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People celebrate Thadingyut Full Moon Day at pagodas across Myanmar



Shwedagon Pagoda is crowded with pilgrims on the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

ON THE full moon of Thadingyut yesterday, the Shwedagon Pagoda and other pagodas across Myanmar were packed with Buddhist devotees.

With several activities or-

ganized since early morning, devotees celebrated the Abhidhamma day at the Shwedagon Pagoda. At night, visitors and religious groups lit oil lamps on the platform of the pagoda.

Religious ceremonies were held under the guidance of senior monks, with the Union ministers and departmental officials donating provisions and gifts to monks.

The full moon day of Thadingyut is the Significant and Noble Day of Abhidhamma Day, marking the day when the Buddha descended from a celestial abode after preaching Ab-

hidhamma (Profound Dhamma) for three months to His deceased mother, who was reborn in the celestial abode.

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Yangon hosts 10th Mekong Literature Award presentation ceremony

THE 10th Mekong Literature Award presentation ceremony was held at CBC Ball Room of Saya San Plaza in Yangon on 12 October.

At the ceremony, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein said that as the Mekong Literature Award had cemented the friendship among man and woman of letters and the peoples of the region, inclusive involvement was required for the sustainability of this fine tradition.

Chairman of Myanmar Writers Association U Kyaw Win (Manutha Kyaw Win), and chairmen of writers associations of the six Mekong countries, Mr Huu Thinh of Vietnam, Mr Thongbay Phothisane of Laos, Mr Proeung Pranit of Cambodia, Mrs Kanokwalee Kanthiaraj of Thailand and

Mr Fan Wen of China (Yunnan,) extended greetings.

The Yangon Region Chief Minister presented awards to writers of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and China (Yunnan) and Myanmar writers Po Kyawt of Myanmar (The blood stained soil) and Ko Yoe Kont (Straight and simple shortstories).

In his speech, U Kyaw Win (Manutha Kyaw Win) said that two books from each country were selected for the awards. Myanmar’s actual turn to host the event was last year, but Myanmar transferred with the job to Vietnam at its request, he explained. Under the roster Cambodia would be the host of next year’s event, he added. The Mekong Literature Award served as the bridge among Mekong countries, he noted.

It is the first time Myanmar has held the event. Yangon Region Government provided support for the event held under the motto – “To preserve and promote the unity and fraternity, born of literature.”

The Mekong River Literature Award really is a symbol of solidarity, friendship among literatures in the region, and is consistent with the trend of exchange, cooperation, dialogue among cultures, and it has united fully all the countries in the Mekong river basin. Also present were Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Tin Maung Tun and Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, Chief Justice of Yangon Region U Hla Aye, region cabinet members, departmental personnel and guests. — Zaw Gyi

(Translated by TMT)



Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein delivers the opening speech at the 10th Mekong Literature Award presentation ceremony in Yangon on 12 October. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**



Yangon Region Chief Minister presents award to a writer at the 10th Mekong Literature Award presentation ceremony in Yangon on 12 October. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**

Summoning Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 14th regular session

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office
Notification 3/2019

Fullmoon of Thadingyut 1381 ME
13 October 2019

Summoning Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 14th regular session

In accord with Section 79 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 13 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law and Rule 3, Sub-rule (b) of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Rules, it is hereby announced that the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 14th regular session is summoned in Nay Pyi Taw at 1:30 pm on the 8th Waxing of Tazaungmon 1381 ME (4 November 2019) (Monday).

Sd/ T Khun Myat
Speaker
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Summoning Second Pyithu Hluttaw 14th regular session

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Pyithu Hluttaw Office
Notification 3/2019

Fullmoon of Thadingyut 1381 ME
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Summoning Second Pyithu Hluttaw 14th regular session

In accord with Section 126 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 35 of the 2012 Pyithu Hluttaw Law and Rule 3, Sub-rule (b) of the 2013 Pyithu Hluttaw Rules, it is hereby announced that the Second Pyithu Hluttaw 14th regular session is summoned in Nay Pyi Taw at 10:00 am on the 8th Waxing of Tazaungmon 1381 ME (4 November 2019) (Monday).

Sd/ T Khun Myat
Speaker
Pyithu Hluttaw

Summoning Second Amyotha Hluttaw 14th regular session

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Amyotha Hluttaw Office
Notification 3/2019

Fullmoon of Thadingyut 1381 ME
13 October 2019

Summoning Second Amyotha Hluttaw 14th regular session

In accord with Section 126 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 35 of the 2012 Amyotha Hluttaw Law and Rule 3, Sub-rule (b) of the 2015 Amyotha Hluttaw Rules, it is hereby announced that the Second Amyotha Hluttaw 14th regular session is summoned in Nay Pyi Taw at 10:00 am on the 8th Waxing of Tazaungmon 1381 ME (4 November 2019) (Monday).

Sd/ Mahn Win Khaing Than
Speaker
Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker donates offertories to Buddhist monks

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker U Mahn Win Khaing Than and his wife and family members took part in a donation ceremony held at Shwe Myin Wun Pagoda at Myawady Town in Kayin State yesterday.

In the morning, the Myawady district administrator, town administrator and departmental officials offered the day meal to the members of Sangha and nuns. Then, the monks organized Pavarana event that marked the annual occasion to mark the end of Buddhist Lent.

Then, U Mahn Win Khaing Than and family members donated over 3,000 monks, novices and

nuns from 342 monasteries and nunneries in Myawady District.

The donation ceremony was also attended by Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, and Kayin State Hluttaw MPs, staff and their family members of town and district General Administration Departments, members of local military commands, officials from Tak Province of Thailand, political parties, women and child welfare associations, Red Cross Society, Fire Brigade units, social and religious associations, well-wishers and local ethnic people. — Thein Lin Aung (IPRD)

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi donate offertories to a monk in Myawady, Kayin State yesterday. **PHOTO: THEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**

Myanmar Nephro-Urology Society holds 4th conference in Yangon



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe addresses the fourth conference of Myanmar Nephro-Urology Society in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Myanmar Nephro-Urology Society held its fourth conference at Sule Shangrila Hotel in Yangon on 12 and 13 October.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe delivered an opening remark at the conference on 12 October afternoon. He said the conference was intended to share knowledge on developing technologies in nephrology and urology, operation techniques, modern medical equipment, new methods and experiences of international experts to the new generation in medical professional. He also said the ministry has formed the expert teams of retired medical practitioners and professors in this branch of medicine to promote the healthcare industry, including purchases of medicines and medical equipment, as well as continual teaching of medical subjects.

The Union Minister added that the safety of patients will be managed by forming the teams

at union level and township levels, with the participation of experts from related branches of medicine, and by distributing handbooks and standards of the ministry for various branches of medicine to the healthcare professionals in states and regions.

He also urged all medical professionals to put emphasis on the prevention of urinary and renal diseases, as well as public health. Dr Myint Htwe pledged that the ministry will provide supports for promotion of all medical sciences, and also called for the participation of all stakeholders.

Then, Chairman of Myanmar Nephro-Urology Society, Dr Kyaw Zwa Hlaing, extended greetings.

The two-day conference was attended by local specialists in nephrology and urology and foreign professors from Cambodia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, India, the Philippines, Greek, the United Kingdom, Japan and China.— MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

IFER Union Minister attends RCEP Intersessional Ministerial Meeting

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun attended the 9th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Intersessional Ministerial Meeting and related meetings held in Bangkok, Thailand on 11-12 October 2019. The minister was accompanied by the Director General of the Foreign Economic Relations Department, U Than Aung Kyaw and senior officials of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

At the meeting, the ministers welcomed the significant progress of RCEP negotiations and recognized that

there remain a few outstanding issues. The Ministers reaffirmed their determination to achieve the Leaders' mandate to conclude negotiations in 2019 and aim for a positive announcement to be made at the 3rd RCEP Summit on 4 November 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The RCEP is regarded as a testament to an open trade and investment environment that will further expand and deepen regional value chains for the benefits of businesses. It will turn the region into a new center of growth and contribute positively to the global economy, while serving as a supporting pillar to a strong

multilateral trading system.

The RCEP trade pact is a proposed free trade agreement between 10 ASEAN Member States and 6 of the partners-Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand. Up to date, 28 rounds of negotiations, seven regular ministerial meetings and numerous intersessional meetings at ministerial and working levels have been held.

