Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Message of Greetings from President U Win Myint sent on the occasion of the 64th Anniversary celebrations of Kayin State Day
(7 November 2019)

Dear esteemed ethnic brothers and sisters living in Kayin State,

I send this message of greetings today to all ethnic brothers and sisters living in Kayin state to be blessed with auspiciousness and good fortune. I hope you could all enjoy the traditional boxing competitions, boat racing, Kayin traditional “done” dance competitions, exhibitions, stage shows, street market festivals, trade shows, and entertainment programmes during the five-day celebrations of Kayin State Day celebrated joyously and in great numbers.

Historically, 11 Kayin ethnic races have lived in Kayin State together with other ethnic groups happily and amicably. After attaining independence when the States and Regions were formed, efforts were made to form Kayin State where the Kayin people were residing.

President U Win Myint looks at documentary photos at Death Railway Museum in Thanbyuzayat in Mon State on 6 November 2019. PHOTO: MNA

President inspects Attayan Bridge (Sabel Gu) in Mon State

PRESIDENT U WIN MYINT visited the construction site of the Attayan Bridge (Sabel Gu) over the Attayan River and the Death Railway Museum in Thanbyuzayat, Mon State, yesterday.

The President was accompanied by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Han Zaw and Nai Thet Lwin, Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo, and other officials as he departed by Tatmadaw special flight from Nay Pyi Taw to Mawlamyine in the morning.

The President and entourage were welcomed at Mawlamyine Airport by Mon State Chief Minister Dr Aye Zan.

SEE PAGE-3

State Counsellor receives Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Kreso Glavac, Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia who has completed his tour of duty in Myanmar at 10:30 am on 6 November 2019 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on matters pertaining to promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation in the fields of economy, tourism, people-to-people contacts and sports particularly in football between Myanmar and Croatia.—MNA

SEE PAGE-4
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw hears agriculture ministry’s use of emergency funds

DURING the second-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s 14th regular session yesterday, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation explained their use of over K3 billion from the Union emergency fund, and MPs debated a proposed loan of US$100 million from IDA for the Ministry of Education’s project for inclusive quality education accessible for all citizens.

Firstly, Speaker U T’Khun Myat announced that The Adaptation of Expressions Bill, which has to be marked as approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, will be put on record.

Emergency funds used to compensate farmers

Next, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw explained to the assembly of his ministry’s acquisition of K3.02015 billion from the emergency fund of the 2018-2019 FY Union Budget Law.

The Deputy Minister said a total of 682,417 acres of crops across the nation were destroyed by heavy rains during the 2018 monsoon season. He said they have compensated K7.330705 billion for 380,080 acres of the destroyed farm-lands as of 17 August, 2018. He said the K3 billion was needed to compensate the remaining 302,315 acres.

The Deputy Minister said the matter has already been approved by the Union Government and it is truly urgent to compensate the farmers for their lost crops, which is why he moves for the assembly to approve the matter. The Speaker then announced the matter has been put on record.

Next, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance, U Maung Maung Win, submitted the bill to amend the Myanmar Stamp Act on behalf of the Union Government. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee member Daw Nwe Nwe Aung then read her committee’s report on the bill. The Speaker called for MPs interested in discussing the bill to register their names.

Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein receives Executive Director of PACE

CHAIRMAN of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein received Executive Director of People’s Alliance for Credible Elections (PACE) U Sai Ye Kyaw Swar Myint and party at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to arrangements for successfully holding the 2020 election in accordance with its five norms, and completion status on compilation of voter list which cover the whole country.

Afterwards, the Union Election Commission’s Chairman and members and officials from the commission office coordinated over the report on ensuring voter list correct and accurate.—MNA

(Translated by Kyauzo Zin Tun)
President inspects Attayan Bridge (Sabel Gu) in Mon State

FROM PAGE 1

Commander Maj-Gen Myo Moe Aung of the Southeast Command, State Chief Justice U Khin Maung Gyi, state-level Hluttaw deputy speaker, Advocate-General, auditor-general, ministers, Hluttaw representatives and other officials.

Maung Moe Aung of the Southeast Command, State Chief Justice U Khin Maung Gyi, state-level Hluttaw deputy speaker, Advocate-General, auditor-general, ministers, Hluttaw representatives and other officials.

From there, the President went by motorcade to construction site of the Sabel Gu Bridge on the Kyakmaraw-Sabel Gu-Kawtpanaw Road, handled by Special Bridge Group (14) of the Department of Bridges, Ministry of Construction.

The President was brought up to date on the upgradation progress of Gyaing (Kawkareik), Gyaing (Zawtapyin) and Attayan bridges on the East-West economic corridor by Union Minister U Han Zaw. Deputy Director-General U Khin Maung Swe of the bridge department also explained the finer details of the project.

The President gave additional guidance on the project. He said infrastructure was a priority sector as it directly affected the development of rural areas. He said constructing roads and bridges required planning for the long term and ensuring the national budget was not wasted.

He urged the professionals and officials working on the project to work harder in order to complete the project within its designated timeframe and not compromise the quality and integrity of the bridge while doing so.

Once the Attayan Bridge is complete, it will allow residents along the east bank of the Attayan River to cross over to Kyakmaraw Town in half an hour. It will also allow faster travel to Myawaddy on the Thai border via Taranaw-Payagon Road and Mudon-Myawaddy Road.

Both of these advancements will contribute to the development of education, healthcare, businesses and society in the area. The bridge is currently 30 per cent completed and is slated to be finalized in September 2020.

Afterwards, the President and entourage travelled to Thanbyuzayat where they visited the Death Railway Museum and observed the Japanese-era locomotives and site of the Myanmar-Thailand Death Railway.

After this, the President visited Kyakkhani Ya Le Pagoda in Kyakkhani Town where he offered offertories and donated money to the Board of Trustees.

—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)
CONSTITUTION MEETING HELD IN NAY PYI TAW YESTERDAY

JOINT Committee of constitutional amendment holds meeting

From joint committee on scrutinizing the second bill amending the 2008 Constitution held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw building, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

7 NOVEMBER 2019

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

FROM PAGE-1

The 1951 Constitutional Amendment Act 62 signed by the President initially recognized Papun region of Thanlwin District as Kayin State.

After that, as per paragraph 14 of the 1992 Act to expand Kayin state, it was reconstituted into six townships. On 1 March 1960, Myawady town was added as the seventh township. The 7th November, the day on which the President signed the Amendment Act of the Constitution in 1951, has been designated as Kayin State Day, and its anniversaries have been celebrated since 1955, and this year marks the 64th anniversary.

At this time, led by the Union Government, all the national ethnic people are striving for the emergence of a democratic federal union. In doing so, the Union Government has focused on multisectoral development of the whole Union. It has worked for the harmonious and equitable development of all states and regions. In Kayin State, which has already signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), the Union Government is implementing development programmes in this state for development of all sectors such as transportation, education, health, human resources development, electric power generation and the economic sectors. Furthermore, rehabilitation works for the devastations resulting from natural disasters that occurred in Kayin state are also being carried out in real time, in cooperation with the local people in Kayin State.

