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Curriculum Vitae of the Right Honourable Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal

THE Right Honourable Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal was born on 19 June 1961 at Manebhanjyang-2, Bhojpur District of Nepal. She finished her school level education in Bhojpur District and pursued her higher education in Biratnagar, Morang District.

She has significantly contributed in ensuring the women rights and rights of

the backward and disadvantaged people during her political career. She has played a key role to end the gender discrimination and to ensure equal rights of women in Nepal. As a result of her continuous advocacy for the equal rights of women, the present Constitution has guaranteed the provision of at least 33 percent representation of women in all state structures of Nepal.

She served as the Chairperson of All Nepal Women Association from 1997 to 2015, as the Vice-Chairperson of the Central Committee of Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist-Leninist) from 2007 to 2015 for two consecutive terms, as the member of the Central Committee of Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist-Leninist) from 1997 to 2007.



Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari

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International White Cane Day observed in Yangon



YANGON City Development Committee organized the 28th International White Cane Day yesterday morning, with the participation of 1,450 blind persons and visually impaired people, together with their 531 helpers, from 31 blind schools and associations.

The annual event on each 15 October is aimed to recognize the movement of blind people from dependency to full participation in society.

Deputy Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Lin Naing Myint, MPs of regional Hluttaw, Patron of Event Organizing Committee and Deputy Mayor of YCDC U Soe Lwin and wife, Chairperson of Organizing Committee and Secretary of YCDC Daw Hlaing Maw Oo and chairpersons and members of organizing committees and sub-committees, the blind persons and their helpers from schools for the blind and workshops.

The visually impaired people participate in the 28th International White Cane Day event in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

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More western tourists expected as visa-on-arrival scheme takes effect on 1 Oct

MYANMAR is giving visas on arrival to the tourists from six western countries— Italy, Germany, Russia, Australia, Switzerland and Spain, as the new scheme took effect on 1 October.

Officials from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism said the number of inbound tourists is likely to surge thanks to this plan.

“More tourists from the six European countries are expected to visit Myanmar as they have been given visa on arrival access,” said U Naing Win, the director of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism in Yangon Region.

Ordinary passport holders from these six countries can apply for the visa on arrival at Yangon International Airport, Mandalay International Airport or Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.

While tourist arrivals from western countries slightly declined, the number of visitors from the above-mentioned countries is increasing in Myanmar.

Tourist arrival to Yangon Region has been nearly 700,000 up to October this year. — Pwint Thitsar

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Foreign tourists tour the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon. **PHOTO: SOE MYINT AUNG**

People refreshed after Thadingyut holidays

Interviewed by Thi Thi Min, Min Thit (MNA)
Photo by Nay Lin

THE long Thadingyut holidays ended yesterday and today is the start of a refreshed work day when office and factory workers return to their work stations.

As many were returning by cars, buses, trains, boats, ships and by air from their long holiday destinations to their respective duty stations, the express and highway roads were teeming with vehicles while bus stations, train stations, ports and airports were full of travellers returning.

Ma Thin Thwe of Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Department of Social Welfare (Nay Pyi Taw) who returned to her parents in Magway Region, Natmawk Town said, “I return from Natmawk to Nay Pyi Taw today. The bus I took was full both ways as there were a lot of travellers. I bought the return bus ticket three-days in advance on the day I arrived back in Natmawk. I need to back here today as I have to start work tomorrow. I paid homage to my mother and it was a happy reunion with my siblings and relatives. Even though it was a long holiday, I thought it was too short. I want to buy some gifts for my friends here but I ran out of money so I can’t do that!”

It was obvious from the voices heard from the people,



Ko Thant Zin

postings on social media websites and news articles in various media that the government extension of the three-day Thadingyut holidays to five-day was welcomed joyously.

During this Thadingyut holidays many visited famous and well-known places throughout Myanmar such as Mandalay, Bagan-NyaungU, Popa, Pyin Oo Lwin, Taunggyi, Inle, Pindaya, Kalaw, Loikaw, Dawei, Ngapali, Chaungtha, Ngwe Saung, Kyauktiyo, Bago, Myitkyina, Hpa An etc. There were even many who travelled to ASEAN destinations of Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam as well as regional destinations like Korea and China.

Daw Win Nanda Myint who went to visit Maesai, Thailand overland with family during the holiday said “This is the first time our family travelled during Thadingyut. It was due to the long holiday that my husband was able to take us on this trip.



Ma Thin Thwe



Teacher Ma Khin Moe Aye

We were in Tachilek yesterday. We first visit Tachilek Shwedagon Pagoda and then crossed over to Maesai in Thailand. We found many visiting Myanmar people like us in Queen’s Park and Quan Yin monastery. Flight tickets to Tachilek were fully booked and it was lucky we were able to get our tickets. I learnt a lot about the region.”

Ko Thant Zin from Yangon



U Than Win



Daw Win Nanda Myint

Region Bahan Township said, “As my kids had a long school holiday, the whole family went on a tour of upper Myanmar. We first visit Kyaukse and observed the famous elephant dance. We went to Singaung Mountain in Ywangan and bath in Zawgyi River. We visit places of interest in Pyin Oo Lwin. The whole family enjoyed the trip.”

U Than Win working in Yan-

gon Region Thanlyin Township Information and Public Relations Department who visited Bago Region Shwekyi Town said, “I return to Yangon today. I went to Shwekyin Town Thadingyut light festival with my friends. It was just a rest and recreation visit. We went on this trip by a rented car. As it was a long holiday, public servants like us can go on a trip, visit parents and relatives in home town, or even stay at home with family and do good deeds like making a donation. After the holiday, we can return to our job refreshed and ready to take up whatever assignment we may be given.”

Middle school teacher Ma Khin Moe Aye of Yangon Region Hmawby Township who went on a two-day holiday in Chaungtha Beach with family said, “I’m returning to my school in 16th. Even though I enjoy teaching youngsters, I was quite stressed-out after halfway through the school year. This was a welcome break that refreshes me. Now I can return to teach the youngsters with renewed energy.”

People who had enjoyed this long holiday alone or with family, friends, parents and relatives will remember the joyous restful days as they prepare to take up assigned jobs, works, duties and responsibilities with renewed energy and drives.

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Curriculum Vitae of the Right Honourable Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari, President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal

FROM PAGE-1

She was elected as the Member of Parliament in the by-election of 1993, in the mid-term election of 1994 and again in the general election of 1999.

She was appointed as the Minister for Environment and Population in 1997 and as the Minister for Defence from 2010 to 2012 before being elected as the Member of the Constituent Assembly of Nepal from 2013 to 2015. She was

elected as the first woman President of Nepal on 28 October 2015. She has been serving her second term as the President of Nepal since 13 March 2018 after winning the election.
Her late husband Madan Kumar

Bhandari was new Marxist philosopher of Communist movement in Nepal, who propounded the new dimension of Marxist ideology entitled People's Multiparty Democracy. They are blessed with two daughters.

Myanmar medical experts to attend public health conference in Lao PDR

HEALTH professionals from the University of Public Health, the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine from the medical universities and the University of Community Health will attend the 11th International Conference on Public Health among Greater Mekong Sub-region Countries (11th GMS-ICPH) which will be held in Vientiane of Lao PDR from 17 to 19 October.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe met with these medical experts and delivered a speech at the University of Public Health in Yangon yesterday morning.

The Union Minister asked them to share and discuss idea, experience and lessons on public health-related fields and to link with other international health experts and networks at the conference.

He also advised reapplying

the knowledge gained from the conference in their research works and the public health sector. The Union Minister then invited the healthcare staff to attend the Department of Medical Research (Pyin Oo Lwin Branch), to learn English language skills and to develop research works.

Then, Myanmar delegation led by Professor Dr Hla Hla Win from the University of Public Health introduced their research papers and posters to be presented in the conference, and explained the plans to reapply knowledge gained from conference at the relevant institutions.

The conference will be held with the theme of "Improving Health Equity among Greater Sub-Mekong Region: A Public Health Challenge", and will be attended by the teachers of public health universities and



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe delivers the speech at the meeting with medical experts at the University of Public Health in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

researchers from six Great-er Mekong Sub-region (GMS) countries Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand. —MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)

International White Cane Day observed in Yangon



Deputy Mayor of YCDC U Soe Lwin shoots up the starter's gun to start the 28th International White Cane Day walk yesterday. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

FROM PAGE-1

After shooting the starter's gun, the participants began walking from Yangon City Hall, through Sule Road, Merchant Road, Strand Road, Phone Gyi Road and Mahabandoola Road, and arrived back to the destination of starting point.

