Farmers in Phruso learn tea leave techniques

OVER 80 ethnic farmers in Phruso have learnt about tea leave production processes at the Hoyar-Byar border development camp in Phruso yesterday. They were taught the processes from the stage of plucking to drying tea leaves during the training conducted by the Township Agricultural Department. SEE PAGE-3

Myanmar Rice Federation delegations to visit China, Philippines, African countries to promote rice export

DELEGATIONS from the Myanmar Rice Federation will visit China, the Philippines, and African countries to promote Myanmar rice in the export markets, according to a press statement issued by the federation on Wednesday.

The MRFF’s Management Committee and the Central Executive held a joint meeting on 22 October and discussed matters related to the basic price of paddy, the formation of regional committees of the MRFF, plan for the international marketing trip, and paddy exports.

In a bid to coordinate all the stakeholders in the supply chain including producing, milling and trading sectors, the MRFF stated it will form regional committees in Yangon, Ayeyawady, and Bago regions by the end of this year. SEE PAGE-5

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Tatmadaw rescues 14 abductees from AA group

TATMADAW transport and armed helicopters managed to rescue 14 persons in hours after some people were abducted by AA armed group, according to the report of the Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

The AA armed group abducted Tatmadaw personnel, police officials, service personnel, and civilians onboard Shwenadi Watercraft en route from Sittway to Buthidaung near Yemyat village on 26 October.

Security forces were immediately conveyed by the transport helicopters for rescue operation to the nearest place of abduction. The AA armed group tried to shoot down the helicopter, but just hit its body and the pilot to injure. An armed helicopter then supported in carrying the security forces, the report said.

Tatmadaw’s armed helicopter fired warning shots as it was also hit by the weapons of AA armed group. After some hours of rescue operation, 14 persons could flee from the AA armed group. The released abductees said warning shots of Tatmadaw (Air) and ground operation of security forces helped them to run away from AA armed group, and the Tatmadaw columns are still trying for the release of remaining abductees. — MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)
THE fourth anniversary of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) is to be held at the Myanmar International Convention Center II in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 October 2019.

The anniversary of the NCA will be broadcast live by Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV), National Races Channel (NRC), Myanmar International TV (MITV), Myawaddy (MWD) Television, MNTV, SkyNet Up to Date, Channel 9, Myanmar Radio, MIR (Radio), President’s Office Facebook Page, Myanmar State Counsellor’s Office Facebook Page, MOI Web Portal Myanmar Facebook Page, MRTV Facebook Page and Myanmar Digital News Facebook, starting from 1:45pm. — MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

THE leaders and representatives of Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) arrived in Nay Pyi Taw to attend the fourth anniversary of Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

The leaders and representatives of EAOs arrived in Nay Pyi Taw were the Pao National Liberation Organization (PNLO)’s Patron Khun Okka and representatives, the Karen National Union (KNU)’s Chairman Saw Mutu Sae Poe and representatives, the Lahm Democratic Union (LDU)’s Chairman Kyar Khun Sar and members, the New Mon State Party (NMSP)’s Vice Chairman Nai Han Thar and representatives.

Similarly, the Arakan Liberation Army (ALPA)’s Vice Chairman Khaing Soe Naing Aung and representatives, the Lahm Democratic Union (LDU)’s Chairman Kyar Khun Sar and members, the New Mon State Party (NMSP)’s Vice Chairman Nai Han Thar and representatives, the Chin National Front (CNF)’s Vice Chairman Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhong and representatives, the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army-Peace Council (KNU/KNL-PC)’s Secretary Dr Naw Kegaw Htoo and representatives, the All Burma Students’ Democratic Front (ABSD-F)’s Chairman U Than Ge and representatives also arrived in Nay Pyi Taw to attend the NCA anniversary. — MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)
MOE, YUEco jointly conduct business, public administration master’s degree programmes

THE Ministry of Education’s headquarters and the Yangon University of Economics jointly conduct two-year programmes for master’s degree in business administration and public administration.

The Executive Master of Business Administration and the Executive Master of Public Administration are aimed for senior officers from state departments, NGOs, NGOs and private firms to get knowledge about public management and public policies for their works.

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi delivered a speech at the opening ceremony of these programmes held at the meeting hall of Higher Education Department in Nay Pyi Taw.

In his opening remark, the Union Minister called for stronger efforts on the government’s projects in Rakhine State and providing effective assistance to them. Myanmar government formed the Central Committee for the Implementation of Peace and Development in Rakhine State in 2016, with four working sub-committees. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is responsible for resettlement and socioeconomic development committee.

The Union Minister said that humanitarian assistance to civilians at temporary shelters must be systematic to ensure good results for them. He also advised to implement the national-level strategy adopted by the relevant state departments, international organizations and international experts for the resettlement of IDPs and the closure of temporary camps.

The Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) is implementing development programmes with the cooperation of the private and public sectors, partner countries, local and international organizations and UN agencies, while neighbouring countries and ASEAN members are also providing assistance in this issue.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye also asked the officials who are implementing the projects in Rakhine State to discuss their facing challenges and present their recommendations to address difficulties. Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu explained the situations at the temporary camps, education and health services for them, and resettlement plans for IDPs from 2017 Maungtaw violence.

Rakhine government’s Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Min Than, as the Chairman of Management Committee for Shelters from Armed Conflicts in the State, discussed security, accommodations, education, health services, possible closures of IDP camps, travel permits for national verification card holders and citizenship registration for them.

U Aung Kyaw Zan, the Minister for Electricity, Industry, Roads and Transport of Rakhine State, explained resettlement programme for IDPs from 2017 violence, plans for resettlement of returnees who were accepted under the UEHRD programme, and temporary building designs for them.

