention should be strengthened. National policies or strategies for suicide prevention should be developed and implemented in line with evidence, best practices and international and regional human rights conventions. To help do that, appropriate budgets should be allocated, and institutional, legal and ser-

vice arrangements adjusted appropriately.

Second, health authorities should shift the focus of care towards non-specialized health settings for persons at risk of suicide.

needed between informal health care providers, religious leaders and school-teachers among other community members.

Third, strategies that promote mental, social

and physical health and prevent suicide should be developed and rolled out across sectors. By engaging communities in programme design, common determinants that promote suicide can be identified and countered,

while community-based interventions can be encouraged. It is essential that interventions and programmes do not in any way promote or glamorize suicidal ideation.

Fourth, surveillance for suicide should be established and strengthened and, wherever possible, linked to other sources of data. Sex- and age-disaggregated data ought to be collected and measured, while the direct and indirect costs of suicide and attempted suicide should be collated. Research capacity and academic collaboration needs to be improved, with a focus on aspects of suicide and suicide prevention that are of direct relevance to communities.

Each of us can do our part. If you suspect someone is struggling, you can let them know they're not

alone. If you know someone who's lost a loved one to suicide, you can talk to them and ask how they're doing. And if you are experiencing suicidal thoughts, you can kickstart a conversation with someone on how you're feeling. We can all make a difference.

On World Mental Health Day, WHO reiterates its assistance to Member States in scaling up their capacity to address mental health generally, and suicide specifically. We know that suicide is preventable, and that effective, evidence-based measures can be implemented to drive down suicide attempts and reduce suicide mortality. Every 40 seconds we can prevent a tragedy. We can – we must – work together to prevent suicide.

On World Mental Health Day, WHO reiterates its assistance to Member States in scaling up their capacity to address mental health generally, and suicide specifically.

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(d)	MOC/L-004(19-20)	Heat Shrinkable Sleeve & Closure Patches (1) Lot	Ks
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(f)	DMP/L-067(19-20)	Skid Mounted Cutting Pot (5M ³) with Cement Rack (2) Sets	Ks
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(h)	DMP/L-069(19-20)	Water Transfer Pump / Submersible Pump / Diaphragm Pump (7) Items	Ks
(i)	DMP/L-070(19-20)	Telecommunication Equipment (5) Items	Ks
(j)	DMP/L-072(19-20)	Electrical Materials for Nyaung Oo Guest House Upgrading (21) Items	Ks
(k)	DMP/L-073(19-20)	Casing Packer (2) Sets	Ks
(l)	DMP/L-074(19-20)	Gear Box with Cranks for Sucker Rod Pumping Unit (3) Items	Ks
(m)	IFB/005(19-20)	Cement Additives (4) Items	US\$

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from **10 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 13 November 2019**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time **13-11-2019, 14:00 pm**

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 - 411206



မြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားများဘဏ်
MCB
Myanmar Citizens Bank

+951 255 883, 255 885
info@mcb.com.mm
www.mcb.com.mm

အစုရှယ်ယာရှင်များသို့ အသိပေးအကြောင်းကြားခြင်း

၁။ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားများဘဏ်လီမိတက်၏ ၂၀၁၈-၂၀၁၉ ဘဏ္ဍာနှစ်အတွက် (၂၇)ကြိမ်မြောက် နှစ်ပတ်လည် အစည်းအဝေးကြီးကို မကြာမီ ကျင်းပပြုလုပ်မည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ အဆိုပါ အစည်းအဝေး အား ဘဏ်၏ သင်းဖွဲ့စည်းမျဉ်း သင်းဖွဲ့မှတ်တမ်းနှင့်အညီ ဆောင်ရွက်သွားမည်ဖြစ်ရာ တည်ဆဲသင်းဖွဲ့ စည်းမျဉ်းအရ ဒါရိုက်တာများ အလှည့်ကျနုတ်ထွက်မည်ဖြစ်ပြီး နုတ်ထွက်သွား၍ လစ်လပ်သွားသော ဒါရိုက်တာများနေရာတွင် အစားထိုး ပြန်လည်ရွေးချယ်ရမည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