People along the route cheered them and presented them with foods and snow towels.

After appraising the participants, the Deputy Mayor and wife, Chairman of Regional Hluttaw Bill Committee, Chairman of Public Account Committee, and Chairperson and members of Organizing Committee presented the trophy and gifts to the schools for the blind, and the sunglasses were also given to the blind children.

Mg Yaw Shu from Myanmar Christian Fellowship of the Blind expressed thanks for the event and the awards, followed by the entertainment programmes of the blind.

The officials of YCDC took the participants from the schools for the blind and workshops to the playground of People's Park for relaxation.

YCDC started organizing the International White Cane Day in 1992, to convey the message about blindness and how the blind and visually impaired can live and work independently while giving back to their communities, to celebrate the abilities and successes achieved by blind people in a sighted world and to honor the many contributions being made by the blind and visually impaired.—Ye Ye Myint
(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Information Minister attends welcoming ceremony of 'ASEAN-Korea Train' programme

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint and the Myanmar delegation landed in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, at 7 am local time yesterday.

They attended the welcoming ceremony of 'ASEAN-Korea Train' programme which was held at the Hilton Hotel Grand Ballroom at noon.

Secretary-General of ASEAN-Korea Centre Mr Lee Hyuk and Philippine Department of Tourism Assistant Secretary Reynaldo Lacao Ching made the welcoming speeches to the participants of senior government officials from ASEAN member countries and the ROK before the ASEAN-Korea Train

programme video was shown and the documentary photo taken.

In the evening, the Union Minister and party attended the KBS Open Concert and dinner to mark the welcoming ceremony of 'ASEAN-Korea Train', at the KBS Hall (Korean Broadcasting System) in Yeouido, Seoul.

Together with the Union Minister, the opening ceremony and dinner were attended by Myanmar Ambassador to ROK U Thant Sin and the delegation members Deputy Permanent Secretary U Myint Kyaw, Head of International Relations Department of Yangon University



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint and officials from South Korea and ASEAN member countries pose for documentary photo at the welcoming ceremony of 'ASEAN-Korea Train' in Seoul yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Professor Dr Chaw Chaw Sein, Executive Committee member of UMFCFI Dr Soe Tun, Actor Myo Htut Naing (a) Khar Yar from Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, Member of Ayeyawady Region Youth Affairs Committee U Myo Thura Ko Ko and Mandalay Region Youth

Affairs Committee Thant Lwin Oo (a) Su Sha Shin Thant.

With the theme of 'Advancing Together', the programme from 15 to 19 October is aimed to foster deeper cultural understanding and better bilateral relations between the ROK and ASEAN countries.

It is organized by the ASEAN-Korea Centre and hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to mark the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-Korea dialogue as an official side event for the ASEAN-Korea summit in Busan next month.—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myintkyina hosts International White Cane Day 2019

THE mass walking event to mark the 2019 International White Cane Day was held yesterday in Myitkyina, Kachin State.

The event started at 6.30 a.m with the headmaster and students from Ayemya Tharyar school for the blind, Lin Lat Kyal center for the blind, the Regional Women's Affair Federation, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross Society, nursing training school, Education College, and the Fire Service Department participated in the event.

Also, the city hall continued to celebrate the day and Dr Khet Aung, Regional Minister,

delivered the opening speech. U Thein Lwin, general secretary of Myanmar Christian Fellowship of the Blind (MCFB) thanked the donors, noting the K10 million from the Regional Government, over K5.3 million from Regional Ministers and departments, K100,000 from Women's Affair Federation and others.

At the event, students from the blind school and Lin Lat Kyal center performed songs and dance. Additionally, Regional Minister and other officials toured the exhibition where the handicrafts of the visually impaired were showcased. — IPRD ■

(Translated by La Wonn)



People participate in mass walk event to mark International White Cane Day 2019 in Myitkyina in Kachin State on 15 October.

PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD

Union Construction Minister inspects infrastructural developments in Chin State



Union Minister U Han Zaw and officials inspect the buildings under construction in Chin State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Construction U Han Zaw, accompanied by Chin State' Chief Minister U Salai Lian Lwal, looked into the constructions and developments of roads, bridges and state-owned buildings in Chin State on 15 October.

They inspected the works of Chin State's Road Management Department, including the expansion of 12 ft-wide tarred road on the road section of Hakha-Thantlang, construction of reinforced rock walls and paving Asphalt Cement (AC) road in Thantlang Town.

The Union Minister and officials also inspected constructions of Thantlang-Sasichauk road section, and the 17-mile long Hnaringkham- Cikha road constructed by the Village Development Department to link with Thantlang-Sasichauk road.

They also arrived at the constructions of Hakha University's convocation hall supervised by the Special Building Group (9) under the Building Department and a three-storey RC structure of Chin State' High Court supervised by the Special Building Group (6).

Union Minister U Han Zaw also held a meeting with the staff members of Road Management Department, Village Development Department and Special Groups of Chin States, and called for infrastructural development in Chin State and free from corruption in their works.

The Union Minister also inspected the Hakha-Gangaw road upgraded by Hakha district's Road Management Department and the Special Road Group (12).—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Inflation rate in Aug increases to 8.53%, 3.72 % higher than expected rate

THE annual rate of inflation in Myanmar as of August, based on the Consumer Price Index, reached a high of 8.53 per cent, according to a report released by the Central Statistical Organization under the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

The average inflation rate for the 2018-2019 FY was 4.81 per cent, according to the Ministry of Planning and Finance. However, the inflation rate in August is up 3.72 per cent, compared with the expected rate.

The rate exceeded the expectation in the 11 months of last

FY, gradually increasing from 6.34 per cent in October; 6.66 per cent in November; 6.86 per cent in December; 6.94 per cent in January; 7.07 per cent in February; 7.28 per cent in March; 7.51 in April; 7.82 per cent in May; 8.08 per cent in June, and 8.35 per cent in July to 8.53 per cent in August.

The value of the Myanmar Kyat against the US dollar remained on the high side in August. Despite a slight decrease in fuel oil prices, the commodity price rose slightly.

There was a significant increase in CPI in the food, house-

hold goods and maintenance, other commodities, clothing, health, recreation, culture, non-food and tobacco and beverages groups, excluding telecommunications and transportation, while the CPI on educational services remained stable against July.

The average inflation rate touched 8.59 per cent in September, 2018 and rose to 8.85 per cent in October 2018. It began to decline gradually in November and December 2018, and registered a sharp drop to 6.14 per cent in January this year. The rate rose gradually from February and

reached its highest level in August this year at 8.53 per cent.

In the past 12 months, the year-on-year inflation rate was the highest at 10.37 per cent in August, while core inflation, which strips out volatile food and energy prices, was 13.87 per cent.

In August, Magway Region recorded the highest inflation rate at 12.57 per cent, followed by Sagaing Region at 10.66 per cent, and Chin State at 10.07 per cent. The year-on-year inflation rate fluctuated with a maximum rate of 15.7 per cent in Sagaing Region and a minimum rate of

2.59 per cent in Kachin State.

Earlier, the inflation rate was calculated based on a 2006 survey. The base year was later changed to 2012. The Central Statistical Organization conducted a Household Income and Expenditure Survey in 82 townships in November 2012. To reduce the inflation rate, the authorities have been making efforts through policies on finance, currency, trade, and foreign currency control, in keeping with the second five-year National Development plan. — Htet Myat ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Local gold price likely to continue falling to some K1.2 mln

By Nyein Nyein

THE local gold price is expected to continue to drop, reaching a low of some K1.2 million per tical (0.578 ounces or 0.016 kilograms), said U Ohn Myaing, general secretary of the Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association (MGEA).

In early September, the price of pure gold crossed K1.3 million per tical in the domestic market, and it later plunged to K1,225,000 per tical on 15 October. The gold price is likely to maintain its fall, he added.

“It is possible that the price has further to fall. It is likely to hit a low of K1.2 million per tical”, said U Ohn Myaing.

The domestic gold price is positively related to the global gold price, which is currently pegged at US\$1,493 per ounce in the global market, said gold

traders.

At present, the gold price is on the low side. As it is harvest time and open season, the market has become busy with traders, he continued.

The domestic gold price has reached above K1.2 million per tical from 7 August and, thereafter, it kept rising, hitting a record high of K1.3 million per tical on 5 September, said businessmen.