Deputy Minister U Soe Aung also discussed resettlement programme for Rakhine State, and shared experiences on arrangements for civilians who fled from armed conflicts in Kachin and Shan states.

U Toe Aung, the member of UEHRD, also held talks on their ongoing implementations and the future plans. Officials from relevant departments explained the works on citizenship scrutinizing, resettlement, education and health services for the civilians fled from armed conflicts.

Govt discusses resettlement programme for displaced civilians in Rakhine

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye held a coordination meeting at the building of Rakhine State government yesterday to provide humanitarian aid to the civilians who fled their homes due to armed conflicts in Rakhine State and the resettlement of internally displaced persons from the Maungtaw violence in 2017.

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Farmers in Phruso learn tea leaf techniques

FROM PAGE 1

The majority of tea leaves are grown in northern and southern Shan State. According to the Myanmar Tea Producers Association, Myanmar will export some 10 tons of green and dry tea leaves to Germany, and export 17 to 20 tons of organic raw tea leaves to the United States every year. The local market is a stronghold for both green and dry tea leaves. Foreign consumers have been enthusiastic about the taste of Myanmar tea leaves.

Tea leaves are separated into various categories, based upon taste and quality for local markets, while organic tea leaves are aimed at foreign buyers.

The price for Myanmar tea leaves range from US$6 to $10 per kilogram, based on the quality.

As 90 per cent of the components in tea leaves provide benefits for health, exporters must guarantee its quality along the supply chain from raw to finished products. — U Moe Thu (Phruso IPRD)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)
Union Minister U Kyaw Tin delivers Statement at 18th Summit of Non-Aligned Movement held in Baku

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin participated at the 18th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 25 to 26 October 2019 and delivered a statement in the debate of the Summit on 26 October 2019 calling for the need for all member states to safeguard and abide by the founding principles, ideals and purposes of the Movement to achieve peace and development, justice and equality for all countries. He also apprised the Summit on the developments in democratic transition in his country and Myanmar’s position on the issue of Rakhine State.

At the Summit, Azerbaijan took over the Chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement from the Bolivian Republic of Venezuela and assumed the Chairmanship of the Movement for the term 2019-2022. The Summit was attended by the Heads of State and Government and high-level officials from 72 Member States of the Movement, representatives from 26 observer states and organizations, and 20 countries and 31 international organizations as special guests.

In his statement made by the Union Minister at the second session of the NAM Summit held on 26-10-2019 under the theme “Upholding the Bandung Principles to ensure concerted and adequate response to the challenges of contemporary world”, the Union Minister stated that the Non-Aligned Movement, representing two-third of the UN members and more than half of the humanity, has the great potential to play a more effective and important role in responding to the numerous challenges facing the world today.

One of its major achievements was its political and moral drive to the decolonisation process that led to the emergence of many independent countries present at the meeting. The founding fathers had envisaged a peaceful and prosperous world and a just and equitable order where states can determine independently their own destinies. Myanmar, the then Burma, was among the five countries that co-sponsored the Bandung Conference. Successive governments in Myanmar had consistently pursued the non-alignment as a key component of their Foreign Policy. Thanks to its positive neutrality and non-aligned foreign policy, Myanmar had been able to enjoy close and friendly relations with all countries including major powers in the post-independence period.

Being a founding member of the Movement, Myanmar reaffirms today its unwavering faith in the fundamental principles of the Movement, particularly respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations; refraining from interference in the internal affairs of another country; settlement of disputes by peaceful means; and refraining from acts of aggression or threats or the use of force against any country. The world has undergone profound changes since NAM was founded.

He added that the members of the movement are still struggling with complex challenges in this uncertain world which include injustice of the world order; impacts of climate change, poverty, rise of protectionism, violent extremism, terrorism, unilateral economic sanctions and monopolisation of the world media by the rich and powerful. It is crucial more than ever that all member states stand united together to safeguard and abide by the founding principles, ideals and purposes of our Movement to achieve peace and development, justice and equality for all countries the world over.

With regard to the developments in Myanmar, the Union Minister explained that Myanmar has started to enjoy greater freedom and democratic rights since the emergence of a democratically elected civilian government just over three and a half years ago. Since taking office, the civilian Government has set national priorities, which include national reconciliation and peace, democratisation and development as well as seeking a lasting solution for the complex issue of communal tensions in Rakhine State. Within just 3-year transition, significant improvements have been made in many areas including health, education, socio-economic sectors, infrastructure development and must visibly prevalence of greater freedom and democratic rights in the country.

According to the World Bank forecast, Myanmar’s economy will grow 6.6 percent next year becoming one of the fastest growing economies in the Southeast Asia. Tourist arrival has risen 25 percent thanks to visa liberalisation measures. As Myanmar opens its economy, Myanmar is among the World Bank’s top 20 countries for most improved ease of doing business attributing to its initiatives that enhanced its business environment. But, the nascent democratic transition of Myanmar is still yet incomplete, struggling with numerous challenges including amending the undemocratic Constitution, continued ethnic armed conflicts and old and new complex issues in Rakhine State. Regardless of the challenges, the Government has also been steadfast in pursuing the world's most complicated peace process involving numerous Ethnic Armed Organisations to foster a lasting peace in the country through the holding of 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference.

With regard to the issue of Rakhine State, Union Minister stressed that it is just one of those many challenges in our nascent transition. This problem should thus be viewed from a broader perspective of Myanmar’s complex and incomplete democratic transition. Rakhine problem is not a religious issue as widely misconceived. It is, in fact, a political and economic issue involving lack of development and irregular migration across the porous border since colonial time. We should not therefore overlook the involvement of elements of terrorism in creating this humanitarian problem and the sufferings of both communities including the local ethnic minorities.

