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State Counsellor calls for united effort to tackle challenges in Rakhine State



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for the documentary photo together with members of UEHRD and diplomats for foreign embassies at the second anniversary of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE second anniversary of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) was held at the Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as the Chairperson of UEHRD, gave a speech at the ceremony.

First, a youth team from

communities in Rakhine State performed with the following songs in Myanmar entitled 'Essence of Unity', 'Come to Rakhine Land' and 'Our Way'.

In her speech, Chairperson of UEHRD and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said, "The UEHRD was established in 2017 to address conflicts and problems of Rakhine State in collaborative efforts. We have understood that it is concerned

with the whole union. It means that the best outcomes in a certain region must be appreciated by those from other areas. Everybody must rejoice over the welfare and prosperity of others.

Myanmar is still experiencing the consequences of conflicts that had occurred in Rakhine State since 2017. We have determined self-reliance is the best way in solving these

challenges. We appreciate a wide range of assistance from our partners. However, we can rely on ourselves.

It is also important to develop an attitude of self-reliance in the Union.

Therefore, any development in a certain corner of the country must be accepted by the people in the remaining areas. This is our expectation. Union Minister Dr Win Myat

Aye is managing the UEHRD. I believe he has visited Rakhine State at least 50 times from 2017 to 2019. It shows his seriousness in Rakhine State. These works could not be done from far away from an office by using a remote control. Only field trips could identify to fulfill the needs of the local people. However, the results were still lower than expected.

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State Counsellor calls for united effort to tackle challenges ...



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for the documentary photo together with Hluttaw Speakers, Union Ministers, and officials at the second anniversary of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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Our expectation was intended for the long term development of the Union. If the ongoing problems of Rakhine State could be solved with the collaborative efforts of the people, the result would be a very valuable heritage for posterity.

What kind of heritage would it be? It is self-confidence. Collaborative strength could encounter and overcome these challenges although Myanmar has not yet become a wealthy or powerful country. This self-confidence needed to be relayed to posterity.

If this confidence and

strength could be relayed to them, Myanmar could surely overcome any challenge. A female writer wrote that a good history of a country is the strength for next generations. She also remarked that reviewing the history could help it find ways for the future, and bring out courage.

She added that she wished to repeat again and again that the works of UEHRD were intended for the whole Union, not only for Rakhine State. Problem-solving strength in youths needed to be developed. Therefore the contribution of young people across the country has

truly supported UEHRD. They were participating in UEHRD actively. They seem to be more flexible than older persons. Meanwhile, the latter were more mature. Therefore, both flexibility and maturity have their own values.

Flexibility could develop consideration for others, while maturity was required for understandings deeply and thoroughly. Therefore, both seniors and youths were important to solve the problems of Myanmar.

She said she wished to express thanks to all those who have participated in implementing UEHRD tasks and projects.

Myanmar is still experiencing the consequences of conflicts that have racked Rakhine State since 2017. We have determined that self-reliance is the best way to resolve these challenges.

contributions to UEHRD.

Then a short film, produced by the International Relations Task Force with the support of UEHRD members, was shown.

Then documentary photos were taken of the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Union Minister for Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe and all the attendees.

The ceremony was also attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, U Kyaw Tint Swe, U Min Thu, U Ohn Win, U Win Khaing, U Thein Swe, Dr Than Myint, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Dr Myint Htwe, U Han Zaw, Dr Win Myat Aye and U Kyaw Tin, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Deputy Ministers U Khin Maung Tin, U Kyaw Lin and U Soe Aung, Hluttaw Affairs Capacity-Promoting Advisory Board Chairperson Daw Su Su Lwin, Pyithu Hluttaw Representative Daw Pyone Kay Thi Naing, Rakhine State Electric Power, Industry and Transportation Minister U Aung Kyaw Zan, UEHRD Chief Coordinator Dr Aung Tun Thet, UEHRD Chairperson's Advisor U Toe Oung, diplomats, departmental heads, donors, representatives from UN and ASEAN organizations, officials from NGOs and INGOs, representatives from communities in Rakhine State, and invited guests. —MNA



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the second anniversary of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State (UEHRD) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

She added that she would like to honour all the ministries, especially Rakhine state government which has to address daily problems in the State. Therefore, deep appreciation goes to Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu. She also said that she wished him best for successful solving the problems of this State in coming year and that all stood ready to assist him in this task.

She also expressed her appreciation to all foreign partners for their kind assistance to Myanmar. By solving a regional problem successfully, experiences could be gained for addressing other global issues.

Before making her conclusion the State Counsellor said that she wished to make a concrete suggestion to those who have promised to contribute funds to UEHRD; promises once made need to be kept. Those who have not yet made any promises were also requested to make

(Translated by Aung Khin)

State Counsellor addresses International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction event



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the opening address at the event to mark International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addressed an event commemorating the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR) held with the theme “Build to Last” at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II (MICC-II) yesterday morning.

Speaking on the occasion the State Counsellor said that it was necessary to give some explanation about natural disasters at this event. All over the world, whenever there was a natural disaster there was some dissatisfaction against responsible persons. At the day’s event the people were informed firstly that the government thinks about the disaster affected people and made it a priority to coordinate with regional governments to-

ward rapid restoration and development of their lives. In addition to this the government considers “People’s hurts as its own” and strives toward mitigating and relieving the affects while providing necessary support.

To go back to a few background facts about IDRR, October 13 was designated as IDRR by UN Resolution 64/200 at the 2009 UN General Assembly.

Starting from 2010, it was commemorated in the country on 13 October with information works related to natural disasters but this year the day coincided with Buddhist Thadingyut Full-moon day. So it was commemorated instead on 18 October.

Themes were designated each year and this year’s theme was “Build to Last.” This theme

came about from the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan in 2015.

The conference drew up the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and designated seven targets. Starting from 2016 the seven goals were one by one designated as the theme for IDRR.

This year’s theme was the fourth target, Target D to “Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services.” The year to accomplish this target was set as 2030 but the sooner it is achieved, the better it would be.

Everyone knew that Myanmar had been badly affected by natural disasters. Cyclone Nargis on 2 and 3 May 2008 caused losses in lives and properties. The

effects of this cyclone were still being felt to date.

In the ASEAN region the 2004 Indonesia earthquake and tsunami, 2008 Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and 2013 Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines were in the list of the world’s worsts natural disasters. During the last 30 years natural disasters in the ASEAN region had caused damages and losses amounting to about US\$ 133 billion.

Natural disasters due to climate changes were hard to predict. The number of occurrences as well as the severity increases. Worse still was the fact that natural disasters were border less as a natural disaster in a country becomes a challenge to the neighboring country.

Looking at it from a worldwide perspective a total of 394 natural disasters occurred in 2018 and most of them occurred in the Asia region. There were 10,300 fatalities and economic losses amounting to about US\$ 66 billion.

Last year a total of about 17.3 million people were displaced by climate related natural disasters.

Countries that lagged behind in development tended to have six times more people hurt and affected, loss of homes, displacements, emergency assistance required from natural disasters than the developed countries. Losses due to natural disasters for poor people were so severe to be unrecoverable.

On the other hand, progress and development took time but these were destroyed within minutes of a natural disaster. At the moment, earthquakes and tsunamis were most dangerous and most destructive. Earthquakes

caused the highest fatalities followed by typhoon and flooding.

In Myanmar, Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw were most populated and urbanized and were on an earth quake fault line of the mid to severe zone. As such awareness works and emergency exercises need to be conducted in a wide ranging way.

It was also important to construct strong structures for public related basic infrastructures, schools and hospitals. If these structures were strong enough to withstand the disaster, it would save the lives of the people in the structure as well as for works to be continued without disruption. These structures would continue to provide services to the affected people.

Construction systems that can withstand natural disaster must be used to construct not only public structures but also private structures too. Constructing tall buildings in flood prone areas, including emergency exits in the upper levels of the buildings, having strong roofs and strengthening the structure of the building need to be conducted.

A preparation and response program for earthquakes has been recently approved and it was important for all relevant organizations to implement it. As soon as advance warning and information on a natural disaster was received, all organizations in the effected regions need to start counter measures systematically and in coordination. Standard Operating Procedures drawn up to respond to the natural disaster were to be reviewed in accordance with the changing climate.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi observes the booth displayed at the event to mark International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor addresses International Day for Disaster Risk ...



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi looks at documentary photos on activities of Disaster Management Department and Fire Services Department displayed at the event in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Nowadays region wise disasters were on the rise and it was important for Fire Service Department, Myanmar Police Force, the Tatmadaw, Myanmar Red Cross as well as civil society organizations to effectively cooperate and work with the people. Capacities of these organizations need to be raised.