The Union Government and the ethnic armed organizations are working together for internal peace and national reconciliation both of which are essential for national development.

The meetings of Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong have been held for the emergence of a democratic federal union, and agreement on 51 fundamental principles of the Union Accord have been reached. Mutual understanding, trust, patience, transparency, collaboration, respect, and friendly cooperation have prevented armed clashes in Kayin State, and the locals have been able to concentrate fully on development works. It is also believed that the local people in this state would be able to enjoy more socioeconomic development year by year. As the unity of the ethnic people and national reconciliation become stronger countrywide, a democratic and federal union will surely emerge based on the desire, strong endeavor, strong will and wisdom of the people.

Kayin State still has unspoiled natural beauties such as Mount Zwekabin, natural forests, ancient pagodas, natural caves and waterfalls and the Thanlwin River. Moreover, the honest and frank hospitality of the Kayin people have promoted the community-based tourism sector, and this pleasant and beautiful State has potentials to become an attractive destination for both local and foreign visitors. Moreover, Kayin State is a major trade zone in the southeast of the country. Two Myanmar-Thailand friendship bridges have created more employment opportunities and socioeconomic development for the local people.

The participation of all ethnic nationals and Union citizens through collective strength is required to overcome the existing and possible difficulties and challenges in transforming the Republic of the Union of Myanmar into a peaceful, prosperous and developed federal democratic union.

The cooperative effort of national ethnic people in Kayin State is a great strength in supporting the Union Government’s endeavours for the emergence of a peaceful and friendly country. By holding tightly the existing peace and development foundations, I urge all the national ethnic people in this message of greetings to work hard in unity for the emergence of a democratic federal union which has been our aspiration for many years.

Sd:
(Win Myint)
President

PRC donates $0.4 mln for NRPC

THE People’s Republic of China contributed US$ 0.4 million for the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the NRPC, Union Minister for the State Counsellor Office U Kyaw Tint Swe, in his capacity as the vice Chairman of the center, received the donation presented by Mr Sun Guoxiang, the Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of PRC, and the latter explained the reasons of donation and accepted the certificate of honour for the donation.

Then, NRPC Secretary and Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin expressed thanks for the donation which was also attended by the directors-general of the Ministry of State Counsellor Office and Chinese Officials.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Minister for the State Counsellor Office U Kyaw Tint Swe attends the cash donation ceremony for National Reconciliation and Peace Centre by the People’s Republic of China in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Joint committee of constitutional amendment holds meeting

JOINT Committee on Scrutinizing the second bill amending the 2008 Constitution held a meeting at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw building, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of Joint Committee on Scrutinizing the second bill amending the 2008 Constitution Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee U Khin Maung Win, Deputy Chairman of the joint scrutinizing committee Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee U Zaw Min, Secretary of the joint scrutinizing committee Dr Myat Nyana Soe, Joint Secretary of the joint scrutinizing committee U Kyaw Soe Lin, members of the joint scrutinizing committee and officials of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)
VP U Henry Van Thio emphasizes systematic land management to realize MSDP

SYSTEMATIC land management is required in implementing the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (2018-2019), said National Land Use Council Chairman and Vice President U Henry Van Thio during the fourth coordination meeting of the council held at the Ingyin Hall of Forest Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, NLUC Chairman and Vice President U Henry Van Thio emphasized the important role of his council to draft the National Land Law in accordance with the National Land Use Policy after reviewing the existing laws pertaining to land management for the development of better land management systems.

He also pointed out the connection between land management systems and climate changes resulting from global warming, adding that land resources were the most fundamental resources for human beings in providing food, clean water and biodiversity, and other ecosystem services. However, these resources were also the root causes for emission of greenhouse gases. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the emission of greenhouse gases from the sectors of agriculture, forestry and other land use contributed 23 per cent of total emissions from various sources in the world.

As a repercussion of climate changes, Myanmar suffered severe weather conditions such as 2008 Cyclone Nargis, floods, landslides and excess day temperatures, causing multiple devastations which impacted on the socioeconomic situation. As a result, Myanmar ranked third in the list of most vulnerable countries and territories in the world from 1998 to 2017.

At this point, the Vice President called for reducing climate changes in the country, and to manage land resources for adaptation.

The world leaders adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the UN Summit in September 2015. Most of the goals are related with land management, and the Goal 15 highlighted managing forests for their sustainability, combat deforestation, halt and reverse land degradation, and prevent biodiversity loss.

Moreover, the Strategy 5.5 of Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (2018-2019) has mentioned the improvement of land governance and sustainable management of resource-based industries ensuring the country’s natural resources dividend benefits all the people.

The National Land Use Council has formed a working committee to support the council’s works in drafting the National Land Law that can cover other land use management laws, and in adapting these laws.

The NLUC has also formed working committees for implementing OneMap Myanmar to have access to high-quality spatial data on land, and contributing to more transparent and accountable development planning and governance of land and other natural resources, the technical advisory board for land use, and the coordination committee for implementing agriculture development strategy.

The Vice President also added that these working committees need to follow the guidelines of NLUC, to get assistance from the technical advisory board and to collaborate with the working committees under the NLUC.

Finally, he urged all participants at the meeting to discuss the future plans for implementing systematic land resources management of the NLUC.

Then, the Secretary of NLUC and Union Minister U Ohn Win discussed accomplishments of resolutions from the third coordination meeting and the requirements of land use committees and working committees in Union Territory (Nay Pyi Taw) and States Regions. Next discussions were made by the following officials: Deputy Attorney General U Win Myint on the process of drafting the National Land Law, Deputy Minister Dr Ye Myint Sae in collecting spatial data which will be mainly included in the OneMap Data Portal, Deputy Director General U Hlwan Moo from the Department of Agriculture Land Management and Statistics on implementing agriculture development strategy and Director General Daw Wah Maung from the Pension Department on the works of technical advisory board.

The members of NLUC and Union Ministers Dr Aung Thu, U Thant Sin Maung, U Win Khaing and U Soe Win; Deputy Minister U Tin Myint and officials presented the short-term and long-term plans of their ministries to work with NLUC.

Then, the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, the chief ministers of States/Regions and cabinet members discussed permissions of NLUC for the land uses in respective areas, settling disputes over land ownership, employment opportunities in mining sector, technical works for OneMapMyanmar, land utilization for power lines and decisions on land policies on consultation between the Union level and the State/Region levels.

In conclusion, the Vice President gave suggestions and comments to ensure coordination based on the discussions.

The meeting was also attended by the council’s Secretary and Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win, and the members of council Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Myo Aung, chief ministers of States/Regions, members of working committee, departmental heads and officials. —MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

State, region governments forward requests for purchase of reserve rice

By Nyein Nyein

The governments of Chin and Rakhine states and Taninthayi Region have forwarded a request to the Union Government for funds to purchase reserve rice, said U Aung Htoo, the Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance.