၂။ ပြန်လည်ရွေးချယ်ခံမည့် ဒါရိုက်တာအဆိုပြုလွှာ စာရင်းများကို မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော် ဗဟိုဘဏ်သို့ အထွေထွေအစည်းအဝေးမကျင်းပမီ ကြိုတင်ပေးပို့ တင်ပြရမည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ သို့ဖြစ်ပါ၍ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံသား များဘဏ်တွင် စာရင်းဆက်လက် တည်ရှိနေသော ရှယ်ယာရှင် (Special Account Holder)နှင့် Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX)တွင် အရောင်းအဝယ်ပြုလုပ်ရန် စာရင်းဖွင့်ထားသူများ (Security Account Holder)များအနက် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားများဘဏ် ဒါရိုက်တာအဖွဲ့မှ သတ်မှတ်ထားသော အမြတ်ဝေစုခွဲဝေပေးမည့် စာရင်းအတည်ပြုရက် (Record Date)တွင် ကျပ် ၅၀,၀၀,၀၀၀/- (ကျပ်သိန်း ငါးဆယ်)နှင့်အထက် ပိုင်ဆိုင်သူ ရှယ်ယာရှင်လူပုဂ္ဂိုလ်များနှင့် ကျပ် ၁၀၀,၀၀,၀၀၀/- (ကျပ်သိန်းတစ်ရာ) နှင့်အထက် ပိုင်ဆိုင်ထားသော အဖွဲ့အစည်း/ ကုမ္ပဏီများအနေဖြင့် ဒါရိုက်တာအဖြစ် ဝင်ရောက်ရွေး ချယ်ခံလိုပါက ၂၃-၁၀-၂၀၁၉ ရက် ၁၆:၃၀နာရီ နောက်ဆုံးထား၍ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားများဘဏ်လီမိတက်၊ အမှတ်(၂၅၆/၂၆၀)၊ ဆူးလေဘုရားလမ်း၊ ကျောက်တံတားမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့သို့ လာရောက်၍ အဆိုပြုလွှာ လျှောက်ထားပါရန် အသိပေးအကြောင်းကြားအပ်ပါသည်။

၃။ ဒါရိုက်တာအဖွဲ့ဝင်အဖြစ် ဝင်ရောက်အရွေးခံမည့် ပုဂ္ဂိုလ်များသည် ငွေရေးကြေးရေး အဖွဲ့အစည်း များ ဥပဒေအခန်း (၁၀)ပုဒ်မ (၇၆)ပုဒ်မခွဲ (ခ) ပုဒ်မခွဲငယ် (၁)မှ (၈)အထိ ဖော်ပြထားသည့် အရည်အချင်း များနှင့် ကိုက်ညီရမည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

၄။ အဆိုပြုလွှာ ဖြည့်စွက်ရန် လာရောက်ပါက မှတ်ပုံတင်မူရင်း၊ လိုင်စင်ဓာတ်ပုံ (၁)ပုံနှင့် အစုရှယ်ယာ ပိုင်ဆိုင်မှု အထောက်အထားများ တစ်ပါတည်း ယူဆောင်လာပါရန် မေတ္တာရပ်ခံအပ်ပါသည်။ နှစ်ပတ် လည်အထွေထွေအစည်းအဝေးကျင်းပမည့် အချိန်နှင့်နေရာကို ထပ်မံကြေညာမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ထပ်မံသိရှိလိုသည့် အချက်များရှိပါက စာရင်းဌာန ဖုန်း-၀၁-၂၅၅၈၅၉၊ ၀၁-၂၄၁၈၀၀ သို့ ဆက်သွယ် မေးမြန်းစုံစမ်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ဒါရိုက်တာအဖွဲ့
မြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားများဘဏ်လီမိတက်

German chemical industry sketches costly carbon-neutral path

FRANKFURT AM MAIN — The industry federation of Germany’s powerful chemical sector said Wednesday companies could achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, but at a massive cost in financial and energy terms.

A study showed reaching net zero output of greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO2) by mid-century would cost 45 billion euros (\$49.4 billion) in additional investment, said the VCI group, which brings together giants like BASF and Lanxess with hundreds of smaller firms.

“The necessary CO2-free processes to produce basic chemicals are known in principle, but have to be developed further for large-scale application,” it added, suggesting many could be ready “in the mid-2030s”.

But for the plans to make business sense, low electricity prices and a massive increase in renewable generation would be needed.