As mentioned earlier, natural disasters could not be prevented. Due to climate change, natural disasters were becoming a regular occurrence and more efforts must be made for preparation. Living and working styles need to be changed to be in accord with climate change and natural disasters. Most losses caused by

natural disasters were in housing, road transport, agriculture and livestock breeding sectors.

The cause of this can be concluded due to our structures being not strong enough. Officials as well as private business persons need to understand that investment in strong infrastructures are not wasted. Not only the construction method but urban development programs were to be conducted with a view towards future occurrence of natural disasters.

Today, it could not be said that disaster would not occur because it had never happened before. The obvious examples were flooding, landslides that occurred last year and this year in Mon State and Taninthayi Re-

gion. Even if it did not happen at the present, look ahead and have working procedures ready to face it. For example, play grounds, parks and sport grounds were to be used as assembly points or places of refuge when disasters struck. Urban plans should include this in order to face natural disasters when they occurred.

Another important point was the construction of new structures to withstand disasters as well as to strengthen existing structures to reduce damage and losses. It was noted with sadness that invaluable and priceless cultural and natural heritages were lost from natural and human created disasters. Historical and cultural heritages were to be continuously checked and

maintained to prevent them from being lost to disasters.

As mentioned earlier, countries lagging behind in development face the effect of natural disaster more. Development of a country could prevent and mitigate the damage and loss to its people from natural disaster. At the same time, development works could also invite disasters.

If dams and reservoirs constructed for development were not strong, follow up danger from natural disasters would have to be faced. Therefore it was important for development programs to be able to withstand against disasters.

This event was held with the aim of informing the public and relevant people involved about this important subject. It was important and necessary to increase preparation and protection from the effect of natural disasters from the individual, household and national level to world level.

In conclusion, the Myanmar word for “strong and durable” is a good example. Whatever was constructed needed to be strong. Constructions need to be conducted to reduce losses and damages from natural disasters.

The recent natural disaster in Japan was a lesson for the world. Japan was a country that was at the top in withstanding natural disasters. Let us instill in us the desire to provide help and assistance for any natural disaster that occurred in the world, said the State Counsellor.

Next, a message sent by the UN secretary general to the IDDRR event was read by UNO-

CHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) Resident Representative Ms Marine Spaak followed by screening of a video record of IDDRR.

Afterwards State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi took commemorative group photos together with event attendees and then inspected the natural disaster exhibit, photo record of relief and rescue works and natural disaster response work equipment of the Disaster Management Department and Fire Services Department

Later IDDRR round table talk was held on natural disaster resistant vocational work, construction of child friendly school and structure and redevelopment of natural disaster affected region led by a consultant group on natural disaster management with representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation; Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement; the Myanmar Engineering Society and the UNDP Project Officer Mr Hung Ling. The event was attended by Natural Disaster Management Committee Chairman Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Hluttaw representatives, United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Assistant Coordinator, departmental heads, ambassadors and representatives from international organizations, civil society organizations and private sector disaster management organizations. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo meets officials from JPAA, JIPA

DEPUTY Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo met with President of Japan Patent Attorneys Association (JPAA) Mr Yoshihiro Shimizu in Tokyo, Japan yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed the formation of patent association, innovation and patents related affairs, preparations in Myanmar for protection by patents, formation of patent association in Myanmar and co-operation of the two countries’

associations.

In the afternoon, the deputy minister discussed with the officials from the Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA). They discussed the legal actions against counterfeit goods.

Japan Intellectual Property Association is an association including global brand company memberships such as Honda, Yonex and Toshiba. — MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)



Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo holds talks with President of Japan Patent Attorneys Association (JPAA) Mr Yoshihiro Shimizu in Tokyo, Japan yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Nepali President tours religious sites in Mandalay



Nepali President Mrs Bidya Devi Bhandari visits the famous Ananda Temple at the UNESCO World Heritage Site in Bagan yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Nepali President Mrs Bidya Devi Bhandari looks around the ecosystems housing rare flora and fauna at the National Kandawgyi Garden in PyinOoLwin yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

AS part of her state visit to Myanmar, Nepali President Mrs Bidya Devi Bhandari and her delegation were accompanied by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, Thura U Aung Ko, as she toured Mandalay Region.

They departed from Nay Pyi Taw by special flight to PyinOoLwin where they were welcomed

by Mandalay Region Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, U Myo Thit, and officials at Anisakan Airport.

The Nepali President first visited the Sree Durga Devi Temple, gifted offertories and signed the guestbook. She then met with the Nepalese community of PyinOoLwin at its

city hall.

From there, they visited the National Kandawgyi Garden and viewed the ecosystems housing rare flora and fauna there. The Nepali President was then treated to a luncheon by the All Myanmar Gurkha Hindu Dhamma Organization at Taj Restaurant.

In the afternoon, the Nepali President went by special flight

to NyaungU where they were welcomed by Regional Minister for Shan Ethnic Affairs U Sai Pan Hsai at NyaungU Airport.

From there, they visited the famous Ananda Temple at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bagan, gifted offertories, and signed the guestbook. They also visited the Thatbyinnyu Temple and Alotawpyae Temple.

Afterwards, the Nepali President and delegation flew to Yangon and were welcomed by Regional Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein at Yangon International Airport. Later in the evening, the Nepali President was treated to a formal dinner by Nepali Ambassador Mr Bhim K Udas. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister U Thein Swe receives Korean Ambassador

UNION Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe received Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Mr Lee Sang-hwa at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to remittance made by Myanmar workers in ROK to their families, increasing number of Myanmar workers to ROK with the Employment Permit System, hold-

ing more EPS examinations, allowing one-year visa for Korean students who are learning at the Yangon University of Foreign Languages in Yangon, appointing a Korean assistant in EPS centre, holding a seminar organized by the ministry, the Embassy of ROK and regional authorities for tackling labour issues faced by Korean garment businesses in Myanmar. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)



Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe holds talks with Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Mr Lee Sang-hwa at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Two dead, 72 hurt in road mishaps during Thadingyut holidays

TWO people were killed and 72 were injured in highway road accidents during the Thadingyut holidays, according to the Nay Pyi Taw Highway Police.

“Between 10 and 15 October, a total of 26 road accidents occurred on the highway, which killed two men and injured 72 people including two month. Most of the road accidents

were caused due to speeding,” said an official from the Nay Pyi Taw Highway Police.

The police blamed the high number of accidents to the volume of traffic during the five-day Thadingyut celebrations.

The Thadingyut festival, known as the Festival of Lights, is traditionally celebrated for three days and falls on the 15th

of the seventh month according to the Myanmar calendar year.

From 1 January to 30 September, a total of 376 traffic accidents were reported on the Yangon-Mandalay highway, which left 74 dead and 696 injured.

There are an average of 41 traffic accidents on the Yan-

gon-Mandalay highway monthly, which killed eight people and 77 others injured, according to the Highway Police.

To reduce the incidence of road accidents, traffic police are conducting regular awareness talks and distributing pamphlets.

The 587-kilometre Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay

Highway was opened in December, 2010, to connect Myanmar’s commercial capital of Yangon and the second largest city of Mandalay.

It passes through the administrative capital of Nay Pyi Taw. —Aye Cho

(Translated by Hay Mar)

ASEAN-Korea Train ride concludes successfully



(8th from the left) Union Minister Dr Pe Myint poses for a photo together with Minister of Foreign Affairs of ROK Mrs Kang Kyung-wha, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy of Brunei Ahmaddin Abdul Rahman, Secretary General of the ASEAN-Korea Centre Lee Hyuk at the closing ceremony in Seoul yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE successful journey of the ASEAN-Korea Train was celebrated at Grand Hyatt Seoul hotel in Seoul, Republic of Korea, yesterday, and Union Information Minister Dr Pe Myint delivered an address of his experience on the journey.

Aimed at promoting people-centered connectivity between ASEAN and Korea, the three-day train ride was organized by the ASEAN-Korea Center and hosted by South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Some 140 representatives from ASEAN member countries involving top government offi-

cials, ambassadors, youth, multicultural families, performers and media professionals were taken from Seoul through the cities of Gyeongju, Busan, Suncheon and Gwangju.

During the celebratory ceremony, ROK Foreign Minister Mrs Kang Kyung-wha talked on the success of the journey and the realization of its objective to increase cooperation between ASEAN and Korea.

MoI Union Minister's speech

Next, Dr Pe Myint spoke on the unique characteristics of each

city they visited. He praised the KBS open concert, performances on the train, traditional Korean food, and cultural exchange at Gwangju.

The Union Minister said he was delighted to have been able to attend the ASEAN-Korea Prosperity Night at the commercial port city of Busan. He said Suncheon Bay and the urban landscape of the cities are attractive spots for travelling.