The RCEP when concluded will be one of the largest trading blocs. It will cover a half of the world's populations, account for 40 percent of the global trade and around a third of the global GDP.— MNA



Union Minister U Thaung Tun poses for a photo with ministers from other countries at the 9th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Intersessional Ministerial Meeting and related meetings in Bangkok, Thailand. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw crowded with people on Thandingyut Full Moon Day



Buddhist devotees are seen at the Uppatasanti Pagoda on the Abhidhamma Day yesterday. PHOTO: MICHAEL HTAN



Buddhist devotees are seen at the Thatta Thattaha Maha Bodhi Pagoda on the Abhidhamma Day yesterday. PHOTO: MICHAEL HTAN

PEOPLE celebrated the end of the three-month Buddhist Rain Retreat on the Thadingyut Full Moon Day yesterday donating offertories to Members of the Sangha and offering lights at pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw.

On the auspicious day, Buddhists took Precepts, recited Pathana and Parittas, paid respects to elders and made charity.

On the full moon day of Thadingyut (the Abhidhamma Day), pagodas and monasteries in Nay Pyi Taw was crowded with people who took Precepts and made donation, and pilgrims.

The Yan Aung Myin Shwe Lat Hla Pagoda, the Koe Na Win Pagoda, the Su Taung Pyae Lawka Marazein Pagoda, the Datusaya Pagoda, the Sansara Nyein Aye Pagoda, the Phaya Koe Hsu, the Koe Khan Gyi Pagoda, the Aung Min Khaung Pagoda, the Min Wun Taung, the Suna Mani Pagoda, the Maha That Kya YanThi Standing Image and the Thatta Thattaha Maha Bodhi Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area were also crowded with meditators, merit-doers and pilgrims.

The night life on the full moon day was also filled with multi-colored lights alongside the streets and houses across the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. — Kyaw Thu Htet (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Mandalay holds lighting festival



Monk cleans the face of Mahamuni Buddha Image at Mahamuni Pagoda on the full moon of Thadingyut in Mandalay, PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)



FAMOUS pagodas and pagodas and dhammayons (religious buildings of wards and communities in Mandalay are crowded with devotees offering flowers, lights and water to the Buddha and keeping Sabbath on the fullmoon day of Thadingyut. At dawn, devotees paid home to Maha Muni Image and offered flowers, lights, water and gold foils. Likewise, famous pagodas such as Shwe Kyeemyin Pagoda, Kyauktawgyi Pagoda, Sandamuni Pagoda, Aungdwmu Pagoda, Jade Pagoda and Swedaw Pagoda of the cultural city were also crowded with pilgrims doing meritorious deeds.

Moreover, dhammayons in wards are also packed with people keeping Sabbath and serving free food. Streets were also full of people who were offering provisions and other provisions to members of Sangha and nuns.

In the late evening, ten thousand lights were offered to the Maha Muni Buddha Image and Kyauktawgyi and other pagodas

in Mandalay. Wards of the city also offered lights to their respective pagodas in preserving the age-old tradition.

Three pagodas, Kyauktaw, Sadamuni and Kuthodaw, at the foot of Mandalay Hills held the pagoda festival. There were free entertainment shows and over 100 booths to go shopping. The festival is crowded with visitors till late at night.—Min Htet Aung (Sub-printing House)

(Translated by TMT)

People celebrate Thadingyut Full Moon Day at pagodas across Myanmar



Monks and novices light candles on the night of the Thadingyut Full Moon at the Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

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Well-wishers donate meals to the people at religious buildings in the townships of Yangon. Similar activities were held at other pagodas in Yangon to mark the holy day.

Religious associations and people offered lights, food, and flowers and recited religious verses celebrating the Abhidhamma Day since early yesterday morning at the Maha Wizaya Pagoda, Thiri Mingalar Kaba Aye Pagoda, Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda, and Botahtaung Pagoda in Yangon.

On this auspicious day, Buddhists perform meritorious deeds at the pagodas and monasteries across the country. People enjoy the three-day holiday, visiting pagodas, donating alms to the Members of the Sangha, offering candle lights, and paying respects to elders.

The buildings are illuminated at night. —Yi Yi Myint, Ohnmar Thant

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Price of quality paddy slides by K50,000 at harvest time

THE price of high-quality Pawsan paddy (per 100 baskets) has registered a drop of K50,000 as newly harvested paddy is flooding the market, according to the Pathein commodity depot.

“The market has cooled. New paddy is entering the market, bringing down the prices of old stocks. Old paddy has also piled up in the market,” said a dealer.

Myanmar people mainly consume high-quality Pawsan rice grown in the Ayeyarwady Region and Shwe Bo Pawsan rice grown in Shwe Bo township of Sagaing Region.

Pathein Pawsan paddy was previously priced at K824,000 per 100 baskets, and now, the price has fallen by K46,000 compared to the year-ago period.

Similarly, the prices of Pawsan paddy grown in Myaungmya, Dedaye, and Phyarpon areas have registered a drop of K24,000-61,000 per 100 baskets.

“The price of the most common variety of paddy usually drops at the time of harvest. The basic price of paddy is likely to be released in the coming week,” according to the Myanmar Rice

Federation (MRF).

Unlike in the previous years, if the price of paddy ranges below the set price, agro product management groups formed by regional and state governments will buy the paddy rather than private groups and associations.

“The basic price of paddy needs to be calculated on the production cost. It must be a suitable rate. If the market price remains above the basic price, it is good for the supply chain. However, if the market price falls below the basic price, there might be certain problems,” said U Aung Htoo, the Deputy Minister for Commerce, at a coordination meeting of the Rice Market and Price Assessment and Advising Working Committee, which was held on 30 August.

The minister also sought suggestions from the MRF and its associates on fixing the basic rate, market intervention, and market control.

He urged the committee to set the rate depending on the production cost and benefits to farmers and traders, as well as the expected trend in future domestic and international market



Workers spread paddy to dry under the sun at a field in Kangyidauk Township, Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

prices. He also asked it to release the rate by October.

The MRF had fixed the basic price of paddy (low-quality variety) at K500,000 per 100 baskets (one basket is equivalent to 46 pounds) on 8 March, 2018.

Before the basic price was announced for this year, the

MRF had urged merchants, millers, agents, private companies, and MRF members to buy paddy at the existing basic rate, if the paddy met the prescribed criteria: 14-per-cent moisture content and a fixed percentage of impurities, such as sand, weed, and small stones. In addition, to

increase the demand for paddy and promote exports, MRF members and merchants had proposed buying paddy at the floor rate fixed by the MRF, if the market price falls below the basic price, the MRF had stated in a press release. — Htet Myat (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

CMP businesses import raw materials worth \$2.37 bln

THE imports of raw materials by CMP businesses were valued at US\$2.37 billion in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, an increase of \$383.69 million compared with the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Meanwhile, the exports of finished industrial goods touched a high of \$10 billion between 1 October and 30 September in the previous fiscal, an increase of \$1.9 billion compared with the corresponding period of the 2017-2018 financial year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

As per figures provided by the ministry, the exports of finished industrial goods totaled \$8 billion in the 2017-2018FY.

Additionally, the manufacturing sector is likely to attract the most foreign investments in the 2019-2020FY, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garment and textiles produced

on the cutting, making, and packaging basis, and it contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

The CMP industry has emerged as a very promising one in the export sector. The value of CMP exports was just \$850 million in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, but it tripled within two years to reach \$2.5 billion in the 2017-2018FY, as per figures provided during the Myanmar Global Investment Forum 2018, held on 12 September.

During the mini-budget (April-September, 2018) period, exports of clothes produced under the CMP system were valued at \$2.27 billion.

Japan is the largest market for Myanmar apparel, followed by the European Union.

There are currently over 400 garment factories in Myanmar, which employ more than 300,000 workers. Investors prefer to invest in cheap-labor countries like Myanmar. — GNLM

(Translated by EMM)

Agricultural products exports up \$390 mln in 2018-2019 FY

Myanmar's exports of agricultural products between 1 October and 30 September in the previous fiscal year reached over US\$3.26 billion from \$2.86 billion in the corresponding period of the 2017-2018FY, which is an increase of \$390 million, according to trade figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

In the exports sector, the agriculture industry showed the best performance, along with the natural gas sector. The chief items of export in the agricultural sector are rice and broken rice, pulses, corn, and rubber. Fruits and vegetables, sesame, dried tea leaves, sugar, and other agro products are also exported to other countries.