The Union Government will disburse money to buy the rice as the rice reserves in Chin and Rakhine states and Taninthayi Region are not adequate, he said.

“The Union Government will allocate money to the region and state governments depending on the report on the purchase plan. Earlier, the Taninthayi government bought reserve rice from Toungoo Township, Bago Region and stored it there. When Taninthayi Region faced floods, the authorities brought the reserve rice to the region and distributed it among flood-affected people,” said U Aung Htoo.

“The volume of the reserve rice will depend on the plans drawn up the state and region governments. As Chin State has transportation problems, the cost of purchasing rice is high,” said U Aung Htoo.

“In Chin State, rice cannot be traded below K1 million per 100 baskets due to transportation costs. Therefore, the regional government needs to purchase reserve rice as needed,” said U Aung Htoo.

Myanmar is an agricultural country and the agriculture sector is the backbone of its economy. However, it is vulnerable to climate change and erratic weather conditions. Therefore, crop reserves are a must for the country’s food security and agricultural businesses. The country needs to establish rice reserves, paddy reserves, and food reserve to mitigate the impact of natural disasters. (Translated by Eli Myat Mon)
Vice President urges vigilance when returning confiscated lands

MYANMAR has formed the Central Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands by the order number 21/2019 of the President Office on 5 February 2019, to address complaints about land confiscation and proper transfer of lands to the original owners.

The Central Committee held a coordination meeting at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Central Committee, made an opening speech.

The meeting was also attended by its Vice Chairman and Union Minister Dr Aung Thu, Union Minister U Min Thu, the members of central committee Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Sein Win, U Ohn Win, U Thant Sin Maung, U Win Khaing and Dr Myo Thein Gyi, the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, chief ministers of Regions / States, Secretary of the Central Committee and Deputy Minister U Tin Myint, Deputy Attorney General U Win Myint and cabinet members of Regions / States, the Joint-Secretary of Central Committee and officials.

In his speech, the Vice President said the members of central committee have met eight times and adopted 52 policies up to the ground level to be adopted 52 policies up to the ground level to be adopted.

He also suggested the return of lands to the original owners without delay, and the members of Central Committee are to review the settlement mechanisms for land disputes to avoid the losses of owners.

He also offered to submit special reports on informing the requirement of urgent settlements to the relevant committees, and to follow instructions and guidelines from the Union government to the committees.

The Vice President then called for opening committee offices at the local levels with enough human resource capacity and organizing workshops and training programmes.

Secretary of the Central Committee and Deputy Minister U Tin Myint, presented the reform of the Central Committee, ongoing dispute settling mechanisms, and the return of confiscated lands.

Vice Chairman of the Central Committee and Union Minister U Min Thu explained the return of seized lands to the original owners in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations.

Then, the members of Central Committee explained their reviewing on the cases of land confiscation.

Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health and Sports Dr Thar Tun Kyaw, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Construction U Win Tin, Yangon Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Joint Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee U Than discussed the processes of issuing recommendation from the relevant ministries and compensations.

Then, Deputy Attorney General U Win Myint explained laws and regulations related with the confiscated farmlands and other lands, followed by the suggestions of Union Minister Dr Aung Thu on the land confiscated issues.

The meeting was concluded with the coordination of Vice President U Henry Van Thio in the discussions.—MNA

Indonesia Press Council visits office of its Myanmar counterpart

DELEGATION members of Indonesia Press Council and UNESCO officials visited the headquarters of Myanmar Press Council in Yangon yesterday.

The visiting delegation presented cooperation between the IPC and the General Elections Commission of Indonesia in supporting for the successful holdings of the country’s presidential election coverage.

The members of MPC also explained the Myanmar’s Union Election Commission and access to information about the elections, renewal of guidelines for reporters to cover the elections, and cooperation between the MPC and the UEC.

The Indonesian delegation and the MPC members then discussed coordination plans between the two press bodies.

Dr Agus Sudibyo, Dr Agung Dharmapraya and Ms Christiana Chelsia Chan represented the IPC in discussion with MPC representatives Chairmen U Ohn Kyaw, the Vice Presidents, the Secretary and its members.—MPC

(Translated by Aung Khin)
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives ROK Ambassador

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Mr. Lee Sang-hwa, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar, at the Bayintnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to multi-sectoral collaboration between the Republic of Korea and ASEAN countries, Myanmar’s role as an ASEAN country and the important capacity of cooperation between ASEAN and Asian countries.

They also discussed matters related to the Tatmadaw’s tasks for ending internal armed conflicts, the ROK’s investment and economic cooperation for Myanmar’s development, promoting bilateral relations between the two armed forces, and technical and training cooperation, according to the news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

CBM to sell pure half-tical gold coin

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has been issuing quality tical, half-tical and quarter-tical gold coins since 1991. It has also introduced new quarter-tical and tical quality gold coins in 2018.

A single star is depicted in the centre of the tical gold coin. Images of a ploughing farmer and an elephant hauling a log are depicted on the half- and quarter-tical gold coins, and image of the Bogyoke is depicted at the centre of the new quarter-tical and tical quality gold coins. The half-tical quality gold coins which is on high demand of people are low stock. So the new gold coins will be issued. The new half-tical quality gold coin has a diameter of 22.0 millimetres (mm) and a thickness of 1.5 mm. At the centre of the face of the new gold coin is a portrait of Bogyoke Aung San with the words “Aung San” written at the bottom. Along the circumference of the coin, “Central Bank of Myanmar”, and “8.164 gm 999.9 Fine Gold” will be etched in the English language, while the opposite face will have “Central Bank of Myanmar 2019, half-tical, 999.9 Fine Gold” enbossed in the Myanmar language.

When a quality half-tical gold coin is bought, the CBM Governor and the gold coin casting department head will provide a certificate of authenticity. The new gold coins can be bought at the sale centres of Myanmar Gem Enterprise in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay at the prevailing gold rate of the day, along with a payment of the casting fee of K25,000, from the first week of November 2019, according to the CBM.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Innwa Bank opens 63rd branch in Myaing Kalay

THE 63rd branch of Innwa Bank Limited was opened in Myaing Kalay Village, Hpa-an Township, Kayin State yesterday.

Kayin State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Myo Min Naung, Chief Judge of State High Count U Saw San Lin, State Auditor General U Saw Hla Tun, Director U Aung Zaw Moe of General Administration Department, State government and Managing Director of the Innwa Bank Limited U Aung Ngwe Oo opened the ceremony by cutting ceremonial ribbons, and Brig-Gen Min Min Soe unveiled the signboard by pressing a button. They then observed inside the bank.

The 63rd branch (Myaing Kalay-Myoma branch) of Innwa Bank Limited is located at the Myaing Kalay Sannya Village beside the Yangon-Hpa-an road in Hpa-an Township. The Innwa Bank Limited offers local remittance service, 9 per cent interest for saving account and up to 10 per cent for fixed account.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)
To contribute to local economic development and environmental conservation, a plastics recycling facility in Ngaapaii set up with the assistance from Stiftung Foundation based in Germany started operating on 8 January 2019.