The Union Minister spoke of the promise between ASEAN and South Korea to strengthen multilateral cooperation in all sectors and the recognition giv-

en by ASEAN leaders on South Korean President Moon Jae-in's New Southern Policy. He said trade prospects between ASEAN and South Korea for 2020 are projected to reach US\$200 billion. He said they are aiming to increase travel between ASEAN and South Korea by 15 million, so as to promote youths and the media sector. The Union Minister concluded his address by thanking the ROK Foreign Affairs Ministry, ASEAN-Korea Center and all contributors for this programme on behalf of everyone for organizing the train journey. He also parted well wishes for the upcoming ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit. The ASEAN-Ko-

rea Train was an official sideline event of the upcoming summit and also a commemoration for 30 years of ASEAN-ROK dialogue relations. On the second day of the train journey, the Union Minister, Myanmar Ambassador to ROK U Thant Sin and delegation visited Suncheon Bay wetland and the Asia Culture Center in Gwangju where they observed decorative lights celebrating the trip.

Yesterday afternoon, the Union Minister visited Hanok Village and N Seoul Tower in the capital. He also gave an interview from Korea TV where he answered about his visit to South Korea and the New Southern Policy.—MNA

■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea Mrs Kang Kyung-wha delivers congratulatory remarks at the ASEAN-Korea Peace Wishing & Closing Ceremony at Grand Hyatt Seoul. **PHOTO: MNA**

EU provides €8 mln for trade initiatives through ARISE+ Myanmar

THE Ministry of Commerce has signed a financing agreement with the European Union to acquire assistance up to 8 million euros over a four-year project through separate implementations known as ARISE Plus Myanmar initiatives.

In this regard, the ARISE Plus Myanmar Trade-Related Assistance Project was formally introduced to the general public

at Nay Pyi Taw's Park Royal Hotel yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint first spoke at the opening ceremony where he expressed his belief that Myanmar will gradually carve a place for themselves in ASEAN, EU and international markets by producing high-quality finished goods.

Next, EU Ambassador Mr

Kristian Schmidt and International Trade Center (ITC) Executive Director Ms Maria Arancha Gonzalez gave separate addresses and took a documentary photo with attendees.

This was followed by ITC's Senior Trade Promotion Officer Ms Sylvie Betemps Cochin explaining the objectives and progress of the ARISE Plus Myanmar project, Assistant Director

Daw Su Thet Hnin of the Trade Department explaining how the project will support the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan and their interconnectedness, and Deputy Director-General U Ko Ko Lay giving the closing address.

Present at the event were representatives from EU, affiliated development organizations, private organizations tasked with project implementation, related associations and department officials.

Background on ARISE+

The ARISE Plus Myanmar project will be implemented from July 2019 to June 2023 with ITC acting as the implementing agency for the initiatives. It aims to contribute inclusive and sustainable growth and supports greater connectivity and economic integration between Myanmar, ASEAN and the global economy.

The project supports micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Myanmar to

explore business opportunities in the ASEAN single economic space, European Union (EU), and global markets. It also addresses compliance with Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures in line with ASEAN and international commitments.

The project provides trade policy formulation and implementation assistance for Myanmar to meet regional (ASEAN) and international (World Trade Organization - WTO, EU) commitments and addresses non-tariff barriers (NTBs) along value chains. It also aims to create more employment opportunities for women.

After the event, Union Minister Dr Than Myint met with the EU Ambassador and ITC Executive Director at the guest hall of Park Royal Hotel. They discussed the project's action plans to develop Myanmar's trade industry and ITC's assistance towards local MSMEs to achieve global market reach.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Minister Dr Than Myint gives the opening speech at the launching ceremony of ARISE Plus Myanmar Trade-Related Assistance Project in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Drugs seized in Kyaukse, Heho



Sein Pe, (a) Kyaw Win seen with seized drugs. **PHOTO:MPF**

A COMBINED team comprised of members of the Mandalay (South) anti-drug squad and Kyaukse police arrested a man carrying 29.9kg of opium in Kyaukse on 16 October.

The police discovered the drugs from Sein Pe (a) Kyaw Win on the old Yangon-Mandalay Highway at 9 am during the surprise check.

The police searched the motorcycle driven by the suspect near Kyat Min Ton Traffic Post, Kyaukse.

On the same day at 7:30

pm, Taunggyi anti-narcotic police found 2,000 stimulant tablets in a house at Kyar Hone Taung Village, Kalaw Township, Heho District. The police searched a house owned by Mi Eit and found those stimulant tablets together her husband Nay Myo Tun (a) Phoe Khwar.

Those suspects have been charged under the existing Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — GNLM

(Translated by Ba Htoo Kyaw)

JPN TV channel films Ayeyawady River’s beauty, endangered dolphins

A FILM crew from Japan’s NTV Channel, led by Director Mr Da-ichi Kitami, filmed the natural scenery along the Ayeyawady River near Myaysun Village, Madaya Township, yesterday.

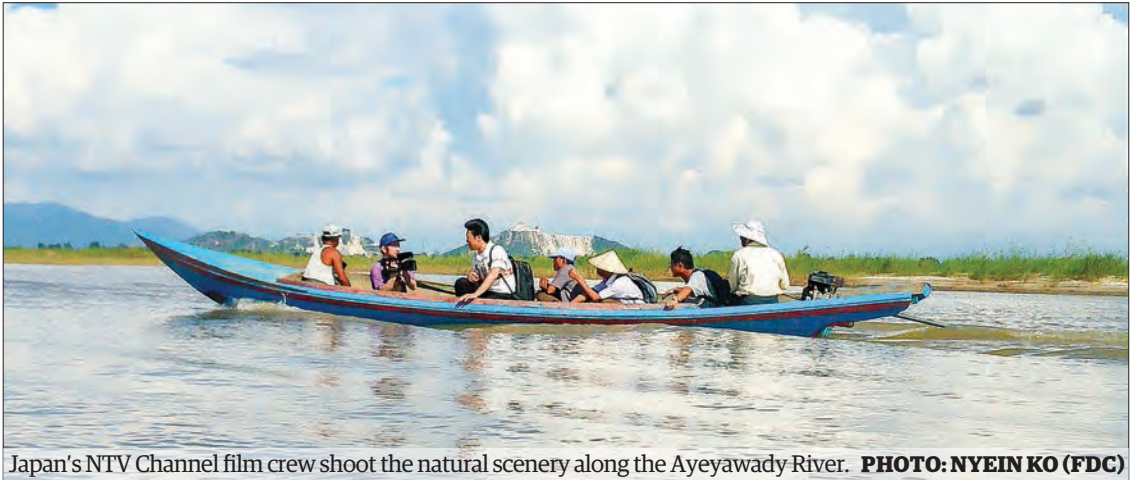
The film crew also filmed a music video for NTV talent Mr Daiko Miyazono at the foot of Mandalay mountain for his song, roughly translated to ‘Pay a visit to Myanmar’, played on a guitar.

They also filmed Ayeyawady dolphins helping fishermen in Shein Makar, Sin Kyun, Sein Pan Kone, Myaysun, and Aye Kyun villages of Madaya Township and will continue filming to 28 October.



Film crew shooting the foot of Mandalay mountain in Mandalay. **PHOTO: NYEIN KO (FDC)**

NTV aims to broadcast both content on its Itte Q Program before the end of 2019 and hopes to further promote tourism to Myanmar. — Nyein Ko (FDC) (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Japan's NTV Channel film crew shoot the natural scenery along the Ayeyawady River. **PHOTO: NYEIN KO (FDC)**

Finland tour film crew documents Myanmar cotton industry



Alternative Tourist documentary team shooting women dyeing, drying and steaming processes at Mya Thazin textile factory. **PHOTO: TIN SAN (FDC)**

THE Alternative Tourist documentary team from Warner Bros, Finland, filmed various locations in Mandalay yesterday including weaving houses applying natural dye to fabrics, construction of hand and machine operated

looms, Mandalay mountain and its surrounding, U Bein Bridge, Zay Cho Market, Gaw Wein Jetty, and the evening scenery.

In the past few days, the same team travelled to Wundwin Township where they filmed



Alternative Tourist documentary team shooting women picking cotton in the field Wundwin Township. **PHOTO:PHOTO: TIN SAN (FDC)**

locals cultivating cotton in Payar Su Village. They also filmed the cotton cleaning process at Aung Kabar factory and the dyeing, drying and steaming processes at Mya Thazin textile factory.

The team will visit Yangon

from 24 to 26 October where they will continue to film at Unique HTT Garment and Maple Garment in Shwe Lin Ban Industrial Zone.

The entire process from cotton field to finished garment will

be broadcasted as a documentary on Finland’s YLE National Channel. It will also include Myanmar’s captivating scenery and hopefully aid in attracting more tourists. — Tin San (FDC) (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Developers can contribute to a more disaster-resilient society

OVER the past decade, the world has witnessed a series of increasingly devastating natural disasters. Natural disasters are not preventable. The number and intensity of natural disasters has been rising year by year. The worst part is disasters often become transnational, and a disaster in one country can also become a challenge for other countries.

