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State Counsellor arrives in Bangkok to attend 35th ASEAN Summit



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi seen off by Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister U Min Thu, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung and wife, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar Mrs. Suphatra Srimaitreephithak and officials at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived in Bangkok yesterday afternoon by special flight to attend the 35th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits. She is in Thailand at the invitation of General Prayut Chan-o-cha (Retd), Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The State Counsellor and party were seen off by Union

Minister from the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister from the Office of the Union Government U Min Thu, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung and wife, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar Mrs. Suphatra Srimaitreephithak and officials at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.

Her entourage included Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and officials. Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun who was is also part of the delegation was already in Thailand on 30 October to attend the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Council Meeting and Region-

al Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Ministerial Meeting.

The State Counsellor and party arrived in Bangkok, at 2:05 pm local time. They were welcomed by Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand and Minister of Public Health Mr Anutin Charnvirakul, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint Than

and wife, military attaché Brig-Gen Khin Zaw, officials of the Myanmar embassy and responsible officials at Don Mueang International Airport.

The State Counsellor and party then proceeded by motorcade and arrived at the Athenee Hotel where they will be staying during the visit. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

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Joint Committee on Amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 54/2019



The Joint Committee meeting to amend 2008 Constitution being held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO:MNA

MEETING 54/2019 of the Joint Committee to amend 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Committee Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung (α) U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Chairman of the Joint Committee Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Joint Committee secretary Dr Myat Nya-

na Soe, joint secretary U Htay Win Aung (α) U Pyone Cho and members who were representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. — MNA ■
(Translated by Zaw Min)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting



The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee meeting being held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO:MNA

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting yesterday afternoon at the meeting hall of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw D Building over bill amending Myanmar Stamp Act sent by the Union Government.

The meeting was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Joint Bill Committee Chairman U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein, secretary, joint secretary and members of Joint Bill Committee, Joint Public Accounts Committee Vice Chairman, officials from Pyithu Hluttaw Banks and Financial Development Committee, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Union Attorney General Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. — MNA ■
(Translated by Zaw Min)

e-ID System Working Committee discusses finishing touches to contract with Austrian company

The e-ID System Working Committee held their fourth coordination meeting at the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population yesterday.

Working Committee Chairman and Union Minister of the concerned ministry, U Thein Swe, Vice Chairman and Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Thar Oo, and all committee members were present at the meeting.

Opening the meeting with an address, the Union Minister said the electronic citizen registration system is an essential component to implementing an e-Government. He said this project will be done with collaboration from the Austrian Government and implemented with an MoU by the Austria-based OeSD company.

OeSD's project proposal for constructing an e-ID system was carefully analysed by the Ministry of Planning and Finance and other relevant ministries, the e-ID System Working Committee

and other subcommittees, Union Attorney-General Office, Development Assistance Coordination Unit (DACU), Subcommittee for Infrastructure, System and Design and Subcommittee for Cyber Security (both under the e-Government Implementation Working Committee), and Myanmar Computer Federation, said the Union Minister.

He said the suggestions gathered from their analyses were discussed in various coordination meetings and drafted into a contract with OeSD after several meetings. He said the contract was continually discussed with OeSD and their company representatives visited Myanmar for in-depth meetings with relevant parties.

The Union Minister said there were some clauses in the contract both sides agreed on and some that could not be amended due to Austrian policies. He said the main topic left for discussion is the matter of



The e-ID System Working Committee holds the fourth coordination meeting yesterday. PHOTO:MNA

payment transactions. He said OeSD has sent their proposal and DACU has sent their suggestions while the Ministry of Planning and Finance is coordinating on them both.

The Union Minister said the final draft of the contract has been sent to the Union Attorney-General's Office for further analysis. He said after the final draft is complete, it will be submitted to the Economic Committee, Union Government and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to be approved. He implored attendees at the meeting to provide all their honest input and suggestions on the draft contract.

Next, Vice Chairman U Thar Oo and committee members deputy ministers U Aung Hla Tun and U Thet Aung explained the suggestions provided for the draft contract, the urgency to detail on the national project, DACU's comments on the Austrian Government's loan, and the need for input from multiple different perspectives to make the contract comprehensive.

The meeting then commenced with everyone providing their suggestions and comments on the draft contract. The Union Minister then concluded the meeting by saying all the results of the meeting will be forwarded to OeSD and urged continued cooperation from the attendees. — MNA
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Myanmar moves up six places to 165th of World's Ease of Doing Business 2020 Report rankings, climbs from 171th



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the speech at the ceremony to publish Ease of Doing Business Report 2020 at Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

VICE President U Myint Swe, Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee (PSDC) addressed a ceremony to publish Ease of Doing Business Report 2020 held at the Sule Shangri-La Hotel, Yangon yesterday afternoon.

In addressing the event Vice President U Myint Swe said Myanmar has cooperated and participated in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business survey program starting from 2014 for ease of doing business in Myanmar. At that time, Myanmar stood at 182 among 189 countries. In the 2019 report, there were 190 countries and Myanmar stood at 171.

Ease of doing business in Myanmar is an essential work required to be done for economic development of Myanmar. As such PSDC formed a 14-member Ease of Doing Business Ranking Promotion Work Group led by Deputy Minister for Commerce to consistently work on it. Ten support groups led by directors-general level officials were formed for each "ease of doing business index" and recognition was given to these support groups for the progress they have achieved.

Myanmar achieved a significantly successful result when the World Bank's Doing Business Website posted on 27 September 2019 that Myanmar was among the top 20 improvers lists in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index 2020. The website mentioned that Myanmar progressed in the five sub-indices of dealing with construction permits, starting a business, registering property, enforcing contracts and protecting investors. Some improvements and reforms were under observation and were not included in this year's report

but would be included next year. Although the government had conducted reforms, the private sector was not aware of it immediately. This lack of response resulted in loss of points. All were urged to cooperate and participate towards easing and developing Doing Business work processes.

The Ease of Doing Business Report 2020 was officially published on 24 October 2019. Due to the cooperation of relevant ministerial departments and the private sector led by the UMFCCI, Myanmar achieved 46.8 points in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business 2020 Report. This was 3.3 points more than last year's 43.5 points. Myanmar now stands at 165 in 190 countries and jumped 6 positions from last year's 171 position. Of the ten indices, there were progress in five, two remains unchanged and a decline in three. The best indices were in construction permits, starting a business and registering property. It could be said that the country's cooperative efforts had progressed to a certain level. However, there was no room for complacency and efforts should be continued towards increasing the ranking year by year.

Myanmar was practicing market economy system and as per the open door economic policy, trade and investments were being invited and cooperation provided. Myanmar could establish a strong economic foundation and develop rapidly only when it participated in integrating with the regional and global economies. It was necessary to increase the connection and linkage with Southeast Asia, South Asia, regional economies and the global economy. Ease of

doing business in Myanmar was important for both local business persons as well as for foreign investors. Therefore, ease of doing business in Myanmar was a continuous work process and an arrangement to form a permanent Ease of Doing Business Ranking Promotion Committee was being planned.

There would be progress and development in trade and investment works when there was progress in ease of doing business. Myanmar foreign trade was US\$ 33.53 billion in fiscal year 2017-2018 and US\$ 34.98 billion in fiscal year 2018-2019. This was US\$ 3.879 billion more than the planned amount. As of September 2019, there were foreign investments numbering 1,500 amounting to US\$ 67 billion and local investments numbering 1,315 amounting to K 17,772.686 billion that included US\$ 9.214 billion.

Relevant ministerial departments and the private sector need to continue to cooperate and work hand in hand for ease of doing business ranking of Myanmar to rise further. As the competition was with 190 countries, more need to be done towards reforming, changing and developing the economic environment.

There was a requirement on the side of the departments toward raising Public Awareness to the reform and changes that were being conducted. Only then could the public know of the true situation, provide true answers and achieve the deserved points and rankings.

Calculation for inclusion in the report was based on the response of the public sector and not the departments toward the survey questions raised by the

World Bank. UMFCCI was urged to provide the necessary linkage and support for private business persons to know of the reforms and changes made by the departments and respond to the survey questions accordingly.

Ease of doing business index wise support groups are required to prepare Reform Action Plan for Ease of Doing Business Report 2021. It was important to implement e-Government system as it could reduce the time to conduct works. On behalf of the Government of the Union of Myanmar the Vice President thanked Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) for their support and technical support of World Bank Group IFC in Myanmar's Doing Business works. The Private sector was urged to study and provide suggestion on reforms and the Vice President expressed his appreciation and recognition towards departments, private organizations, business persons, international organizations for their supports and assistance and invited continued cooperation and assistance.