With global gold prices on the uptick, the domestic price has hit fresh highs this year, reaching K1,000,000 per tical between 17 January and 21 February, crossing K1,100,000 (22 June to 7 August), climbing to 1,200,000 (7 August- 4 September), and then reached the fresh peak of K1,300,000 on 5 September.

According to gold traders, the lowest price for gold in June was K1,099,000 (1 May) and the



A man negotiates the price of gold jewellery at a gold jewellery shop in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

highest was K1,149,400 (31 June). Gold prices reached the lowest level of K1,142,000 on 1 August

and the highest level of K1,260,500 on 29 August. Last month, prices moved in the range of K1,223,800

(14 September) and 1,307,000 (5 September). ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Sino-Myanmar border trade drops US\$1.16 bln in 2018-2019 FY

SINO-MYANMAR border trade registered a sharp fall of US\$1.16 billion in the last fiscal year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Data from the Ministry of Commerce shows the value of Sino-Myanmar border trade reached US\$5.89 billion between 1 October, 2018 and 30 September, 2019, which fell from \$7.05 billion recorded in the year-ago period. In the last fiscal year, total border trade was pegged at over \$10 billion.

At present, border trade between Myanmar and China has returned to normal. Fighting in northern Shan State had

brought about a temporary closure of trade. Additionally, the export of agricultural products has been halted often, due to China's clamping down on illegal goods. Myanmar merchants are facing difficulties in exporting goods to China through legitimate channels, as they find the tax levied by China to be too high. Therefore, the confiscation of rice and manipulation of prices are occurring often at the border.

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 exports rice, sugar, pulses, sesame seeds, corn, dried tea leaves, fishery products, minerals, and animal products to China, while it imports agricultural machinery, electrical appliances, iron and steel-related materials, raw industrial goods and consumer goods from China.

This FY, border trade values totalled \$4.89 billion at the Muse border gate, \$144.87 million at Lweje, \$540.76 million at Chinshwehaw, \$296.449 million at Kanpikete, and \$8.5 million at Kengtung. — Htet Myat ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Mineral exports down \$700 mln in last fiscal year

MYANMAR'S mineral exports to foreign countries registered US\$1.46 billion between 1 October and 30 September in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

The figure plunged by \$702 million, compared with \$2.16 billion from the one-year ago period. Of the seven export groups, agriculture, livestock, fishery and finished industrial goods showed increases, while exports of minerals, forest products and other categories declined.

The country's export sector relies more on the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. While export earnings from the

CMP (cut, make, and pack) garment businesses are rising, the country's reliance on natural resources, such as natural gas and jade, is lessening.

The extraction of natural resources is limited, and so exports of forest products and minerals significantly dropped this year.

Export values stood at \$3.26 billion for agro products, \$366 million for livestock, \$731.9 million for fishery products, \$1.46 billion for minerals, \$174 million for forest products, over \$10 billion for manufactured goods, and \$765.7 million for all other goods. — GNLM ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Best spots to be selected for taking tourist photos in Yangon Region

By Nyein Nyein

THE most scenic spots in Yangon Region will be chosen based on a contest so tourists can visit the places and take photographs, said Naw Pan Thinzar Myo, the Yangon Region Minister for Kay-in Ethnic Affairs and the vice chairperson of the Regional Tourism Committee.

To publish a catalogue of such picture-worthy places, a photo contest will be held this month, she added.

“We plan to hold a photo contest to choose ten interesting places to take photos at. Nowadays, people are taking photos

and posting them on social media like Facebook and Instagram. We want all tourists visiting Yangon to take photos in those ten interesting places. The Regional Tourism Committee will award the winner chosen by the Myanmar Photographic Society and travel and tour companies. The Shwedagon Pagoda can be the best place to take photos or have photos taken. Through the photos, we can show the scenic beauty of Yangon region,” said Naw Pan Thinzar Myo.

Yangon is the most important commercial centre in Southeast Asia and has several historical buildings, according

to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

Tourists visit significant places in Yangon region such as the Shwedagon pagoda, Sule pagoda, Botahtaung pagoda, the Old Secretariat office, Kandawgyi garden, Bogyoke Aung San market, the centre of town which has many colonial buildings, Hlawga Wildlife National Park, National Races Village, Thanlyin Kyaikkhauk pagoda, and Tauckyan War Cemetery.

The authorities are preparing to introduce a rating system for the services offered by hotels, guest houses, and restaurants to promote tourism.

Currently, tourist arrivals from China are the highest. More than 740,000 tourists entered Myanmar between January and July this year, up from over 640,000 tourists during the same period in 2018, said U Nang Win, the director of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Yangon Region).

Earlier, the hotels and tourism sector was regulated by the Union government. After the enactment of the Myanmar Tourism Law 2018, the sector has been decentralized and more power has been accorded to the region and state governments.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Personal goods to be generated from waste materials

THE opening ceremony of a training course on manufacturing personal goods from waste materials was held yesterday at Kyut Kyut Center near Min Ye Kyaw Swar road and Bo Min Yaung road, Kamar Kasit Ward in Dala Township.

“We opened the training course to manufacture household items on a wide scale from waste materials. Just as women can earn extra income, we can also conserve the environment at the same time”, said Daw Win Di, Managing Director of Kyut

Kyut Center.

Kyut Kyut Center is operating with the support of Italy. The centre was officially founded in 2014 and has already provided 30 training courses to manufacture household items from waste materials. The current training will be conducted from 15 October to 3 December. Similar training courses have been opened in Chin, Rakhine, Kayar and Shan States.

The training courses include making household items, such as bags, boxes and



Trainees make household goods from waste materials in Kyut Kyut center in Dala Township. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG**

cups by using coffee bags, tires, plastic bags, empty bottles and umbrellas. There are 12 women trainees this period. The training course was provided by Kyut

Kyut project, in cooperation with Share Mercy Social Organization. — Myint Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Inland Water Transport Department earning well through Yangon-Dala ferry boat services during Thadingyut holidays

WITH the number of passengers increasing during the Thadingyut holidays, compared with other seasons, the Yangon-Dala ferries are serving the transportation needs of passengers.

The Inland Water Transport Department is endeavoring to ensure the safe and convenient transportation for passengers, and the Yangon-Dala ferry has been providing regular service without reducing its rounds to large numbers of passengers during the long Thadingyut holidays.

“The number of passengers are increasing during the Thadingyut festival and the

manager and other officials from the department have arranged the smooth and safe transportation for passengers”, said U Thein Myint, Assistant manager of the Inland Water Transport Department (Delta Division).

Currently, the department is serving the Yangon-Dala ferry boat service with three vessels – Cherry 1, 2 and 3 – which were donated by Japan. The Yangon-Dala ferry boats run 48 trips per day, with over 30,000 passengers. The department can earn over K3 million per day, especially during the holidays. As Yangon is the commercial hub of Myanmar,



Passengers get off a ferry at the Dala Jetty in Botahtaung Township, Yangon. **PHOTO: NAING LIN KYAW (DALA)**

Yangon is packed with daily commuters and is earning revenues through fares collected on the

Yangon-Dala ferry service. — Naing Lin Kyaw (Dala)

(Translated by La Wonn)

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Strong institutions needed to sustain democracy

DEMOCRACY is a culture, rather than a system, as it involves not only political, but also social, economic, and philosophical values.

In order for our country to succeed in building a democracy, we need the relevant institutions that are based on democratic values to be strong.

In addition to a country's Constitution and its critical provisions —freedom of expression, freedom of association, and rule of law —governance-related institutions, such as the civil service, the judiciary, the military, and other local institutions, need to be developed for the growth and maintenance of a democratic culture.

These are believed to be the key institutions that can contribute significantly towards sustaining a democracy, if they become effective in their roles.

The right attitude or goodwill of each institution is the most important factor to reach our goal of establishing a democracy. Each institution should be brave enough to listen to the voices of critics and to try to understand the people.

The future of our next generation depends on the goodwill, diligence, and ability of these important institutions to implement policies that ensure the development of democracy.

There is a common belief that the process of building a democracy is never complete. Democracy is both a process and a goal.

Institutions based on democratic values are also best equipped to carry out the democratization process and to help reach the goal of democracy.

Strengthening democratic institutions, values, and practices is the most effective way of preventing conflict, both within and between societies, so as to promote security for all.

In this age of globalization, all individuals who are outstanding in their respective field can get a place in the international community.

To be able to pull the majority of our citizens out of poverty, our democratic institutions need to be strong and practice genuine goodwill.