But, we can use preparedness to reduce the impact of disasters through resilience-building efforts.

With a growing population and infrastructure, the world's exposure to hazards is increasing. A total of 394 natural disasters occurred in 2018 and most of them happened in Asia. The disasters killed over 10,300 children and caused losses to the tune of US\$66 billion.

Over 17 million people abandoned their homes due to

climate change-induced disasters last year. The impact of the disasters in the developing and least developed countries was six times higher than in developed countries, in terms of loss of life and property and emergency aids.

Myanmar was struck by an extremely severe cyclonic storm — Nargis — on 2 and 3 May, 2008. The storm was the worst natural disaster in Myanmar in recorded history, and caused large-scale destruction and at least 138,373 fatalities.

People are still suffering from the bitter consequences of storm Nargis.

Among the disasters, earthquakes and tsunamis kill the most people, followed by storms and floods.

In Myanmar, Yangon, Mandalay, Bago, and Nay

Pyi Taw are located on a fault. Some parts of Myanmar experience floods every year. It has been found that housing, transportation, agriculture, and livestock sectors are hit the hardest by disasters in our country.

The destruction has shown that our infrastructure is not disaster proof.

Dams and reservoirs built for the development of the country can cause disasters, if they have no resilience.

There have been growing calls for greater engagement of the construction industry in disaster-resilient building efforts.

The infrastructure in our country should be resilient to disasters. A major mitigating factor for disaster risk is capacity. This capacity needs to be deployed before and after a hazard strikes a community.

Effective mitigation and preparedness can greatly reduce the threat posed by hazards of all types, while post-disaster response can impact the loss of life, and timely reconstruction can minimize the broader economic and social damage.

Investment in infrastructure is worth it as it can help save lives and property. Developers can contribute to the development of a more disaster-resilient society.

We would like to ask developers to focus on making each structure they construct disaster-resilient.



Can we bring Myanmar's white gold back to life?

By Kun (Win Pa)

"Rubber leads to white gold,
It supports the family,
Makes a base for national
economy,
Now it wishes to rise again,
Planning, dreaming, hoping,
Oh, dear white gold..."

By Kun (Win Pa)

THE development of a nation depends on how good the socio-economic status and living standards of its citizens are. The current economic status of Myanmar has made rubber, once glorified as 'white gold' among the lips of rubber cultivators, fade away into memory with its production at an abysmal low.

Myanmar's rubber situation

Myanmar's terrain and weather make planting rubber ideal in almost all its lands and the profitable rubber market from years gone by were more than enough to feed cultivators and their families. But the rubber market has since declined, due in part to inferior quality and standards that make the price unstable.

A few years ago, some of the rubber production and entrepreneur associations throughout the states and regions tried to revitalize the rubber industry by setting projects, organizing training courses on harvesting rubber, and sharing technology and information on rubber agriculture across the country.

And while there were sounds of advanced rubber filtration factories and economic zones, the rubber market has not risen an inch yet. Plantation owners big and small saw their businesses fall and chose to either sell off their farms, use their land for other purposes, or sell all their rubber plants as lumber or firewood.



Latex being collected from a tapped rubber tree. Rubber sheets are sold by local farmers in Mon State. PHOTO: Kun (WIN PA)

Gaining suitable price to meet modern standards

In Thaton Township, a local rubber plantation owner from Winpa Village said he has been waiting for the rubber market to gain traction for two to three years. The amount of rubber produced by the trees are low and the price for them are just as low. He said he has to sell them to a third middleman who lowers the price because of the supposed low quality.

There is also a shortage of skilled workers for extracting the rubber sap, so plantation owners have no choice but to pay them as demanded. Some workers ask for pay on the number of plants they extract while others split the profit with owners in half. Then they have to offer incentives such as rice, cooking oil and salt to make them stay.

If the worker is skilled, the plant will be fine, but an unskilled worker can damage or potentially kill the rubber plant. Some of them cut the plants indiscriminately to

get more sap and more profits. The plantations are also rented out during the rubber extraction season and this can severely damage the plants, making them produce less sap the next year. This is because some people use chemicals to make trees produce more sap.

Businesswise, large plantation owners feel fewer repercussions from the declining rubber market than the small ones. The trees do not produce enough sap, there isn't enough skilled labour, the cost of everything is rising and workers are demanding more wages.

Our plantation owner friend from Thaton said he is unable to get any skilled labourers this year, so he will make do with anyone, get as much sap as they can and sell it all. He said there is no use in being glum. He needs six workers but so far he only has two. He says it's enough if he can get a suitable price based on the market.

Good produce requires good



crops

There are three main reasons why most rubber plantations cannot produce sufficient sap. The first is simply because they don't have the right variety of the plant. Secondly, they may not be able to afford saplings from good stock. And finally, they may be swindled with low-quality crops having a part of a good one grafted onto it. The general difference between having good and bad crops is a worker (who gets paid between K1 lakh to K1.5 lakhs per month) will be able to gather 15-20 lbs from a plot of three hundred trees from good stock but only gather 6-8 lbs from bad stock.

Supply going strong

The recent price for a pound of rubber on 11 October is K740. While it is a little lower than previous years supply is currently high, with sales of three to four thousand pounds a day. People mostly purchase the sun dried rubber slabs and they are exported to

Mandalay, Mawlamyine, Yangon and other big cities. Small towns like Thuwunna Wadi have lots of retailers for rubber.

Taking out loans

At the Thaton Institute of Agriculture on 6 December last year, the State Rubber Sector Development Committee organized a meeting with small rubber plantation owners of Thaton District. They discussed for the emergence of laws related to rubber cultivation and loan acquisition. The committee's chairman U Saw Aung Myint Khine, who is also State Kayin Ethnic Affairs Minister, led the meeting.

The committee's secretary U Kyi Soe, State Agricultural Department Director, sought to set a fixed price for rubber products but the major rubber businesses were not keen on the idea. They wanted rubber sales to be free and the result is the price of rubber is vastly different in different parts of Myanmar.

Authorities make field checks for requests to cut down old rubber trees but owners need to submit applications and receive approval from higher-ups to use the land for other purposes, said U Kyi Soe.

There is a glimmer of hope in the form of loans from Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank. U Kyaw Swar Hlaing, manager of the Mon State branch, said small plantation owners can take out a loan from K50,000 to K100,000 per acre. He said the list of plantations have been submitted to the local government and loans can be expected around August.

Interest plummets in rubber farming

Rubber cultivators and small plantation owners can fall into two categories. Some may not be aware they can take out loans while those who are aware may not have all the necessary documents to do so. The coming rubber extraction season also brings with it an unstable price and incompatibility between income generation and expenditure. All of these factors may contribute to a reduced rubber sap supply.

Last hope for rubber trade

The State Rubber Sector Development Committee states that there are 494,840 acres of rubber plantation in Mon State and 325,972 acres of those are for extracting sap. It would seem the only means to bring Myanmar's 'white gold' sector back to life is through a systematic approach by the Union Government and collaboration between relevant ministries and the various associations for sale and production of rubber products in the nation.

Translated by Pen Dali



MYANMAR GAZETTE

Head of service organization appointed

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Aung Ko, Deputy Director-General, Political Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Director-General of the same office on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 18th October, 2019)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 19th October, 2019: Weather will be partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing Region, Kachin and Kayin States, rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region and Shan State and isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of continuation of isolated to scattered in rain or thundershowers in Naypyitaw, Taninthayi Region, Shan and Chin States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th October, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th October, 2019: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th October, 2019: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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



Duties of Citizens

By Lokethar

takes into account the participation of the citizens in moving towards the goal of establishment and perpetuation of the Democratic Nation which is the dream of the people.

Given however that in the performance of the above-mentioned duties as well as suggesting improvements for more successful outcomes the citizens have to abide by the laws enacted by the Hluttaw and the Rules and Orders issued under the respective laws.

Regarding the executive powers of the Union Government Article 224 of the Constitution states that the Ministries of the Union Government shall, in carrying out the functions of their sub-ordinate governmental departments and organizations, manage, guide, super-

vis and inspect in accord with the provisions of the Constitutions and the existing laws.

The governmental departments and organizations are to perform their functions in accordance with the Laws, Rules, Directions, Orders and Procedures. This is to ensure consistency in their operations regardless of which Government is in power.

Of course the Governmental departments and organizations, under the supervision of the Ministries concerned, have to draw up their Plans of Action for the systematic performance of their functions. These plans have to be approved by the Ministry concerned and subsequently by the Union Government and when, major policy issues

are involved, by the Hluttaw.