The main obstacle for repatriation is the killings and threats by ARSA on the displaced persons advocating for or willing to return. Myanmar needs its neighbour Bangladesh’s cooperation to address this issue. ARSA terror groups do not want repatriation but international pressure on Myanmar is expressed to advance their political agenda. Despite those threats, some 350 displaced people from Cox’s Bazar have voluntarily returned on their own arrangement. They have resumed their lives in Rakhine State in conditions of safety and dignity without any security concern. On its part, Myanmar is creating a conducive environment for the returnees in cooperation not only with the relevant UN agencies, but also with its ASEAN Friends, as well as its traditional development partners in the region and beyond. Myanmar stands ready to resolve the issue with the cooperation of Bangladesh based on the agreed bilateral arrangements with a good neighbourly spirit. Myanmar wishes to express its appreciation to those NAM member states and other partners who have lent their constructive support to Myanmar in its efforts to bring peace, democracy and development to Myanmar.

The Summit adopted the Final Document, Baku Declaration and Declaration on Palestine. The Summit was preceded by Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting on 21 and 22 October and Preparatory Ministerial Meeting on 23 and 24 October 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The Union Minister also made a statement at the first session of the Preparatory Ministerial Meeting held on 23-10-2019.

While in Baku, the Union Minister held bilateral meeting with H.E. Dr. Subrahmanyan Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India and matters pertaining to improving bilateral cooperation were discussed, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA
Wilmar Myanmar opens edible oil, flour mills factories in Thilawa

WILMAR Myanmar officially opened its first edible oil mill with a capacity of 460 metric tons per day, and flour mill with a capacity of 530 metric tons per day at the Thilawa Port terminal. Simultaneously, they held a groundbreaking ceremony for construction of the rice mill, which is expected to produce 1,200 tons of rice per day, according to the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

Wilmar’s famous brand Meizan products, including edible oils, flour and sugar, are widely available in the market. Wilmar Myanmar will continue introducing quality consumer products.

At the ceremony, U Han Tun, regional minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Energy; U Win Naing Oo, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Communications; U Aung Naing Oo, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations; and Mr Kuok Khoon Hong, CEO of Win International Limited, delivered remarks. Over 400 local and foreign guests were present at the event.

As Myanmar has significant economic potentials in Asia, Wilmar came to invest in the country. They will provide an integrated agribusiness model that encompasses the entire value chain of the agricultural commodity business, from cultivation, processing, marketing to manufacturing a wide range of agricultural products, according to Wilmar Myanmar.

The Myanmar Investment Commission has permitted Singapore-listed Wilmar Internationa to form a local joint venture - Wilmar Myanmar Ltd - to produce, sell and distribute rice and related products, including rice, rice flour, rice bran, rice bran oil and rice husks, at Thilawa port in Yangon. Wilmar International Limited is a multinational corporation which has over 500 manufacturing plants and an extensive distribution network covering China, India and Australia, Myanmar and some 50 other countries. – U Tin Maung/Myint Maung (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar Rice Federation delegates to visit China, Philippines, African countries to promote exports

Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Energy are planning to enter into an agreement with China for legal cattle export underway.

During the last fiscal year, the average price of rice was K1.6-2.3 million, but it is expected to be $691 million this year, according to the Ministry of Commerce. The MRF and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Energy are working to develop a legal trade channel for cattle exports, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

In a bid to encourage legal trade routes, create more jobs for local residents, livestock trade was allowed by China, said Dr Kyaw Htin, vice president of the Myanmar Livestock Federation.

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MYANMAR'S Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department has been negotiating with Chinese authorities to develop a legal trade channel for cattle exports, according to the Ministry of Commerce. Although cattle exports are legal in Myanmar, it is still not allowed by China, said Dr Kyaw Htin, vice president of the Myanmar Livestock Federation.

They are ensuring that cattle to be traded must be free from foot and mouth disease. The discussion between China and Myanmar has begun,” said Dr Kyaw Htin.

The export of cattle is officially permitted from Myanmar: Therefore, Myanmar’s government is planning to enter into a Government to Government pact with China so that Myanmar’s traders do not suffer from illegal trade in China.

In a bid to encourage legal trade routes, create more jobs for local residents, livestock trade was allowed by China in late 2017, along with decentralized cattle exports from the respective region and state governments.

As cattle in Myanmar are mainly exported to China through the Muse border gate, as well as to Thailand.

Normally, a large cow is valued at over K1.6-2.3 million, but the suspension of trade has led to Chinese traders resorting to cheaper prices by offering a lower price of some K1 million in early 2019. Between the 2017-2018FY and 28 March in the current FY, export of 446,000 cattle were permitted for export, and more than 400,000 cattle have been exported, according to trade figures. At present, that cattle are older than five years old are being exported, along with the required vaccination certificates, health certificates, and farming registration certificates. According to the 2018 cattle census, there are 11.5 million cattle in the country.

Authorities have issued cattle export licenses to more than 300 companies in the Magway region. There are some 5,000 companies holding cattle export licenses across the country. – GNLM (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)
Library law, development, challenges discussed

OFFICIALS from MoI and the literary sector organized a workshop to review the Public Library Law at UMFCCI, Yangon, yesterday.

The workshop was attended by Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, Yangon Region Minister for Rakhine Ethnic Social Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung, Kayin Ethnic Social Affairs Minister U Hla Hla Toe, Deputy Minister of Information U Than Zaw, and officials from the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD), Myanmar Library Association (MLA), Myanmar Library Foundation (MLF), Myanmar Publishers and Distributors Association (MPDA), Save the Library, MBAPF, and organizations related to library matters.