Only strong democratic institutions and practices, based on the principles of pluralism, inclusion, and the rule of law, can lay the foundation for societies in which the rights and interests of all can be promoted and protected.

The right attitude or goodwill of each institution is the most important factor to reach our goal of establishing a democracy. Each institution should be brave enough to listen to the voices of critics and to try to understand the people. Besides, these institutions should have the ability to distinguish between right and wrong and to choose the right way.

With an understanding of right and wrong, and by carrying out reforms, the pragmatic approach of the institutions towards sustaining a democracy would be a key factor in building our democracy and raising it beyond slogans and signboards.

■ ■ ■

"The Czech Republic as an EU member country would like to serve as a bridge between the European Union and both Myanmar and the region in order to bring about a better understanding of each other."

Czech Ambassador Jaroslav Dolecek

By GNLM

Q1. Excellency, We would also like to know the depth of changes and pace of reforms you have noticed during your term in Myanmar.

I arrived in your country in April 2015, before the general elections, and saw enthusiasm, expectations and hope for more changes and reforms. Some of these changes had already started and some were on the way —logically at a different depth and pace. Changes worth mentioning are: the mobile phone era, the drive for the internet, a passion for Facebook —connected with that an awareness of the people and freedom of expression —better transportation, a more modern infrastructure, an increase in Foreign Direct investment, the selling of brand new cars, more small and medium enterprises, electricity in more parts of Myanmar, more shopping malls and a greater variety of products. In addition, Mandalay was awarded the fifth smartest city in ASEAN and Bagan was UNESCO listed etc.

And reforms? Many new laws were passed in Parliament, such as the New Myanmar Investment and Companies Law as well as reforms in the financial services sector and some others. Of course, a 4-year term is a challenge for any government to make all the changes and reforms it would want or like to. Still, some changes remain to be made; but in my opinion the depth and pace of them is related to the speed of your transition to democracy and the rule of law, which when compared to other countries around the world is remarkable.

I come from a country that also experienced substantial social and economic transition and our own story is a perfect example of the fact that change and development is possible. We graduated from an international aid recipient to a respected member of the donor community but it took us 20 years of intensive work. Myanmar is now in only the first quarter of that period and has the full potential to succeed as well, if the pace of reforms is kept up, or even slightly increased.

Q2. Excellency, please share



Ambassador H.E. Jaroslav Dolecek. PHOTO: KYAW ZEYA

your experience relating State Counsellor Excellency Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's official visit to the Czech Republic in June.

Yes, I am happy to share my experience with great pleasure. For me personally, as well as for my country, the official visit of the State Counsellor H.E. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was the peak and highlight of Czech and Myanmar diplomatic relations.

It was after a long 53 years, the first high-level visit from the Myanmar side. I would like to call this first visit to Europe after June 2017, a friendly visit based on a genuine long-term friendship between our peoples and particularly their representatives.

It was no coincidence that H.E.'s stay in Prague started with the laying of flowers at the grave of our former president Vaclav Havel, who was such a close friend and supporter of H.E. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the people of Myanmar during some of the more difficult times for your country.

Other notable highlights of the visit were: the official receptions by our President, Prime minister and other high representa-

tives, a very successful business forum, her memorable speech and the receiving of the Historical Medal at Charles University and the opening of a photo exhibition called Beauties of Myanmar and lastly, but not least, the opening of the Myanmar embassy in Prague, the first newly opened embassy of your country during the term of your current government.

So overall, what did this visit bring to both countries? Firstly, a deepening of our friendship and a better understanding of each other, and secondly the promotion of our economic cooperation and of course everything has been done for the benefit of our both nations in a bilateral way but also with the added dimension of the involvement of the EU and fellow member states.

Q3. After the official re-opening of Myanmar embassy in Prague, Myanmar Woman Ambassador to the Czech Republic Daw Kay Thi Soe was appointed. We want to know your impression on significant achievements of Myanmar-Czech diplomatic relations.

We welcome the re-opening of the Myanmar Embassy in Prague and sincerely believe it will bring a new wind to the sails of mutual relations. In the last few years, we have seen a rapid increase in the diplomatic activities of both sides. We had two successful visits by Czech ministers to Myanmar; the opening of our Honorary Consulate in Mandalay and the already high-level state visit to Prague in June this year. And since the opening of our embassy in Yangon in 2014 and after my arrival there, we have tried to make Czech Republic in your country visible. We have implemented many development and transition projects, provided humanitarian aid assistance after natural catastrophes, and helped with the building of infrastructure. We built schools, reconstructed drug rehabilitation centre and saved the lives of farmers by providing snakebite antivenom. We also successfully engaged in economic diplomacy at government-to-government and business-to-business levels.

However, we know that there is still also room for improvement. Now, together with our dear colleagues from the Myanmar Em-

bassy in Prague, we can multiply our efforts to enhance our diplomatic relations at the highest levels.

Q5. Excellency, what would be our economic cooperation priorities?

There are many examples of ongoing cooperation between individual companies. Most current business operations are in the form of mutual trade exchanges in glass, food, machinery, pharmacy and so on. Some Czech companies have found exclusive distributors in Myanmar and are building long-term strategic partnerships, such as in the case of Czech crystal glass manufacturers. Our Embassy is actively assisting Czech exporters and will continue with this; however, we are still waiting for a Czech company to reach out to us for assistance with an invest-

The Czech Republic is very much aware of the scope of the challenges lying ahead of Myanmar. We also know that time is the most crucial aspect and to give time means to provide an opportunity to face challenges and deal with them.

ment project and that could be our goal for the future. We intend to encourage a bigger flow of business groups from both sides in attending various economic forums, to participate in trade fairs and to, ultimately, establish mutually fruitful business partnership.

Q4. Excellency, full-fledged embassies were already opened in Myanmar and the Czech Republic. Please tell us future cooperation in bilateral, regional and multinational levels.

The Czech Republic would like to continue strengthening bilateral relations with Myanmar that are at an historic high this year. The fact that we share many similar points in our history and have a good understand-

ing of one another brings many opportunities to strive for better engagement across culture, education, economy and trade, and people-to-people policy. At regional and multinational levels, the Czech Republic as an EU member country would like to serve as a bridge between the European Union and both Myanmar and the region in order to bring about a better understanding of each other.

Q7. Education is the basic foundation for sustainable peace, development and democracy. Excellency, what would you like to say about the education reforms for better education system in Myanmar.

The Czech Republic is very much aware of the scope of the challenges lying ahead of Myanmar. We also know that time is the most crucial aspect and to give time means to provide an opportunity to face challenges and deal with them. There will always be events that make headlines and the context that simply stays in the background. This means that due to the Rakhine issue other serious issues may not be as visible and do not capture world attention as much. In my opinion, however, one could take care of human rights in parallel in your country and at the same time focus on the development on needed infrastructure everywhere. I will give you an example concerning the lack of road network in Myanmar. Once a Myanmar businessman showed me a part of Myanmar on the map where there are no roads. Moreover, he pointed out that when roads are built there, the development of transportation, trade, infrastructure, peace, stability and more importantly better lives of local people will follow. I agreed.

Our country also contributes to global efforts towards peace and prosperity in partnership with Myanmar. An important part of our cooperation is in the education sector, which is an investment in the future of the country. Our assistance is always impartial and no community or group is preferred or left behind.

Q7. Education is the basic foundation for sustainable peace, development and democracy. Excellency, what would you like to say about the education reforms for better education system in Myanmar.

I have seen, to my personal satisfaction, that the awareness of the need for education reform in Myanmar and the effort with which your government has been addressing this problem.

SEE PAGE-10



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 15th October, 2019)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 16th October, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, scattered in Naypyitaw, Magway Region, Southern Shan and Rakhine States, fairly widespread in (Northern and Eastern) Shan State and widespread 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 rain or thundershowers in Shan State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th October, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th October, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th October, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Returning to work re-energized post Thadingyut holidays

FOLLOWING are some people who were in or passed through Mandalay Region during the long Thadingyut holidays, and voices heard from them as they head back to their respective duty stations.

Daw Su Su Han, Assistant Manager, Myanmar Post Office headquarter, Nay Pyi Taw

I came to Mandalay to stay with my parents during the holiday. Today, I'm going back to Nay Pyi Taw. As I booked a round trip bus ticket, this was not an issue. I pay homage to Phayagyi (this was how locals called Mandalay Mahamuni Pagoda) as well as pay my respect to my parents. I simply helped my parents with household chores. It was good to be together with my nieces and nephews too. This was why people like us cherish and value this long Thadingyut holiday. I'm returning to work with a new body,



Daw Su Su Han.

spirit and strength.