In drawing up and implementing the plans of action, they may have to consult local and foreign agencies and experts to ensure the plans are sound and can be practically implemented. This is the stage when, public opinion may be solicited, as all the citizens are in fact the "stakeholders" and/or the "beneficiaries" of the above matters. The suggestions of the public or individual citizens should be given due consideration, as probably they may be based on experience and common sense with an outlook for change, which the incumbents in the departments and organizations usually might be reluctant to make if it is left entirely to them.

As regards suggestions by citizens; they should be judged on their merit, and not rejected out of hand just because the suggestion giver is not an expert or is an "outsider" of no standing.

With charity to all and malice to none.



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Sterculia versicolor gum, thanakha, acacia mangium being grown on experimental basis in Pwintbyu

FARMERS in some villages near Pwintbyu Township of Magway region have begun cultivating Sterculia versicolor gum, thanakha, and acacia mangium plants on an experimental basis to explore the market for these crops.

Perennial crops are mostly being cultivated at Kalarhaung Village in Pwintbyu Township, with white jute, thanakha, and acacia mangium the main crops grown. According to local farmers, there are 116 acres of Sterculia versicolor gum, 187 acres of thanakha, and 57.48 acres of acacia mangium plantations in the township.

“Local farmers are taking advantage of the good climate and geographical location to cultivate Sterculia versicolor gum, thanakha, and acacia mangium using good agricultural practices to produce quality products and create a stable market,” said U Aung Phyo Wai, an official from the Pwintbyu Township



A Sterculia versicolor gum plantation thriving in Pwintbyu Township, Magway region.
PHOTO: YE WIN NAING (NYAUNGU)

Consumer Affairs Department. The department has founded farmer associations for per-

ennial crops and it will arrange a stable market for farmers, depending on the production in

Pwintbyu Township, he said. — Ye Win Naing (NyaungU)
(Translated by La Wonn)

About 100 modified motor vehicles issued slips for de-registration

By Nyein Nyein

THE Road Transportation Administration Department (RTAD) has issued slips (import permits) in return for de-registration of around 100 modified motor vehicles between 1 and 16 October, said U Lian Cin Mang (aka Ngam Khai Pa Pa), the director of the RTAD.

The RTAD is issuing slips for passenger cars once the modified vehicles are struck off by the registrar. Slips for 96 modified vehicles have been issued so far — 14 for vehicle own-

ers, 37 for vehicles impounded at police stations, 29 for cars at the RTAD, and 16 for newly identified modified vehicles.

Earlier, the RTAD collected fines for modifications detected on a vehicle’s body coach during examination. Under Section 4 (18) (e) of the 2015 Motor Vehicles Law, the registration of a motor vehicle can be canceled if the type, year, structure, or body of the vehicle has been changed without permission. The RTAD has been confiscating modified vehicles since June, 2018. However, the government has

granted some relief to owners of modified vehicles by issuing import permit slips (Form Ds) to them, starting from 1 October.

Under the Motor Vehicles Law, the cars will be seized and cancelled from the list on account of modifications, such as installation of new parts and changes in the body coach. But, the current move aims to cover the loss to the owners, said U Lian Cin Mang (aka Ngam Khai Pa Pa).

Later, if modified vehicles are found, they will be de-registered and slips will be returned.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications has already notified vehicle owners about the announcement on slip returns, and urged them to contact the RTAD.

Between 2017 and 23 September, 2019, 362 modified vehicles have been identified as per RTAD data.

At present, there are over 1.09 million vehicles registered across the country, and about half of them are registered in Yangon.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Hotels, tourism expo held in Yangon

WITH the aim of promoting opportunities in the hotels and tourism sector in Yangon region, the Yangon Hotel Expo 2019-Yangon Then & Now exhibition was opened on 18 October at the Myanmar Expo Hall, Thakayta Township, Yangon Region.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein formally opened the expo.

“We are promoting the culture and business of the Myanmar tourism industry in co-operation with entrepreneurs. This expo will serve as a bridge to boost the sustainable tourism industry,” said U Maung Maung Kyaw, the director-general of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

On the opening day of the expo, officials from the Yangon

Region government, the Myanmar Hotelier Association (Yangon Zone), the Myanmar Tourism Federation and their branch associations gave the opening speeches and toured the booths.

The exhibition is being jointly conducted by the Yangon Heritage Trust (YHT), the Yangon Region Government, and the Ministry of Hotels and

Tourism and its partner associations. The exhibition features more than 200 booths from over 250 companies, including local and foreign travel and tour companies, tourism service companies, and tourism insurance companies.

The Yangon Hotel Expo 2019 will end on 20 October.— Myint Maung
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Write for us

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

Traditional weaving businesses switch to powerlooms in Seikpyu Township

TRADITIONAL weaving businesses at Letse Village in Seikpyu Township have begun using loom machines instead of hand-weaving cotton with the help of World Vision Myanmar.

Earlier, residents of Letse Village earned their living by weaving longvis, clothes, towels, and other handmade clothes for men and women. Power lines were connected in the villages in October, 2018, under the supervision of the Village Electrification Committee (VEC), using government funds.

Then, with the help of World Vision Myanmar, weavers shifted from hand-weaving to using loom machines to produce quality cotton. The project helped create job opportunities for res-

idents under the arrangement of Community-based organizations (CBOs).

Earlier, the entire village was engaged in weaving cloth by hand, with weavers earning K1,500 per day. The weavers began to switch careers because they could earn K4,000 per day in farming. Due to shortage of weavers, weaving businesses began facing difficulties. But now, three machinery looms, textiles, dyeing subjects, and other necessary items have been provided to weavers by World Vision Myanmar. Additionally, training courses on weaving, dyeing, and maintaining machines have been offered to 37 students from August to October. With the use of powerloom machines, weav-



Workers check the quality of a textile rolling out from a weaving machine in Seikpyu Township. **PHOTO: SOE LIN NAING (IPRD)**

ers can earn additional income without putting in much time and without having to use wood.

“World Vision Myanmar has provided a total of K30 million in training fees and three machine

looms, dyeing subjects, threads, and other necessary items with the objective of helping weavers produce value-added cotton. It has also installed two machine looms per village in Htainkan

and Tamar villages,” said Daw Muiar Myo Tint, the manager of the Seikpyu Township World Vision Myanmar Office. —Soe Lin Naing (IPRD)
(Translated by La Wonn)

Price of mung beans up K160,000 per ton in one week due to high demand from India

By Nyein Nyein

THE price of mung beans has increased by K160,000 per ton within a week in the local market due to high demand from India, said U Min Ko Oo, the secretary of the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

“Today, the price of mung beans reached up to K1,000,000, an increase of K160,000 per ton compared to last week, when mung beans were priced at just K840,000,” he added.

India, the main buyer of Myanmar beans and pulses, had announced an import quota of 150,000 tons for mung beans this year. With the demand for mung beans from India rising during their bean production season, India is purchasing Myanmar beans as there is market demand, and orders to buy mung beans are

being made with the permission of the Indian government, said U Min Ko Oo.

“The mung beans price has increased for two reasons. First, India needs the beans. Their bean production has not been satisfactory because of poor weather conditions. They have decided to purchase 150,000 tons of beans, depending upon the need. We have also seen that India has been purchasing Myanmar beans through the market order system, with the permission of the Union government. So, the price of mung beans has increased,” he said.

Currently, new mung beans are fetching over K100,000 per ton in the local market. If India continues to purchase mung beans from Myanmar, the mung beans price will go on increasing, he added.

The Union Minister for Commerce had attended the 4th

ASEAN-India Expo and Summit, which was held in New Delhi, India, in February, along with beans and sesame merchants. The delegation had met with Indian officials and requested the purchase of 400,000 tons of mung beans from Myanmar this year. However, the Indian authorities have not responded to the request yet, according to the Myanmar Pulses, Beans, and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

Besides India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Dubai, Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan, Japan, and European countries are buying beans and pulses from Myanmar. But, the volume of purchase from these countries is low, according to the association.

“The Ministry of Commerce has been conducting a series of discussions to sell Myanmar’s beans under government-to-government agreements. Additional-

ly, the ministry has been exploring more external markets,” said U Aung Htoo, the Deputy Minister for Commerce.

India’s move to restrict importation of pulses in August, 2017 severely affected growers in Myanmar.

In the 2017-2018 fiscal year,

over one million tons of mung beans, pigeon peas, and green grams were shipped to foreign countries. But, the earnings were registered at just \$713 million owing to a price drop, according to data provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Mung beans are kept on display for sale in a shop. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH**

Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade decreases by \$159 mln last FY

TRADE between Myanmar and Bangladesh stood at US\$ 23.187 as of 30 September, last fiscal year, which saw a significantly decrease of \$ 159 million from the corresponding period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

From 1 October to 30 September, Myanmar exported \$21.88 million worth of domestic products to Bangladesh and imported goods amounting to \$1.307 million from the South Asian country. Compared with the same period last year, the value of exports between the two countries declined by nearly \$202.1 million,

while imports decreased by \$57.6 million.