Switching to the new carbon-neutral processes and technologies would multiply the key industry’s electricity demand elevenfold, to 628 terawatt-hours per year, the VCI estimated – or as much as Germany generates annually today.

By comparison, a no-new-action scenario could bring a 27-percent reduction in CO2 output using only the seven billion euros already committed to greening chemical plants.—AFP ■



The German chemical industry has put a price tag on going carbon neutral. PHOTO: AFP



Russia sees the oil price at \$50 per barrel. PHOTO: AFP

Russia forecasts oil price at \$50

MOSCOW — Russia, one of the world’s biggest energy producers, is basing its economic forecasting on an oil price of \$50 per barrel, Energy Minister Alexander Novak said Tuesday.

“We believe that in the medium term, oil prices will be around \$50,” Novak said in an interview with Rossiya 24 state television, adding this was a “conservative scenario”.

“Our forecast of (Russia’s) socio-economic development is based on this price,” he said.

The forecast is below the current market price for oil which has been volatile as worries about supply have been counterbalanced by concerns over a slowing world economy.

On Tuesday WTI, the US benchmark, traded at around \$52 while its European counterpart, Brent, stood at just over \$58.

Russia’s budget for the current year was based on an price of around \$42 per barrel, the lowest in about a decade, according to Bloomberg.

Export of oil and natural gas are two major sources of revenue for Russia which has, however, been trying to diversify the economy. Russia has been cooperating with OPEC, of which it is not a member, to limit production with a view to engineering an oil price rebound after sharp drops seen in 2014-2015.—AFP ■

Uncertainty hangs over Cambodia as opposition leader plots return

PHNOM PENH — Uncertainty hangs over Cambodia as acting president Sam Rainsy of the banned opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party plots his return to the country next month after years of self-exile abroad.

The government of long-serving Prime Minister Hun Sen, whose ruling party single-handedly won last year's parliamentary election amid the main opposition's absence, is determined to forestall his return by charging him for allegedly plotting a coup.

The country's most prominent opposition figure and a long-time rival of Hun Sen, Sam Rainsy also faces a host of other charges including defamation, disinforma-

tion, falsifying documents and insulting the country's king. Sam Rainsy, who left Cambodia in late 2015 and lives in France, is facing arrest and imprisonment if he makes a daring return home on 9 November as planned. Some of his supporters even fear his life could be in danger if he sets foot in the country.

Chin Malin, a Justice Ministry spokesman, said the 70-year-old has already been convicted of some of the charges, and that if he returns to Cambodia, the court will decide how long he should serve in prison.

The fresh charge of an attempted coup alone could land him in prison for as long as 30 years if found guilty.



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen (r) shakes hands with the President of the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party, Sam Rainsy in July 2014. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Last month Cambodian authorities charged nine leaders of the forcibly dissolved CNRP

with plotting a coup. They include Sam Rainsy and his deputies Eng Chhay Eang and Mu Sochua, all

of whom are living in self-exile abroad. Hun Sen, 67, controls almost all levers of power, including the country's military and police forces. Under his rule, CNRP President Kem Sokha was arrested in September 2017, and the opposition party was ordered dissolved by a court in November that year. Prior to its dissolution, the CNRP was the sole opposition party in parliament, with 55 seats compared with 68 held by the ruling Cambodian People's Party.

Its removal ahead of the July 2018 election enabled Hun Sen's party to win all 125 seats that were contested and allowed him to extend his decades-long rule for another five years. —Kyodo News ■

Missile interceptor drill held in Tokyo following North Korean launches

TOKYO — Japan's Air Self-Defense Force conducted a missile interceptor drill at a Tokyo park on Wednesday, the first time in six years such an exercise has taken place in a public space,

following a recent spate of North Korean missile launches.

The drill involved a unit of the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 system designed to shoot down approaching missiles that

evade sea-based interceptors fired from the Maritime SDF's Aegis destroyers.

The PAC-3 system, which features truck-mountable launch pads, has a range of several dozen kilometers. Since May, North Korea has fired ballistic missiles and other projectiles on 11 occasions, including what Pyongyang called a new type of submarine-launched ballistic missile that is believed to have fallen into Japan's exclusive economic zone off the western prefecture of Shimane last week.

"By showing our capability to quickly respond to ballistic missiles, I think we can make people feel secure," said Lt. Col. Takasuke Maeda, who commanded the drill.