Ma Htut Myat Wei Lwin, company employee from Yangon

I'm visiting Mandalay together with my friends. This is the first time I was here. It was an enjoyable first visit. We went up to Pyin Oo Lwin by motorcycles. The way up and down the winding mountain road was great and was happy to visit many pago-



Daw Ei Shwe Wah.

das. Having such long holidays renewed our strengths. That was why I think 2019 Thadingyut holiday was great. I think all who went on a holiday during this time would have a great time and return to their works with renewed strength and energy.

Ko Kyaw Win Tun, Mandalay Min Express Bus manager, Mandalay

On regular days, our express bus line operates 25 express bus trips between Yangon and Mandalay. During this holiday period, this was increased up to 40 trips due to increased numbers of travellers. Furthermore, there were normally three express buses doing the day run but today six more buses were added to the schedule to meet the huge amount of people returning to their work stations after the long holiday. So there were nine buses doing the day run. Depending upon the number of travellers, the number of buses doing the



Ko Kyaw Win Tun.

overnight trip will be increased as required. We were doing the best we can to accommodate the increased numbers of travellers during the holiday period without increasing our bus fares.

Daw Ei Ei Mon, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Nay Pyi Taw

I return to see my parents and grand-parents in Mandalay during this long holiday. It was not convenient to return during normal weekends. Bus ticket was bought ten days in advance so I was able to travel on the day I want to. I'm happy to be with my parents and grand-parents during this long holiday. As I was able to rest well with my parents, I can now go back to work full of energy and strengths.

Daw Ei Shwe War, Government Technical College, Magway Region, Chauk Township

I went on a holiday with my friends to Taunggyi, Inle and Pin-

daya region. I'm now in Mandalay to return to Chauk. It was great to be with friends on a holiday and great to experience places that were different from where I was from. We always look forward to the long holidays to break away from the daily routine. It was great that the Thadingyut holiday was increased from the usual 3-days to 5-days making up for the holidays that fell in on Saturday and Sunday. Having such long holidays renewed our strengths and energy to return to our daily works.

Ma Hnin Wathon, Ayeyarwady Bank, Yangon

Our bank also closes five days for Thadingyut holiday. This allows me to visit Mandalay with my friends. This was the first time I've been to Mandalay and I had a great time visiting historical pagodas. I also went to visit pagodas in Sagaing and also went up to Pyin Oo Lwin. Pyin Oo Lwin was fantastic as it was a complete change of surroundings for a person like me who was from Yangon. But the visit to Mingun region was the best as I was able to see firsthand where Mingun Sayadaw had stayed and to know more about his life there. Holidays like this are a great change for people like us who are doing the daily routine days after days. I can now go back and do the routine works with renewed energy and drive. — Min Htet Aung (Sub-printing house) and Aung Phyo Kyaw

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Passengers aboard the express bus after enjoying their Thadingyut holiday. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)

The Czech Republic as an EU member country would like to serve as a bridge ...

FROM PAGE-9

I would like to mention some of the government's initiatives such as the investment in education, the dramatic increase in the number of teachers or the expansion of access to basic education. But I have learned that there are still some challenges ahead for example the development of preschool education, the need to improve the quality of and access to basic education and teacher education and management. I am very proud to say that in terms of efforts for better education, Myanmar has supporters from the EU and its member states, which includes the Czech Republic, who have already contributed 221 million Euros to education reforms in Myanmar.

I also see the growing interest of your young generation in

taking up opportunities to study abroad and in doing so get a more complex and broader view, which will then help them in tackling difficulties at home. Everybody knows that the youth is the future of any country in the world, and this is no different for Myanmar. Let us help you in this endeavour and encourage people not to be afraid of education reforms.

Q8. Besides the State level and high level exchange of visits, we would like to know future plans for strengthening regular people-to-people contacts.

The people-to-people contacts have been, and are being, carried out across many spheres: culture, education, institutional contact and through the work of civil society. The Czech Republic has been realizing a number of

different projects in Myanmar, which have concentrated on civil society, the rule of law, human rights and education. We would also like to strengthen cultural ties between our two countries, to bring more of Czech culture to Myanmar and to assist our Myanmar friends in presenting your culture to the Czech people.

In addition, our projects provide support for Czech-Myanmar economic cooperation and contribute to strengthening people-to-people contact. Many trade deals later lead to long-term partnerships and even friendships between Czech and Myanmar businessmen and women. Another example is tourism. There are a growing number of Czechs who arrive in Myanmar, often as individual tourists, and make contacts here that remain strong even after they return home;

there are also a growing number of Myanmar travel agencies that are interested in operating tours to the Czech Republic, so the contacts are likely to become even closer and stronger in the future.

Q9. What do you like most about living and working in Myanmar?

Well, it is hard to count everything I enjoy most about living and working here, but OK I will try my best. Working in Myanmar for me, as the first Czech resident ambassador, was an honour and a privilege, because I have been witness to very exciting times in the history of your country, times of great hope for change, and times of great hope for the better lives of the people living in peace and harmony.

During our stay in your beautiful and photogenic country, my

wife and I have been fortunate to do a lot of traveling. We were fascinated by the unspoiled nature and the authentic culture. We enjoyed your food, such as my beloved mohinga, tea leaf salad or Shan noodles.

But if I had to mention only one thing, the thing that stands out to me most is you – the people of Myanmar. It doesn't matter the age, gender or position, it doesn't matter the state or region, during my term here I have met and enjoyed my time with a people who are openhearted, genuine, smart, capable, dedicated, clever and resilient. To me, the Myanmar people are the greatest asset of your country. I will be leaving your country soon but will be keeping the people and their warmth with me in my heart forever.



Feasibility study carried out to construct Balaminhhtin Bridge No. 2



Balaminhhtin Bridge No.1 in Myitkyina, Kachin State. **PHOTO: HTEIN NAN NAW**

FEASIBILITY study on constructing Balaminhhtin Bridge No. 2 had begun, according to Kachin State based Special Bridge-Group 1 of the Department of Bridge.

“Hydrographic survey to construct Balaminhhtin Bridge No. 2 was contracted to Directorate of Water Resources and

Improvement and works had started on this. Arrangements were made to determine the axis of the bridge and road and to produce a scale model. Bridge design work will be coordinated with the head office of Department of Bridge under the Ministry of Construction after soil test works were

completed,” said Kachin State based Special Bridge Group 1 Deputy Director U Saw Zarni Hla.

In addition to conducting a feasibility study to construct Balaminhhtin Bridge No. 2, Special Bridge Group 1 was also conducting maintenance works on Balaminhhtin Bridge

No. 1. Balaminhhtin Bridge No. 2 was planned to be constructed as a steel frame bridge that can withstand 60-tonnes load.

“As a number of vehicles using bridge no. 1 increases, the maximum permissible load is gradually declining.

At the moment, a maximum load of only 35 tonnes was

permitted. Lashio-Bhamo-Myitkyina Road will be upgraded to a four-lane road and bridge no. 2 was planned to accommodate the increasing traffic and load,” said U Saw Zarni Hla on the new bridge to be constructed.— Kay Kay

(Translated by Zaw Min)

ANA avatar robots, flying cars buzz at Japan high-tech show

CHIBA (Japan) — Avatar robots by airline ANA Holdings Inc. and flying car prototypes drew attention as a major electronics show near Tokyo opened Tuesday to spur cross-industry collaboration to tackle common social challenges such as Japan’s labor shortage and aging population.

Organizers of the Combined Exhibition of Advanced Technologies, or CEATEC, hope over 780 exhibitors from diverse sectors including tourism, construction machinery, health care, mobility, housing and telecommunications will find new alliance partners at the show in the city

of Chiba, east of Tokyo, through Friday. ANA’s booth at the Makuhari Messe convention center attracted crowds for its avatar technology that allows people to remotely control a robot in a distant location. The robot relays what it sees and senses in real time. The airline says the

new technology can offer remote travel and enable users to keep in touch with aging parents living far away.

In a demonstration, an ANA cabin attendant remotely controlled one of the stick-shaped “newme” robots that are 1 to 1.5 meters high, with the attendant’s face shown on a tablet computer attached to it. The attendant conversed with people around the moving avatar via the tablet screen.