For the same period last year, the total trade between the two countries was valued at \$282.8 million, with \$223.9 million in exports and \$58.8 million in imports.

Myanmar exports goods to Bangladesh through both maritime and land routes. Border trade between the two countries is conducted through the Sittway and Maungdaw cross-border trade camps. Trade through the Maungdaw gate reached \$14.2 million, while trade from the Sittway border point was valued at \$8.96

million.

The products traded between the two countries include bamboos, ginger, peanuts, saltwater prawns and fish, dried plums, garlic, rice, mung beans, blankets, candy, plum jam, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute products, tobacco, plastics, wood, knitwear, and beverages.

The total border trade of Myanmar with her four neighboring countries reached \$ 10.2 billion in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.—Zwe
(Translated by Hay Mar)

‘The Only Mom’ wins six Asian Academy Creative Awards

LAIK Pyar San Eain, also known as ‘The Only Mom’, won 6 out of 10 category awards for Myanmar at the ASIAN Academy Creative Awards 2019 held in Singapore.

Produced by Brave Empire Entertainment and directed by Thai director Chartchai Ketnust, the story explores the love between parent and child and includes the talents of Naing Naing, Daung, Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi, child actor Su Yadana, Pyae Pyae, Aung Khant Paing, and Thuta.

Producer U Soe Hlaing praised the director for achieving the high quality of the film and was thrilled when the movie won more awards than he anticipated.

The film will go on to represent Myanmar at the Gala Finals on 5th and 6th December in Singapore.

Actor Daung said the unique lyrics and melody of a Myanmar nursery rhyme in the



“The Only Mom” displays the artistic quality of Myanmar. PHOTO: MNA

film was one of the reasons it garnered awards.

Actress Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi said she is delighted local films are making a place for themselves on the global stage and wished for similar films to come in the future.

Child actress Pyae Pyae said she has many fond memories acting in the film and recalls her hardest parts were during the scenes where she was possessed.

Among the awards the film received include Best Direction

(Fiction) for the director, best lead actress for Wutt Hmone Shwe Yi and best supporting actress for Pyae Pyae.—Kyaw Thet Min (FDC)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Myanmar external trade reaches nearly 35 bln during 2018-19 FY

Financial year 2018-2019, provisional figures of Myanmar international trade showed that the total trade reached at US\$ 34.980 billion with \$16.920 billion export and \$18.060 billion import. Myanmar external trade was expected to reach \$31.100 billion with \$15.300 billion export and \$15.800 billion import in 2018-19 FY. So Myanmar made positive growth of 112 per cent in total trade with 111 per cent in export and 114 per cent in import.

Following is the external trade provisional figure 2018-2019 FY comparison for target and actual growth. Values are in million US\$.

Sr	Sector	2018-19 FY's expected value			2018-19 FY's provisional value			Growth (per cent)		
		Export	Import	Total	Export	Import	Total	Ex- port	Import	Total
1	Oversea	8150.000	13430.000	21580.000	9762.770	15001.077	24763.847	120	112	115
2	Border	7150.000	2370.000	9520.000	7157.155	3058.861	10216.016	100	129	107
3	Total	15300.000	15800.000	31100.000	16919.925	18059.938	34979.863	111	114	112

Myanmar exported agriculture products worth \$3.261 billion, animal products worth \$366 million, marine products 732 million, mineral products worth \$1.465 billion, forest products worth \$175 million, manufacture products worth \$10.154 billion, and other sector worth \$766 million in 2018-19 FY. Main export items of Myanmar – various kind of beans and peas, marine, animal, as well as CMP – were exported higher compared with the 2017-18 FY while rice and broken rice were exported less. Myanmar imported investment products worth \$5.740 billion, raw products worth \$6.653 billion, commodity products worth \$3.294 billion and CMP products worth \$2.371 billion. Myanmar more imported CMP products than others.—MNA (Translated by TTN)

Radical Thai billionaire in court over alleged share holdings

BANGKOK — The charismatic frontman of Thailand’s anti-military parliamentary bloc appeared in court Friday accused of breaching election rules by holding media shares, a case which could see him barred from politics and jailed for up to 10 years.

Billionaire Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit, 40, has

rattled the kingdom’s arch-royalist establishment since seizing the political limelight with his caustic take downs of the army’s role in Thai politics and society.

His upstart Future Forward Party became Thailand’s third largest political group in a March election which ended five years of outright junta

rule. The party was backed by millions of young people wearied by the dominance of the conservative old guard.

But Thanathorn’s electoral success has been matched by a battery of legal woes. He has been suspended from attending parliament since the Election Commission accused him of breaking polling laws

by holding media shares — an offence that carries a long jail term. Arriving for the first hearing at the Constitutional Court on Friday Thanathorn again pleaded his “innocence” telling reporters the media company had ceased operations five months before the election. “We are convinced that there is no evidence,” he said.—AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

China calls on US to stop politicizing human rights issue

BEIJING — China called on the United States to stop politicizing human rights issues and interfering in other countries’ internal affairs under the guise of human rights, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday at a press briefing.

Spokesman Geng Shuang made the comments in response to US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s accusations against Venezuela’s winning a seat on the UN Human Rights Council on Thursday.

Venezuela’s election into the UN Human Rights Council, a result of the UN rules of procedure and reflecting the mainstream opinion of the international community, is “reasonable and legitimate,” Geng said.

“If anyone questions or challenges the result, does he or she want to challenge the authority of the United Nations General Assembly and the majority of the UN members?” he added.—Xinhua ■

Singapore hands down first conviction for terror financing

SINGAPORE — A Singaporean man became the first of the country’s citizens to be jailed for financing terrorism after he was convicted of sending money to a radical Islamist preacher.

There have been a steady stream of arrests in Singapore related to support for Islamist extremism, and the affluent city-state’s leaders have warned it is a prime target for an attack.

Ahmed Hussein Abdul Kadir Sheik Uduman was jailed for two and a half years for donating Sg\$1,146 (\$840) to Sheikh Abdullah al-Faisal, an Islamist preacher living in Jamaica, according to court documents seen by AFP Friday.

Hussein reached out to Faisal after watching videos on his website and YouTube channels in which he preached support for the Islamic State (IS) group—AFP ■



Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the European Union's Brexit deal must still pass the House of Commons and many MPs are strongly opposed. PHOTO: AFP

British PM scrambles to sell Brexit deal to MPs

LONDON — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson launched a charm offensive on Friday to sell his Brexit deal to sceptical MPs, with a looming vote in parliament resting on a knife-edge.

The Conservative leader pulled off a major coup in agreeing a new divorce deal with the European Union on Thursday, paving the way for him to deliver his promise to leave the bloc on 31 October.

But the agreement must still be approved by the House of Commons, which is meeting for the first time on a Saturday in 37 years to debate the text — and many MPs are strongly opposed.

Johnson told a Brussels press conference late Thursday that he was “very confident” of getting the accord through — although analysts suggest the vote could be very tight.

Johnson has no ma-

majority among MPs, opposition parties have come out against the deal and even his parliamentary ally, Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), says it cannot support the terms.

If the Commons rejects the deal, Johnson will be forced by law to ask the EU to delay Brexit, for what would be the third time. He has said he would rather “die in a ditch” than do so.

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker sought to focus MPs' minds, saying Brussels can see no need to prolong the tortuous three-year Brexit process — although the decision to delay, if requested by London, would be for EU leaders.

“There is no choice between Brexit or no Brexit: it's a choice between deal or no deal,” Luxembourg's Prime Minister Xavier Bettel said Friday.

‘This is our chance’
Johnson took office in July vowing to keep to the 31 October Brexit deadline, deal or no deal.

He pledged to renegotiate the most contentious elements of a divorce text agreed by his predecessor Theresa May with Brussels last year, which was rejected by MPs three times.

The compromise deal that was finally struck on Thursday has a new arrangement for keeping open the border between British Northern Ireland and EU member Ireland.

“It looks like we are very close to the final stretch,” EU Council President Donald Tusk said after the bloc's leaders endorsed the text. Johnson has assured his European counterparts that he can get the deal through the Commons, where he requires the support of 319 other MPs to guarantee backing.—AFP ■

Hundreds protest for second day against Lebanon austerity

BEIRUT — Hundreds of protesters blocked major highways in Lebanon Friday, after thousands angry at proposed tax increases thronged the streets overnight demanding the government's resignation in the largest demonstrations in years.