Next, IFC Region Director Mr Vivek Pathak explained about his view on Doing Business 2020 Report and presented the report to Vice President U Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo and UMFCCI Vice President Dr Maung Maung Lay.

Afterwards, Mr Rurik Marsden of the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) delivered a speech.

Following this Vice President U Myint Swe and event attendees took a commemorative group

photo and concluded the first part of the event.

The second part of the event was then continued and Ease of Doing Business Ranking Promotion Work Group leader Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo delivered a speech after which UMFCCI Vice President Dr Maung Maung Lay explained about the private sector participation in improving Ease of Doing Business Ranking.

Finally Union Minister Dr Than Myint and Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo presented gifts of appreciation to honor those who had supported and assisted in the progress of five indices.

The following persons attended the event:

Union Ministers U Win Khaing, Dr Than Myint and U Soe Win, Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo, Yangon City Development Committee Chairman and Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, Central Bank of Myanmar Deputy Governor U Soe Min, International Finance Corporation (IFC) Regional Director Mr Vivek Pathak, Mr Rurik Marsden of the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), representatives of IFC, World Bank, international organizations, support groups and partner organizations, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) Vice Presidents and executive committee members, chairmen of organizations, Ease of Doing Business Ranking Promotion Work Group and support group members, departmental heads and officials.— MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

VP U Henry Van Thio inspects Ayeyawady Integrated Food Industry Complex in Pantanaw

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as chairman of the Farmer Rights Protection and Interest Promotion Committee, visited Pantanaw Township in Ayeyawady Region, yesterday.

His inspection tour to the Ayeyarwaddy Integrated Food Industry Complex was accompanied by Union Minister Dr Aung Thu, Deputy Minister Dr Tun Naing, Permanent Secretary U Win Tint and officials.

First, Myanmar Fisheries Federation Chairman U Htay Myint gave a short briefing about seafood processing and laboratory analysis for aquatic products.

At the project meeting hall, the Chairman gave a briefing on the development of multi-purpose project, preparations for export, coordination with international organizations, ongoing processes and future plans.

In his remark, the Vice President said that their tour was to coordinate the assistance provided by the Union government for the project with electricity and other requirements requested during the meeting at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation on 9 October.

He also said that as Myanmar was a country which relied on agriculture and livestock, farming and fisheries were the major economic drivers for the country.

While agricultural produce were subject to certain market restrictions, Myanmar seafood products were in soaring demand.

The Vice President also remarked that private-public cooperation could address challenges in the country's seafood industry.

He said Myanmar ranked 14th in the world in the possession of freshwater fishery resources, with four major rivers.



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects freezing and refrigeration of seafood at the Ayeyawady Integrated Food Industry Complex yesterday.
PHOTO: MNA

Moreover, the country had 3,282 kilometer long coastal areas, and purity level of water at the coastline stood 10th level in the world.

Meanwhile, Viet Nam had only the Mekong river, and its land area was only 48 per cent compared with Myanmar. However, its revenue from fisheries sector fetches around US\$8.8 billion annually, increasing over 12 folds of Myanmar with \$700 million each year.

The Vice President concluded that Myanmar had deficiencies in modern technology and techniques compared with other countries in catching fish and prawns and in producing value-added products, although the

country had abundant fishery resources. He also remarked that suitable zones should be set up in States and Regions to produce more aquatic products and master plans must be implemented by the state-owned and private firms.

The Vice President said the Ayeyarwaddy Integrated Food Industry Complex was expected to become an initial project for Myanmar fisheries products to penetrate international markets. He also pledged the Union government would provide assistance, and he called on the private sector to contribute in the national interest as well as for the interest of the private sector.

Then, Deputy Minister Dr

Tun Naing explained about power supply for the Ayeyawady region, and sufficient distribution of electricity in the multi-purpose project. Vice President U Henry Van Thio gave comments and suggestions to ensure coordination with respect to the project.

Then, they inspected fish feeding, breeding, processing, freezing and refrigeration of seafood.

The Ayeyarwaddy Integrated Industry Complex located in Pantanaw Township with the aim of promoting the country's fisheries industry for more export earnings, revenue and employment opportunities.

The multi-purpose project was established on 900 acres of

land and has employed over 2,000 workers at present. It has a target of employing over 6,000 in the next five years with an estimated production value of US\$ 3 billion to become the largest livestock project in Southeast Asia.

The project included breeding of fish hatchlings, processing, freezing and refrigerated storages, examining fish diseases, water and food quality, fish species, laboratory to test foods, staff quarters, road and security system, fence construction, sale centres, welfares programmes in social, education and healthcare for labour families, and dissemination of livestock knowledge for the locals.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Minister for Defence receives NRC Secretary General

UNION Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win received Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) Secretary General Mr Jan Egeland at the Union Minister Office

guest hall yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, IDP camps in Kachin and Rakhine states and humanitarian demining matters were discussed. — MNA



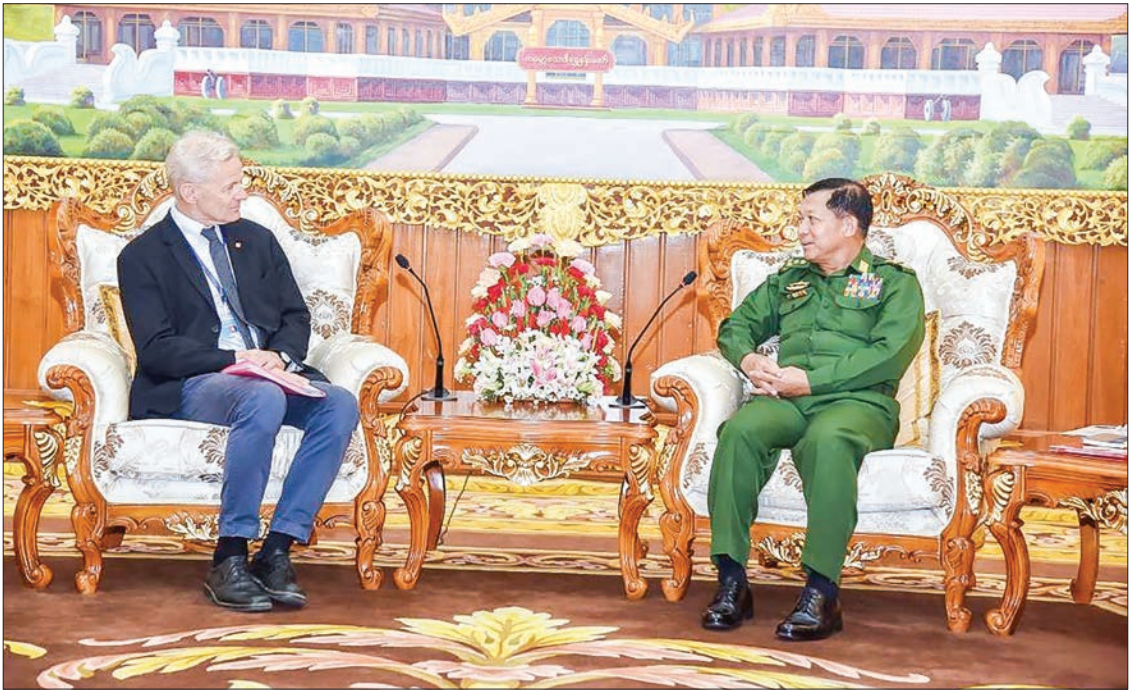
Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win meets with Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) Secretary General Mr Jan Egeland at the Union Minister Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.
PHOTO: MNA

Senior General receives NRC Secretary-General

TATMADAW Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) Secretary-General Mr Jan Laurits Egeland, retired State Secretary, and party at the Bayintnaung guest house in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