The Deputy Minister first delivered an address. He said the state and regional governments have the authority to supervise library matters, as pertained in Schedule Two of the Constitution. He said this allows each state and region to enact library-related laws for their own jurisdiction. He said they have drafted nine laws so far and upon careful analysis some laws are found to be either excessive, contradicting with existing laws or already included in other existing laws thus making them unnecessary.

The Deputy Minister said the fourth industrial revolution has gained momentum in the past 10 years and the benefits of digital technology has never been more pronounced now, especially as Myanmar’s economic system changes.

He said the number of readers for printed media has decreased and those for social media has increased and this is something to put into consideration. He said social media has the advantage of influencing a wide range of people and thus, it is important to consider the role of a digital online library.

The workshop discussed the three topics of (i) public library development and the role of the public library law, (ii) challenges faced by public libraries, and (iii) reviews and suggestions on the public library law. The Deputy Minister said drafting a law will take more than one attempt and it must reflect the practicality of the changing times.

The workshop then commenced with the first topic discussed by MBAPF Executive Director U Thant Thaw Kaung, IPRD Deputy Director-General U Aye Kywe, Save the Library’s U Maung Maung Soe and MPDA Vice Chairman U Myint Tun.

The second topic was discussed by MLA Vice Chairman (1) Daw Myat San Nyein, MLF Executive member U Maung Maung Oo (Hein Latt), U Kyi Win from Lawka Amon, IPRD Director U Kaw Siit, and Tagaung Youth Development Center’s Executive member of Thiti Library U San Naing Oo. The third topic was discussed by MLA Chairperson Daw A Win, MoI’s legal advisor U Maung Maung (a) U Kyi Shun, IPRD Director U Kyaw Zin Soe, Lecturer U Zaw Aung of the Yangon University’s Library and Research Department, and U Maung Zaw (Thitayaw) from Child Education and Health Assistance Group. —MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)
HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION WEEK

- FACE PAINTING EVENT
- MAGIC SHOW & CHILDREN ACTIVITIES
- TRICK OR TREAT STREET EVENT

Corner of Kabar Aye Pagoda Road and Kanbe Road, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Nicotine in disguise

SMOKING, betel-quid chewing and tobacco consumption are all bad habits. The latter two are also harmful to the people who directly consume them. Nicotine is harmful to the nervous system and muscle cells. It can cause strokes due to the blockage of blood vessels in the brain. People absorb nicotine through smoking cigarettes, cheroots, and pipe tobacco. People also smoke waterpipes into their mouths and suck on them, instead of smoking them.

Many studies have shown a convincing link between betel use and cancer of the mouth and pharynx. Betel quid use is also a contributory factor in many other parts of the body, including the mouth, throat, voice box (larynx), oesophagus, bladder, bowel, cervix, kidney, liver, stomach and pancreas.

Myanmar enacted a law to eliminate the habit of smoking and betel quid chewing in 2006. Under the law, warning messages have appeared on the packaging of cigarettes and other tobacco products.

As the fight against tobacco use has turned into a global campaign, big tobacco companies began to apply alternative means to promote their products. They use advertising, sponsorship, and in-house research to target consumers. They sometimes combine tobacco products with a wide range of products, including food, beverages, and other goods. They may also use personal appeal, celebrity endorsements, and other tactics to attract customers.

Nicotine dependence in dual-users of cigarettes and e-cigarettes.

The ASEAN has developed an ASEAN Qualification Reference Framework which enables the Member States to refer to the common standards and requirements involved in providing education. The ASEAN Qualification Reference Framework which makes the education system more dynamic and flexible as well as provides a means to assess the quality of education. The ASEAN Qualification Reference Framework which enables the Member States to refer to the common standards and requirements involved in providing education. The ASEAN Qualification Reference Framework which makes the education system more dynamic and flexible as well as provides a means to assess the quality of education.
YBS card payment system to be launched by year-end

By Nyein Nyein

A card payment system will be installed on YBS lines by the end of this year, said U Hla Aung, the joint secretary of the Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

“We are endeavoring to install the card payment system on buses as a preliminary measure in October, November, and December. Once the machines arrive in the city, we will start a trial run. After discussions, the YRTA and Asia Starmar Transport Company will implement the test runs in the coming months this year,” said U Hla Aung.

More than 1,500 buses will get e-ticketing machines in the initial stage, he said.

The e-ticketing machines will be installed on 500 buses from the Yangon Urban Public Transport Company, 500 buses from the Yangon Bus Public Company, 300 buses from the Bandoola Company, and 80 buses from the S_frequency Taung San Company.

“The concerned companies have been notified about the bus number for test runs. They are taking the necessary measures to install the system on buses. They are preparing to install the machines upon their arrival,” said U Hla Aung.

During a Yangon Region government meeting (20/2018), held on 17 May, 2018, Asia Starmar Transport Intelligent Co. Ltd was selected as the tender winner for implementing the YBS payment service project.

“The company is currently finalizing payment techniques, and it is working on necessary measures to launch the system. We will provide an update on the status of the project soon,” said U Hla Aung.

To improve transport facilities in Yangon, the Yangon Bus Service system (YBS) was launched on 16 January, 2017, during the incumbent government’s term. At present, over 100 bus lines are operating, 4,600 buses on about 133 routes, along with the Airport Shuttle. The number of daily commuters has been estimated at 1.8 million. (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Police confiscates illegal drugs in six townships

POLICE seized illegal drugs including stimulant tablets and heroin in six townships on 26 October, according to Myanmar Police Force.

The anti-narcotic squad no.3 from Mohinnyin Township arrested Mg Tun in possession of 1,200 stimulant tablets and 0.011 Kg heroin after the motorcycle driven by him was being searched near Mawhlan Village on the Mawhlan-Nanachi road in Mohinnyin Township.