Public anger has simmered since parliament passed an austerity budget in July to help trim a ballooning deficit and flared on Thursday over plans to tax calls on messaging applications such as Whatsapp, prompting the government to withdraw

the deeply unpopular proposal. The government is weighing a raft of new belt-tightening measures it hopes will shore up its finances and secure the disbursement of \$11 billion in aid pledged by international donors last year.—AFP ■

Pompeo discusses Trump Syria moves with Netanyahu

JERUSALEM — US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday as President Donald Trump's policy changes on Syria sparked concern among Israelis.

Pompeo arrived in Israel after he and US Vice President Mike Pence negotiated a deal that will see Turkey suspend its Syria offensive, but which drew criticism over what many saw as an abandonment

of Washington's Kurdish allies.

Washington's top diplomat and the veteran prime minister began the meeting on Friday morning at Netanyahu's official residence in Jerusalem.—AFP ■

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(11 / 2019-2020)

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

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-095(19-20)	Spares for K 700 A Rig Pump Ex Nat 55 Series Rig (5) Items	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-096(19-20)	Spares for ZW-Type CNG Compressor (47) Items	Ks
(c)	DMP/L-097(19-20)	Spares for Intermech Dispenser / Aspro Dispenser (2) Groups	Ks
(d)	DMP/L-098(19-20)	Spares for CAT G 3516 C Engine (116) Items	Ks
(e)	DMP/L-099(19-20)	Spare Parts for Caterpillar G 3412 Generator & G 3508 Generator (2) Groups	Ks
(f)	DMP/L-100(19-20)	Spares for CAT D 379 Rig Engine (65) Items	Ks
(g)	DMP/L-101(19-20)	Spares for 4 th Stage Safe CNG Compressor (LP) (18) Items	Ks
(h)	DMP/L-102(19-20)	Spares for Kobelco Excavator (53) Items	Ks
(i)	DMP/L-103(19-20)	Spares for L-Type CNG Compressor (33) Items	Ks
(j)	DMP/L-104(19-20)	Spares for CAT G 3512 L/Set Engine (32) Items	Ks
(k)	DMP/L-105(19-20)	Spares for Kwangshin CNG Compressor (46) Items	Ks
(l)	DMP/L-106(19-20)	Spares for XCMG Crane (88) Items	Ks
(m)	DMP/L-107(19-20)	Spares for Aspro CNG Compressor (13) Items	Ks
(n)	DMP/L-108(19-20)	Spares for Intermech CNG Compressor (3 Stages) (32) Items	Ks
(o)	DMP/L-109(19-20)	Electrical Spares for Nay Pyi Taw Office (2) Groups	Ks
(p)	DMP/L-110(19-20)	Electrical Spare Parts for ZJ 50 D SR I & II (14) Items	Ks
(q)	DMP/L-111(19-20)	Electrical Spare Parts for ZJ 70 L SR I & II (20) Items	Ks
(r)	DMP/L-112(19-20)	Casing and Tubing Swab Cups (4) Items	Ks
(s)	DMP/L-113(19-20)	Magna Dewax PT-2066 Paraffin Solvent / Greenzyme / Wildcat 441 (3) Items	Ks
(t)	DMP/L-114(19-20)	Spare Parts for Retest Factory (134) Items	Ks
(u)	DMP/L-115(19-20)	Spares for CAT 3512B Rig Engine (67) Items	Ks
(v)	DMP/L-116(19-20)	2 7/8" and 2 3/8" Seamless EU Tubing (3) Items	Ks
(w)	DMP/L-117(19-20)	3" Flow Line Pipe (20,000) Meter	Ks
(x)	DMP/L-118(19-20)	Non Destructive Testing (NDT) Services for Assorted Size Domestic Natural Gas Pipeline Replacement Works (1) Lot	Ks
(y)	DMP/L-119(19-20)	CP System Installation for 4" CNG Pipeline 11.99 Miles At Yangon Area (1) Lot	Ks
(z)	DMP/L-120(19-20)	CP System Installation for Pinn Chaung-Nyaung Hla 10" Crude Oil Pipeline 5.85 Miles	Ks
(aa)	DMP/L-121(2019-2020)	Assorted Sizes of Steel Ball Valves (1) Lot	Ks
(ab)	DMP/L-122(19-20)	Pipe Fittings / Heat Shrinkable Sleeves & Closure Patches / Welding Electrode / Bolts & Nuts (4) Groups	Ks
(ac)	DMP/L-123(19-20)	Data Acquisition / Data Processing / Interpretation Section (1) Lot	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 18 October 2019 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **14:00 pm on 18 November 2019.**

4. Tender Closing Date & Time 18-11-2019, 14:00 pm

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

THOSE who have visited Mandalay royal city could see Myanansankyaw Golden Palace built in the royal city and could take pride of royal traditions and buildings of Myanmar. Royal buildings including Myanansankyaw Golden Palace where two kings of Yadanabon era resided in late Konbaung era before Myanmar lost its independence are heritages to foster patriotic spirit of Myanmar.

Myanansankyaw Golden Palace is one of the cultural heritages of royal Myanmar. As architectural works of Myanmar royal palace and various kinds of culture are collectively showcased, homegrown and international tourists observe these items on a daily basis.

King Thayawady called King Shwebo (1837-1846 AD) came onto the throne in Inwa. One year later, he established Amarapura City and moved his throne there. In 1840, Amarapura Royal Palace was completed. King Thayawady named the royal palace as Aungmyesanya, and the golden palace tier-roofed building as Shwenansantha. King Bagan and King Mindon also resided at the golden palace. However, King Mindon resided at Amarapura in 1853, and four years later, he established new city Yadanabon.

New Yadanabon City which would be renowned as Mandalay was rounded with the border embankment in the east, Ayeyawady River in the west, Dokhtawady River in the south and Madaya River in the north. The area among them was selected by King Mindon himself. The land preparation for the royal palace started on 12th waxing of Nadaw, 1219 Myanmar Era (27 November 1857), Friday.

On 16 July 1858 when Yadanabon Royal City and Royal Palace had been built, King Mindon and the First Queen entered



Myanansankyaw Golden Palace. PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)

Myanansankyaw Golden Palace

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

the Royal Palace through Myay NandawOo Stairs by jewellery palanquin. The same day, the white elephant captured by Thaungthut chieftain arrived at the royal city by the raft.

Before the reign of King Mindon, respective thrones were positioned at relevant buildings of the Golden Palace. Although

there were eight kinds of thrones, the palace had two Thihathana Thrones. That was why number of thrones at the palace hit nine. Thihathana Thrones were placed at the ground tier-roofed building and the royal court respectively. Although some records mentioned that all nine thrones were built in the reign of King Bodawphaya, vet-

eran historian Dr Than Tun wrote that all kinds of thrones were built with the use of golden and silver construction equipment on 7 May 1858 at the same time.

The Golden Palace established by King Mindon was formed with 32 royal halls in the east, four royal halls and 78 halls for queens at different levels in the west, totalling 114. The king named the royal city as Laykyun Aungmye and the golden palace as Myanansankyaw.

The brick building of Nanmyint hall, King Thibaw brick building, Taungpankhontaw brick building, and western ceremonial halls from the western royal halls were built in the reign of King Thibaw. He dissolved the royal golden hall where his father King Mindon passed away, close to the glass hall, and rebuilt it as the golden palace monastery at the foot of Mandalay Hill dedicating to his father.

Yadanabon City was fenced with walls which were 5.03 miles long in total. The city was formed

with 144 "Pya" plots, 16 plots of which were built by the royal palace and 128 plots of which were resided by princes, counsellors and wealthy persons. Local people lived in remaining 54 plots. Veteran historian Dr Than Tun wrote that walls of the royal city from the east to the west was one mile and two furlongs long and from the north to the south, two furlongs and 88 yards long.

The golden palace built on the 11 feet high brick structure was 1,004 feet long from the east to the west and 574 feet wide from the north to the south. The golden palace was fenced with log walls and 27 feet high brick walls. Each side of the walls had three gates, so there were 12 gates at four sides of the walls.

Three royal ladders were installed for the king and the first queen on the front wing of the golden palace. The east Samok hall was located for princes and staff of the palace to attend the royal conference at the foot of the ladders. The ground Sanu



Royal halls in Myanansankyaw Golden Palace. PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)

hall was located between the ground tier-roofed hall and the east Samok hall. At the royal conference, the left general, the right general, and chieftains paid respects to the king. The east Samok hall was between the left and right ground ceremonial halls.

The ground tier-roofed hall, west of the ground Sanu hall, was a significant hall with seven tiers and 207 feet in height. Thihathana throne was placed in the centre of the hall. The whole hall was gilt. Both king and first queen accepted respects paid by followers in the early year, before and after the Buddhist lent.