“You will be able to instantly travel anywhere around the world via the avatar robots placed in remote locations,” ANA Holdings CEO Shinya Katanozaka said in a keynote speech, unveiling the airline’s aim of introducing 1,000 newme robots by the Tokyo Olympics next summer. “We want people who cannot take planes for reasons such as illness, physical disability as well as economic and political circumstances, to overcome challenges and travel,” he said. “For us, enabling such people to connect with others around the world means the same as having them take our flights.”— Kyodo News ■

Suzuki picks five Indian startups for auto industry enhancement plan

NEW DELHI — Maruti Suzuki India Ltd., the country’s top automaker, has picked five local startups for its program aimed at improving customer services with the help of artificial intelligence and telecommunication technologies.

The five are Enmovil, Docketrun, Eyedentify, Xane and SenseGiz, according to a statement released Monday by a subsidiary of Suzuki Motor Corp., of Japan.

“The Indian automobile industry is at a crucial juncture,” Maruti Suzuki Managing Director and CEO Kenichi Ayukawa said in the statement. “Our aim is to now work along with these startups and enhance scalability of the solutions. These intelligent solutions will help enhance customer experience, among other things,” he said.— Kyodo News ■



ANA Holdings Inc. shows a demonstration of ANA cabin attendants remotely controlling stick-shaped robots, with the attendant’s face shown on a tablet computer attached to it on 14 October 2019 at the Makuhari Messe convention center in Chiba. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Syria Kurds defend key town as Turkey ignores US

TALL TAMR (Syria) — Kurdish forces held out in a key border town Tuesday seven days into a deadly Turkish invasion of north-eastern Syria that has caused mass displacement and reshaped the political map.

The United States slapped sanctions on its NATO ally in a bid to stop an assault that its own troop withdrawal from the area triggered but Ankara showed no sign of relenting.

Using a dense network of tunnels, berms and trenches, Kurdish fighters from the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) have been mounting a desperate defence of Ras al-Ain.

They launched “a large counterattack against Turkish forces and their Syrian proxies near Ras al-Ain,” the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Since launching their assault on October 9, Turkish-backed forces have secured more than 100 kilometres (60 miles) of border, but Ras al-Ain, which the Kurds call Siri Kani, has held out.

An AFP correspondent in the area said clashes around the town continued on Tuesday, despite repeated claims by Ankara in recent days that it had captured the area.

Further west, SDF fighters have been battling Turkey’s Syrian proxies — mostly former rebels paid and equipped by Ankara — around the flashpoint town of Manbij.

US President Donald Trump announced a pullback from the border last week, a move which was widely interpreted as green-lighting a long-planned Turkish invasion.

Politically embattled at home, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan wants to create a 30 kilometre (20 mile) deep buffer zone on the Syrian side of the long border.

Sanctions

He wants to keep the SDF at bay — Ankara considers them a terrorist group because of their links with the main Kurdish insurgency in Turkey — and create a resettlement area for some of the 3.6 million Syrian refugees currently on Turkish soil.

The offensive has left dozens of civilians dead, mostly on the Kurdish side, and displaced at least 160,000 people.

Aid groups, which have warned of a new humanitarian disaster in Syria’s eight-year-old war, have been forced to pull out of the conflict zone, Kurdish



The ethnically divided Kurdish-held border town of Ras al-Ain is one of the key targets of Turkey’s nearly week-old invasion and has come under heavy bombardment. **PHOTO: AFP**

authorities said. Trump, who is campaigning for re-election but faces impeachment, is keen to deliver on a promise of pulling US troops out of the Syria quagmire.

More than 1,000 troops are now being withdrawn from northern Syria and the United States will keep only a residual contingent of some 150 troops in the south at the Al-Tanf base near the borders with Jordan and Iraq.

US Vice President Mike

Pence said Monday he would travel to Turkey soon and added that Trump had asked Erdogan to stop the offensive.

In a bid to force Turkey’s hand, Washington slapped sanctions on its defence, interior and energy ministers, freezing their US assets and making US transactions with them a crime.

“I am fully prepared to swiftly destroy Turkey’s economy if Turkish leaders continue down this dangerous and destructive

path,” said Trump, who until recently had touted his friendship with Erdogan. Abandoned by the US, their chief ally in years of battles against the Islamic State group that cost the lives of 11,000 of their fighters, the Kurds turned to Damascus.

Syrian government forces rushed north on Monday as part of a Russian-brokered deal aimed at preventing Turkish-backed forces from moving any deeper into the country.—AFP ■

S Africa’s Zuma files last-minute appeal at corruption trial

PIETERMARITZBURG (South Africa) — South Africa’s embattled former president Jacob Zuma will appeal a court ruling that he stand trial on corruption charges, his lawyer said Tuesday, in a last-minute move delaying a case over bribery allegations dating back to a 1990s arms deal.

The trial would have been the first time Zuma faced a court on graft charges, despite a string of accusations over his long political career.

The High Court in the south-eastern city of Pietermaritzburg last week rejected his request to have charges of fraud, graft and racketeering dismissed, clearing the way for the trial to start on Tuesday.

But Zuma’s lawyer Thabani Masuku told the court at the start of the trial that the ex-president would appeal, dragging on a case that has seen numerous legal twists over 15 years.

“Mr Zuma would like to exercise the full extent of his constitutional rights, which includes the right to appeal,”



Zuma, pictured in court on Tuesday, filed a last-minute appeal against corruption charges. **PHOTO: AFP**

Masuku said.

Zuma was forced to resign as president last year by the ruling African National Congress (ANC) party after a nine-year reign marred by corruption allegations and dwindling popularity.

He is accused of taking bribes worth four million rand (\$270,000) before he became president from a 51-billion-rand (\$3.4-billion) 1999 arms purchase by five European firms, including French defence company Thales. Both Zuma and Thales,

which is accused of paying the bribes and was also to stand trial, deny the charges.

The defence team of Zuma, who has claimed he is so broke he had to sell his socks to raise legal fees, maintained that the ex-president had been ready for trial for 14 years.

Both legal teams agreed that proceedings would now be postponed until the provisional date of February 4 next year.

Large crowds of supporters have traditionally rallied

for his court appearances, but a smaller number of fewer than 150 was outside the proceedings on Tuesday.

Zuma faces 16 charges of fraud, graft and racketeering related to the purchase of fighter jets, patrol boats and military equipment arms deal when he was deputy president to the country’s second black president Thabo Mbeki.

Critics have dubbed him the “Teflon president” for his reputed ability to evade judicial reckoning. His former financial adviser Schabir Shaik, who allegedly facilitated Thales’s payments, was in 2005 found guilty of fraud and corruption and sentenced to 15 years behind bars.

But, shortly after Zuma became president in 2009, Shaik was released on medical parole.

Analysts have warned that if Zuma goes on trial, he will drag down with him many leaders of Nelson Mandela’s ANC, which has governed the country since the end of apartheid in 1994. —AFP ■

Bolton warned lawyers over ‘hand grenade’ Giuliani: report

WASHINGTON (United States) — The White House’s alleged effort to pressure Ukraine so alarmed former national security advisor John Bolton that he alerted a lawyer, his former aide said on Monday, according to US media.

Bolton also warned that President Donald Trump’s personal attorney Rudy Giuliani, who has emerged as the point man in the president’s alleged drive to pressure Ukraine to dig up dirt on Democratic presidential hopeful Joe Biden, is “a hand grenade who’s going to blow everyone up,” his aide Fiona Hill told lawmakers, according to the New York Times.

The remark, which was also reported by NBC News, came after Trump’s former top Russia advisor Hill sat for an hours-long closed door deposition before US lawmakers probing whether to impeach the president.—AFP ■

Four-metre king cobra wrestled from sewer in Thailand

BANGKOK (Thailand) — A feisty four-metre (13-foot) king cobra was pulled from a sewer in southern Thailand in an hour-long operation, a rescue foundation said Tuesday, describing the reptile as one of the largest they had ever captured.

Footage of the daring capture showed a man chasing the cobra — the world’s longest venomous snake — into a dark and cramped drainage pipe.

The cobra splashed around in water and tried to slither back into the pipe, but was pulled out by the tail after multiple attempts.

A security guard on the housing estate where it was found first alerted the rescue group on Sunday. “Seven rescue workers, including me, went there,” said Kritkamon Kanghae, 26, adding that the estate was built on a plot that was once jungle.