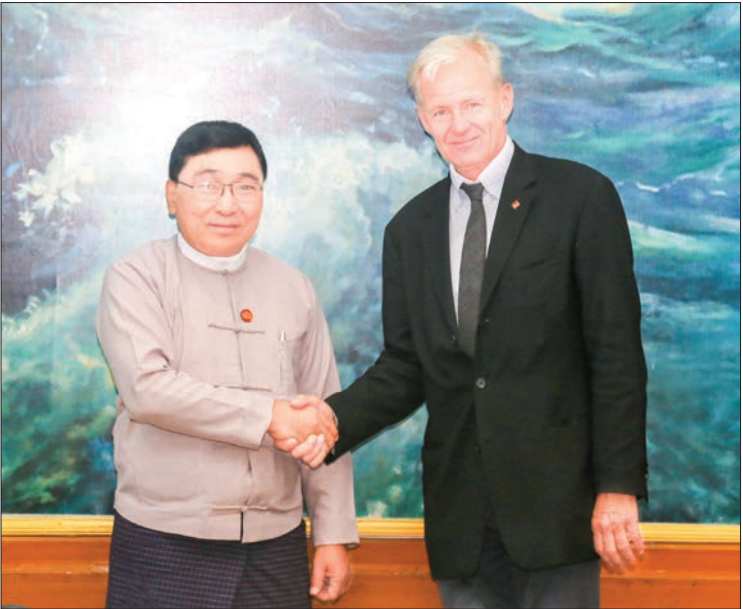
During the meeting, matters relating to providing humanitarian assistance in IDP camps, status of providing assistance in repatriation and socio-economic development of displaced persons and region wise security status to conduct humanitarian assistance were openly and cordially discussed, according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Norwegian Refugee Council Secretary General Mr Jan Egeland at Bayintnaung guest house in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

SWRR Union Minister meets NRC Secretary-General



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye shakes hands with Secretary-General of the Norwegian Refugee Council Mr Jan Laurits Egeland. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye received Mr Jan Laurits Egeland, Secretary-General of the Norwegian Refugee Council, at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They discussed NRC cooperating with the Department of Natural Disaster Management, the SWRR Ministry closing down IDP camps and resettlement processes in Kachin, Northern Shan, Kayin and Rakhine states, implementing the national strategic plan drawn for this purpose, finding long-term solutions for returnees and internally displaced persons, and cooperating for social coexistence and socio-economic development. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Committee holds 3rd meeting on children and armed conflicts

THE Committee for Preventing Grave Violations against Children in Armed Conflicts held its third meeting at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, in his capacity as the chairman of the committee, elaborated that the committee was tasked with 10 duties and was taking measures in collaboration with the Tatmadaw implementing the national-level project for prevention of grave violations against children in armed conflicts.

Following the decisions of the previous meetings, the committee formed the working committee and drafted the national-level project to guarantee rights including development, care and participation to the children.

The Union Minister also stressed the need to promoting raising awareness about violations against children, adding that the committee was cooperating with the committee on prevention of recruiting minors for military.

Besides, the working committee is coordinating with the United Nations Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting-UNCTFMR working at its best for the interest of the children, said the Union Minister.

He urged the members of the committee to carry out their duties in accordance with the rules and regulations.

Then, secretary of the committee, the Director General for Department of Rehabilitation explained the suggestions by Country Task Force Monitoring and Reporting – CTFMR.

Deputy Minister for Ministry of Education U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief & Resettlement U Soe Aung and officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Office of the Union Government, Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Union Attorney General's Office and Myanmar Red Cross Society discussed the suggestions of national action plan.— MNA

(Translated by Ba Htoo Kyaw)



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye poses for the photo along with Deputy Ministers and attendees at the meeting (3/2019) of Committee of Preventing Serious Offenses on Children in Armed Conflict in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

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DNR Degree College (Yangon), A.G.T.I. diploma course 17 hold graduation

GRADUATION ceremony of arts and science degree and A.G.T.I. diploma course 17 and a ceremony to present appointment letters were held at Development of National Races (DNR) Degree College (Yangon) convocation hall.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut, Yangon Region government ministers, Director General of Ministry of Border Affairs, representatives of 12 ministerial departments presenting appointment letters, DNR Degree College (Yangon)'s rector, associate professor, teachers, graduates and family members of the graduates.

delivered a speech, the Union Minister and Yangon Region Chief Minister presented prizes to outstanding graduates. Next, representatives of 12 ministerial departments presented appointment letters to 195 graduates. Afterwards, the Union Minister cordially greeted the graduates and family members and then met with outstanding graduates and their family members in the convocation guest hall.

After the event, the Union Minister and party attended the opening ceremony of a four-story teaching building and a teaching theater building.

Later in the evening, the Union Minister and wife hosted a dinner in honor of the graduating students. —MNA



Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung greets the graduates and family members at the Graduation ceremony of arts and science degree and A.G.T.I. diploma course 17 in the convocation guest hall in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

After the Union Minister (Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Health & Sports Minister attends World Health Summit 2019



Union Minister for Health & Sports Dr Myint Htwe attends World Health Summit 2019 in Berlin, Germany. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Health and Sports, Dr Myint Htwe, led a delegation to attend World Health Summit 2019 in Berlin, Germany, from 27 to 29 October.

The Union Minister attended meetings related to anti-

microbial resistance, the role of A.I. in healthcare protection, sustainable healthcare systems, and comprehensive healthcare accessible by all of society.

The Union Minister also led the meeting on providing sus-

tainable access to treatment for noncommunicable diseases alongside the Ugandan Health Minister. In that meeting, the Union Minister discussed has the same rate of noncommunicable disease occurrences as other Southeast Asian nations but also has to deal with the same consequences of the diseases as in developed countries. He said Myanmar is implementing its National Healthcare Project (2017-2021) to combat noncommunicable diseases.

The Union Minister said Myanmar is implementing the Package of Essential Service of NCD (PEN Project) in collaboration with WHO, EU, INGOs, and World Diabetes Foundation. He thanked Defeat NCD for creating a marketplace platform

to acquire necessary medicine and medical apparatuses at a reasonable price.

The Union Minister said Myanmar has rural healthcare departments throughout the nation that opens weekly clinics for examining and treating diabetes and hypertension for free, in addition to implementing preventive measures against to cardiac and arterial diseases. He said developing countries should coordinate with companies to reduce the sugar content in snacks and beverages.

Afterwards, the Union Minister gave an interview to DW public broadcaster where he answered to questions on polio and noncommunicable diseases.

Next, the Union Minister met with Prof Yik-Ying of Sin-

gapore's Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health and discussed opening training courses to develop Myanmar's health economics studies, updating the curriculum of the University of Public Health (Yangon), Myanmar's involvement in the global burden of disease study, and collaboration in mother and child healthcare with assistance from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

In addition, the Union Minister also met with Global Health Project Leader Prof Espen of the University of Oslo, Norway, and discussed further funding from the Norwegian Government for scholarships and implementing a post-doctoral fellowship program.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Deputy Information Minister inspects preparations for Toungoo Children's Literary Festival

DEPUTY Minister for Information, U Aung Hla Tun, travelled to Toungoo yesterday and visited Toungoo Kapaung Hall and Kaytumadi Stadium to inspect preparations for Children's Literary Festival, book fair and book sales.

The Deputy Minister and entourage first visited Kapaung Hall and observed preparations for entertainment programmes, poem recital and storytelling competitions, children's reading room and exhibition booths, and games competitions out-

side. They then visited Kathumadi stadium and inspected arrangements for literary talks, impromptu contests and reading skills competitions.

The Toungoo Children's Literary Festival will be held from 2 to 3 November, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and admission is free.—Toungoo District IPRD (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun inspects preparations for exhibition booths at Children's Literary Festival in Toungoo. PHOTO: MNA





Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko seen off by officials from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and the Thai Embassy at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Religious Affairs, Culture departs for Thailand

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and delegation departed for Thailand yesterday morning to attend the 22nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Affairs and Culture from 1 to 2 November in

Bangkok. They were seen off by officials from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and the Thai Embassy at the Yangon International Airport. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Constitutional Tribunal delegation departs for Indonesia symposium

A MYANMAR delegation led by Union Constitutional Tribunal (UCT) member U Tin Maung Myint departed for Bali, Indonesia yesterday morning to attend the 3rd Indonesian Constitutional Court International Symposium (ICCIS) from 2 to 6 November.