Zetawun Hall in design of the facility in the time of the Lord Buddha was built west of the ground tier-roofed hall. Hanthathana throne was placed in Zetawun Hall, Gazathana throne

ancient style during the reign of King Thibaw in accordance with the records from palm leaves, English-Myanmar records and historical documents to be able to show the firm documents of possessing independence and sovereignty of Myanmar's kings.

The cornerstones were laid for royal heritages Myanansankyaw Golden Palace on 8 December 1989. It was rebuilt with four tier-roofed buildings at the corners of the walls and Laythein Gate on the northern wall and Oohteik Gate on the eastern wall with seven tiers roofed buildings. A total of 35 damaged tier-roofed structures in wars were rebuilt on 48 'PyaOh' positions on the walls.

Myanansankyaw Golden Palace rebuilt in original style was inaugurated on a grand scale in conjunction with Maha Atula-waiyan (Atumashi Monastery)



Surrounding area of Nanmyint tower.
PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)

in Byetaik Hall, Thinkhathana throne in Laytha Hall, Migathana throne in South Samok Hall, Mayurathana throne in North Samok Hall, Padumathana throne in West Zetawun Hall and Bamayathana throne in the glass hall.

Titles of the royal halls were named with essence, and the thrones were decorated with significant artistic works. These thrones were placed in respective halls and the king and the first queen took positions.

Yadanabon-Mandalay city lasted for 28 years from 27 November 1857 to 28 November 1885 due to occupation of colonialists. Consequently, the royal palace became firewood. In the Second World War, various buildings of the royal palace were burnt in bomb blasts. The golden palace monastery built by King Thibaw at the foot of Mandalay Hill remains unchanged in original works.

In recent decades, the government decided to rebuild Myanansankyaw Golden Palace in the

at the foot of Mandalay Hill on 18 September 1996. Currently, the Nanmyint Tower hall, the eastern halls and the western halls for queens at different levels can be seen in Myanansankyaw Golden Palace in original style. Visitors may enjoy the aerial view of the royal city from Nanmyint Tower.

The cultural museum of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum opened at Myanansankyaw Golden Palace showcases records in Yadanabon era, royal equipment, royal regalia and documentary photos. Thanks to Myanansankyaw Golden Palace, Myanmar people will embrace the spirit of adoring cultural heritages.

Translated by Than Tun Aung
Reference:
Myanmar Encyclopaedia Year Book (1995)
Royal Palace built with fences of plots (Natmauk Tun Shein)
Dates History of Myanmar, Konbaung era (U Tikkhadhammalankara and Dr Than Tun)



Artist Ko Maung Kyaw Than's latest offering lights up KaLaSa Art Space

By Nat Ye Hla

VETERAN artist Ko Maung Kyaw Than launched his 8th solo show featuring a collection of over 30 landscape paintings from the regions and states today at the KaLaSa Art Space in downtown Yangon.

"Only after my retirement from the Yangon's State School of Fine Arts as an instructor, I have tasted freedom, and I can spend as much time as I can creating paintings," said the 66-year-old artist. Ko Maung Kyaw Than, who is a promi-



dies, he stops his works of creation," said the artist, who was once a civil servant. Though he retired from the State School of Fine Art as an instructor, Ko Maung Kyaw Than has spent most of his weekends teaching trainees outdoor paintings, capturing scenes in Yangon.

His 8th solo show titled 'Melodious Outdoor Water Colour' will be held at the KaLaSa Art Space from 19 to 23 October.

KaLaSa Art Space is located at No. 131, 1st Floor (right), 34th St Middle block, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.

nent figure in the Myanmar art scene, retired from the Yangon State School of Fine Art six years ago at the age of 60.

"I spent much of my time on teaching and practical drawing with students, and I could not work on my art as much as I could as I focused on teaching," said U Kyaw Than. After his retirement, the veteran artist has toured the country and captured scenes from different areas on drawing paper.

"The weather in Shan State is cold. The weather in Bagan is hot. Mandalay is influenced by the royal atmosphere. I felt this sense of weather and environment and created these paintings," said the artist while showing the paintings hanging on the walls of the art space.

"There is no retirement for an artist. Only when he



Myanmar to host AFC U-19 Championship 2020 Qualifiers



Myanmar U-19 footballers undertake physical exercise as part of preparation for the AFC U-19 Championship 2020 Qualifiers. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE Asian Football Confederation (AFC) U-19 Championship 2020 Qualifiers will be held from 6 November at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon, Myanmar, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

At the tourney, host Myanmar's U-19 men's national football team will take on two Asian powerhouses and one ASEAN team. Team Myanmar, led by head coach U Soe Myat Min, has been pooled into Group I of the tourney with Asian giants South Korea and China and ASEAN football team, Singapore.

On 6 November, Myanmar will play their opening match against China at 6 p.m. Myanmar Standard Time. Meanwhile, South Korea will fight Singapore

the same day at 3 p.m. Myanmar Standard Time.

On 8 November, Singapore will play with China at 3 p.m. Myanmar Standard Time, and Myanmar will take on South Korea at 6 p.m.

On 10 November, South Korea will play against China at 3 p.m., and Myanmar will take on Singapore at 6 p.m.

All the matches will be held at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. Ticket prices for the matches have been fixed at K1,000 for ordinary stand and K2,000 for grand stand, according to the Myanmar Football Federation. The MFF is also arranging for the matches to be shown on MRTV and MySports' Facebook page.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Draw results out for states and regions U-12 boys' football tourney

THE drawing ceremony for the upcoming states and regions U-12 boys' football tournament was held yesterday at the headquarters of the Myanmar Football Federation in Yangon.

The ceremony was attended by officials from the Myanmar Football Federation and the Basic Education Department and officials from participating teams. There are a total of 17 teams participating in four different groups in the tournament.

Five teams have been placed in Group A—Magway Region team, Southern Shan State team, Taninthayi Region team, Kayah State team, and Mandalay Region team.

There are four teams in Group B—Eastern Shan State team, Mon State team, Nay Pyi

Taw team, and Kayin State team.

Group C comprises four teams: Bago Region team, Rakhine State team, Northern Shan State team, and Chin State team.

Meanwhile, Kachin State team, Ayeyawady Region team, Sagaing Region team, and Yangon Region team have been placed in Group D.

The opening ceremony of the tournament will be held at 8 a.m. on 19 October on the artificial turf of the National Football Academy in Yangon, and afterwards, the Southern Shan State team will play against the Mandalay Region team in the opening match. The states and regions U-12 football tourney will be held from 19 to 31 October, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Barcelona, Real Madrid eye Dec 18 date for postponed Clasico

MADRID — Barcelona and Real Madrid appear set to agree Dec 18 as the date for a rearranged Clasico after Spain's biggest football match was postponed on Friday (Oct 18) due to protests in Catalonia.

The Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) announced that Barca and Madrid have until 10:00am (0800 GMT) on Monday to find a new date, which will be decided by the RFEF if they cannot reach an agreement.

But according to the RFEF, Real Madrid have already approved December 18, meaning the fixture looks set to move to that date, pending official confirmation.

In a statement on Friday, Barcelona proposed the new date but also stressed their

desire for the original fixture, scheduled for October 26 at Camp Nou, to go ahead.

"The club's desire was to play the Clasico at Camp Nou on the 26th, the date and time previously agreed and the Committee was informed of

this in writing," read Friday's statement.

"The club has the utmost confidence in the peaceful behaviour of its members and fans who always express themselves in exemplary fashion at Camp Nou.—AFP ■



Barcelona's October 26th La Liga match at home to Real Madrid has been postponed over security concerns amid violent political demonstrations in Catalonia. **PHOTO: AFP**

Liverpool have nothing to lose in title race, says Van Dijk

LONDON — Liverpool have nothing to lose in the Premier League title race despite amassing an eight-point lead after just eight games, according to defender Virgil van Dijk.

The European champions are in pole position to end a 30-year wait to win a league title, but Van Dijk believes the pressure is still on Manchester

City to win the league for a third straight year.

"I don't think we have anything to lose," Van Dijk told Sky Sports ahead of Sunday's (Oct 20) trip to Manchester United.

"Man City are the champions, they're defending their title and we want to get it. In my point of view, we just have to go for it.

"We definitely need to enjoy it and be full of confidence, especially with the way we've got these points, having not had the best games but still getting the wins."

City's shock defeats to Norwich and Wolves have allowed Liverpool to surge ahead thanks to their perfect start to the season.

However, Van Dijk remains wary of Pep Guardiola's men, who overturned a seven-point deficit to pip Liverpool to the title by a point last season.

"There are so many games left, you can't really think about it (winning the title) - it's not realistic," added the Dutch captain.

"I don't watch Man City's

games but I have family and friends who text me or say something, especially after the Wolves game.

"That's just part of life but we've learnt from last year that we don't have to look to the others until the end of the campaign. So far, we have been doing well but Man City are definitely not going away."—AFP ■