Myanmar agro products are primarily exported to Chi-

na, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. However, the export market remains uncertain due to unsteady global demand.

Myanmar faces slower access to market information, which sometimes poses obstacles in the market. Moreover, the country has poor logistics and warehouse infrastructure, which leads to degrading of the quality of fruits, said an official from the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association (MFVP).

According to the Myanmar Rice Federation, quality control and food safety are key to the promotion of exports.

Therefore, improved agricultural practices need to

be developed.

Additionally, the country requires specific export plans for each agro product, as they are currently exported to external markets based upon supply and demand.

Contract farming systems, involvement of regional and state agriculture departments, exporters, traders, and some grower groups, are required in order to meet production targets, said an official from the Agriculture Department.

The Commerce Ministry is working to help farmers deal with challenges, such as high input costs, procurement of pedigree seeds, high cultivation costs, and erratic weather conditions. —Ko Htet

(Translated by EMM)

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

ACTING CHIEF EDITOR
Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT
Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORS
Zaw Min
Zaw Htet Oo

INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR
Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

LOCAL NEWS EDITORS
Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com

TRANSLATORS
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun

REPORTER
Nyein Nyein Ei,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

PHOTOGRAPHER
Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar
Kyaw Zeya

COMPUTER TEAM
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Hnin Pwint,
Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin,
Thein Htwe, Nyi Lin Thu

EDITORIAL SECTION
(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114

ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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gnlmdaily@gmail.com
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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Inle Lake teeming with holidaymakers



The procession of boats are seen as the Phaungdaw Oo Buddha Images are conveyed for public obeisance at the Inle Lake. **PHOTO: MNA**

INLE Lake was crowded with holidaymakers on the Full Moon Day of Thadingyut yesterday, and souvenir shops have been recording high sales since Friday, the start of the five-day holiday.

“Local visitors have bought mostly local textiles. Foreign visitors have mostly bought silverware,” said Ma

Myat Pan Ein of Ngwe Sin Tun Traditional Silver Wares and Textile Shop, located at the lake.

Traditional weaving of textiles with lotus fiber, silk and cotton hand-weaving, workshops of goldsmiths and blacksmiths in villages around the lake are popular with tourists and local visitors as well.

The Thadingyut holiday usually coincides with the annual ceremonial tour of Inle Phaungdaw Oo Buddha’s images, which is conducted for 18 days from 29 September to 18 October, and covers 18 areas of Inle region.

This is one of the significant ceremonies of Inle region, which is attended by local pil-

grims as well as foreign visitors.

Since the time it was designated Myanmar’s first biosphere reserve and a natural world heritage site in 2013, Inle Lake has drawn more international travelers, with tourist arrivals increasing year after year. —Aye Min Thu (*Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun*) ■

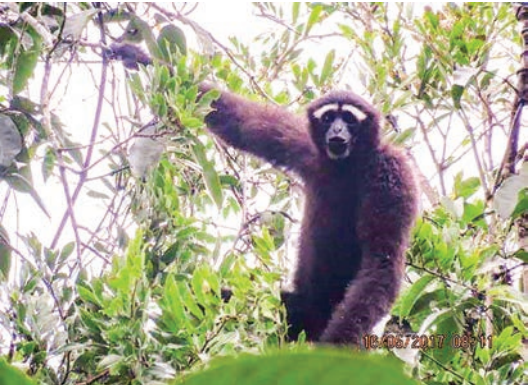
Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary designated ASEAN Heritage Park

THE Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary was declared an ASEAN Heritage Park (AHP) at the 15th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Environment, held from 7-10 October in Siem Reap, Cambodia, according to the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity.

The Taninthayi Wildlife Sanctuary in Taninthayi Region and the Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary in Sagaing Region had applied for AHP status, and Htamanthi was selected as its commitments meet AHP’s standards.

Covering an area of 2,151 square kilometers, the Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary is rich in biodiversity and it is a protected area for wildlife animals.

Myanmar now has eight parks recognized as AHP:



Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary, Khakaborazi National Park, Inle Lake, Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park, Mainmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary, Natmataung National Park, Lampi Island Marine National Park, and Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary. — Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon) ■



Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary in Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)**

Number of travelers doubles at Monywa station during Thadingyut holidays

The number of travelers has doubled at the Monywa Railway Station with many local people going on vacation during the Thadingyut holidays, said U Than Tun Aye, in charge of the station. The volume of freight has also been high, he added.

“The number of passengers

has become high starting from 10 October. Normally, only 80 passengers are seen, but now their number has increased to 180. More trips to KhinU, Monywa, and Pakokku have been added. Some people are intentionally taking trains as they have never experienced a

train ride,” he added.

Train fares range from K700 per head for the Monywa-Mandalay train (1 p.m.), K600 for Monywa-Pakokku (2 p.m.), and K600 for Monywa-KhinU (2.15 p.m.).

“The Monywa-Bodhi Tahataung circular train is always

packed with travelers on the full moon day. Around 200 passengers take the train on that day. Each train has two coaches, with a seating capacity of 100 persons per coach,” said U Than Tun Aye. —Myo Win Tun (Monywa) (Translated by Ei Myat Mon) ■

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Voices of visitors at Ngalaik Sakanthar Elephant Camp



Daw Mya Thida.



Daw Htay Htay Han.



Visitors enjoy elephant ride at Ngalaik Sakanthar Elephant Camp.

THE Ngalaik Sakanthar Elephant Camp is situated in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, and it is about 2 furlongs from the Milepost (217/0) of the Yangon-Mandalay Highway. It is located in the area of the Ngaleik Reserved Forest and near Ngaleik Dam.

Here are the voices of visitors there during the Thadingyut Holidays.

Daw Htay Htay Han (Retired high school teacher)

This is the second time I visited here. I came to take relax during Thadingyut Holidays. The visitors can donate trees in the camp and their names are labelled on the trees. People can

find refreshments during their holiday vacations.

Daw Mya Thida (Advocate)

We are from Mandalay. The children can ride elephants here. This is a place to rest and find refreshment for mind and body. We will also visit in and around Nay Pyi Taw. We like this trip.

Mg Hein Min Htet (Student)

I am a first-year GTI student. We have got a vacation after we finished the exam. I am very pleased with making a vacation. This is the very first time I visit this elephant camp. I have taken an elephant ride and fed these huge creatures.

Ko Hlaing Win Tun (Officer at Ngalaik Sakanthar Elephant Camp)

The number of visitors has increased to 150 by noon today from 100 yesterday. It is expected more visitors would come here in the following days.

The visitors can pass through pine forest by our tame elephants. It takes about 12 minutes for the trip. Elephant performance can be seen in the camp.

U Sai Tin Aung Thein (Officer from Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations)

The elephant camp is pleasant. We will also visit other recre-

ation sites in and around Nay Pyi Taw. Some people went back to their home town during the Thadingyut Holidays, but we are living with our parents in Nay Pyi Taw.

Daw Yin Yin Maw (Nurse, South Okkalapa Township)

I am from Yangon. My parents and the youngest sister live in Nay Pyi Taw. During the trip, I will also visit other recreation sites after leaving the elephant camp.

Ma Shwe Pwint Thu (Myanmar Customs)

I visit my grandmother in Nay Pyi Taw with my family members. The elephants here

are very lovely. I will also visit the pagodas and recreation sites in Nay Pyi Taw.

Ko Min Thet Swe (Officer at Ngalaik Sakanthar Elephant Camp)

Since the first two days of Thadingyut Holidays, the number of visitors is increasing. They can feed the elephants, take the rides to enjoy excursions to see natural landscapes, and enjoy a leisurely ride by boat in the Ngalaik Dam. The children can play in the camp. We have made our services better for the visitors.— Reported by Myo Thu Hein, Photo Aye Than

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Crowds of holidaymakers throng Chaungthar beach resort during Thadingyut Festival



Travellers visit Chaungtha beach in Pathein Township during the Thadingyut Festival. PHOTO: NAY LIN

CROWDS of holiday-makers have fully occupied all the guesthouses and hotels at Chaungthar beach resort in Pathein Township, Ayeyawady Region, during the Thadingyut Festive this year as the beach is well-known for its pristine and pollution-free environment.