They were seen off by UCT members at the Yangon International Airport. The delegation also consists of UCT Director-General U Hla Htay, Director U Nyi Nyi Lwin, and Assistant Director U Aung Kyaw Zin. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



A delegation led by Union Constitutional Tribunal (UCT) member U Tin Maung Myint seen at the Yangon International Airport before departure for Bali, Indonesia yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw advisory group receives City University of Hong Kong's Associate Professor



Head of the Pyithu Hluttaw Affairs Capacity Building Advisory Group Daw Su Su Lwin meets with Hong Kong Associate Professor Dr Renaud Egretau in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

DAW Su Su Lwin, head of the Pyithu Hluttaw Affairs Capacity Building Advisory Group, received Dr Renaud Egretau, Associate Professor of

the Department of Asian and International Studies of City University of Hong Kong, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. They discussed Myanmar's demo-

cratic transition and the legislative process of the Hluttaw. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Transport, Communications Minister receives Norwegian Ambassador



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung meets with Norwegian Ambassador Ms Tone Tinnes at the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung received Norwegian Ambassador Ms Tone Tinnes at his ministry

in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed cooperation on the transportation and communication sectors between

Myanmar and Norway and other areas of cooperation in the future. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Adapt to changing conditions to make nation malaria-free

MALARIA cases in Myanmar were down 85 per cent and the death toll 95 per cent in 2018 compared with 2012, according to the World Health Organization. The figures show that Myanmar has made a significant improvement in control and elimination of malaria, and the country is expected to be malaria-free in five or ten years.

Ten years ago, Myanmar had the highest malaria burden among the six countries in the Greater Mekong sub-region. Now, the country is well on its way to achieving its goal of eliminating malaria by 2030.

In just seven years, the number of reported malaria cases has dropped 85 per cent nationwide. In 2012, there were 481,204 malaria cases across the country. By October, 2018, the number had dropped to 68,753.

Malaria was a common illness in Myanmar, and now the incidence of the mosquito-borne disease has reduced remarkably.

In 2016, there were just 0.1 million malaria patients in the country.

Rural health volunteers have been trained to provide treatment to patients in villages around the clock. They all have been given kits for conducting blood tests to check for malaria. Once a patient suspected of malaria is identified, the volunteer health staff take a blood test and provide prompt treatment. They also give out drugs free of charge.

We are very pleased to see private participation in the plan to eliminate malaria by 2030.

Myanmar has already laid down a national strategy for malaria elimination by 2030, in cooperation with 26 local and foreign organizations.

To overcome the current challenges and to achieve the goal by 2030, we need to continue our efforts, using innovative ways and tasks, through collaborative efforts with the member countries of the Mekong Region.

The types of infectious diseases, such as malaria, are depending on the geological location, climate, and disease carriers. To keep up with the changing situation, efforts to fight the diseases should be in line with the ground situation. At the same time, members of the region and stakeholders involved in eliminating the mosquito-borne disease must share information and experiences through their online network.

Only then can the plan to eliminate malaria be accelerated, with the participation of the public.

Adopt modern techniques for fisheries development

Dr Toe Nandar Tin



Comparison of Natural Fishery Resources between Myanmar and neighboring Countries

we compare the fishery natural resources between the highest fishery products producer Vietnam, Red River with the total length of 1149 kilometers flows through Vietnam with only 510 kilometers and Mekong River with the total length of 4220 kilometers flows through Vietnam with only 220 kilometers totaling only 730 kilometers of fresh water source for Vietnam.

Vietnam has a coastal length of 3254 kilometer which is 428 kilometer longer but Myanmar has an advantage of the Mergui Archipelago with over 800 islands indicate that Myanmar owns better marine culture environment than the neighboring country.

Moreover, Vietnam land area of 331210 square kilometers is only 48% of Myanmar which owns land totaling 678500 square kilometers.

If we compare Fishery Products Export between Myanmar and Viet Nam, Myanmar produces export value of only US\$ 720 million in the fiscal year 2017-2018 and this amount is lower than Viet Nam's 1997 Fishery Products Export value of US\$ 776 million. The last year 2018 Vietnam produced US\$ 8800 million worth of Fishery Products.

If we look at the comparison between the two countries we know that there is an urgent need to find out what are the reasons of Myanmar Fishery Products ex-

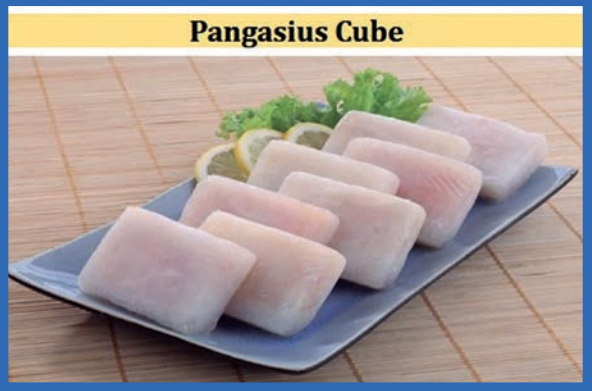
port that are much lower than another country which owns lesser fishery resources than us. As this is vital for us to know the answer Myanmar Fisheries Federation team headed by the Chairman visited China, Japan and some ASEAN countries in 2018 to learn how other countries were developing their aquaculture sector. After our trips we learned our lessons as we are making big mistakes concerning our present culture techniques.

As all of us around the world encountered a drastic decrease in our natural resources, almost all countries are developing aquaculture instead of fishing to feed the world. Myanmar had been culturing fish since 1953 and was using the traditional culture method with a stocking density of (1) fish per square meter which indicates stocking density of 4000 pieces per acre. Carps (Rohu, Migril) were chosen as the major fish species which took about two years culture period to reach marketable sizes.

In this modern age people are choosing short culture life fishes which need only six to eight months to culture with a stocking density of (30 to 100) per square meter with a stunning stocking density of 120000 per acre which was unbelievable when we started learning. Prawn culture period is only three to four months with the



Pangasius (Whole Round)



Pangasius Cube

stocking density of (120 to 150) per square meter respectively.

What will be the crucial step that we need to take if we want to implement the modern culture techniques that can develop our fishery sector? The basic transformation will be the policy as the present one is not workable to develop like the neighboring countries. Viet Nam aims to develop aquaculture in a sustainable manner by prioritizing the development of industrial-scale farming of major aquatic species for export suitable to each region's potential, strength and market demand. They implemented three different aquaculture zones in three different regions equipped with Research Center in each zone. Concurrently, they plan to reorganize production toward raising product value and combining production, processing and consumption. Vietnam

government has already allotted around 1.2 million hectares of land for their master plan on fisheries development through 2020 with a vision toward 2030. Their fishery products export value will be US\$11000 million (US\$ 11billion) in 2020 and will reach US\$20000 million (US\$20billion) in 2030. The Vietnam Government also takes the responsibility of infrastructure such as transport (roads) and electricity for the designated aquaculture zone.

Likewise, if we really want to develop our fishery sector we should learn to transform the present policies accordingly so that it can strengthen and assist the fishery sector to reach the "National Aquaculture Development Goal". After the policy will be forming a Central Committee consist of a government body, fishery experts and fishery businessmen to draw a master plan suitable to each region's potential, strength

World recognized Basa catfish (Pangasius spp.) is selected as the first exportable fish and culturing this fish had been done successfully according to the international requirements. But still, there are other requirements which the government can support especially for constructing feed factories, processing plants and other necessary factories which can produce ready food for export purposes.

As Myanmar is not a highly industrialized country it can develop only by producing agriculture products. Agriculture has three major sectors namely agriculture, livestock and fishery. Even if we can produce a lot of agriculture products such as rice, beans, vegetable, etc. there are constraints for exporting. Likewise, livestock also has problems with exporting their products. Only the fishery sector in Myanmar has the advantage of exporting their food safety

ဧကဝတီတိုင်းဒေသကြီးအစိုးရအဖွဲ့၏ စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုဖြင့် ပြုလုပ်ထားသော အခြေခံပညာအထက်တန်းကျောင်းများတွင် ပညာသင်ကြားရန် အားပေးခြင်း

ကလေးစာပေပွဲ

စာအုပ်စာပေပွဲ နှင့် စာအုပ်ဈေးရောင်းပွဲ

(ချောင်းသာမြို့)

၂၀၁၉ ခုနှစ်၊ နိုဝင်ဘာလ (၁၂)ရက် (သောကြာ၊ ၈၀)နေ့၊ နံနက် ၉ နာရီမှ ညနေ ၅ နာရီအထိ

ပညာရေး ဝါသနာရှိသူများအတွက် အထူးသတိပြုပါ။

အခြေခံပညာအထက်တန်းကျောင်း၊ ချောင်းသာမြို့။

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 1st November, 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 2nd November, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi and Ayeyarwady Regions, Southern Shan, Kayin and Mon States and isolated in Naypyitaw, Bago and Yangon Regions, Kachin, Eastern Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely attimes Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35)m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6-9) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Motamma, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (4-6) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of fairly widespread rain or thundershowers in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2nd November, 2019: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2nd November, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2nd November, 2019: Partly cloudy.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Naypyitaw, Yangon Region and weather will be partly cloudy in Mandalay Region.