In cooperation with private companies, “Rabbinke State Investment Fair 2019” was held from 21 to 23 February 2019.

LONGW AITED and highly anticipated, the Myanmar Insurance Corporation’s (MIC) long-awaited business, the Myanmar Industrial Design Law (2019), finally came into force on 1 January 2019. The Law is expected to help strengthen the protective system of intellectual property rights (IPRs) in Myanmar.

The Law applies to all IPRs, including inventions, trademarks, domain names, geographical indications and plant varieties. It is the first comprehensive IPR Law introduced in Myanmar.

The Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Planning; Investment and Economic Development are responsible for overseeing the implementation of the IPR Law.

According to the observations at (11:30) hrs M.S.T today, the depression over the East-central Bay and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal has intensified into a Deep Depression with the maximum wind speed of about 64 km/hr over the central part of the depression and 52 km/hr over the eastern part of the depression.

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for a competition called “The Global New Light of Myanmar” organized by the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNYL). Open to all Myanmar citizens, the competition aims to encourage young people to express themselves through their writing.

To continue the promotion of farmers who make up 90 per cent of the total population of Myanmar, we need to make legislations which can protect them when crops are damaged by natural calamities.

The Union Parliament of Myanmar passed the only new Industrial Design Law in 2019 as an international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations, and that the Copyright Law of Myanmar is in line with the world.

We are being informed that crop cultivation is an important tool for poverty alleviation and job creation, particularly in rural areas. However, the crop failures due to climate change, and crops are getting damaged by heavy  ____1____ due to climate change. It is because crops that grew well in the past may no longer continue to do so due to climate change. Rainfall and temperature are important factors which influence crop production. But these factors are also subject to change due to climate change. As a result, crop failures due to climate change are getting widespread in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 7th November, 2019: Rain or thunder showers will be isolated in Sagaing Region, Rakhine, Chin, Northern Shan, Kayin and Mon States, scattered showers in Shan, Magway and Irrawaddy Regions, and fair weather will prevail in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

The Ministry of Science and Technology is working on the Office of the Attorney-General and relevant ministry to compile and draft the proposed Intellectual Property Act. The Office of the Attorney-General is the sectoral agency responsible for IP issues in the country.

We have been working to switch from traditional mechanized farming practices, but our efforts have not yet met with success. The Ministry of Education. The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for a competition called “The Global New Light of Myanmar” organized by the Global New Light of Myanmar (GNYL). Open to all Myanmar citizens, the competition aims to encourage young people to express themselves through their writing.

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Until 9 November 2019
Reports of Korean investors exiting Myanmar to invest in Bangladesh untrue: DICA

By Nyein Nyein

RECENT reports that Korean investors plan to pull out investments from Myanmar and invest in Bangladesh instead are not true, said U Thant Sin Lwin, Director-General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

"Those investments are not easy to become easily. We have negotiated several times and after several consultations, industrial zones were developed. Moreover, the Myanmar Investment Commission has been providing the necessary assistance, even before a project’s implementation. The MIC is also working to ensure a smooth investment process. So, Korean investors are still submitting proposals to make investments, and inquiries are still being made. There have been no investors returning the investment license granted to them," said U Thant Sin Lwin.

"I have contacted with the commercial attache of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea. And, the attaché said that one businessman has spread the information that is not real in Bangladesh. We completely reject reports of such a withdrawl (of investment)," he added.

Additionally, the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations has communicated with the South Korean ambassador in Myanmar, who has also reiterated that this story is not true, said U Thant Sin Lwin.

"The Korean Industrial Complex Co. Ltd (KIC) had inquired at the DICA about the investment process. But, it did not intend to invest in Myanmar," he said.

"The KIC seemed keen to do business in Myanmar. They had asked us about the investment process. After we gave them a reply, they did not contact us again. The KIC came in 2016. Then, we found some troubles — the company had tried to obtain land and sell it back to other companies at a profit. So, what the KIC said is not legal," said U Thant Sin Lwin.

South Korean investment in Myanmar stands at 7. South Korea made 179 investments projects worth US$4 billion. Currently, most of the Korean investments are flowing into the oil and gas sector, followed by the manufacturing sector. Korean investors are also investing in two industrial zones.

Meanwhile, U Thaug Tun, the Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and the chairman of the MIC, attended the 35th ASEAN Summit held on 5 November in Thailand. He also participated in the 14th East Asia summit, during which he met with the South Korean Economic Minister and discussed investment.

Myanmar will also attend the Korea ASEAN Special Summit, scheduled in November in Busan, South Korea.

(Translated by Htay Mar Tin Win)

Thanaka conference, expo to be held from 7-9 Nov in Monywa

A three-day Myanmar Thanaka conference and expo will kick off on 7 November at the Monywa Town Hall in Sagaing Region, under the arrangement of the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar Trade Development Committee, and Myanmar Thanaka Planters, Producers and Exporters Association.

The conference aims to promote Thanaka plantation programs and production of value-added Thanaka products, create more international markets, and attract buyer interest.

Paper presentations on Myanmar Thanaka products are planned at the exhibition. Visitors would be able to view and purchase Thanaka logs, plants, seeds, Thanaka products, clothes, and goods.

761 illegally harvested teak logs seized in Bamauk; four arrested

OFFICIALS seized 61 logs of illegally harvested teak on Tuesday morning in Nantkaung-hu forest near LeU village in Bamauk Township, Katha District, Sagaing Region, and arrested four men who were found trying to cut the logs into lumber.

A combined team led by U Myint Naiq Oo, the Assistant Director of the Katha District Forest Department, and including officials from the the Forest Police conducted an inspection in the Nantkaunghu Forest after receiving a tip. The team found four persons — Zaw Naing Tun, Moe Kyaw, Kyaw Myint and Kyaw Hla — with the logs of teak, worth over K3.65 million. The men had a male elephant with them.

The four men were arrested and the township police have registered a case against them under the Forestry Law. — Lu Aung (Katha)

(Translated by La Wonn)

The announcement is absolutely wrong, said U Thant Sin Lwin at a media conference held on 6 November at the DICA office.

"Those investments are not easy to become easily. We have negotiated several times and after several consultations, industrial zones were developed. Moreover, the Myanmar Investment Commission has been providing the necessary assistance, even before a project’s implementation. The MIC is also working to ensure a smooth investment process. So, Korean investors are still submitting proposals to make investments, and inquiries are still being made. There have been no investors returning the investment license granted to them," said U Thant Sin Lwin.

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Additionally, the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations has communicated with the South Korean ambassador in Myanmar, who has also reiterated that this story is not true, said U Thant Sin Lwin.

"The Korean Industrial Complex Co. Ltd (KIC) had inquired at the DICA about the investment process. But, it did not intend to invest in Myanmar," he said.