Daw Mya May from Yangon said, “Five persons of our family are making one-night stay here. As the schools and offices are closed for the Thadingyut holiday. We bought the travel package online. Guesthouses and hotel rooms have been filled with the

massive number of visitors.”

While the visitors from Yangon, Mandalay, Monywa and Mawlamyine stayed one or two nights, the people from nearby areas have made day trips.

U Myint Maw, the manager of Ruby Guest

House, said, “More visitors have come to Chaungthar beach this year. There is no vacant room at our guesthouse every day during this period. However, we cannot increase room charges too much.” U Naing Aung, the staff officer from the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism of Chaungthar beach, confirmed that there are 25 hotels and 8 guesthouses at the resort, and the facilities are quite enough the visitors although plans have been made to set up more accommodations.

Souvenir shops and local foods were busy with many visitors, and the night sky is aglow with fireworks.

Some people also took motorboats to visit Phoe Kalar island where they

paid homage a pagoda, enjoyed sunset, swam with friends and purchased local products.

U Nyunt Win Aung, the General Manager of Coral View Hotel from this island, said, “The visitors can experience the taste of sea if they took motorboat to come here. The island is so pleasant as it is located on a high land. The number of visitor is high this year as they have enough days for visits. Our hotel is opted by people from all strata of life.” The White Sand island, about one and half miles in the west of Chaungthar beach, can be reached by motorboats. Most of the visitors to this island enjoyed underwater views.

The Brother and Sister Rock and the Elephant Camp located about 4 miles in the north of Chaungthar beach were the places for pilgrims, picnickers, viewers of sunsets over the sea, horse riding, elephant riding and tricycle riding.

U Shwe Wah Tun, the mahout of elephant camp, said “Most of the visitors to Chaungthar beach arrived here. It takes each elephant ride about 15 minute on the beach. More visitors are seen this year.”

Other destinations for the visitors included Ma Gyi- Shwe Thaung Yan beach, Wat Thay Chai beach, Uto creek, Goyangyi island and Ngwesaung beach.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Love, tolerance, diversity

KHANTISA Sovacata, which means tolerance is auspicious, is what the Mingala Sutta teaches mankind. Tolerance is what we all need in our social dealings, as it is of vital importance for human society. But, what the Sutta teaches us might be to appreciate and recognize behaviors and beliefs which are different from our own, although we might not agree with or approve of them, rather than holding back insults.

Frequent occurrence of differences or disagreements, even among people of the same race, same faith, and same ancestry, is not unusual. Here, tolerance means listening to a different ideology till it is understood well or trying to listen to it.

The power to accept and understand the view or vision of another, which is different from ours but does not go against the law, is also tolerance.

As Myanmar is in the process of making strenuous efforts for restoring internal peace and bringing about national reconciliation, the majority of Myanmar people believe that it is time all ethnic armed conflicts ended.

wars that are unbelievably fierce in various parts of the world.

Globally, people are applying various means in their quest for ending wars, terminating destructive weapons, and reducing nuclear arms. Moreover, they have adopted the global shift towards world peace and natural disaster prevention as the common goal of mankind.

As Myanmar is in the process of making strenuous efforts for restoring internal peace and bringing about national reconciliation, the majority of Myanmar people believe that it is time all ethnic armed conflicts ended.

Whether it is branded as a just war or a revolution, a war is a war; and no war can be honorable. So, let us replace armed conflicts with love and peace.

As we are a country with ethnic and social diversity, there will always be different views, ideologies, and beliefs. Besides, diversity is the objective condition of the country, and the best answer to it can only be found through dialogue, which is based on love, tolerance, and nobility.

■ ■ ■

Bad habits of smoking and betel-chewing in Myanmar

By Arakan Sein

I AM disappointed when I see Myanmar people, young and old alike, are seen smoking or chewing a quid of betel. It compels me to write this article.

History of smoking

Smoking has been practiced in one form or another since ancient times; the history of smoking dates back to as early as 5000 BC. With the arrival of Europeans in 16th century, consumption, cultivation and trading quickly spread. The modernization of farming equipment and manufacturing increased the availability of cigarettes following the reconstruction era in the United States. Mass production quickly expanded the scope of consumption, which grew until the scientific controversies of 1960s and condemnation in 1980s.

More widespread cigarette usage as well as increased life expectancy during 1920s made adverse health effects more noticeable. In 1929, Fritz Lickint of Dresden, Germany published formal statistical evidence of lung cancer-tobacco link, which subsequently strong anti-smoking movement in Nazi Germany. The subject remained largely taboo until 1954 with British Doctors Study, and in 1964 the United State Surgeon General's report. Tobacco became stigmatised, which led the largest civil settlement in US history.

Diseases caused by smoking

Lungs can be very badly affected by smoking; coughs, colds, wheezing and asthma are just the start. It can cause fatal diseases such as pneumonia, emphysema and lung cancer. Smoking causes

83% of deaths from lung cancer and 83% of deaths from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.

lowing combined: alcohol use, firearm-related incidents, illegal drug use and motor vehicle inci-

We must not give up the fight against smoking or betel-chewing, even if they have been a long-lasting tradition, in order to benefit future generations.

Smoking shortens the life of males by about 12 years and that of a female by about 11 years. Every year, more than 480,000 people die in the US due to tobacco-related diseases. It is around 1 in 5 of all deaths in the US annually. It is estimated that 1 in 2 smokers die from a smoking-related disease. Smoking causes more deaths in the US each year than the fol-

dents. Some outstanding views on smoking are mentioned below:

The best way to stop smoking is just to stop? No ifs, ands or buts. To cease smoking is the easiest thing I ever did, I ought to know because I've done it a thousand times.

Smoking is hateful to the nose, harmful to brain, and dangerous to the lungs. A cigarette

is a perfect pleasure. It is exquisite, and it leaves one unsatisfied. What more can one want?: Oscar Wilde. If smoking is not allowed in heaven, I shall not go: Mark Twain

The history of betel nut chewing

Betel nut chewing originated in Southeast Asia where the tropical climate is conducive to growing areca nut trees and betel vines. Since prehistoric times, it has been embedded in the traditions of Southeast Asian countries including Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia.

Although it is considered by the people in all these countries to be something of great value to their culture, some Westerners find this practice strange, unhygienic and ugly. There three main ingredients in a quid of betel: areca nut, betel leaf and slaked lime.

■ ■ ■

Marvelous Sadon Waterfall in Kachin State

SURROUNDED by bluish mountains and greenish carpets of vegetation, Sadon Falls streams down a deep slope formed with the different tiers of rock formations. Water tumbling down the steep incline has produced a melody-like sound for visitors.

Another name for Sadon Falls located near Sadon town in Waingmaw Township, Kachin State, is Lannakha Falls. The splendid cascade is crowded with the large number of vacationers from various parts of the country during the Thadingyut holidays. The following is the voices of some of the holidaymakers.

Ma Ei Ei Hlaing

I visited Sadon Falls in 2017, and as the cascade was so magnificent, I conceived an idea of revising the place. So, I came here with my friends this time. The waterfall is a place where we can closely witness the beauty of nature. Sadon is my first stop during my holiday vacation. Afterwards, I will visit Washaung Dam, the confluence and Wai recreation park.



Ma Ei Ei Hlaing.



Ma Aye Aye Myint.

is normally dry, the area is lush and green. I want to visit it gain. Better roads ensure easy access to Sadon Falls. It is worth a visit.

Daw Myint Myint Htay Retired Senior Assistant Teacher, YeU

Sadon Falls is a sideline visit of my journey to Myikyina where I will have a reunion with my relatives. This is my first visit to the place. The waterfall is so breathtaking and really beautiful. It is a wonderful place of Myanmar that can attract both local and foreign visitors. The place is so tranquil as it is surrounded by mountains covered with green vegetation. I feel reinvigorated. Unlike my native place which

Ma Aye Aye Myint Mogaung

Every year, I travel during Thadingyut holidays, but never arrived at Sadon. This year, I come to Sadaon and found that it is worth a visit. It is a place where both the local and foreign travelers should come. I feel relax and refresh as soon as I see the falls. All the visitors admire the beauty of the place which makes them

refreshed. I would visit it again in the coming years. Kachin State has a lot of interesting places. I would like to invite tourists to the area.