Similarly police confiscated 1,400 stimulant tablets from the house rented by Isan at Taung Kock Village in Hpakant Township. Additionally, the police seized 5,600 stimulants from the house of Ar Shwe in Kaung San Village in the same township.

The anti-narcotic squad no.35 from Myeik Township also seized 14.07 kg of speciosa powder from the house of Htay Nge (a) Shin Nge in Ma Eai Village, Kyunsa Township.

Similarly, the anti-narcotic squad no.10 from Mandalay confiscated 6,000 stimulant tablets and a mobile phone from Ngy Nyi Aung (a) Myat Hman while they searched him near 62nd Street and Setmu Street in Nga Ward, Pyiagyaung Township.

Police from Hsisseng Township also stopped and searched the motorcycle driven by Myat Ko and Thet Wai on board near Hnawle Village Banyin-Katkokku road in Hsiseng Township, and seized 3,800 stimulant tablets and a mobile phone from them.

The anti-narcotic squad no.24 from Lashio also seized K 145.125 million worth of 3,600 litres of Toluene, 300 litres of 1 Phenyl 2 Propanone, 975 kilos of caffeine and 77 paper boxes each contains six 44-diaper pack from the suspected six-wheeled Canter car stopped near the Sin Rupa petrol filling station on Muse-Lashio road in Nenttun Village, Lashio Township.

The cases were filed at the related police stations in accordance with the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law—GNLM.

Cyclists take part in the Yangon mass cycling event yesterday.

PHOTO: MYO MIN THEIN (MAYANGON)

Over 600 cyclists join Yangon mass cycling event

WITH a view to promoting health-enhancing physical activity, the Yangon mass cycling gathering was held at 6 a.m. yesterday at Kandawgyi Park in Yangon.

More than 600 professionals and amateur cyclists joined the event. It kicked off in front of Karaweik Hall, followed by participants cycling two rounds of the Kandawgyi Park. “The cycling event is held to improve health and help bodies fit. It also aims to reduce air pollution,” said U Cho, chairman of Yangon regional sub-committee for cycling. The cycling is also to be held in Thanlyin in the last Sunday of November. — Myo Min Thein (Mayangon) (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)
Literary lovers gather last day of Moe Moe (Inya) commemoration festival

Book-lovers buying books at the book stalls of the Myanmar Literary and Arts Festival in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

A review competition on the writer’s novels was held at the meeting hall, with writers Kyu Kyu Tin, Ma Sandar, Ma Hnin Phwe, San San Nwe (Tharyawady), and Jau acted as judges.

Next, writer Yar Thet Pan (Tungoo Dorm) read a paper on Moe Moe (Inya)’s literature, and in the afternoon, writer Than Myint Aung talked on the interplay between aesthetic and life while nine-time Moe Moe (Inya) Literary Award winner Maung Khine Aung (Sittway) talked on his feelings from reading her literature.

Writer Than Myint Aung was quoted saying every person’s life is intertwined with aesthetics and the happiness, sadness and sorrow gained in life are all aesthetics.

Ma Ei Ei Swe from Haing Township attended all three days of the festival and her impression was: “I have always loved literature since I was young. Since I live far from the city I don’t have a lot of chances to attend festivals like these. But I made up my mind to attend this one and I’m absolutely delighted to have seen famous writers with my own eyes.”

Teacher Hnin Wai Nyein explained that the novel competition gave out K300,000 for the 1st prize, K200,000 for 2nd, K200,000 for 3rd, and K70,000 as six consolation prizes. She said all the competitors were on the same skill level and will be receiving books by writer Moe Moe along with their prizes. She said there were 337 candidates competing with each other.

Writer Thakin (Zalun Myay) won third prize with ‘Eain-tan-pyan-nyat’ and said: “All the festivals organized for Moe Moe (Inya) have always been grand and I’ve never expected to receive an award related to her. It’s brought tears to my eyes. I want to encourage young people to write if it’s their passion. The rationality between a person who reads and one who doesn’t is different. That’s why you should read a lot.”

First place for the novel review competition went to Hkyaw Htin Haing (Loikaw) for ‘Thar-kaung-nyaw’, second place to Htan for ‘Kabar-mee-laung’, and third place for ‘Kabar-mee-laung’.

Lastly, writer Juu and Mya Kyar Ngone Group entertained the audience with musical performances. — Mya Sandi

(Translated by Zaw Htet Ok)

Kashmir row sparks Malaysia, India palm oil tensions

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia’s mammoth palm oil sector faces a new threat after Indian traders were asked to halt purchases amid a diplomatic row over the industry as Europe also plans cutbacks. The Southeast Asian nation is the second-biggest producer after Indonesia of the oil, used in everything from food to cosmetics, in a sector long vilified by environmentalists who blame it for fuelling deforestation. With Western companies reducing use of the commodity as green groups ratchet up pressure, the top two growers have increasingly come to rely on demand from India, the world’s biggest buyer of edible oils, and China. But a speech by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad at the United Nations General Assembly last month, in which he said New Delhi had “in vaded and occupied” Kashmir, has sparked a backlash in India that could badly hit the sector.

There has been sympathy in mostly Muslim Malaysia for Kashmiris after the Hindu nationalist government in New Delhi revoked the Muslim-majority region’s autonomy in August, and imposed a lockdown to quell unrest. Kashmir has been split between India and Pakistan since 1947, and has sparked wars and numerous skirmishes between the two countries. An armed rebellion against Indian rule has raged in the valley since 1989.—AFP
Afghan election results delayed again

KABUL.—Preliminary results from Afghanistan’s presidential elections have been delayed for nearly a month, officials announced Sunday, a lengthy postponement likely to stoke political uncertainty and allegations of fraud.