In the exercise shown to the media at the Tokyo Rinkai Disaster Prevention Park in the capital's waterfront Ariake district, around 30 ASDF members set up the equipment and then spent 20 minutes checking each step in preparation for launching interceptors. The drill was observed by Defense Minister Taro Kono and Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike. —Kyodo News ■



Japanese Air Self-Defense Force personnel install a missile interceptor system called Patriot Advanced Capability-3 during a drill open to the press in Tokyo's Ariake area on 9 October, 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Typhoon Hagibis may make landfall in Japan over weekend, officials warn of "extreme" weather

TOKYO — Japan's weather agency said Wednesday a powerful typhoon currently moving over waters near the Ogasawara Islands will likely approach Japan and may make landfall on the main island over the weekend.

According to the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), Typhoon Hagibis is moving in a north-northwesterly trajectory

near the islands in the Pacific and could hit regions in western and eastern Japan between Saturday and Sunday.

Hagibis, the 19th typhoon of the season, is moving at a speed of around 15 kilometers per hour and has an atmospheric pressure of 915 hectopascals at its center. The powerful storm is packing gusts of up to 270 kph, the JMA also said. —Xinhua ■



Rugby World Cup fixtures and the Formula 1 Japanese Grand Prix could be affected by Typhoon Hagibis, which is expected to bring disruption to southern Japan. The Fukuoka Hakatanomori Stadium will host the Ireland vs. Samoa pool A match on 12 October. **PHOTO: AFP**

Hong Kong pro-independence activist appeals rioting sentence

HONG KONG — A high-profile Hong Kong activist who was jailed in 2018 for six years for rioting appeared in court on Wednesday to appeal against his sentence.

Edward Leung, 28, was con-

victed of rioting on the night of Feb. 8, 2016, when hundreds of people clashed with police after authorities attempted to clear illegal street vendors during the Chinese New Year holiday.

Some 130 people were injured, including five journalists. Thirty-nine of 69 people arrested have been prosecuted on riot charges. Leung's counsel Lawrence Lok said the lower court

judge made mistakes by taking irrelevant factors into consideration and wrongly determined Leung's action that night was premeditated because he was wearing a helmet, mask and goggles, local media RTHK reported.

The hearing was adjourned after half-a-day and Leung was remanded in prison. A ruling will be delivered at a later date. —Kyodo News ■

Turkish parliament extends motion for cross-border operations in Iraq, Syria

ANKARA — Turkish parliament on Tuesday extended a motion for the government's authority to launch cross-border military operations in Iraq and Syria for one more year.

The motion had previously allowed the Turkish Armed Forces to carry out cross-border operations from Oct. 30, 2018, until Oct. 30, 2019. All political parties, except pro-Kurdish People's Democratic Party (HDP), at the parliament supported the motion.

The motion stated that Turkey attaches great importance to the protection of Iraq's territorial integrity, national unity, and stability. "However, the existence of PKK and Daesh in Iraq poses a direct threat to regional peace, stability and the security of our country," it added, using the Arabic acronym of Islamic State (IS). It also said that Turkey has continued security activities in the east of Euphrates in line with its legitimate security interests.



Turkish parliament members vote for a motion to extend the government's authority to launch cross-border military operations in Iraq and Syria, in Ankara, Turkey, on 8 October, 2019. PHOTO: XINHUA

The motion came ahead of Turkey's planned military operation in the east of the Euphrates in northern Syria.

Turkey's ultimate target in

northern Syria was to end the existence of all terrorist groups and to facilitate the return of Syrians to their own country by providing a "peace corridor"

within the territorial integrity of Syria, the chair of parliament's National Defense Committee Ismet Yilmaz said addressing the lawmakers.—Xinhua

White House rules out cooperation in Trump impeachment probe

WASHINGTON — A defiant White House declared war Tuesday against the impeachment investigation of Donald Trump, blasting the process as partisan, illegitimate and unconstitutional and saying neither the president nor his administration will cooperate.

In a fiery letter, the White House threw down the gauntlet to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the chairmen of three congressional panels leading the inquiry, challenging them to proceed with their effort to oust Trump despite zero future cooperation.

"Put simply, you seek to overturn the results of the 2016



Top Democrat Nancy Pelosi on 8 October, 2019, accused the White House of an "unlawful attempt to hide the facts" after it ruled out cooperating with an impeachment probe of President Donald Trump. PHOTO: AFP

election and deprive the American people of the president they have freely chosen," White

House counsel Pat Cipollone wrote in an eight-page letter.