U Lachan Lwandaung In-charge of Sadon Falls recreation camp

If compared with many other places of the country, the number of visitors to Sadon is still low. We still have many shortages in ensuring visitor convenience. Visitors can enjoy the falls in its natural position but we have no other facilities to make the place more attractive and enjoyable. We must make arrangements to protect the falls and its surrounding areas from causing any environmental damage. Thanks to the peace in the area, more vacationers are coming to the falls as the cascade and its surrounding area have the power to refresh the minds of visitors. I am so encouraged and pleased to hear positive response from visitors. I wish the government do more for the tourist industry of Kachin State. And I wish gov-



Visitors watch water falling from the Sadon Waterfall. PHOTO: HTAIN NANNAW

ernment help in environmental protection and conservation in case the number of visitors sharply rises. So, please come and visit

the Sadaon Fall and admire its natural beauties. —Kay Kay
(Translated by TMT)

■ ■ ■

Pyithu Hluttaw representatives informed to attend parliamentary session

THE Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw has sent invitation letters to the Pyithu Hluttaw representatives to attend fourteenth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw to be held at Pyithu Hluttaw's meeting hall at 10 am on 4 November 2019 (Monday).

The Pyithu Hluttaw representatives, either they receive the invitation letters or not are urged to contact Pyithu Hluttaw Hall (I-12) not earlier than 2 November (Saturday) and not later than 3 November (Sunday) along with their identity cards. —MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw representatives informed to attend parliamentary session

THE Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw has sent invitation letters to the Amyotha Hluttaw representatives to attend fourteenth regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw to be held at Amyotha Hluttaw's meeting hall at 10 am on 4 November 2019 (Monday).

The Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, either they receive the invitation letters or not are urged to contact Amyotha Hluttaw Hall (I-19) not earlier than 2 November (Saturday) and not later than 3 November (Sunday) along with their identity cards.



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

ASEAN agriculture, fisheries cooperation helps Brunei diversify economy: minister

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN — Agriculture and fisheries cooperation among members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will help Brunei expand its economy and strengthen its diversification efforts, the country's Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism Haji Ali said Saturday.

The minister made the remarks at the Senior Officials' Meeting of the 41st Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers' on Agriculture and Forestry (SOM-41st AMAF) in the capital Bandar Seri Begawan.

In his opening speech, Haji Ali said that cooperation under AMAF is important to Brunei. In addition to opening opportunities to develop the country's agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors, the collaboration will also assist the country in pursuing its vision to further accelerate the growth of output in these sectors, which will contribute to



Brunei's Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism Haji Ali (5th L) poses for a group photo with officials from ASEAN countries during the Senior Officials' Meeting of the 41st Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry, in Bandar Seri Begawan, capital of Brunei, on Oct. 12, 2019. PHOTO: XINHUA

the growth and diversification of the country's economy towards achieving Brunei vision 2035.

The minister added that another important factor to achieve rapid and continuous growth in

agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors for Brunei is promoting the use of modern technology and techniques "This is very important to increase the sectors' productivity and enhance the

sectors' international competitiveness," he said. After SOM-41st AMAF, Brunei will also host the 41st AMAF, the 19th AMAF plus Three (China, Japan and South Korea) on Oct.—XINHUA ■

Foreign fans at World Cup traveling beyond match-hosting cities



Kiki Dete (L) and Polo Blondat at Kumamoto Stadium to support France against Tonga. PHOTO: KYODO

TOKYO—Fans who have come to Japan for the Rugby World Cup are traveling beyond cities hosting the matches during their stays, be it to Mt. Fuji, temples in Kyoto or the Hiroshima peace

memorial, to take in a myriad sights across the nation.

The inbound rugby fans, whom organizers predict to top 400,000 at the six-week tournament, are enjoying the hosts'

hospitality and savoring beers and local cuisines, while Japanese retail and tourism industries try to woo such long-stay, generous spenders.

Jon Moore and his wife Cindy said they came to Japan for two weeks to watch Wales play Georgia in Aichi Prefecture in central Japan, France and the United States in Fukuoka in southwestern Japan and South Africa and Italy in Shizuoka Prefecture, in central Japan.

The Moores, from Springfield, Missouri in the United States, were visiting Japan for the first time.

"Everyone has been awesome. Not even understanding English, they have helped us as much as they possibly could. And everything is so clean and nice. So we would like the country to know, we're very proud of you

guys and that you've done well," Cindy said ahead of the France-U.S. clash in Fukuoka.

"The noodles have been awesome and the tempura, the shrimp and the vegetables, I just loved," she said. The couple also stopped at Kanazawa on the Sea of Japan coast, popular for its centuries-old samurai residences and home to one of the most famous gardens.

The pair said they are celebrating their wedding anniversary by coming to the World Cup, having been to the Wales, England, France and New Zealand tournaments and plan to go to France in 2023.

"Rugby is just part of our life. Rugby is international, the game is played the same all over the world, and because of that we have friends all over the world," Jon said.—Kyodo News ■

The high-tech start-up tackling online extremism

LONDON—Vidhya Ramalingam believes it's always possible to change, even for people deeply involved in the murky online world of jihadist and far-right extremism. Her company Moonshot CVE has the ambitious aim of trying to get anyone tempted by violence back on the straight and narrow. Over the last four years, the London-based start-up has grown quietly but not anonymously, if a recent partnership deal with Facebook is anything to go by. US national Ramalingam and the firm's co-founder Ross Frenett previously worked as researchers into extremism and believe radical groups are often one step ahead

when it comes to technology. "There was a lot of recognition that terrorists were using the internet in creative ways, that they were reaching young audiences, that they were able to innovate," she told AFP in an interview. "Yet those of us that were trying to counter them simply were moving too slowly and had too many constraints to actually replicate those methods for counter-terrorism purposes." That led to the idea of a technology start-up able to keep up with and fight against all forms of violent extremism, from jihadists and neo-Nazis, to nationalists and even "incels".—AFP ■

Russia will work with Saudi to stabilise oil market

MOSCOW—Russia will work with Saudi Arabia against any "attempt to destabilise" the oil market, President Vladimir Putin said in an interview broadcast Sunday, on the eve of a visit to Riyadh.

Tensions in the region are high following attacks on oil installations in Saudi Arabia, which sent prices surging, and the seizure of tankers in the Gulf.

"If anyone believes that acts such as the seizing of tankers or strikes against oil infrastructure could in any way affect the cooperation between Russia and our Arab friends... they are very wrong," Putin said.

"We will absolutely work with Saudi Arabia and our other partners and friends in the Arab world... to reduce to zero any attempt to destabilise the oil market," he said in the interview with Arabic-language news channels.

In recent years, non-member Russia has cooperated closely with the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which is led by Saudi Arabia.

The group has sought to limit supply, leading to a rebound in prices after the collapse of 2014-2015, which badly hit the Russian economy.

"Our goal is to stabilise the situation in the global hydrocarbon market," Putin said.

Last month, Saudi Arabia, the US and a number of European nations accused Iran of being behind the drone attacks on Saudi infrastructure. Tehran denied involvement in the attacks, which were claimed by Yemen's Huthi rebels.

Putin said Russia was ready to participate in an investigation into the incidents.

Moscow, which has "good relations with all the countries in the region" could also play a "positive role" in attempts to ease tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia, Putin said.—AFP ■

Britain's Johnson pushes for last-ditch Brexit deal

LONDON —Prime Minister Boris Johnson was to brief his ministers Sunday on progress in Britain's last-ditch efforts to strike a new Brexit agreement with the EU.

Negotiators went behind closed doors for intensive talks in Brussels after Johnson outlined a new set of divorce terms to Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar on Thursday.

But they have very little time left to succeed.

EU leaders will meet in Brussels on Thursday and Friday for a summit held under the pressures of the October 31 Brexit deadline just two weeks away.

They would ideally like to have a full proposal to vote on by then.

But the sides are trying to achieve in a few days what they

had failed to in the more than three years since Britons first voted to leave the European Union after nearly 50 years.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel will discuss the available options with French President Emmanuel Macron late Sunday and Johnson is to brief his cabinet at lunchtime.