"The KIC seemed keen to do business in Myanmar. They had asked us about the investment process. After we gave them a reply, they did not contact us again. The KIC came in 2016. Then, we found some troubles — the company had tried to obtain land and sell it back to other companies at a profit. So, what the KIC said is not legal," said U Thant Sin Lwin.

South Korean investment in Myanmar stands at 7. South Korea made 179 investments projects worth US$4 billion. Currently, most of the Korean investments are flowing into the oil and gas sector, followed by the manufacturing sector. Korean investors are also investing in two industrial zones.

Meanwhile, U Thaug Tun, the Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and the chairman of the MIC, attended the 35th ASEAN Summit held on 5 November in Thailand. He also participated in the 14th East Asia summit, during which he met with the South Korean Economic Minister and discussed investment.

Myanmar will also attend the Korea ASEAN Special Summit, scheduled in November in Busan, South Korea.

(Translated by Htay Mar Tin Win)
Thilawa SEZ most improved zone: Minister

By Nyein Nyein

Of the three special economic zones, Thilawa, Dawei, and Kyaukpyu, the Thilawa SEZ has shown huge economic growth and the most improvement, said U Aung Htoo, the Deputy Minister for Commerce.

"Both Myanmar and Japan governments jointly established the Thilawa SEZ. It has shown more improvement in infrastructure and so, investments are flowing into the zone," he added.

"Thilawa has shown high economic potential. It has been jointly developed by the two governments. Myanmar and Japan governments are building infrastructure — roads, electricity, and port terminals. Investors are eyeing the zone to make investments and the zone is rapidly growing," said U Aung Htoo.

According to a discussion conducted on 30 October, container trucks from Myanmar can reach the Laem Chabang Port in Bangkok, Thailand and so can trucks from Thailand to Yan-gon’s Thilawa port. Therefore, the Thilawa SEZ has great economic potential in the future, he added. While Thilawa has shown growth, the Dawei SEZ, which was set up over a decade ago, is lagging, he said.

"Dawei SEZ needs infrastructure development. At present, it requires land, road, and other infrastructure. Environmental Impact Assessment and Social Impact Assessment also need to be conducted in the zone. Concerning road infrastructure, Myanmar and Thailand have agreed to construct a road in the East West Economic Corridor. Upon the completion of the 130-km road, the Dawei SEZ will also improve," the minister said.

"The Dawei SEZ was developed by the Italian-Thai Development Company Limited during the former government’s term. It is underdeveloped due to financial constraints," he added.

Under the incumbent government, the Chinese consortium’s share in the Kyaukpyu SEZ was reduced from 85 per cent to 70 per cent. The two governments discussed the previous agreement and signed a new one under which the Chinese holding stands at 70 per cent and Myanmar’s at 30 per cent.

"The Kyaukpyu SEZ is in a strategic location when it comes to China’s One Belt One Road initiative. Thus, motorway and railway projects will be included in the zone. The Kyaukpyu SEZ is likely to show quicker improvement than Dawei," the minister said.

(Translated by El Myat Mon)

US dollar exchange rate slides on low demand

The US dollar has been sliding against the Kyat in the local currency market, with the exchange rate touching a low of K1,513 per US dollar on 6 November, a decline of about K17 from October-end, said money exchangers.

At the end of October, the rate was pegged at K1,530. While the US dollar index was around 97 in the global market, the exchange rate slipped to K1,523 on 2 November and K1,516 on 4 November in the local forex market.

"It is normal for the dollar to depreciate against the Kyat in November. At present, exports of rice and pulses are increasing, and the demand for the dollar is falling in the holidays. The dollar rate is likely to remain cool and it seems it may not climb up," said a money exchanger.

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) buys dollars from private banks to govern the market. The CBM set the reference exchange rate (weighted average market rate) at K1,516.9 per dollar on 4 November.

In October last year, the dollar exchange rate had hit a high of K1,600. Thereafter, the dollar has been falling in the local currency market.

This year, the exchange rate stood at K1,540 on 1 January and fell to a low of K1,515 on 15 January. It continued to drop and reached K1,505 on 28 February. Thereafter, it rose to K1,527 on 18 March and K1,538 on 14 May. The rate stood at K1,529 on 1 June and 1,514 on 26 August. Then, the dollar exchange rate hit a peak of K1,560 on 6 September.

— Ko Htet

Thilawa Special Economic Zone

PHOTO: PHOE NYAUNG

IMPORTS of raw materials by CMP businesses from 1 to 25 October in the current fiscal year were valued at US$160.7 million, an increase of $12 million compared with the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Meanwhile, the exports of finished industrial goods touched $477 million in 25 days of trading, according to the ministry.

As per figures provided by the ministry, the exports of finished industrial goods crossed $477 million in 25 days of trading, according to the ministry.

According to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce, the CMP businesses import raw materials worth $160.7 million.

The CMP industry has emerged as a very promising one in the export sector. The value of CMP exports was just $2.7 million in 2014-2015 fiscal year, but it tripled within two years to reach $7.5 million in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, as per figures provided during the Myanmar Global Investment Forum 2018, held on 12 September 2018.

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

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

There are currently over 400 garment factories in Myanmar; which employ more than 300,000 workers. Investors prefer to invest in cheap-labor countries like Myanmar — Mon Mon (Translated by El Myat Mon)

A clerk checks US 100 dollar bank notes at a foreign currency exchange counter in Yangon.

PHOTO: XINHUA

The CMP businesses import raw materials worth $160.7 million

The total border trade value reached US$2.8 million as of 25 October, an increase of $12 million compared with the same period of the 2018-2019 fiscal year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The total border trade value included $2.7 million in exports and $0.02 million in imports, compared with the previous FY, the export earnings went up by more than $1.5 million, while the value of imports increased by $0.006 million. This time last year, border trade was valued at $1.28 million.

Myanmar exports goods to Bangladesh through both maritime and land routes. Border trade between the two countries is conducted through the Sittway and Maungtaw border trade camps. From 1 to 25 October, trade through the Maungtaw gate reached $0.93 million, while trade at the Sittway border was valued at $1.82 million.

The bilateral border trade value went up because Myanmar exported 1,175 tons of onions, worth $696,600, in October via the Maungtaw gate. Myanmar also exported 319 tons of Rahu worth $294,353 and 46 tons of dried fish worth $28,953. The products traded between the two countries include bamboo, ginger, peanuts, saltwater prawns and fish, dried plums, garlic, rice, mung beans, bamboo, candy, plum jam, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute products, tobacco, plastics, wood, knitwear, and beverages. — Zwe (Translated by Huy Mar)

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Religious objects of Eternal Peace Pagoda displayed at Sasana Beikman

The religious objects of the Eternal Peace Pagoda which were conveyed yesterday from the Thiri Mingalagaba Aye Pagoda were being displayed at the Sasana Beikman of the Eternal Peace Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw.

Before the Golden Umbrella Hoisting Ceremony of the Eternal Peace Pagoda, Members of Sangha led by Presiding Sayadaw of MahaVisadamyana Zaygon Monastery in Pyinmana Town Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Dr Bhatanda Kawisara and Presiding Sayadaw of Paik Myaung Pariyatti Monastery Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Zanita will perform continuous recitation of Maha Phathana Pall text from the morning of 7 November to the morning of 9 November.