Kritkamon said the snake was more than four metres long, weighed 15 kilos (33 pounds), and was the third-largest they had



A Krabi Pitakpracha Foundation snake handler holds the four-metre (13 feet) king cobra he pulled from a sewer in southern Thailand. PHOTO:AFP

found. It was later released into the wild.

Thailand is teeming with reptiles, and several species of cobra are native to the southeast Asian country.

References to the deadly snake fill folklore. The main international airport was built on an area that used to be called “Cobra’s Swamp”. Snakes have increasingly become a headache

for residents in the Thai capital, where the fire department is sent out to respond to calls from alarmed residents.

Authorities are reluctant to get rid of the reptiles because they help to control a rat population that could otherwise threaten crops and food stocks. King cobras, however, mainly feed on other snakes — particularly the rat snake.—AFP ■

Death toll climbs to 72, damage uncovered in typhoon-hit Japan

TOKYO — Japanese rescuers raced against the clock Tuesday to locate more than 15 people still missing after a catastrophic typhoon over the weekend killed at least 72 others and paralyzed numerous areas with flooding.

Those unaccounted for in the wake of Typhoon Hagibis, which brought record-breaking rainfall to huge swaths of the country, were tallied by Kyodo News based on information provided by authorities in each region.

Japan is still scrambling to get a complete picture of the damage. The infrastructure ministry said collapsed embankments at 66 locations along 47 rivers had been confirmed, but officials said the scale of damage remains unclear as they cannot reach some areas due to very high water levels.

The most powerful typhoon to hit Japan in decades also caused mudslides, and electricity and water outages in various parts of the country.

A total of 146 mudslides were reported in 19 of Japan’s 47 prefectures, while nearly 10,000 homes had been hit by muddy floodwater, according to government officials.

In the central Japan city of Nagano, one of the hardest-hit areas, an embankment of the Chikuma River was breached, cutting off hundreds of people.

In a district near the embankment, telephone poles were felled and dwellings destroyed. A school of small fish swam in a pool of muddy water, while pre-harvest apples bobbed on the floodwater.

“It’s a large embankment so I thought it would definitely be safe,” said 85-year-old Shigeo Seki. “I’m glad my grandchild forced me to evacuate.”

In the Miyagi Prefecture town of Marumori in northeastern Japan, water was finally being removed from around the flooded town office, which was only accessible by boat Saturday.—Kyodo News ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY.NO. (052N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY.NO. (052N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-10-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR SOLO VOY.NO. (868N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR SOLO VOY.NO. (868N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-10-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T/A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V PACAO VOY.NO. (068N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACAO VOY.NO. (068N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-10-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T/A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

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


Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NEFELI VOY.NO. (941S/942N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-10-2019 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.

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

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- Applications must be submitted to com@yn.mofa.go.jp by email (applications by other measures such as mails will not be accepted)
- 1 CV in English with a photo (please describe your academic and professional background, family structure, and your contact information (cellphone number))
- 1 Copy of your bachelor’s degree certificate
- 1 Copy of your National Registration Card
- A cover letter (please mention concisely the reasons and motivation for applying, and how you are able to meet the requirements for the position)
- Other supporting documents if any (e.g. result of language test such as Japanese Language Proficiency Test result, essay, dissertation or certificates)

Application closing date is **22 October 2019**
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted by the Embassy

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The Ministers from the 16 RCEP Participating Countries (RPCs) gathered in Bangkok on 8 September 2019 for the 7th RCEP Ministerial Meeting to review developments in the RCEP negotiations since the Ministers last met in Beijing on 2-3 August 2019. The Meeting was chaired by H E Jurin Laksanawisit, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce of Thailand. **PHOTO: MOC THAILAND**

Opportunities for Myanmar in soon to emerge world biggest free trade area

By Saw Kalyar (MIFER)

MYANMAR became a member country of ASEAN in 1997 and cooperated with other member countries according to systematically drawn up cooperative frame. ASEAN Free Trade Area-AFTA was established in 2018 and Myanmar also participated as a member country toward establishing five ASEAN+1 free trade areas (FTAs) with six dialogue partner countries of China, India, Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

As all countries wishes for the establishment of an agreement that would benefit more all the ASEAN member countries, with the aims of gaining additional benefits from deepening economic cooperation with ASEAN+1 free trade area countries and to have an opportunity to participate fully in a comprehensive economic partnership in the region, discussions and negotiations were conducted. A decision was made at 21st ASEAN Summit held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 20 November 2012 to start negotiation for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership – RCEP.

The aim was for RCEP to have a more complete and quality economic cooperation agreement than Free Trade Agreements signed among each ASEAN countries. On the other hand it was also believed that it'll increase economic cooperation.

Discussions were started in

2013 but during the more than six year period, discussions and coordination on the agreement was not concluded for many reasons. As known to all, today's world economic situation can be said to have reached a critical period with the existence of various forms of trade wars, protectionism and nationalist policies in trade. At this situation there was a requirement to strengthen international trade, maintain and show the importance of ASEAN in the world economic situation. As such ASEAN

leaders had issued guidelines again at 34th ASEAN Summit meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand on 2019 June to complete discussions and negotiations on RCEP during 2019.

Considering the differing development situations

In coordinating RCEP, different development situation of member countries were considered and coordination conducted for the benefit and involvement of all. In addition to special and diverse opportunities, other

appropriate concession granted in the ASEAN+1 FTAs of ASEAN-Japan ASEAN-China, ASEAN-India, ASEAN-Korea, ASEAN-Australia and New Zealand, Additional Flexibility for less developed countries were used in discussions and negotiations. It was agreed for Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos not to conduct as other countries in some matters. In some matters, discussions were held to relax to a certain extent the preparation time to concede to the agreement.

RCEP was discussed and negotiated to open up the market, smoothen, clear and ease international trade. Myanmar as well as ASEAN countries will have more opportunities to enter into world's manufacture market.

As more markets were opened to product, service and investment, trade obstacles were reduced and member countries will have more transparent trade and investment.

Because it was in a group of countries that were less de-



7th RCEP Ministerial Meeting in progress. **PHOTO: MOC THAILAND**

veloped, Myanmar receive special, preferential and additional concessions. This means that Myanmar was exempted from conducting some matters, was given more preparation time for some matters and will conduct some matters as other ASEAN countries do.

On the other hand discussions were held to obtain technical assistants and to participate in capacity raising programmes. Pledges included in RCEP will be included accordingly in enacting and drawing up laws that Myanmar do not have or to amend existing laws. It'll support in enacting laws that are appropriate to increase economic cooperation from regional level to world level.

Myanmar's inclusion in RCEP will allow it to participate and cooperate as other member countries in a rule based trade system and will be able to avoid the unnecessary obstacles and hindrances against trade and investment put up by powerful countries citing political, human rights and other issues.

China and India representing nearly half the world's population and market were also members of RCEP allowing Myanmar to have access to a huge market. In addition to this inclusion of technically advanced and economically developed Asians countries like Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand and Singapore will provide more opportunities for inflow of responsible and quality investments that sticks to the letters of the agreements.

Expected to become the biggest trade bloc

The 16 participating countries in the RCEP represent nearly 47.4 per cent of 2018 world population. It also represents 32.2 per cent of world economy, 29.1 per cent of world trade and 32.5 per cent of world's foreign investment. It was expected to become one of the world's biggest trading blocs. RCEP will not stop with these 16 countries as Chile, Canada and Hong Kong were also showing interest to become future members of RCEP with many more countries showing similar interest.

Countries participating in RCEP must provide customs exemption on 92 per cent of trade items but for Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos the customs exemption will be on 86 per cent of trade items. In addition to this, on the time when the RCEP came into force, other member countries will have 65

per cent of the products custom duty free while Myanmar was permitted to have only 30 per cent of the products to be custom duty free. In ten years other countries will have 80 per cent of the products custom duty free while Myanmar will have the same percentage of customs duty free products only in fifteen years time.

To prevent products from non member countries of RCEP entering into RCEP market custom duty free, rules and regulations for Rules of Origin certifying the product was from RCEP member country had been drawn up. Only products that are certified as from RCEP member countries will be permitted to enter custom duty free into RCEP market.

In the FTAs currently implemented, Certificate of Origin-CO issued by the country of origin was being used. In RCEP, this system as well as usage of Self-Declaration System of Origin will be used greatly smoothing and easing trade among member countries.

Designating of RCEP country of origin will also include regulations for value adding or combining of products from the 16 member countries allowing the value of the products to be raised along the whole supply chain while allowing the attracting of investment into the country using this opportunity. As Myanmar's geological position was in a strategic place there will be more opportunities for it.