European officials said the bloc's Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier will also brief EU ambassadors on the state of play on Sunday evening.

The few details that have leaked out suggest a compromise around the contentious Irish border issue that keeps Britain's Northern Ireland partially aligned with EU customs rules.

Whether such a fudge suits both Brussels and the more ardent Brexit backers in parlia-



In this file photo taken on March 07, 2018 Britain's then Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson arrives in Downing Street in London. **PHOTO: AFP**

ment who must still approve a deal should become clearer in the coming days.

Johnson rose to power in July on a promise not to extend Brexit for a third time -- even for

a few weeks.

Breaking that pledge could come back to haunt him in an early general election that most predict for the coming months. —AFP ■

Turkey assault could displace 400,000 in Syria: UN



Smoke billows from the Syrian border town of Ras al-Ain on October 12, 2019, as Turkey and its allies continued their assault on Kurdish-held border towns in northeastern Syria. **PHOTO: AFP**

GENEVA—Turkey's deadly assault on Kurdish positions in northeastern Syria has forced 130,000 people to flee their homes,

the UN said Sunday, adding it was preparing for that figure to more than triple. "We have moved into a planning scenario where up to

400,000 people could be displaced within and across the affected areas," Jens Laerke, a spokesman for the UN humanitarian agency

OCHA told AFP in an email, adding that these people would be "in need of assistance and protection." The UN had said Friday that some 100,000 people had been forced to flee their homes since the beginning of Turkey's military incursion on Wednesday, after US President Donald Trump ordered American troops to pull back from the border.

But by Sunday it warned of further displacements from rural areas around Tell Abiad and Ras al-Ain with latest estimates "surpassing 130,000 people".

"Exact numbers cannot yet be ascertained," the agency said in a updated assessment document. Most of the displaced had reached relatives or host communities, but growing numbers were arriving at collective shelters, including in schools. —AFP ■

NEWS In BRIEF

IS families escape Syria camp as Turkey battles Kurds

QAMISHLI—Hundreds of relatives of foreign jihadists escaped from a displacement camp in northern Syria, Kurdish authorities said Sunday, as the number of people fleeing a Turkish assault soared to 130,000.

Fighting raged along the border on the fifth day of an offensive that has provoked an international outcry and left dozens of civilians and fighters dead.

Kurdish authorities and foreign powers have warned repeatedly that the hostilities could undermine the fight against the Islamic State group (IS) and allow jihadists to break out of captivity.

The Kurdish administration in northern Syria said that Turkish bombardment near a camp for the displaced led to nearly 800 relatives of IS members fleeing.

Fighting has engulfed the area since Wednesday when Ankara launched a long-threatened offensive against the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), who it considers "terrorists" linked to insurgents inside Turkey. —AFP ■

Mozambique election to test fragile peace

MAPUTO—Mozambique holds a general election on Tuesday that will test the country's fragile peace as the Frelimo party, faced with economic crisis and chronic conflict, prepares to relinquish at least some control after 44 years in power.

The impoverished southern African nation has seen one of the most violent campaigns in its brief and turbulent history, raising fears that the presidential, parliamentary and provincial polls could be marred by bloodshed. Frelimo has ruled Mozambique since independence from Portugal in 1975 and -- barring a major upset -- is expected to again beat its arch-rival Renamo, a former rebel group turned opposition party. —AFP ■

4 dead, 3 injured at illegal gambling site shooting in NYC

NEW YORK —Four people were killed and three others injured in a shooting in New York's Brooklyn borough on early Saturday, according to the police.

The shooting took place in an illegal gambling site inside a three-floor building in Crown Heights shortly before 7 a.m. (1100 GMT). Four men were pronounced dead at the scene. Another two men and a woman were shot and taken to an area hospital, police said.

The incident apparently stemmed from a dispute, and there's no evidence that it's gang-related, police said. At least 15 shots were fired and two guns were recovered from the scene.

The block where the building is situated was cordoned off by crime-scene tapes. Police and investigators could be seen walking in and out of the site. No arrests have been made and investigation is underway. —AFP ■



This image taken on October 12, 2019, shows Brooklyn's Utica Avenue in New York City. **PHOTO: AFP**

Xi wraps up Nepal visit with agreements on railway, tunnel

KATHMANDU—Chinese President Xi Jinping wrapped up a two-day visit to Nepal on Sunday after overseeing the signing of 20 agreements, including one for a much-touted high-speed railway connecting the two countries.

Delegations from the two countries also agreed to cooperate in building a 28-kilometer tunnel in Nepal, apart from setting up an office of the consulate general of Nepal in Chengdu, southwestern China.

Xi's visit was the first by a Chinese president to the Himalayan nation since 1996.

The 72-km railway, from Rasuwagadhi on Nepal's northern border to Kathmandu, will eventually be connected to the Qinghai-Tibet railway at Paiku Lake in China. Rasuwagadhi is 60 km from Paiku Lake.

The tunnel, to be built along a section from Kathmandu to Rasuwagadhi, will more than halve the road distance from Kathmandu to this border crossing from 145 km to 70 km, said Rajeshwar Gyawali, spokesman of the Physical Infrastructure Ministry. "Apart from reducing road distance, it will be safer," Gyawali told Kyodo News. China is keen on developing this



Chinese President Xi Jinping, accompanied by Nepali President Bidya Devi Bhandari, reviews the guard of honour during a welcome ceremony held at the airport in Kathmandu, Nepal, Oct. 12, 2019. PHOTO: XINHUA

crossing into the biggest between the two neighbors. Xi praised the agreements at a state banquet hosted by President Bidya Devi Bhandari in Kathmandu late Saturday.

"We will help Nepal realize its dream of transforming from a landlocked nation to a land-linked nation," Xi said.

He also said China would open as many ports as possible for trade with Nepal to build a "multi-dimensional trans-Himalayan connectivity network."

However, Sunday's agreements made no mention of new ports. Speaking at the same function, Bhandari said Nepal is eager to see the Chinese train reach

not only Kathmandu, but extend to Lumbini, birthplace of Lord Buddha.

Trade connectivity with China has been a major priority for Nepal since it faced a five-month-long trade blockade imposed by India between 2015 and 2016. It was the third time India blockaded Nepal.—Kyodo ■

S. Korean prime minister to attend emperor's enthronement ceremony

SEOUL—South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak Yon will visit Tokyo next week to attend Emperor Naruhito's enthronement ceremony, the prime minister's office said Sunday.

As ties between Japan and South Korea have sunk to their lowest level in decades over wartime history and trade policy, it will be closely watched whether the visit leads to improved relations.

The Prime Minister's Secretariat said in a statement that Lee will visit Japan from Oct. 22 to 24 to participate in the enthronement ceremony on Oct. 22.

Lee will attend a banquet hosted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, while meeting with other politicians during the three-day trip, it said.

Lee, a former Tokyo correspondent of the South Korean newspaper Dong-A Ilbo, is a fluent Japanese speaker and known to hold a positive attitude toward Japan.

Diplomatic sources well-versed in bilateral affairs said last week that Lee would likely attend the event instead of President Moon Jae In.

Bilateral ties started to chill after a series of South Korean court rulings late last year, ordering Japanese firms to compensate for wartime forced labor during Japan's 1910-1945 colonization.

Japan says the rulings are in breach of their bilateral accord, based on the position that both nations agreed in 1965 to settle the issue of compensation finally and completely.

After the rulings, Japan -- which says its implementation of trade restrictions is unrelated to the compensation dispute -- tightened controls on South Korea-bound exports of key manufacturing materials, and took Seoul off its list of preferred trading partners.

South Korea retaliated by scratching Japan from its own list of trusted partners.—Kyodo ■

At least 26 dead after Typhoon Hagibis slams Japan

TOKYO —At least 26 people were killed by powerful Typhoon Hagibis, local media reported Sunday, a day after the ferocious storm slammed into Japan, unleashing unprecedented rain and

catastrophic flooding.

More than 100,000 rescuers, including 31,000 troops, were working into the night to reach

people trapped after torrential rain caused landslides and filled rivers until they burst their banks.

The destruction forced the Rugby World Cup to cancel a third

tournament match, though a key Japan-Scotland fixture was ruled safe to play.