Afghans went to the polls for a first-round vote on September 28, and initial results were supposed to have been released October 19. But more than a week after saying the Independent Election Commission would miss that deadline, commission chairwoman Hawa Alam Nuristani said the results now would not be released until November 14.

“We have already apologised for missing the date, but this doesn’t mean failure,” Nuristani told reporters.

“This (election) is a fate-determining issue in the country and we cannot accept sacrificing transparency for speed.”

Afghanistan’s presidential election in September saw a record low turnout.

Election officials cited several technical issues slowing the counting of ballots, including an attempt from unknown quarters to hack the central system of Dermalog, the German company that provided biometric machines designed to prevent duplicate votes.

In one bizarre incident, two police officers who were purportedly escaping chilly temperatures slept inside the main election data centre, which is supposed to be sealed, prompting howls of outrage from the team of key candidate Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah.

“This year’s election is considered a two-horse race between him and President Ashraf Ghani.”

Pakistan court grants bail to ex-PM Nawaz Sharif on health issues: lawyers

ISLAMABAD.—A court in Pakistan on Saturday granted interim bail to the country’s former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif over health problems, lawyers and Sharif’s party said. Sharif, the three-time prime minister, is presently serving a seven-year jail term over corruption charges related to owning steel mill abroad. He was shifted to hospital on Monday after his health deteriorated in jail in Lahore, the capital of Punjab province.

The court granted the bail until Tuesday and the judges will take up another application that seeks cancellation of Sharif’s conviction.

Sharif’s lawyer Zafarullah told reporters that the court has granted interim bail to Nawaz Sharif and the court will again hear another application for permanent bail.

Spokesperson for Sharif’s Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Maryam Aurangzeb confirmed the verdict. Commenting on the verdict, Aurangzeb welcomed the decision and said that treatment of Nawaz Sharif continued and that he is improving now.—Xinhua

Protesters clash with police in Hong Kong tourist hotspot

HONG KONG—Clashes erupted Sunday between Hong Kong police and pro-democracy demonstrators who gathered at a park in the Kowloon peninsula to protest against alleged police brutality. A heavy presence of riot police blocked roads near Salisbury Garden in the tourist hot spot of Tsim Sha Tsui in the Kowloon peninsula on Oct. 27, 2019 as a fresh round of anti-government protest entered its 21st week. PHOTO: KYODO

Hong Kong police fire teargas and rubber bullets at hundreds of protesters rallying in the tourist hotspot of Tsim Sha Tsui in the Kowloon peninsula on Oct. 27, 2019 as a fresh round of anti-government protest entered its 21st week. PHOTO: KYODO

PHOTO: AFP

Bored and broke, Vietnam migrants risk lives for riches in Europe

HANOI—Young, aspirational and poor Vietnamese are risking their lives to travel to Europe, taking on large debts to join well-worn trafficking routes in the hope of a better future thousands of miles from their rural homes.

The dangers of illegal crossings into Europe were laid bare this week when 31 men and eight women were found dead in a refrigerated truck in Britain. British police initially said the victims were Chinese, but it is now feared most were from Vietnam.

Many Vietnamese migrants come from a handful of central provinces, where smugglers prey on disaffected youth lured by the prospect of overseas work. Bored by village life and fed up with a lack of opportunity, the allure of overseas riches is enough to tempt many to embark on the risky trips.—AFP

Sri Lanka raises funds for children orphaned in Easter attacks

COLOMBO—Sri Lanka’s Attorney General’s Department on Saturday evening held an event in capital Colombo to raise funds for children affected by the Easter Sunday attacks in April, which claimed 250 lives.

Speaking at the event, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said that all those involved in the attacks had been killed or apprehended and the government was drafting new legislations against extremists and terrorists.

He said terrorism had affected the entire region and called for more coordinated efforts to tackle the issue.

Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Cheng Xueyuan, speaking at the event, commended the department for bridging for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). China was among sources of the fund.—Xinhua
**News In Brief**

**Iraq students join protests as pressure on government swells**

BAGHDAD—Iraqi students joined anti-government protests in Baghdad on Sunday, ramping up the street pressure on Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi who also faced a surprise sit-in from parliament's largest bloc.

The capital and country's south have been rocked by a second wave of demonstrations since Thursday, with protesters digging in despite tear gas, curfews and violence that has left over 60 dead. On Sunday morning, students could be seen joining demonstrations in the capital, with activists saying about a dozen schools and universities had decided to shut their doors and take part in protests en masse.—AFP

**Lebanon protesters to form nationwide human chain**

BEIRUT—Tens of thousands of Lebanese protesters were to attempt a human chain running across the entire country Sunday to symbolise newfound national unity.

Demonstrators planned to join hands from Tripoli to Tyre, a 170-kilometre (105-mile) chain running through the main protest hub in Beirut, as part of an unprecedented cross-sectarian mobilisation.

Tension has mounted in recent days between security forces and protesters, who are blocking roads and bringing the country to a standstill to press their demands for a complete overhaul of the political system.—AFP

**Algeria registers 22 candidates for presidential vote**

ALGIERS—Algeria’s election authority has registered 22 candidates for a December presidential election, including two former prime ministers under former president Abdelaziz Bouteflika, the official APS agency reported Sunday.

Former premiers Ali Benflis and Abdelmadjid Tebboune had submitted their candidacies for the December 12 vote before the deadline for nominations passed Saturday.

Both are considered front-runners in an election which however is opposed by the mass protest movement that alongside the army forced Bouteflika to resign in April.