"Your inquiry lacks any legitimate constitutional foundation, any pretense of fairness, or even the most elementary due process protections," he said of the probe, which is weighing whether Trump abused his office by seeking a corruption probe in Ukraine of his rival Joe Biden.

"President Trump cannot permit his administration to participate in this partisan inquiry under these circumstances."

Pelosi fired back, terming the letter "manifestly wrong" and describing it as "another unlawful attempt to hide the facts."

"Mr President, you are not above the law. You will be held accountable," she said, warning that "continued efforts to hide the truth of the president's abuse of power from the American people will be regarded as further evidence of obstruction."

The stand-off set Washington on a path toward a constitutional crisis and into unknown territory, with the potential for a court showdown just as the nation gears up for the 2020 election. The White House's chief objection was the fact the House of Representatives had not held a formal vote to launch the inquiry.—AFP ■

Britain's Brexit talks with EU on verge of collapse

LONDON — Brexit talks between Britain and the European Union teetered on the brink of collapse on Tuesday, with tit-for-tat claims of intransigence and sabotage before an end of October deadline.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke to German Chancellor Angela Merkel as he tried to salvage new divorce terms he has proposed ahead of next week's pivotal EU summit in Brussels.

Unusually, Downing Street

then provided a readout of what Merkel reportedly said, provoking an incendiary tweet from EU Council President Donald Tusk.

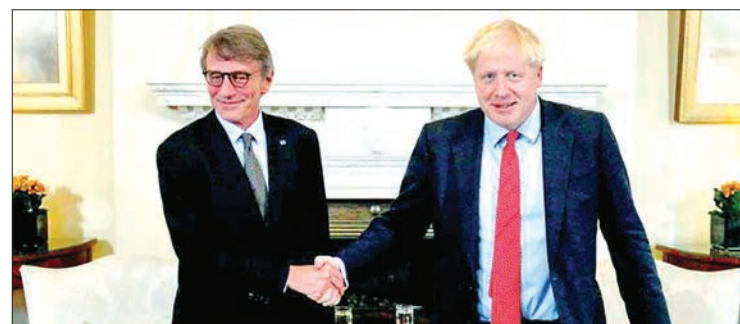
According to London, Merkel demanded a rewrite of Britain's approach to the long-vexing Irish border problem that made a compromise "essentially impossible".

The Downing Street official quoted Merkel as saying that a deal now looked "overwhelmingly unlikely", and added that the Brexit talks were "close to break-

ing down". Britain has been trying for more than three years to find a way to deliver on the result of a 2016 referendum and end its almost five-decade involvement in the European bloc.

Riding a wave of British frustrations with the saga, Johnson is threatening to leave at any cost — with or without a withdrawal deal — on 31 October.

In Berlin, Merkel's office said it would not comment "on such confidential discussions". John-



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson (R) shakes hands with European Parliament president David Sassoli prior to a private meeting at 10 Downing Street for a meeting in London on Oct 8, 2019. PHOTO: AFP

son's official spokesman also declined to say anything about the substance of the call. But he told

reporters the pair had a "frank exchange" — diplomatic speak for a disagreement.—AFP ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Damascus vows to respond to planned Turkish assault

DAMASCUS — Damascus vowed Wednesday to respond to a planned Turkish invasion of northeastern Syria, saying it condemned Ankara's "hostile intentions."

Damascus "is determined and willing to confront a Turkish assault using all legitimate means," a foreign ministry source told state news agency SANA, condemning Ankara's "hawkish statements, hostile intentions... and military build-up" along the border.—AFP ■

At least two killed in shooting in Germany's Halle: police

BERLIN — At least two people were killed Wednesday in a shooting on a street in the German city of Halle, police said, adding that the perpetrators were on the run.

"Early indications show that two people were killed in Halle. Several shots were fired. The suspected perpetrators fled in a car," said police on Twitter, urging residents in the area to stay indoors.

The central train station has been closed while the area is under lockdown, rail company Deutsche Bahn said.

According to Bild daily, the shooting took place in front of a synagogue in the Paulus district, and a hand grenade was also flung into a Jewish cemetery. Police could not be reached immediately for confirmation.