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20,000 houses to be built in this fiscal for squatters

By Nyein Nyein

ABOUT 20,000 houses will be built in the 2019-2020 fiscal year for squatters, said U Than, the joint secretary of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).
“In the 2019-2020 financial year (FY), we are targeting to build about 20,000 houses for squatters. The construction of the 15x35 feet houses will cost around K3 million, and we are also making arrangement to provide loans for squatters so they can buy the houses under an installment system,” said U Than.

“They could pay for the house with a down payment of K2.5 million to 3 million. So, we will let them pay the house value under an installment system. Now, we are making arrangements for them to receive loans, also known as microfinance loans. They will have to pay around K80,000 to 100,000 per month,” he added.
At present, the Yangon region government is implementing community-based housing for squatters near the Shwe Pyi Thar industrial zone.
“The land will be collectively owned. The Pawt May Eain social organization surveyed the

squatters to find out what they want and how they could pay for the houses. They said that they can pay if the house value is around K2.5 million or 3 million. Then, we drew the same house design for the housing project and we are also implementing these projects in the Shwe Pyi Thar industrial zone under the guidelines,” said U Than.
“Currently, about 150,000 houses are needed for squatters, and we will build more houses in four Dagon townships. We have already chosen plots in those townships,” he added.
“To construct the houses

for squatters, the Ministry of Construction and the YCDC coordinated to be granted the land. For the housing project, we are not counting the land value, and we are only selling the houses under an installment system,” said U Phyo Min Thein, the Chief Minister of Yangon Region.
The Yangon region government plans to implement more low-cost housing projects for the private and civil service staff on long-term installments. Private companies have been asked to submit expressions of interest (EOI) for the projects.
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Wild elephant killed, skinned in Pyigyimandaing, Taninthayi Region

A wild elephant was found killed and skinned on the morning of 31 October near Wardin brook in Wardin Village, Pyigyimandaing Town, Boakpyin Township, Kawthoung District, Taninthayi Region.
A combined team comprising officials from the Township Forest Department, Police, Veterinarian, and Village Administrator found the carcass after receiving a report from a resident.
According to the report, the elephant measured 10 feet in height and 11 feet in length. Its trunk was 6 feet long and its tail measured 3 feet. One of its ears had been cut and two-thirds of its skin



had been stripped off.
The Pyigyimandaing Township Police have lodged a case

under Section 41 (A) of the Protection of Biodiversity and Conservation Areas Law and

are continuing with their investigations. —Myint Oo (Myeik)
(Translated by La Wonn)

Fifteen traffic-related deaths reported as of 27 October

THE death toll in road accidents on the Yangon-Mandalay highway reached 15 as of 27 October, a two-fold increase from last month, according to the Highway Traffic Police.
A total of 63 accidents claimed the lives of 12 males and three females and injured 130 persons — 71 males and 59 females, as of 27 October. In September, 232 road accidents caused eight deaths and left 71 injured.
Reckless driving, over-speeding, defective vehicles, and inclement weather were blamed for the mishaps.
To reduce the incidence

of road accidents, the traffic police are conducting regular awareness talks and distributing pamphlets. The highway police are urging people to comply with the traffic rules and cooperate in observing road safety measures.
A total of 744 traffic accidents were reported on the Yangon-Mandalay highway in 2016, 555 in 2017, and 474 in 2018.
In Myanmar, there is an average of 48 traffic accidents every day, which claim 14 lives and leave 73 injured.—Aye Cho
(Translated by Hay Mar)

One dead, three hurt in charcoal mine explosion in Kalewa Township

A methane gas explosion was reported at a coal mining site belonging to the Htoo Han Thit Company on Wednesday night. The site is located near Sakhangyi Village in Kalewa Township, Sagaing Region.
According to a report, four miners were trapped in the explosion, which went off during mining operations. One miner, identified as U

Win Lwin, 38, was killed on the spot, while the remaining three, identified as U Ae Tun, U Saw Aung, and U Zaw Min Aung, were admitted to the Kalewa General Hospital, where their condition is reported to be serious.
The incident is being investigated by the Township Police. —Thet Han (Kalewa)
(Translated by La Wone)

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Dehong Chamber of Commerce Chairman meets with UMFCCI officials

DEHONG Chamber of Commerce Chairman Mr Lu Er Sui and party met with Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) officials in UMFCCI office yesterday morning.

Dehong Chamber of Commerce discussed and raised questions on laws, rules and regulations on land and labour issues as it was interested in establishing an automobile body

installation factory and a garment factory. UMFCCI officials explained and discussed in details about issues raised and also explained in detail about UMFCCI. Discussions also covered providing mutual assistances.

Present at the meeting from UMFCCI side were UMFCCI Secretary General U Aung Kyi Soe and Chief Executive Officer U Tint Swai.—UMFCCI (*Translated by Zaw Min*)



UMFCCI officials present a gift to Dehong Chamber of Commerce Chairman Mr Lu Er Sui at the Office of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Yangon. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Trade promotion meeting discusses challenges in Muse border

THE 105-mile trade zone in Muse Township, Northern Shan State, exceeded its trade projections for the month of October by 114 per cent, said the zone's Director U Nanda at a trade promotion meeting yesterday.

U Nanda said the trade zone performed over US\$360 million for both exports and imports combined in the month of October. Tax Director U Nay Lin Aung also discussed levying taxes for transactions at the China-Myan-

mar border.

Meanwhile, the Muse-Namhkam Traders Association Chairman U Sai Non said there are challenges in acquiring passports to cross the China-Myanmar border and also for trading sugar.

Lentils, Maize and Sesame Trade Centre Chairman U Hla Maung also said there challenges in trading their related products. He said China has already conducted pest examinations in 2016 and both countries have completed due processes but there is still no implementation of any nature.

A representative for a rice trading centre said rice trade is going smoothly compared to the difficulties on trading sugar. He said they have appealed to authorities to go to Chin Shwe Wah Bank deal with sugar cargo stranded in Muse border but it's not possible at the moment. He said a price floor for products should be set at the border.

Highway Cargo Transportation Service Association Chairman U Win Aung Khant talked about Myanmar migrant work-

ers in China being arrested for insufficient documents. He said an MoU for sending workers between Myanmar and China would make the situation safer. He said the definition for handsaws made by the Department of Environmental Conservation in 2016 is causing delays in applying licenses for commercial handsaws and sometimes requires getting a permit from the Forestry Department. He suggested for the relevant ministries to coordinate to reduce the amount of red tape in this simple process.

Muse District Agricultural Department Head Daw Nan Lwin Lwin Sein said they will discuss upon exporting their crops at higher prices at the bilateral meeting coming up in December. —Thant Zin (*Translated by Zaw Htet Oo*)



Muse-Namhkam Traders Association Chairman U Sai Non, officials from trade zone and traders attend the trade promotion meeting at 105-mile trade zone in Muse Township. **PHOTO: THANT ZIN**

DICA permits local, foreign investments of \$26.263 mln, K2.04 bln within a month

By Nyein Nyein

THE Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) has permitted foreign and local investments of \$26.263 million and K2.04 billion in the first month of the 2019-2020 fiscal.

According to the DICA office, the directorate has approved 15 Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and two local investment proposals as of 30 October, which will help create job opportunities for 9,000 local workers.

Previously permitted businesses have also increased their foreign direct investment in the industrial sector to \$2.644 million in the first month of the current fiscal, creating 400 jobs for local workers, according to official statistics from the DICA.

In the previous fiscal, the DICA permitted a total of 159 foreign direct investors and 21

local investors, receiving \$250.251 million and K36.6 billion in investment. Those permitted investments created 93,427 job opportunities for local people.

FDIs from China, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, the British Virgin Islands, Samoa, South Korea, Viet Nam, Thailand, India, and Malaysia flowed into the industry, hotels, livestock and fisheries, housing and construction, and other services sectors.

Recently permitted businesses have also increased FDI by \$13.858 million in the industry sector, creating 1,373 jobs, according to figures from the DICA.