Activists are demanding sweeping reforms before any vote takes place, and say Bouteflika-era figures still in power must not use the presidential poll as an opportunity to appoint his successor.

Polls originally planned for July 4 were postponed due to a lack of viable candidates. Observers are predicting a weak turnout in December.

Benflis, 75, served as prime minister under Bouteflika from 2000 to 2003.

After his dismissal, Benflis ran as Bouteflika’s main opponent in 2004 and 2014, coming a distant second both times as the president was re-elected with over 80 percent of the vote.

Tebboune, 73, was a senior civil servant before serving as a minister from the 1990s.

After Bouteflika assumed the presidency in 1999, Tebboune was minister of communication, obtaining further portfolios in 2002.

Bouteflika appointed him prime minister in May 2017 before sacking him less than three months later against a backdrop of factional fighting in government.—AFP

**Saudi takes command of coalition troops in Yemen’s Aden**

RIYADH—Saudi Arabia took command of anti-rebel troops in Yemen’s Aden, Saudi state media said Sunday, after the government and southern separatist forces struck a power-sharing deal following August clashes in the city.

“Coalition forces have been repositioned in Aden to become under the king’s command and re-deployed to conform with requirements of current operations,” the Saudi-led pro-government coalition said in a statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency.

The move comes after the United Arab Emirates, which is part of the Saudi-led coalition against northern-based Huthi rebels but has also trained southern separatists, handed key positions to Saudi forces earlier this month, according to a security official. The UAE-backed Security Belt force in August seized control of Aden, which had served as the beleaguered government’s base since it was ousted by the Huthi rebels in 2014.

The Security Belt is dominated by supporters of the separatist Southern Transitional Council (STC), which seeks an independent southern Yemen. But Yemen’s internationally recognised government and the STC, both of whom have good relations with Riyadh, struck a power-sharing deal last week that emerged earlier this year, sources from both sides said on Friday.—AFP

**IS head Baghdadi believed dead after US strike in Syria: reports**

DAMASCUS—Jihadi supremo Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the world’s most wanted man, was believed Sunday to have been killed in a US special operation in northwest Syria.

The elusive chief of the Islamic State group was thought to be dead after a US military raid in the Idlib region, US media reported early Sunday. The White House announced President Donald Trump would make a “major statement” Sunday at 9:00 am (1300 GMT), without providing details. Turkey said it had coordinated with the United States before the operation.

A war monitor said US helicopters dropped forces in an area of Idlib province where “groups linked to the Islamic State group” were present.

The helicopters targeted a home and a car outside the village of Bari- sha in Idlib province, said the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which relies on a vast network of sources inside Syria for its information.

The operation killed nine people including an IS senior leader called Abu Yamaan as well as a child and two women, it said.—AFP

**CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE**

M.V SINAR BINTAN VOYNO. (654 N/S) Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BINTAN VOYNO. (654 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-10-2019 at 1200 Noon, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegram/telex proposal will be accepted. For detail information please contact the Phone No.067-3411510, 067-3411544, Procurement and Supply Division Office, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports.

**INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER**

Sealed tenders are invited by Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports for the supply of Medical Equipments in the (2019-2020) Budget year. Tender documents are available during office hours at the Procurement and Supplying Division, Department of Medical Services, Office No (4), Ministry of Health and Sports Commencing from (29.10.2019).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office, not later than (28-11-2019), 12:00 Noon, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraph/telex proposal will be accepted. For detail information please contact the Phone No.067-3411510, 067-3411544, Procurement and Supply Division Office, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports.
Going to Shein Ma Kar

SHEIN Ma Kar in Myanmar language was spelt differently in the past and the present. However it was written or spelt, people are sure to associate the word with a small town (or a big village), wildlife conservation area and a forest retreat (monastery). Shein Ma Kar situated in Sagaing Region Wetlet Township is a place of interest for local and foreign visitor alike due to its historical link to the Pyu.

How to go there
Shein Ma Kar is about two and half hour drive from Mandalay and can be reached via Sagaing after going on to Wetlet. I came down from Shwebo in the north and the drive was more than an hour drive. The two-way road was an awkward one and half lane wide with some portion being very good while some portion in an extremely bad shape. The best car for this road is an off road 4x4 cars but motorcycle is also good enough. But if you are going there by a motorcycle, make sure you wear a helmet, be alert looking where you were going as well as checking the rear view mirror frequently.

A good time to visit
The best is to travel during the daytime. As the region had little rain only, it is fine to come during the raining season too. And the surrounding was more pleasant and beautiful during the raining season than the hot summer time. There’ll be more greenery.

Places to visit
There isn’t much to visit and some may say it was not worth the trouble going there for such few places only. That may be why some draw up a trip schedule to Shein Ma Kar with trips to ancient city Han Lin, pilgrimage to Sagaing pagodas and a visit to Shwe Bo. But as with many other places, it had its own beauty and attractions.

A big village Shein Ma Kar
Shein Ma Kar is a big village. It can also be designated as a small town. The main road through the big village or small town is noticeably busy even though the time I went there was not during the peak travel season. You’ll see the usual village scenes of a Bamar village even though some parts were more like a town than a village. It can be said as a traditional Bamar style village or small town with some modern influence. There were about a thousand household in Shein Ma Kar.

Wildlife conservation area and a forest retreat with many antiquities
The wildlife conservation area and the forest retreat monastery was the main attraction to the place. Even though the wild life conservation area was aimed for conserving deer, I didn’t see any animal, not to mention deer, for the simple reason of being just at the outskirt of the wild life conservation area. I only saw a dog, an ordinary dog found in any villages, towns and cities, small wild cat species, fowls and birds.