The storm moved off land on Sunday morning, and while it largely spared the capital, it left a trail of destruction in surrounding regions. The government put the death toll at 14, with 11 people missing, but local media said at least 26 people had been killed, and at least 15 were still unaccounted for.

Rivers overspilled their banks at nearly a dozen locations, including in central Japan's Nagano, where a levee breach sent water from the Chikuma river gushing into residential neighborhoods, flooding homes up to the second floor.

Military and fire department helicopters winched survivors from roofs and balconies in several locations. In Iwaki City, Fukushima, a rescue went tragically awry when a woman died after falling while she was being winched to safety.—AFP ■



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter on Oct. 13, 2019, shows houses in Nagano, central Japan, submerged after the Chikuma River overflowed due to Typhoon Hagibis. PHOTO: KYODO

Down on the farm, Brexit casts its shadow

EAST GRINSTEAD —On the face of it, Ellie Woodcock’s organic farm two hours south of London shouldn’t be affected by Britain’s impending departure from the European Union.

“We don’t export anything, so that wouldn’t affect my farm. We sell very much directly to the English public and quite locally,” she told AFP.

But even with no customs duties to pay or headaches at the border, Brexit can deliver an unexpected bite.

“I think for the farming community, Brexit will have quite a negative impact,” said Woodcock, who co-manages Brambletye Farm, near East Grinstead, in Sussex.

“The farming com-

munity around here really rely on foreign workers, so changes to the legislation and people movement could really affect them.”

“There’s not one positive thing that I can spring out of it, even if I was to twist my mind,” added co-owner Stein Leenders, as he harvested the final fruits of the season.

- Rising overheads - Brambletye grows apples, pears, raspberries and blackberries, and sells eggs laid by dozens of free-range chickens over its nearly 45 acres (18 hectares) of land. Woodcock, Leenders and their 20-odd employees make or grow virtually everything on site, including fruit purees and bottled juice from a shed housing three busy workers. —AFP ■

RCEP trade ministers hold “tough” meeting in Bangkok



In this picture taken on August 15, 2002, a long-tail water taxi zips across Bangkok’s industrial and commercial port. PHOTO: AFP

BANGKOK—Ministers from 16 countries negotiating for an Asia-wide trade pact met Saturday in Bangkok for another round of talks, with host Thailand characterizing the meeting as “very tough and serious.” A senior Thai trade official said that Singapore

was critical of India, which has been accused of stalling progress in the negotiations. A joint statement was notably not issued after the meeting.

“The meeting was very serious in the afternoon. They had almost banged the table,” another official

said. Thai Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit said the meeting is very crucial for all 16 countries to find an agreement so that the RCEP leaders can announce the accomplishments at their summit in November. Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry

Minister Isshu Sugawara told a press conference after the meeting that while progress was made in a number of areas, some points of debate remain to be settled. As for whether the negotiations can be concluded within the year as planned, Sugawara said, “It depends on whether a solution can be found for difficult issues in the remaining period.” Prior to the meeting, Sugawara met with his Australian, New Zealand, and Indian counterparts to seek cooperation. RCEP, covering a third of the global economy, has a history of missed deadlines with varying degrees of ambition among the members that include the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Talks began in 2013 and the initial goal was to wrap them up in 2015. —Kyodo ■

Property investors turn to SE Asia amid Hong Kong unrest

KUALA LUMPUR—From luxury Singapore apartments to Malaysian sea-front condos, Hong Kong investors are shifting cash into Southeast Asian property, demoralised by increasingly violent protests as well as the China-US trade war. Millions have taken to the streets during four months of pro-democracy demonstrations in the southern Chinese city, hammering tourism while also forcing businesses to lay off staff – and the property sector is feeling the pain.

Property stocks in one of the world’s most expensive housing markets have plummeted since June, with developers being forced to offer discounts on new projects and cutting office rents. Hong Kong businessman Peter Ng bought a condominium on the Malaysian island of Penang – which has a substantial ethnic Chinese population and is popular among Hong Kongers --



The unrest in Hong Kong has forced many property investors to focus on Southeast Asian markets like Singapore. PHOTO: AFP

after the protests erupted.

“The instability was a catalyst for me,” the 48-year-old stock market and property investor told AFP, adding he was worried about long-term damage to the Hong Kong economy if the unrest persists.

“Investors will always look at things like that, political stability.” And Derek Lee, a Hong Kong businessman who owns a Penang apartment, said he knew others in the semi-au-

tonomous city who were considering investing in Southeast Asian property because of the unrest.

“People are thinking about how to quicken their ideas, how to make a more stable life,” the 55-year-old told AFP. Adding to the allure of Malaysia is its relative affordability and prices much lower than Hong Kong. The Malaysia site of Southeast Asian real estate platform Property Guru has seen a 35 percent in-

crease in visits from Hong Kong, according to its CEO Hari Krishnan.

China-fuelled boom

While Hong Kong’s protests are primarily pushing for greater democratic freedoms and police accountability, the summer of rage has been fuelled by years of simmering anger towards Beijing and the local government over falling living standards and the high costs of living.—AFP ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V.MAERSKWIESBADENVOY.NO.(939S/941N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK WIESBADEN VOY.NO. (939S/941N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-10-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/T.M.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK WOLGAST VOY.NO. (941N/942S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK WOLGAST VOY.NO. (941N/942S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-10-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Around Indawgyi

Shwe Myintzu Pagoda. **PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)**

By Maung Tha
(Archaeology)

AS an ethnic Kachin family from Kachin State Mohnyin Township had invited me to a traditional new crop eating festival, I went to Hopin Township, Lon Sant Village Tract, Ywathit Village from Yangon by train and motorcycle. I bought a Yangon-Myitkyina train ticket and first took a train to Mandalay. In Mandalay, I changed to Myitkyina train and reached Hopin Town.

Everyday there were five trains from Mandalay to Myitkyina. I took the 4:45 pm train from Mandalay and reached Hopin around 7:30 am the next

day. There Ma Lu Lu Aung was waiting for me with a motorcycle and I took a 2-hour motorcycle ride to Ywathit Village.

Hopin Town was 19 miles from Mohnyin Town while Ywathit Village in Lon Sant Village Tract was 30 miles away from Hopin Town. Ywathit Village only had about 300 houses and was the smallest village of the 19 villages around Myanmar's biggest fresh water Indawgyi Lake. Red Shan, Bama and Kachin ethnic people lived in Ywathit Village and villagers are either Buddhists or Christians. The village had a Buddhist monastery and a Christian

church.

Indawgyi

Indawgyi Lake is Myanmar's biggest freshwater lake. It is 10 miles from Hopin Town and the lake measures 8.1 miles east to west and 15 miles north to south. The lake is 65 ft. deep at the deepest part and is only 3 ft. deep in the shallowest part where the lake bottom can be seen.

Indawgyi can be reached via Hopin and Hopin Town is at the junction of the roads to Phakant, Htanmakhan, Sai Taung, Lonkin and Nantmon region. Hopin Town situated between Mogaung and Mohnyin

towns can be reached from Mandalay and Myitkyina by rail or car. Hopin to Indawgyi is either by car or motorcycles. Pilgrims from various regions usually visit Indawgyi directly by cars.

Water flows into Indawgyi from the mouth of the creek at the north. The water in Indawgyi then flows through Kamine and Mogaung creeks and onto Ayeyawady River. Indawgyi is a lake with water flowing from north to south. Indawlay, a smaller lake 3 miles long and 2 miles wide, is situated in Sagaing Region Indaw Township.

11 village tracts with 38 villages were situated near Indawgyi and 19 villages were on its bank. Mostly Shans and Kachins lived in those villages I went around the lake by motorcycle to visit all of it. As Indawgyi region receives an average annual rainfall of 78 inches, most people in the region lived on agriculture.

Indawgyi region extends up to Kachin State Mogaung Township to the east, Kakyaw mountain pass between Hopin and Mohnyin to the south-east, Sagaing Region Homalin Township to the south, Sagaing Region Bamauk Township and Kachin State Kamine Township to the northwest covering 314.67 square miles.