Those investors who wish to invest up to \$5 million, or K6,000 million, can apply at the DICA office located on Sein Lae May road in Yankin Township, or call 01-658263. (*Translated by Hay Mar*)

Tourist arrivals cross 1 mln at Tachilek border checkpoint

MORE than 1 million foreign visitors entered Myanmar through the Tachilek border gate between 1 January and 30 October. Of them, 51,707 tourists visited Myanmar on free visas.

Myanmar registered a total of 27,440 foreign visitors through the Tachilek border gate between 25 and 31 October. The visitors entered the country to explore the different cultures of the ethnic people, lifestyles, and scenic views. Most visitors were Thai citizens, and other third world citizens also visited well-known destinations in Myanmar through the Tachilek

border checkpoint, making day trips and overnight stays, according to the Immigration and Population Department.

There are many tourist spots for day trips in Tachilek Town such as the Tarlaw market, Bayintnaung statue, Maha Myat Muni Pagoda, Wankauing market, Koemyoshin spirit house, replica of the Shwedagon Pagoda, Padaung village, Myanmar monasteries, and Chinese temples. The Lantaung day trips include the Mailing monastery, ancient pagodas, temples, and ethnic villages.

Travelers arriving for longer visits usually visit pa-

godas, temples, monasteries, markets, villages, and other destinations in Mongphyat and Kengtung townships, such as Maha Myat Muni pagoda, Wat Inn monastery, Yat Taw Mu, and Kohtet waterfall in Kentung. Afterwards, they continue onwards to Heho-Yangon-Mandalay-Lashio by domestic flight.

Under the arrangement of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar received 482 tourists, 140 cars, and 149 motorcycles through Myawaddy, Tamu, and other border checkpoints between 1 January and 31 October. — MOHT

(*Translated by La Wonn*)

Arrival of foreign visitors to Myanmar by month, by nationality

Figures are provided by Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

Sr.	Subject	2018 (January to September)	2019 (January to September)	Increase / Decrease	Percentage
1	Arrival by air	924,127	1,256,036	331,909	+36%
2	Arrival by cruise ship	7,089	6,242	-847	-12%
3	Arrival at border gate and travel into the country	29,504	88,516	59,012	+200%
	Arrival by visa	960,720	1,350,794	390,074	+41%
4	Visit border only	1,562,264	1,793,476	231,212	+15%
	Total	2,522,984	3,144,270	621,286	+25%

Comparison of visitor arrival by nationality

No.	Nationality	2018 (Up to Sept.)	2019 (Up to Sept.)	differ- ence	Per- centage
1	North America	52,276	53,058	782	1%
2	U.S.A	44,496	45,494	998	2%
	Canada	7,780	7,564	-216	-3%
	Other Americas	7,515	7,138	-377	-5%
	West Europe	122,262	120,430	-1,832	-1%
1	France	29,038	28,493	-545	-2%
2	U.K	26,281	23,824	-2,657	-10%
3	Germany	18,174	17,907	-267	-1%
4	Italy	10,221	12,078	1,857	18%
5	Switzerland	6,138	5,505	-633	-10%
6	Netherlands	6,540	6,534	-6	0%
7	Belgium	3,801	3,536	-265	-7%
8	Austria	2,089	2,309	220	11%
9	Spain	7,726	9,286	1,560	20%
10	Others	12,254	11,158	-1,096	-9%
	East Europe	11,775	11,518	-257	-2%
1	Russia	3,510	3,233	-277	-8%
2	Others	8,265	8,285	20	0%
	Africa	3,125	3,100	25	-1%
	Middle East	3,864	4,070	206	5%
	Asia	738,317	1,131,527	393,210	53%
1	China	198,256	523,449	325,193	164%
2	Thailand	212,162	194,439	-17,723	-8%
3	Korea	46,319	82,920	36,601	79%
4	Japan	73,242	92,219	18,977	26%
5	Singapore	40,168	39,547	-621	-2%
6	Viet Nam	39,203	38,114	-1,089	-3%
7	India	31,828	33,371	1,543	5%
8	Malaysia	33,478	30,701	-2,777	-8%
9	Taiwan	25,681	28,070	2,389	9%
10	Hong Kong	94	23,897	23,803	
11	Macau	2	1,812	1,810	
13	Philippine	12,184	12,948	754	6%
13	Others	25,700	30,040	4,340	17%
	Oceania	21,586	19,953	-1,833	-8%
1	Australia	18,570	17,210	-1,360	-7%
2	New Zealand	2,843	2,634	-209	-7%
3	Others	173	109	-64	37%
	Total	960,720	1,350,794	390,074	41%

Remarks. Visa entries only

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Myanmar, Thailand hold 21st bilateral meeting on drug control cooperation



Myanmar Police Chief Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo and officials from Thailand's Office of Narcotics Control Board pose for a documentary photo at the 21st Myanmar-Thailand Bilateral Meeting on Drug Control Cooperation meeting in Phuket, Thailand. **PHOTO: MNA**

A MYANMAR delegation led by Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control secretary Myanmar Police Chief Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo and Thailand's Office of Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) Secretary-General Mr Ni-yom Termsrisuk and party attended the 21st Myanmar-Thailand Bilateral Meeting on Drug Control

Cooperation meeting held from 29 to 30 October in Phuket, Thailand.

On the morning of 31 October Myanmar Police Chief went to Bangkok and met with Royal Thai Police Chief Police General Chakthip Chaijinda. During the meeting they cordially discussed joint crime investigation, status of future cooperation and

exchange of news and information.

Afterwards, Myanmar Police Chief accompanied by Royal Thai Police Deputy Chief return to Phuket and held a discussion Royal Thai Police Deputy Chief.

On the evening of 1 November, Myanmar police delegation arrived back to Yangon. — MNA

SEAsia leaders to push for progress on China-backed trade pact

BANGKOK— Southeast Asian leaders will race to get a sprawling China-backed trade pact over the line at a regional meeting in Thailand this week-end, as Beijing's bruising trade war with Washington rumbles on.

If signed, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) will be the world's largest trade pact and is seen as a way for Beijing to cement trade ties in Asia as Washington retreats from the

region.

Leaders are hoping for a breakthrough in RCEP talks at this week-end's meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) after seven years of negotiations over the deal, which would comprise 30 per cent of global commerce and half the world's population if signed.

"They will try to get enough together so they can sign something," even if it is not a final

deal, said Juan Sebastian Cortes-Sanchez, a Singapore-based policy analyst at the Asian Trade Centre.

But members risk losing steam after dozens of rounds of negotiations and several missed deadlines to sign the pact.

Commerce ministers met Friday after an hours-long negotiation session to hammer out sticking points, as India digs in over concerns its market will be flooded with cheap made-in-China goods.—AFP ■

Bolsonaro cancels government subscription to Brazil's main newspaper

BRASILIA — Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro's government canceled its subscriptions to one of the country's main newspapers in the latest episode of his openly hostile relationship with his country's major media outlets.

"Today I decided that the Folha subscription is canceled under my executive power. Whoever wants to read Folha can stop by the Brasilia bus station and buy it," he said in Thursday's weekly Facebook live broadcast.

US President Donald Trump — an ally of Bolsonaro — similarly cancelled



Brazil's head of state has decided to take a practical stance against what he deems to be unsubstantiated attacks by the media against his government. PHOTO:AFP

subscriptions to two of America's biggest newspapers, *The New York Times* and *Washington Post*, last week.

Bolsonaro frequently lambasted Brazil's media outlets — including Folha, TV Globo, and *Veja* magazine — both during his presidential campaign and since taking office in January.

"We are not going to spend more money on a newspaper like that. And whoever advertises with Folha, pay attention," he added.

In a statement Folha denounced Bolsonaro's "openly discriminatory attitude" and promised to continue to produce "critical and non-partisan journalism."—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (139 N/S)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (139 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bylaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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Acknowledgement Naw Molly Moh Age (88) Years

We would like to render our heartfelt thanks to the ministers and choir members from various churches for showing their honors, love and respect on the occasion of the passing of Naw Molly Moh who went home to be with the Lord on October 30, 2019. We would also like to express our gratitude to organizations, relatives and friends who have shown their sincere love by contributing with floral tributes and messages of condolences. Our thanks also go to the specialists, doctors, nurses and staff of Thukha Gabar Hospital for their care and treatment given to her during her illness at the hospital. Our gratitude is also to everyone whom we need to be thankful but have been left out.

Bereaved Family

UK defends Brexit deal after Trump trade warning

LONDON — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's office has defended his Brexit deal with the EU, after US President Donald Trump warned it would make it impossible for the two nations to strike a future trade agreement.