—AFP ■

2022 World Cup Qualifiers: Myanmar to play Kyrgyzstan today

THE Myanmar national football team will play a decisive qualifying match for the 2022 Qatar World Cup against the Kyrgyzstan national team at 8:45 pm (Myanmar Standard Time) today at the Dolen Omurzakov Stadium in Bishkek City, Kyrgyzstan.

A pre-match press conference and match coordination meeting were held yesterday at the Palaza Hotel in Bishkek City.

The conference was attended by team Myanmar head coach Miodrag Radulovic and defender Zaw Min Tun.

Speaking to the press, Miodrag Radulovic said team Kyrgyzstan is a very strong team, and he has seen their incredible

power play in the previous Asian Cup Competition. While the team lucked out of the final stage of the tourney, it is a good team with all-round players, he added.

The head coach also said that team Myanmar got over ten days to prepare for the match against Kyrgyzstan, and will launch an open attack with the hope of getting a win.

The match between Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan will be broadcast live on free-to-air channels MRTV and MRTV Sports, and it will also be streamed live on MySports' Facebook page, an official broadcasting partner of the Myanmar Football Federation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Myanmar head coach Miodrag Radulovic (L) and defender Zaw Min Tun (R) seen at a press conference in Bishkek yesterday ahead of the 2022 World Cup qualifier against Kyrgyzstan, which will take place today.
PHOTO: MFF

Myanmar Futsal League to be held in November



The champions of the Myanmar Futsal League 2018-2019, the Myanmar Imperial University F.C., seen holding their championship trophy. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE Myanmar Futsal League 2019-2020, which will be supervised by the Myanmar Football Federation, will be held in November. Twelve teams will compete in the tourney, according to a statement issued yesterday by the football federation.

Ten futsal clubs which participated in last year's Myanmar Futsal League and the two winning teams of the upcoming qualifiers for the tourney will play in the 2019-2020 futsal league.

Qualifiers will be held ahead of the 2019-2020 edition of the league, and the MFF has invited amateur futsal clubs for the qualification round. Interested teams can register at the headquarters of the MFF in Yangon between 16 and 30 October.

According to the rules and regulations set by the football federation, the interested teams will have to pay K100,000 as fee for the qualifiers and another K100,000 as deposit.

The two best teams in the

qualifiers will play in the Myanmar Futsal League 2019-2020, which is scheduled to be held in the third week of November.

To be eligible for the tourney, futsal clubs will need to have 16 players at the least and 20 players at the most, and a maximum of two foreign players. "The clubs also need to have two under-19 players. This rule has been included to encourage young talent," according to officials.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Messi says tax problems made him want to leave Barcelona

BARCELONA—Lionel Messi has admitted he wanted to leave Barcelona when he was under investigation from the Spanish tax authorities but insists now he intends to finish his career at the club.

In an interview with Catalan radio station RAC1, Messi also said he had expected Neymar to sign for Real Madrid last summer after Barca failed to strike an agreement with Paris Saint-Germain.

Messi and his father Jorge were found guilty of defrauding Spain of 4.1 million euros in taxes between 2007 and 2009, for which they paid close to 10 million euros and Messi was handed a 21-month suspended prison sentence.

Asked on Tuesday night if he had ever wanted to leave Barcelona, Messi said: "In 2013-14, when I started having the tax problems, it was very difficult for me and my family."

"My children were young and we had a very bad time. At that time, I had it in mind to leave, not because I wanted to leave Barca but because I felt mistreated and I didn't want to be here anymore."

The 32-year-old's current contract expires in 2021 and

Messi believes extending his deal "will not be a problem".

"Today it is clearer that my idea is to finish here," Messi said. "For how I am at the club, for what I feel, and for the family and the children and how settled we are in this city. I would not like to disrupt that."

"Of course anything can happen but in principle, the idea is to stay here."

Messi began playing football aged six for Newell's Old Boys, the Rosario club he supports in Argentina.

"I always dreamed of being able to play again for Newell's and to have the experience of playing football in Argentina," he said.

"But I have already told them that sometimes you have to think about what is best for your family."

No rift with Griezmann

Messi was keen to be reunited with Neymar last summer but Barcelona were unable to agree a fee with PSG.

"I honestly thought at one time, especially in this market, that if he did not come here, he would go to Real Madrid because I thought he wanted to leave," Messi said—AFP