A flock of seagulls resting on the surface of the Indawgyi Lake. **PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)**



Cane Buddha statue in Nammilaung village. **PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)**



Statues at the Mote So Ma Pagoda. **PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)**



Indawgyi Biosphere Reserve. **PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)**

Indawgyi region was surrounded by mountains rising up to 1,000 ft to more than 4,000 ft. 13 creeks flowing down from those mountains flow into Indawgyi. Although those creeks flow into Indawgyi from four directions, it was only through Mogaung creek that the water flows out from Indawgyi. Indawgyi was on an elevation of 546 ft. above sea level and Indawgyi Lake was the main part of seven miles (east to west) wide, fourteen miles (north to south) long wildlife conservation area.

Of the four major wetland area of Myanmar, the three others being Inle in Shan State, in Bago Region and Moeyungyi

and Meinmahla Island in Ayeyawady Region, Indawgyi was the biggest.

Pagodas around Indawgyi

A trip by motorcycle around the lake starting at Chaungwa Village took me first to Ngwe Myintzu pagoda in Lwe Mon Village. Lwe Mon Village was 33 miles from Hopin, Sai Taung and Phakant road junction. This pagoda was built 80 years after Shwe Myintzu pagoda and was smaller. So it was named Ngwe Myintzu pagoda as a younger brother pagoda to Shwe Myintzu pagoda. Near Ngwe Myintzu pagoda is Mote So Ma (widow) pagoda built right on the bank of

Indawgyi Lake. Curiously there were many statues of women that were said to be widows. At Nammilaung Village was a cane Buddha image that was about 16 ft. high. From there, I went onto Shwe Myintzu Ye Le (ye le means in the middle of water).

Shwe Myintzu Ye Le pagoda

Of the many mountain top and in-water pagodas that Myanmar had, there were three famous in-water pagodas in southern Myanmar and three in northern Myanmar. The three southern in-water pagodas were Kyaik Ka Mi Ye Le Pagoda in Mon State Thanbyuzayat Township, Mawtinzun Pagoda in

Ayeyawady Region Ngapudaw Township and Kyauktan Ye Le Pagoda or Kyakhmawwun Yele Pagoda in Yangon Region Kyauktan Township.

The three in northern Myanmar were Phaungdaw-Oo Pagoda in Shan State Nyaungshwe Township, A Nya Thihataw Pagoda in Sagaing Region KhinU Township and Indawgyi Shwe Myintzu pagoda.

Pagodas in Indawgyi can be visited by land or water. Pagoda festival of Shwe Myintzu Pagoda situated in the water about two furlongs from the west bank of the lake was held from 8th Waxing of Tabaung to 1st Waning of Tabaung. As the day for

the festival approaches, water level in the lake fells and two pathways to the pagoda emerges. Locals term the 3 ft. wide southern pathway as a road for the Nats (celestial being) and the 9 ft. wide northern pathway as a road for the human beings.

Devotees took the northern pathway to walk over the lake to the pagoda and around the closing days of the pagoda festival, the pathways became submerged under water as rain fells. As the northern pathway, the road for the human beings, was now paved with concrete and had lamp poles along the way, people can easily visit the pagoda during the pagoda festival period.

However, before and after the pagoda festival period, the water level in the lake rises submerging the pathways. During such time, Shwe Myintzu pagoda surrounded by water can only be visited by boats. The boat ride cost K 1,000 per person and during the boat ride, many water dwelling birds or water birds can be seen.

(Translated by Handytips)



Aung La beats Vera, retains ONE light heavyweight title

ONE two-division World Champion Burmese Python Aung La Nsang beat Brandon Vera 'The Truth' and retained his ONE light heavyweight championship title at the 'ONE Championship: Century Part 2' event at the Ryogoku Kokugikan sporting arena in Tokyo, Japan.

Aung La defeated Vera 'The Truth' in round two during which the pair pelted each other with a dazzling array of offense — punches, kicks, elbows, and knees — with fight-ending intention.

Aung La swarmed Vera when Vera reached the floor, and landed punch after punch until Vera crumbled to his knees. There, official stoppage came at 3:23 minutes into the second round.

After successfully defending the light heavyweight title, Aung La posted a message on his social media. "First of all, I want to thank God for this victory! I want to thank my father, my family, my

team, and all the fans that have supported me on this journey. I want to say that we must always try to be a better version of ourselves as individuals and together as Myanmar. That is the only way we can move forward to a brighter future. Thank you ONE Championship for the amazing night! Love and bless you all!" he stated.

With the victory, Aung La Nsang has made his first successful defense of the light heavyweight title. He won the light heavyweight title on 23 February, 2018 by defeating Alexandre Machado in Yangon.

Aung La also holds the ONE middleweight title. He won the title against Vitaly Bigdash on 30 June, 2017 in Yangon. He has successfully defended the middleweight title thrice. He managed to hold on to his title for the third time in Tokyo, Japan, where he bested Japan's Ken Hasegawa on 31 March. — Kyaw Khin ■



Aung La Nsang (3rdR), his father (2ndR) and his coach (3rdL) pose for a photo at the 'ONE Championship: Century Part 2' event in Tokyo, Japan. **PHOTO: AUNG LA NSANG FACEBOOK PAGE**

Neymar limps off as Brazil draw with Nigeria



Brazil's forward Neymar (L) shakes hands with team coach Tite as he leaves the field during an international friendly football match between Brazil and Nigeria at the National Stadium in Singapore on 13 October 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

SINGAPORE (Singapore) — Neymar limped off injured early on as Brazil played out a 1-1 friendly draw against a spirited Nigeria at the Singapore National Stadium on Sunday.

The five-time world champions fell behind in the first half, but Casemiro's equaliser early in the second period spared their blushes before Brazil wasted a string of chances to leave Southeast Asia with a victory after also being held by Senegal on Thursday.

Brazil started well, with Liverpool forward Roberto Firmino firing just wide in the third minute after a smart turn near the penalty spot.

However, Brazil were dealt a major blow when Neymar limped off in the 12th minute with what appeared to be a left thigh problem — the Paris Saint-Germain striker replaced by Bayern Munich's Philippe Coutinho to bring a premature end to his 101st international appearance.

Neymar's return to Champions League action may now be delayed, with PSG facing Club Brugge on October 22 after the world's most expensive player missed the first two games through suspension.

"During the match he felt a muscle injury, so I took him off as a precaution," Brazil coach Tite said. "Neymar did not have a muscle issue before the match. I would never start a player if they had a hint of a problem like this, I would never pay that price," Tite added of the 27-year-old, who has suffered a string of injuries since his move from Barcelona to PSG in 2017.

"My career has taught me that I would never use a player if he was not in condition to play. It would be irresponsible of me to risk a player carrying an injury."

Resolute opposition

Neymar will be disappointed he was unable to draw level with Brazil legend Ronaldo, who sits second in the country's all-time scoring list behind Pele, on 62 international goals this week. — AFP ■

Teenage star Gauff beats Ostapenko to win first WTA title

LINZ (Austria) — Teenage prodigy Coco Gauff won her first WTA title on Sunday following a 6-3, 1-6, 6-2 victory over Jelena Ostapenko in the final in Linz that saw her hold her first trophy aloft aged 15.

Gauff, who only entered the field as a lucky loser after failing to qualify, completed a dream week in Linz in front of a supportive crowd to become the youngest player to win a WTA event since Czech Nicole Pietrangeli, who triumphed in Vancouver and Tashkent two months apart in 2004.

"I'll remember this day for the rest of my life," the delighted Gauff said after receiving a minutes-long standing ovation from 3,000 spectators.

"I had an amazing week and I hope to be back in the future."

"I'm still overwhelmed, it's shocking and crazy to say I've won my first WTA title," she added.

"This tournament was definitely not even on the calendar

for me at the start of the season.

"I didn't think I'd have a chance to get in - now I'm the champion."

Gauff will shoot up from 110 in the rankings into the 80s, according to WTA calculations, after becoming the youngest American to earn a WTA trophy since Jennifer Capriati at Toronto in 1991.

The hype surrounding the youngster has grown this year after solid performances this summer at both Wimbledon and the US Open, where she was defeated in the third round by defending champion Naomi Osaka, and her displays in Linz have enthralled tennis fans.

Gauff had to make a recovery in the final after sweeping the opening set but losing serve three times in the second as 2017 Roland Garros winner Ostapenko levelled.

"She started hitting the ball fast and coming up with winners," Gauff said. "There was not much I could do." — AFP ■