The president, whose impeachment in the US has moved a stage closer following a key vote in Congress, waded into the British election campaign on Thursday to criticise Johnson's divorce terms with the European bloc.

"This deal... you can't do it, you can't trade. We can't make a trade deal with the UK," he said.

But a Downing Street spokesman later said the deal would allow the UK to strike "our own free trade

deals around the world from which every part of the UK will benefit".

Trump's comments appear at odds with his previous pledge in September that he was working closely with Johnson to strike a "magnificent trade deal" once Britain left the EU.

The US president also launched a stinging attack on the country's main op-

position leader Jeremy Corbyn and urged Johnson to unite with eurosceptic hardliner Nigel Farage, a key figure in the 2016 referendum on European Union membership.

"Corbyn would be so bad for your country," Trump told Farage during a phone interview broadcast on his talkshow on British radio station LBC.—AFP ■

Acknowledgement Naw Gillian Thida Moh Age (60) Years

Prestige International Language and Business Centre
We would like to render our heartfelt thanks to the ministers and choir members from various churches for showing their honors, love and respect on the occasion of the passing of Gillian Thida Moh who went home to be with the Lord on October 25, 2019. We would also like to express our gratitude to organizations, relatives and friends who have shown their sincere love by contributing with floral tributes and messages of condolences. Our thanks also go to the specialists, doctors, nurses and staff of Grand Hantha International Hospital for their care and treatment given to her during her illness at the hospital. Our gratitude is also to everyone whom we need to be thankful but have been left out.

Bereaved Family

Iraq protests enter second month, defying pledges of reform

BAGHDAD — Iraq's top cleric warned foreign actors on Friday against interfering in his country's anti-government protests as they entered



Tensions have been exacerbated by a near-total internet blackout as the authorities seek to prevent protesters communicating with each other or posting footage of the chaotic demonstrations. PHOTO:AFP

their second month despite pledges of reform and violence that has left over 250 dead.

The demonstrations have evolved since October 1 from rage over corruption and unemployment to demands for a total government overhaul — shunning both politicians and religious figures along the way.

They have even condemned the influence of paramilitary forces including the Hashed al-Shaabi, whose members descended briefly into the streets of the capital late Thursday in a show of force, sparking

fears of a confrontation with the main protests.

In his weekly sermon, the country's top Shiite religious authority Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani said Iraq must not be dragged "into the abyss of infighting".

"No person or group, no side with a particular view, no regional or international actor may seize the will of the Iraqi people and impose its will on them," said Sistani's sermon, read by a representative.

Sistani's comments, which can usually make or break a government decision in Iraq, came a day

after comments by Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"I seize this opportunity to tell those who care about Iraq and Lebanon to remedy insecurity as their priority," Khamenei said, without elaborating.

Iraq has close but complicated ties with both Iran, its large eastern neighbour, and the United States, which opposes Tehran's influence in the region.

Since mass protests broke out in Iraq, demonstrators and their detractors have accused each other of being backed by outside actors.—AFP ■

Heading to iron smelting furnaces where produced **iron weapons**

Marn Thit Nyein (Archaeology)

MYANMAR has a long cultural history passing various cultural eras such as Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age.

Iron Age

Humans started use of iron about 3,000 years ago. Iron was the most available element across the world except silicon, oxygen and aluminum. Genuine iron in very soft stage must be mixed with other minerals to be able to make various kinds of equipment. When iron was mixed with one per cent of carbon, it became steel. Some stones called iron ore contained a large volume of iron. These ore was smelted to produce iron. In 1870, humans produced steel called iron-carbon metal which was stronger than iron.

It was reported that the Iron Age was set between BC 1500 and BC 1000. It was estimated that art of smelting iron would be earlier than emergence of Pyu city states. So, Myanmar's Iron Age emerged in Pyu era between BC 500 and 900 AD. It was because ancient iron smelting furnaces were found in Pyu city states such as Sri Kestra, Beikthano, Hanlin and Tagaung. The iron smelting furnaces across Myanmar were origins of producing iron wares.

It was known that the three-fourth of iron ore in the world was found as sedimentary iron in the water. These ore was found in sedimentary rocks based on sedimentary process of seawater in the past geological eras. Sedimentary iron comprised Hematite, Magnetite, Pyrite, Siderite and Chamosite. Hematite could be seen in the shallow water and Pyrite in the deep seawater. In the chemical process, the atmosphere comprising oxygen and moisture caused iron oxide to the iron.

Iron ore minerals

Although there are many kinds of iron ore minerals, iron could be extracted from Hematite, Magnetite, Limonite and Siderite. Magnetite mineral in black colour consisted of 72 per cent of iron. Hematite mineral in red colour contained 70 per cent of iron. Limonite in colours of reddish brown to black comprised 60 per cent of iron. Siderite in colours of gray to brown was formed with 48 per cent of iron. Chemical formations of these elements were: 1. Fe for iron, 2. Fe_2O_3 for Hematite, 3. Fe_3O_4 for Magnetite, 4. $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ for Limonite, 5. FeCO_3 for Siderite, 6. FeS_2 for Pyrite, and 7. $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ for Tiritite. Melting point of Fe is $2,802^\circ\text{F}$ and boiling point, $4,960^\circ\text{F}$.

Iron smelting furnaces

In the observation on field trips, researchers found two types of iron smelting furnaces. The first one was in cylinder shape with a round ventilator at the base of furnace in east part and another was in rectangular shape. The furnaces comprised two parts—blast furnaces and iron smelting furnaces. Blast furnaces were found at the hillsides in three feet each of distance to each other to fully use



Ancient iron furnace. PHOTO: MARN THIT NYEIN (ARCHAEOLOGY)

wind power. The blast furnaces were built with the use of sandy soil and filled with red soil comprising iron oxide or soil from the white ant hills. The round shape ventilator was placed at the windy face.

When the blast furnace was blazed with fuel, its interior and exterior were burnt. As the exterior of the furnace was thick and rough, it could absorb heat well. Numbers of blast furnaces from eight to 13 were built at the hillside. Blast furnaces were connected with iron smelting furnaces through two feet in diameter of clay tubes. When the blast furnace was set on fire with fuel such as firewood and charcoal, the hot air from the blast furnace strongly flowed into the tube so as to support flame to the iron smelting furnace well.

Iron smelting furnaces

might be standing ones built of asbestos materials on the flat area of the hill. The cylindrical shape facility might be 30 feet in diameter and 90-100 feet in height. The smelting furnace might be divided into three portions—the base, the neck and the head. The base of the furnace was built with thick volume to give place for falling of smelting iron. A hole was purposed to draw out the smelted iron and another hole to drain out molten lava. A tube was installed at the part of furnace between the base and neck in order to blow hot air from the blast furnace. The top of the furnace would have a large hole to put raw minerals, limestone and coal.

Cleaning ore minerals

After ore minerals had been crushed, waste was separated from minerals and others.

When minerals were heated with flame, small pieces of ore minerals were shifted to smelted form and then became solids. Then, pieces of iron, limestone and coal in layers were put into the furnace from the top hole. After necessary materials had been put into the furnace, pieces of coal were blazed and then, hot air from the blast furnace blown to the smelting furnace to start iron smelting process. Pieces of limestone were mixed with main materials for ensuring easy smelting of iron ore. Coal was blazed quickly due to transformation of hot air into carbon monoxide. Finally, iron ore was converted into liquid which fell to the base of the furnace.

Carbon from coal was combined with oxygen and then it purified iron. Waste from iron ore became melted iron in very strong heat and then it com-

oxygen and then left it as gas. As a result, the product became the purified iron. It could be used in producing iron wares and equipment at the blacksmiths. It could be called the second level furnace.

Iron wares found

Those who initiated urban culture in Myanmar were Pyu people. Pyu era flourished in the period between Bronze Age and Iron Age. At that time, production of soft bronze wares and equipment stepped up to production of iron wares and equipment. Iron weapons, iron wares, personal goods and farming equipment made of iron were found in Pyu city states such as Beikthano, Hanlin, Sri Kestra, Mongmaw (Pinle), Tagaung, Kyauhnnyat, Beindaka, Lekasing and Minbu.

Among Pyu city states, cultural heritages such as nails, hooks, knives, spheres and elephant statues made of iron found in excavation proved the most development of ancient Sri Kestra state in producing iron weapons and equipment. These iron weapons and equipment used in Pyu era were produced at Myinbahu Hillside in the south of Sri Kestra close to Pyay and iron smelting furnaces in Paukhaung Township, east of Sri Kestra. Iron smelting furnaces can be seen in remaining ancient Pyu city states in the country till today.