On the fullmoon day of Tazaungmone, the Golden Umbrella Hoisting and consecration of MahaPhathana Pall at the Sasana Beikman of the Eternal Peace Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw.

FROM PAGE - 9

Providing Protection

The purpose of Copyright Law in Myanmar is to promote the progress of useful arts and science by protecting the exclusive right of authors and inventors to benefit from their works of authorship. It includes such as that of the preservation and protection effectively of all the copyright; that of the elevation protection effectively of all the copyright; that of the establishment of free and fair market economic competition system; that of the support in urging business; that of in urging business; that of in urging business; that of the protection effectively of all the copyright; that of the establishment of free and fair market economic competition system; that of the support and encouragement over the innovation and creation; that of the elimination of fake and forged products for market entry.

These IP Laws ultimately protect the interests of the small, the medium and large enterprises in Myanmar including companies and economic enterprises. Moreover, the laws protect the copyright interest of the companies based in foreign countries as well as their trademarks effectively.

Since the term of the first Pyithu Hluttaw, the changes and reforms have been carried out from the centrally planned economic system to market oriented economic system with the democratic transition covering politics, administration, economic and social spheres.

Opening to the world

With a view to attract foreign direct investment, the new Myanmar Investment Law 2016 (MIL) has been enacted on 18 October 2016. The new MIL is a consolidation of the Myanmar Citizen Investment Law (2013) and the Myanmar Foreign Investment Law (2012). Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations is formed to fulfill the requirement of the State and the people according to international, regional and the country’s geo-economic situation.

With the idea to grant easier access for business, the decentralization process has been realized, and that some of the investments and businesses are being approved by state and regional governments to a certain extent.

The Government guarantees to the foreign investors fair and equitable treatment in doing business, and that the reciprocal protection clauses has been allowed to sign on bilateral basis. Policy to enhance the investment has been encouraged and that local and foreign investments are being cordially invited.

According to Notification 48/2018 of Office of the President, Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 21 June 2018 Myanmar Companies Law takes effect in accordance with the Myanmar Companies Law section 1(b) on 1 August 2018.

Foreigners are allowed to venture up to 35 percent investment in the Myanmar Company, and that the company is regarded as local company. Adequate protection for the minority shareholders is stipulated in the Myanmar Companies Law.

Endeavoring for the development

In collaboration with the World Bank, steps are being taken up and implemented in the business sphere for the ease of doing business. During the time of incumbent government, Myanmar is to move less than (100) place on the World Bank’s index for ease of doing business ranking, which cites several reforms including creating an easier environment for starting a business and greater protection for minority investors.

The Ministry of Commerce is providing support and encouragement in elevating the local and foreign trade, and also creating good business environment that is vital and necessary in the market economic system.

Moreover, the ministry is motivating, inspiring and stimulating in the sphere such as that of the private sector development; that of creating more job opportunities; that of advocating in the formation and development of SMEs; that of supporting for easing up in doing business; that of in urging and advising for the formation of business entrepreneurs associations; and that of eliminating and dismantling of illegal trade and replaced with legal and legitimate trade.

Supplement to the above endeavors, speedy implementation of Special Economic Zones are under way in Dawei, Kyaukpyu, and Thilawa.

The passing of bills such as the copyright, the trademarks, the industrial design, and the patents is the part and parcel of the ongoing reform process of the country. The laws could safeguard, secure and shield the businesses in the domain of SMEs and the local companies as well foreign companies. Last but not least to say that the literature, the artistic creation, and the art work are well protected.

On the whole, I would like to conclude that Myanmar is sure to be considered as viable economic environment for investment, and to freely engage and deal as a reliable and trustworthy nation.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)
German finance minister open
eurozone deposit insurance

FRANKFURT AM MAIN — German Finance Min-
ister Olaf Scholz said Wednesday a “common
European deposit insur-
ance” should be included in
EU “banking union” re-
forms, removing a poten-
tially decisive block to the
project.

“A strengthened banking union framework should
include some form of com-
mon European deposit insurance mechanism,”
Scholz wrote in the Finan-
cial Times, naming specif-
ically “a European deposit reinsurance scheme”.

“This is no small step
for a German finance
minister,” he added, not-

ing that Britain’s looming departure from the Euro-
pean Union has upped the
pressure to strengthen its
financial sector against
competition from the US
and China.

“We need to end
the deadlock,” Scholz wrote.
In case of bank failure,
first the national deposit
assurance schemes would
step in, followed by “a Eu-
ropean deposit insurance
fund, administered by the
Single Resolution Board”
created in 2014 to wind up
failing banks.

The last resort would
be taxpayer cash from “the
relevant member state”,
he wrote.
Scholz’s intervention
in the debate comes after
incoming European Com-
mission president Ursula
von der Leyen vowed to
finally complete banking
union. While European
governments have long
been urged to pool their
resources to better protect
defaulting lenders’ balance sheets.

Reiterating the risk-re-
duction message, Scholz
urged “further reducing the number of non-per-
forming loans” and an end

to banking supervisors

treating sovereign debt
as risk-free. That did not


go far enough for other of-
cials in Berlin, who told
the FT the Social Demo-
cratic Party (SPD) finance
minister had not secured
the backing of Chancellor
Angela Merkel and her
centerright CDU.—AFP

Asian investors bide their time as
they weigh trade prospects

HONG KONG — Asian
investors moved cautious-
ly on Wednesday as opti-

mism over the China-US
trade talks was offset by
profit-taking after a recent
rally.

Another record close
on Wall Street provided
another positive lead for
regional traders, who are
keeping tabs on progress in
the tariff negotiations,
with expectations a deal
could be signed this month.

The US gains came after data showed a bet-

ter-than-forecast increase
in activity in the key US
services sector last month,
which added to signs the
world’s top economy was
stabilising.

Reports that the US
is considering removing
tariffs on more than $100
billion of Chinese imports
in order to get a mini pact
done sent Asian markets
surging Tuesday.

And signs of progress
helped support the Chi-

nese yuan, which was
hovering slightly above
seven to the dollar, having
broken below the level on

Tuesday for the first time
since May.

However, Stephen
Innes at AxiTrader said in-


vestors could be reaching


their limit for more gains
until there is more move-


ment on the trade talks.

“Sentiment is ex-


remely optimistic and it
could be that we are near-


ing the peak of the senti-


ment wave, and a phase
one Sino-US deal is fully


priced,” he said.—AFP

Thank you for being a part of
Our wedding day.

Ms. Hnin Oo Lwin, M.B.A (In-
ternational Business Management, U.S.A),
Director (WAM Partners, New York, U.S.A),
dughter of U Thet Lwin, Assistant Director
(Rtd)., Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and
Daw Yin Yin Nyunt, in Yangon.