More opportunities to develop Myanmar export products

Economically strong member countries will be able to invest more in Myanmar while Myanmar will also have more opportunities to trade with member countries. As there are programmes to cooperate with Myanmar small and medium enterprises to produce quality products, Myanmar will be able to develop its export products using the technical assistances and cooperation effectively. Myanmar products will have the opportunity to enter into regional as well as world market in accordance to rules and regulations. Participating in a rule based trade system will be a challenge. However being a member of world biggest trading bloc RCEP is more of an opportunity for Myanmar. It will definitely support Myanmar's socio economic development.

(Translated by Handytips)

Yoma Strategic and AC Energy Announce Partnership, Target Leadership in Myanmar's Renewable Energy Industry

YOMA Strategic Holdings Ltd ("YomaStrategic") today announced its decision to form a strategic partnership with AC Energy, Inc ("AC Energy") the energy platform of major Philippine conglomerate Ayala Corporation. Yoma Strategic and AC Energy are looking to establish a 50:50 joint venture ("Joint Venture") that will see AC Energy and Yoma Strategic working together to drive the growth of Yoma Micro Power (S) Pte Ltd ("Yoma Micro Power").

As part of this transaction, AC Energy and Yoma Strategic have signed a binding term sheet which envisages the Joint Venture investing at least \$30 million into Yoma Micro Power. The new Joint Venture plans to invest in Yoma Micro Power and will jointly explore developing around 200MW of additional renewable energy projects within Myanmar including participation in large utility scale renewable projects. Melvyn Pun, CEO, Yoma Strategic stated, "Supply of electricity is one of the largest opportunities in Myanmar and also one of the biggest bottlenecks for economic development. We are excited to have AC Energy as our partner to drive sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

AC Energy's international expertise in the renewable energy sector and the access to funding will be invaluable as we work together to service this huge, underserved market in

Myanmar." Meanwhile, Patrice Clausse, COO of AC Energy Renewables, lauds the partnership as a step towards AC Energy's 2025 goals.

"This is a very meaningful investment for AC Energy, as we intend to participate in Myanmar's renewables sector in a significant way. We are delighted to partner with Yoma Strategic who shares the same aspiration to build a meaningful portfolio in renewable energy and together, be able to contribute to creating an environmentally sustainable future. Our combined expertise, strong financing capabilities and AC Energy's commitment to shore up presence in the fast-growing region will provide a critical platform for growth in the country."

The World Bank estimates that electricity consumption in Myanmar will grow at an average annual rate of 11% until 2030 to achieve complete electrification in all households with an expected investment of around US\$2 billion per year required.

The Myanmar Government's energy master plan envisions solar power contributing up to 5% of the nation's electricity as the country shifts away from hydropower and natural gas sources.

In addition, the Myanmar government's recent hike in electricity tariffs has also enhanced the attractiveness of solar energy solutions to the commercial and industrial seg-

ment. "The renewable energy sector is a scalable business which has the potential to generate a sizeable revenue stream with recurring cash flow to complement YomaStrategic's core businesses. Myanmar has one of the lowest electrification rates in Asia, with more than 60% of the population without access to grid electricity, particularly in rural areas.

There is a need to significantly increase generation capacity and build out last mile distribution infrastructure, which Yoma Micro Power has embarked upon." added Pun.

Yoma Strategic currently holds 35%, while Norfund and IFC hold 30% each in Yoma Micro Power.

The remaining 5% is held by Alakesh Chetia, the managing director of Yoma Micro Power and an experienced professional in the power infrastructure sector. Post the investment and restructuring, which is planned for 2020, the Joint Venture is expected to hold at least 50% of Yoma Micro Power. Yoma Micro Power builds micro power plants and mini-grids that provide electricity to off-grid rural communities and telecommunications towers in Myanmar. Following the successful implementation of the 10-site pilot project in 2018, Yoma Micro Power is currently rolling out 250 micro power plants by end of 2019 and is expected to scale up to more than 2,000 sites by 2023. — GNLM ■

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30th SEA Games: Myanmar women's team to meet Philippines, Malaysian teams

THE Myanmar national women's football team will face the national football teams of the Philippines and Malaysia in the 30th South East Asian Games, which are scheduled to start from 28 November at the Binan Football Stadium in Laguna, the Philippines.

The drawing ceremony for the women's football tourney for the SEA Games was held yesterday in Pasay City, the Philippines.

Team Myanmar has been placed in Group A with the host team, the Philippines, and Malaysia.

Meanwhile, Myanmar's best opponent, Thailand, has

been placed in Group B with ASEAN football giant Viet Nam and Indonesia.

Speaking about the drawing ceremony, the head coach of the women's national football team, U Win Thu Moe, said that he was pleased with the result of the draw.

"We will first play a group match with the host Philippines team, and the match will be a decisive match for my team to enter the next stage. We are hoping to reach the final match. If we reach the semifinal, we will have five days for preparation, and that will be enough time for our team, and it is good," the head coach added.



The Myanmar national women's football team pose for a group photo on 18 August, before an international match against the Cambodian team. **PHOTO: MFF**

Team Myanmar has been undergoing a special camp and training session in Yangon since 16 September, and it will also play friendly matches with team China in November,

according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The group stage matches for the women's football tourney will be held from 28 November to 4 December. The

semi-finals will take place on 6 December, while the third place and final matches have been scheduled for 9 December.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Myanmar futsal team enroute to Ho Chi Minh for AFF Futsal Championship 2019



Myanmar futsal team seen off by officials from Myanmar Football Federation at Yangon International Airport yesterday. Photo:MFF

THE Myanmar national futsal team left for Ho Chi Minh City yesterday to compete in the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) Futsal Championship 2019, which will be held in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, from 21 to 27 October, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

There were twenty players representing Myanmar.

The Myanmar futsal team was seen off by officials from the Myanmar Football Federation at Yangon International

Airport yesterday.

The championship will start on 21 October. Before the championship, team Myanmar will play friendly matches with Viet Nam's two local futsal teams: Cao Bang and Sai Gon futsal teams.

Myanmar will play their first futsal friendly against Cao Bang futsal team on 16 October and Sai Gon team on 18 October.

The players will be led by head coach U Htay Myint.

After the friendly match-

es, Myanmar will announce the final list of 14 players for the Championship, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

Team Myanmar is listed in Group A of the championship, together with Thailand, East Timor and Cambodia, while host Viet Nam is in Group B with Malaysia, Indonesia and Australia.

Myanmar will take on East Timor on 21 October, Cambodia on 22 October and Thailand on 23 October during the Group A matches.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Saudi, Palestine draw in landmark West Bank game

RAMALLAH (Palestinian Territories)—Saudi Arabia's football team played Palestine in the occupied West Bank for the first time Tuesday, having previously refused to enter the territory as part of its boycott of Israel.

The two met in a qualifier for the 2022 World Cup at the Palestinian national stadium in Al-Ram, playing out a 0-0 draw.

Cheered on by a packed and vociferous home stadium, Palestine frustrated their more prestigious guests and came close multiple times, but neither side were ultimately able to make the breakthrough.

With significant excitement over the match, all tickets at the 8,000 stadium were given away free on the day, with thousands in often disorderly queues to get in.

Hundreds of others watched from windows or roofs of buildings overlooking the stadium, which is only a few metres from the Israeli barrier that cuts off the West Bank from Jerusalem.

Arab clubs and national teams have historically refused to play in the Palestinian territory -- occupied by the Jewish state since 1967 -- as it requires obtaining entry permits from Israel, a country most of them

do not recognise.

The game marked a change in policy for the kingdom, which has previously played matches against Palestine in third countries, in line with a decades-long Arab boycott of Israel.

However, in recent years, common concerns over Iran are widely seen as having brought the Gulf powerhouse and Israel -- both staunch US allies -- closer together.

The Palestinian football association described the Saudi team's arrival in the Palestinian territories as a "win-win" situation.

Critics see it as a step toward normalisation with Israel, and Lebanon, Syria and Egypt still refuse to play in the Palestinian territories.

But other countries such as Bahrain, Morocco, the United Arab Emirates and Oman have sent their clubs and teams to play in the West Bank.

- 'Meeting first Saudi' -

At the stadium, large Palestinian and Saudi flags had been erected on the building behind it.

"God, Palestine and Jerusalem is Arab," the fans chanted, with the stadium only a few miles from the holy city.—AFP