The brick-lined pathway to the forest retreat monastery was a bit of an attraction with greeneries overhanging above it. It was a short path but due to the enjoyable and pleasant walk through it, it seems shorter as time and distance went by quickly. Once past the short pathway, you’ll be in the monastery compound. There’ll be an old monastery known as a forest retreat monastery that was constructed with the donation of King Mindon in ME 1224 (AD 1862). It was in a quite dilapidated condition and not much maintenance seems to be conducted. But old Myanmar architectural forms in concrete are still around in abundance and this was invaluable. There’s also a covered walkway or a rest area that was constructed with King Mindon (1853-1878). PHOTO: THIHA

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PHOTO: THIHA

PHOTO: THIHA

PHOTO: THIHA
Mindon’s donation. The monastery itself had retained and kept old utensils used by King Mindon himself.

Once past the old monastery, you’ll reach a small pagoda and a stairway that went down to Ayeyawady River. Go down the stairway to enjoy the beautiful sight of the river. Midway down the stairway, you’ll see cave like meditation places.

Villages along the way back to Shwebo from Shein Ma Kar also had many old and ancient pagodas. The one that I found most interesting was at Inn Be Gyi Village.

The greeneries observed along the way to Shein Ma Kar, the beauty of Ayeyawady River and Konbaung era monastery are things that will remain etched in my memory forever. May all have a happy and safe trip.

Translated by Handytips

The Chinthe (the guardian Lions) are seen at the entrance of pagoda. PHOTO: THIHA

Ancient religious building. PHOTO: THIHA

Trash bins made with plastic bottles. PHOTO: THIHA
THE Myanmar U-19 women’s football team will play against Japan U-19 women’s team today at the Institute of Physical Education (IPE) Campus Stadium in Chonburi, Thailand, as the opening match of Group B of the AFC U-19 Women’s Championship 2019.

The press conference for the Group B matches of the championship was held yesterday afternoon at the Oakwood Hotel in Chonburi, Thailand. The conference was attended by head coaches of respective teams in Group B, including Myanmar U-19 women team head coach Daw Thet Thet Win. Speaking about the upcoming match against Myanmar and Japan, Daw Thet Thet Win said at the press conference that she congratulates her team for qualifying to play at the Asian level championship.

“I am overwhelmed, as team Myanmar is falling together with football powerhouses, and I feel proud for my team. Though we are facing one of the highest FIFA ranked teams, we won’t be worried about that fact. We will play respectfully by having our best concentration and show our best,” Daw Thet Thet Win said.

Also, head coach of the U-19 women team of Japan, Futoshi Ikeda, said that they came here having two ambitions. The first is to secure the next FIFA World Cup qualification, while the second is to defend their championship title. The Japanese team will try for every full point in each match. As the opening match against Myanmar will be difficult, Japan has prepared well, the head coach of Japan added.

The Myanmar and Japan match will start at 3:30 pm, Myanmar Standard Time today.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Myanmar head coach Daw Thet Thet Win (R) shakes hands with Japanese head coach Futoshi Ikeda (L) during yesterday’s press conference for the Group B of the AFC U-19 Women’s Championship 2019 in Chonburi.

PHOTO: MFF

AFC U-19 Women’s Championship 2019: Myanmar to play Japan today

MYANMAR suffered a 3-7 loss to host Viet Nam in the third place match of the AFF Futsal Championship 2019 at Phu Tho Indoor Stadium in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam yesterday.

Due to the loss for third place in the tourney, Myanmar failed to qualify for the 2020 AFC Futsal Championship, which will be held in Turkmenistan.

Though Myanmar made a quick play, Vietnam soon had the advantage of being led by Tran Thai Huy, after a corner combination situation with Ton That Phi at the six minute mark.

Just a few minutes later, Thai Huy scored another goal, with a cool finish after winning the ball in the penalty area to double the gap.

But Myanmar made the following goal over the mistakes of Viet Nam’s defense at 9 minutes, as the goal was scored by Myanmar’s Naing Ye Kyaw.

Next, Kyaw Soe Moe scored for Myanmar and the match was tied at 2-2.

After 2-2, the match heated up. Again, Viet Nam scored the third goal by Nhan Gia Hung at 27 minutes and the fourth goal by penalty was scored by Tran Van Vu at 32 minutes.

Myanmar tried to equalize and Naing Ye Kyaw scored the third goal for Myanmar at 33 minutes.

After 3-4, Myanmar used a power play to equalize their goal, but team Myanmar made defensive errors and Viet Nam had more chances to score the continuous goals.

The goals of Viet Nam’s Pham Duc Hoa, Tran Van Vu and Nguyen Minh Tri in the final minutes of the match resulted in the final score of 3-7, as Myanmar failed to reach third place.

Winning the final 7-3, the Viet Nam team won the bronze medal of the AFF Futsal Championship 2019 and a place to attend the final round of the 2020 Asian Futsal, scheduled for the end of February next year in Turkmenistan.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

The Myanmar player (white) attempts to pass through the Viet Nam massive defense during the third place match of the AFF Futsal championship in Ho Chi Minh yesterday. PHOTO: MFF

AFF Futsal Championship 2019: Myanmar misses third place with loss to Viet Nam

Thayawady District Education Officer’s Trophy cane ball competition held in Zigon

Thayawady District Education Officer’s Trophy U-16 cane ball (Chinlone) competition was held in Zigon Township, Bago Region, on 24 October.

The competition included under sixteen-U16 young athletes from basic education schools in the district.

The competition was attended by district and township level government officials, as well as officials from the Myanmar Traditional Chinlone federation, fans and invited guests.

There were eight youth teams competing, and the tournament was sponsored by U Hla Htay (Htay Family).—Moe Tint Swe (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)