And

Mr. Omar Fayeza, M.Sc (Interna-
tional Relations-Economics, FRANCE),
Vice President (Goldman Sachs, New York,
U.S.A), son of Dr. Essam Fayeza (Professor; Al-
Azhar University Cairo) and Mrs. Hadia Sherbina,
in Cairo, celebrated a wedding reception at
Crystal Ballroom of the LOTTE HOTEL on Pyay
Road, Yangon Region, on 1st November, 2019.
We want to thank everyone for coming and for
those who have helped us on this special day.
Both parents and
Ms. Hnin Oo Lwin & Mr. Omar Fayeza

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MLV PACAO VOY. NO. (71NS)
Consignees of cargo carried on MLV PACAO VOY.
NO. (71NS) are hereby notified that the vessel will be
arriving on 7-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the
premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and
expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am
to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now
declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the
Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after
the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MLV MCC MERGY VOY. NO. (944W)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC MERGY
VOY. NO. (944W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be
arriving on 7-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the
premises of M.I.T.T/T.M.T where it will lie at the
consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am
to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now
declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the
Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after
the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE)
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MLV PREDISIO VOY. NO. (828W)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PREDISIO
VOY. NO. (828W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be
arriving on 7-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the
premises of M.I.P/M.L.T/T where it will lie at the
consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am
to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now
declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the
Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after
the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES
PTE., LTD.
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MLV OCEAN FRIEND
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN
FRIEND VOY. NO. (1918) are hereby notified that the vessel will be
arriving on 7-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the
premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the
consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am
to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now
declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the
Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after
the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS BEN LINE AGENCIES
(PHILIPPINE) PTE. LTD
Phone No: 2301928
Pro-Beijing politician wounded in Hong Kong knife attack

HONG KONG — A firebrand pro-Beijing politician in Hong Kong was wounded in a knife attack on Wednesday, the latest tit-for-tat political violence to break out in a city engulfed by months of pro-democracy protests.

A photo posted online showed the moment the attack took place.

A man holding a bouquet of flowers approached Junius Ho on Wednesday morning as the politician was campaigning with party members in his constituency of Tuen Mun, a town on the outskirts of Hong Kong near the border with China.

The man gave Ho the flowers, asked to take a picture and then pulled a knife from his bag before striking his victim in the chest.

Junius Ho has become one of the most loathed establishment figures among democracy protesters. PHOTO: AFP

Ho and his aides quickly subdued the man who could be heard shouting in Cantonese: “Junius Ho, you scum!”

Ho, 57, was conscious when he got into the ambulance.

Police said three people were wounded in the incident, including the attacker.

A police source, who declined to be named, told AFP that Ho received a stab wound to the left side of his chest and the attacker was arrested.

Ho, 57, was conscious when he got into the ambulance.

Controversial figure

Alongside Hong Kong’s leader Carrie Lam and police chief Stephen Lo, Ho has become one of the most loathed establishment figures among democracy protesters.

He has long been one of the most stridently pro-Beijing politicians in the city.

But he shot to notoriety on 21 July after he was filmed shaking hands with a group of men in the town of Yuen Long who went on to beat protesters with sticks and poles, hospitalising 40 people. —AFP

15 killed in suspected rebel attacks in Thailand’s south

BANGKOK — At least fifteen people were gunned down in an ambush by suspected Muslim militants in Thailand’s violence-wracked south, an army spokesman said on Wednesday, one of the bloodiest days in the 15-year insurgency.

Thailand’s three southernmost provinces have been in the grip of a conflict that has killed more than 7,000 people, as Malay-Muslim militants fight for more autonomy from the Thai state.

Despite the high death toll, the highly localised unrest garners few international headlines.

The region is heavily controlled by the police and the military, with residents and rights groups accusing them of heavy-handed tactics.

Villagers trained and armed by security forces are also enlisted to monitor remote villages, though they are rarely targeted by the rebels.

This changed late Tuesday when militants struck two checkpoints in Yala province manned by civilian defence volunteers, opening fire on them as a group of villagers stopped to talk, southern army spokesman Promote Prom-in told AFP.

In the largest death toll in recent years, “twelve were killed at the scene, two more (died) at the hospital, and one died this morning”, said Pramote, adding that five others were injured. —AFP

Cambodian opposition figure vows to return despite risk of arrest

JAKARTA — A Cambodian opposition figure on Wednesday vowed to return home this weekend along with other leaders of their banned political party after years of self-imposed exile abroad, saying they risk not only arrest but also their lives.

“We are risking our lives,” Nobel Peace Prize nominee Mu Sochua told a press conference in Jakarta. “We want always to avoid bloodshed, to avoid violence,” she added.

On the possibility of arrest upon setting foot in Cambodia, Mu Sochua said, “The people of Cambodia want us to go home in peace and we do not see any necessity to put us behind bars.”

Mu Sochua has been charged in Cambodia along with eight other leaders of the Cambodia National Rescue Party with plotting a coup, after the party’s acting president Sam Rainsy used social media to appeal to the armed forces to support the people in overthrowing Hun Sen on Nov 9, the date of their scheduled return to Cambodia. —Kyodo News
Britain’s Johnson compares rival to Stalin at campaign launch

LONDON — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson compared the main opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn to Joseph Stalin in a speech last Wednesday to tough pre-Christmas election campaign.

The splintered country is entering its third general election in four years to try and resolve the crisis launched by voters’ decision in 2016 to break away from the European Union after nearly 50 years.

Johnson is hoping the December 12 poll will help his majority government secure the majority needed to push through his separation terms with Brussels quickly enough for Britain to finally leave by the new deadline of January 31. But the ruling Conservatives’ lead in opinion polls over Labour is similar to the one former prime minister Theresa May all but wasted in Britain’s last election in 2017. Johnson will formally launch the five-week campaign after visiting Queen Elizabeth II in Buckingham Palace to ask her to formally get underway.

Head of UN Palestinian agency steps aside amid probe

JERUSALEM — The head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees has stepped aside temporarily as an internal probe into alleged management mismeasure at the organisation proceeds, it said on Wednesday.

Pierre Krahenbuhl, commissioner-general of the agency known as UNRWA, will be replaced on an interim basis by the agency’s acting deputy chief Christian Saunders, it said.

The agency said findings in the probe over “revalued management issues which relate specifically to the commissioner general.”

“The commissioner-general has stepped aside until the completion of the process,” it said.

An internal ethics report has alleged mismanagement and abuses of authority at the highest levels of the agency, which has also faced a financial crisis after US funding cuts.

UN investigators have been probing the allegations in the confidential report, a copy of which was obtained by AFP.

The report describes “credible and corroborated” allegations of serious ethical abuses, including involving Krahenbuhl, a Swiss national. It says the allegations include senior management engaging in “sexual misconduct, nepotism, retaliation, discrimination and other abuses of authority, for personal gain, to suppress legitimate dissent, and to further their personal objectives.”

Krahenbuhl himself was alleged to have been romantically involved with a colleague appointed in 2015 to a newly created role of senior adviser after an “extreme fast-track” process, the report says. That enabled her to join him on international business class flights, the report alleges.