It needs to maintain the iron smelting furnaces in Pyu era as they are playing a key role in evidences for iron era of Myanmar. In fact, iron smelting furnaces are similar to open air museums where original iron objects can be seen at a single place. Faculty members from Archaeological Technology Training School in Pyay have searched and recorded the cultural evidences of Iron Age to know scattered areas of iron smelting furnaces, construction of furnaces, and production methods. That is why it needs to maintain invaluable iron smelting furnaces to be able to calculate the term of Iron Age of Pyu through comprehensive tests.

Translated by Than Tun Aung

Artist Aung Ko
restores cultural values of
old buildings on canvas

ARTIST Aung Ko has captured on his canvas the special Myanmar culture found in old wooden buildings before they surrender to mother nature.

Aung Ko has devoted himself to displaying the traditional decorative motifs of wood carvings found on century-old buildings across Myanmar. Some of these buildings had nearly collapsed, while others were abandoned but standing tall



under the attack of changing weather. “In fact, I restore the cultural values of these old buildings on canvas. I call this ‘artistic restoration,’” said the 41-year old artist. “I’d like to send a message to the people that the value of our old cultural buildings should be maintained. This is the best way to pass along this cultural inheritance to future generations,” he added. “I create these paintings to present what I value in old buildings, and those who built them. Most of the buildings were destroyed in the war,

and others because they were not maintained and cared for,” he noted.

Old Is Gold

His creations, exhibited at the Kalasa Art Space on 43rd Street in downtown Yangon, reflects his concept of “Old is Gold”, and the paintings help viewers imagine the days of the Konbaung dynasty in Myanmar.

Since his graduation from the National University of Art and Culture in 2001, Aung Ko has created paintings highlighting old cultural buildings in his native town of Shwetaung, which is rich in culturally significant buildings. In 2015, he began painting the series, “Old Is Gold.”

In this, his third solo show, he has also exhibited his “Artistic Restoration” of cultural buildings from Salay, Pyay, and Innwa.

Aung Ko’s show is continuing at Kalasa Art Space, No. 131, first floor, 34th (Middle Block), Kyauktada Township in Yangon.

By Nat Ye Hla



bined with limestone. As waste was lighter than melted iron and then became molten lava which floated on the hot melted iron. The lava was drained out from the valve. When hot melted iron was kept cool, it became pig iron. Pieces of iron drawn from the furnace were called cast iron. Cast iron consisted of 92 per cent of iron. A total of 2.6 per cent to 3.4 per cent of carbon as well as silicon might be involved in cast iron in addition to some volume of waste such as manganese, phosphorus and sulphate. Due to situation of very crisp based on waste, such kind of iron should not be used in blacksmith. In order to remove waste, cast iron must be stirred at the furnaces with the use of some volume of ore iron. Sulpha and phosphorus became lava after combining with oxygen from ore iron. Carbon was combined with

Myanmar U-22 beat Kyrgyzstan U-19 in friendly match

THE Myanmar U-22 men's national football team chalked up a big 5-1 win over the Kyrgyzstan U-19 team in a friendly match, held on 31 October at the Al-khor Stadium in Doha, Qatar.

The friendly match is part of team Myanmar's preparations for the upcoming 2019 South East Asian Games. The Kyrgyzstan U-19 team is also preparing for the qualification round of the AFC U-19 Championship.

Though the match was a friendly one, both teams made their best effort from the start.

Myanmar made their first goal at the eight-minute mark. The goal was scored by Aung Kaung Mhan.

The second goal for Myanmar

was scored by Myat Kaung Khant at 14 minutes.

The first half ended with Myanmar leading by 2 goals.

The second half was thrilling, with Myanmar launching open attacks. Thu Rein Soe scored the third goal for the team at 49 minutes. Myanmar landed their fourth goal at 58 minutes, and the goal was scored by Soe Lwin Lwin in a penalty shoot.

After establishing a four-goal lead, Myanmar relied on their midfield delivery and defense assist style, making it hard for their opponents to penetrate their defense. At the 90-minute mark, Htet Lin Lin scored the fifth goal for Myanmar, while Kyrgyzstan netted a consolation goal just



Myanmar's Aung Kaung Mhan (white) scores the first goal for the Myanmar U-22 during a friendly match yesterday against the Kyrgyzstan U-19 team at Al-khor Stadium in Doha. **PHOTO: MFF**

before the match ended.

During the training trip in Doha, Qatar, team Myanmar played three friendly matches,

including the match against Kyrgyzstan. In the previous friendly matches in Qatar, Myanmar played to a 2-2 draw against the

Nepal U-23 national football team. They also beat Qatar's Division Two club Al Uwaynah with a 3-1 result.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

AFC officials discuss football, CSR programs for Asia

THE Asian Football Confederation held the AFC Social Responsibility

Committee Meeting 2019 on 31 October at the AFC House

in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Myanmar Football Federation president and AFC vice president U Zaw Zaw, who is also currently the AFC's Social Responsibility chairperson, attended the meeting.

Speaking at the meeting, AFC president Shaikh Salman said: "Unfortunately, there are many people in Asia who are living in difficult circumstances."

"The AFC believes that football can not only be a sport, but also a force to bring good and hope to so many people. We have carried out a lot of projects so far – many providing humanitarian aid – but we can still do more," he

said "Through the AFC Dream Asia Foundation, we know that football can make a difference and bring a positive change to people across the continent," the AFC president added.

Next, the vice president of the AFC, U Zaw Zaw, said: "The role of this committee is to do more to help and serve those who need us the most."

"Under the leadership and guidance of our president, the AFC has strengthened its belief to use football as an important tool for social development. Never before have we seen the power of football touch so many lives across Asia. More than 20 Member Associations have been

impacted by our Social Responsibility programs," he said.

"And, we have signed partnerships with some of the world's leading organizations to further extend our reach and impact. Now the responsibility falls on us to build on this strong momentum," he added.

During the meeting, officials also discussed promoting children's football standards in Asia, especially in developing countries, taking part in resettlement efforts in disaster-hit regions of Asia, undertaking Corporate Social Responsibility projects with international organizations, foundations, and agencies.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Myanmar Football Federation president U Zaw Zaw (second from left) attends the AFC Social Responsibility Committee Meeting 2019 at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. **PHOTO: MFF**

Arsenal captain Xhaka to miss Wolves clash as fan feud rumbles on

LONDON — Unai Emery confirmed on Friday that Granit Xhaka will miss Arsenal's home match against Wolverhampton Wanderers this weekend as the Swiss midfielder's fan feud rumbles on.

Xhaka appeared to swear at Arsenal supporters after his second half substitution prompted sarcastic cheers and booing during Sunday's 2-2 home draw with Crystal Palace, with the 27-year-old cupping his ears, waving his arms angrily and ripping off his shirt before storming down the

tunnel. Xhaka has faced calls to be stripped of the Arsenal captaincy and he was left out of Wednesday's League Cup defeat at Liverpool after Gunners boss Emery admitted his reaction was wrong.

"He said sorry, he gave the apologies to the supporters, to everybody and now the focus is for tomorrow's match," Emery told reporters ahead of Saturday's clash at the Emirates Stadium. "It is not in my mind that he is going play tomorrow. I am thinking tomorrow he is not going

to play because I think now we need also to be focused only 100 per cent on the match.

"Now we are going to train but at the moment, he's not in my mind." Xhaka, who was also booed against Aston Villa earlier this season, revealed on Thursday he reached boiling point following a series of sick taunts toward him and his family via social media. With Wolves visiting the Emirates this weekend, it is possible Xhaka would have endured more abuse after the statement offered only a faint apology for

his actions. Xhaka was already a disliked figure among many Arsenal fans after lacklustre displays since his 2016 arrival from Borussia Moenchengladbach.

His failure to block the cross that led to Palace's equalising goal on Sunday was the final straw for some fans as they vented their frustrations.

A decision over the captaincy remains to be announced, although Xhaka is said to retain the backing of Arsenal's players, who voted him as skipper in pre-season.—AFP ■



Swiss midfielder and captain Granit Xhaka reacts during the friendly football match between Switzerland and Bosnia-Herzegovina at Letzigrund Stadium in Zurich on March 29, 2016. **PHOTO: AFP**