UNRWA came under heavy financial constraints after the United States suspended and later cut all funding it for it in 2018.

US President Donald Trump’s administration, along with Israel, accuses UNRWA of perpetuating the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The agency disputes that and says it serves the people it provides would otherwise not be available to Palestinians. A number of other countries suspended their contributions pending the outcome of the probe into alleged mismanagement. UNRWA was set up in the year after more than 700,000 Palestinians were expelled or fled their lands during the 1948 war surrounding the creation of Israel.—AFP

Iraq PM sees power clipped by rivals amid pro-Iran pressure: sources

BAGHDAD — As anti-government protests sweep his country, Iraq’s embattled premier has found his decision-making powers clipped by rivals and his entourage subject to increasing pressure from Iran, Iraqi officials told AFP.

Adel Abdel Mahdi, 77, came to power last year as the product of a tenuous alliance between populist cleric Moqtada Sadr and pro-Iran paramilitary chief Hoadi al-Ameri, with the request blessing of Iraq’s Shiite religious leadership.

He was seen as an almost professorial figure who could tackle unemployment and government spending promises made in the first weeks of protests — but stayed under pressure from the different factions,” one of the officials said.

Instead, Abdel Mahdi appeared in a stern pre-recorded address that aired around 2:00 am on October 3, proposing a package of reforms that protesters angrily dismissed as insufficient.

He has since resisted intensifying calls for him to step down and for the political system to be overhauled, adopting a noticeably tougher stance towards the demonstrators.

“The premier is shackled by his entourage, by the political parties that brought him to power,” a second official said.—AFP

Pakistan’s Johnson compares rival to Stalin at campaign launch

PHOTO:AFP

Iraqi ‘sex slavery’ ring goes on trial in France

LYON — Twenty-four suspects members of a sex trafficking ring accused of forcing Nigerian women into prostitution in France go on trial Wednesday, the latest case to highlight the growing use of Nigerian migrants as sex slaves in Europe.

Nigeria was the main country of origin of the migrants arriving across the Mediterranean to Italy in 2016 and 2017, though their numbers have since dropped. Many of the women have been forced to sell their bodies to European buyers, who are often Italian men.

“Nigerian ‘sex slavery’ ring goes on trial in France

PHOTO:AFP

Nigerian ‘sex slavery’ ring goes on trial in France

PHOTO:AFP
AFC U-19 Championship 2020 Qualifiers: Myanmar loses to China 0-2

THE Myanmar men’s football team suffered a 0-2 loss against the Chinese team in the opening match of the AFC U-19 Championship 2020 Qualifiers yesterday at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

Myanmar lined up with goalkeeper Pyae Pyin Thu, Captain Si Thu Moe Khan, Thet Hein Soe, Nyan Lin Htet, Yan Kyaw Soe, Zaw Win Thein, La Min Htwe, Saw Kyaw Aye, Khun Kyaw Zin Hein, Kaung Khaung Kyaw, and Hein Htet Aung.

Team Myanmar was led by head coach U Soe Myat Min.

Team Myanmar mounted an attack right from the start, but China prevailed, scoring their opening goal at 9 minutes. Liu Junxian took advantage of an error by Myanmar’s defense to net the goal.

Myanmar again launched an all-out attack, but the passes and kicks of Myanmar’s strikers were blocked by active Chinese defenders, and the first half ended with China leading by one goal.

Although Myanmar played a tougher game in the second half, weaknesses in its defense line helped China land another goal at 67 minutes. The goal was scored by Captain Tao over an assist from his teammate.

Myanmar strikers and midfielders made efforts to score, but could not convert till the final whistle, and the match ended with China winning by two goals.

Myanmar U-19 men’s football team head coach U Soe Myat Min said: “There were so many errors seen in the defense line and that all made goal chances for team China.

Though my boys got scoring opportunities, they could not convert them into goals. I will take the lesson to prepare for the next matches in the tournament. A loss in the opening match means a tough game for us. But the reason I will try my best is that everything can happen in football.”

“I will make my team’s attack style better during our training session. And, I have already been well prepared for the players setting due to the probable players’ injuries and ailments,” U Soe Myat Min added.

Head Coach of the China U-19 men’s football team, Cheng Yao Dong, said that as the match against host Myanmar was an opening match, his players had to play very hard, but they did their best and he was pleased with the result. The Chinese head coach also said that Myanmar is a brilliant team and added that team China will show better skills in the next group matches.—Lynn Thit (Tgj)

Springbok legend and World Cup winner ‘The Beast’ Mtawarira retires

JOHANNESBURG (South Africa) — Springbok legend Tendai ‘The Beast’ Mtawarira announced Wednesday his retirement from international rugby, four days after helping South Africa win the Rugby World Cup.

It was his third appearance at the global showcase and after quarter-final (2011) and semi-final (2013) losses, he achieved his greatest ambition in Japan last Saturday.

He started the final against England, which South Africa won 32-12, before being replaced by Steven Kitcorth soon after half-time in a pre-arranged move.

Coach Rassie Erasmus included six forwards among his eight replacements in key World Cup matches, which allowed him to bring on virtually a new, fresh pack during the second half.

Zimbabwe-born Mtawarira, 34, has been a fixture at loose head prop since debuting in 2008 and he is the third most capped Springbok with 117 after retired duo Victor Matfield and Bryan Habana. He combined powerful scrumming with loose-play surgery that triggered chants of ‘Beast, Beast, Beast!’ from excited South African supporters. While many

Wenger evasive over Bayern job, Rangnick ‘not available’

BERLIN (Germany) — Arsene Wenger has not ruled himself out of the running for the vacant head coach role at Bayern Munich while Ralf Rangnick, another potential candidate, is reportedly not interested.

Wenger, 70, gave an evasive answer when broadcaster beIN Sports directly asked him about working at Bayern, who need a new head coach after Niko Kovac was dismissed on Sunday in the wake of Munich’s 5-1 drubbing at Eintracht Frankfurt.

Wenger, who speaks fluent German, coached Arsenal from October 1996 until May 2018 and admits he misses some aspects of coaching.

While Wenger has enjoyed his year away from football, the satisfaction of winning matches and preparing players is “something you miss, of course,” said the Frenchman.

Meanwhile, Ralf Rangnick, currently head of sport and development at Red Bull and the previous sports director at Bundesliga side RB Leipzig, is reportedly the latest big name to turn Bayern down.

“Ralf is not available. We don’t believe that what Ralf Rangnick is all about is currently being sought by Bayern,” Rangnick’s manager Marc Ro-sicke told German daily Bild.

“Why that it doesn’t make sense to hold concrete talks.”

Rangnick joins Ajax coach Erik ten Hag and Paris Saint-Germain boss Thomas Tuchel, who have both stated that they will not leave their current jobs this season.

On Tuesday, club president Uli Hoeness said he expected to be able to name a new head coach by Bayern’s next away game at Fortuna Duesseldorf on November 23.—AFP