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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.

SEE PAGE-4



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 Let-

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 Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia Mr. Kreso Glavac pose for a photo in Nay Pyi Taw on 6 November 2019. PHOTO: MNA

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

INSIDE TODAY

PARLIAMENT
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw hears agriculture ministry’s use of emergency funds
PAGE-2



NATIONAL
VP U Henry Van Thio emphasizes systematic land management to realize MSDP
PAGE-5

NATIONAL
Vice President urges vigilances when returning confiscated lands
PAGE6



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

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 farmlands as of 17 August, 2018. He said the K3 billion was needed to compensate the remaining 302,315 acres.

The Deputy Minister said



Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 14th regular session is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw. PHOTO: MNA



Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win. PHOTO: MNA



MP Daw Nwe Nwe Aung. PHOTO: MNA

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.

Assembly debates IDA loan

Following this, MPs debated the acquisition of \$100 million from the International Development Association (IDA) by the Ministry of Education to implement inclusive quality education accessible by all citizens.

MP Daw Cho Cho Win of Mawlaik constituency said as

the project will be funded by loans, it needs to be given careful attention to succeed. She said education is indispensable for the development of a nation and it is crucial for everyone to act in all kindness towards the next generation of citizens who will lead the nation in the future.

MP U Htein Win of Ayeyawady Region constituency 4 voiced his approval on the acquisition. He said everyone involved in the project must maintain accountability to ensure the project fund is not wasted or lost in corruption.

MP U Phone Myint Aung of DaikU constituency also approved of the IDA loan. He said the project will be implemented in 4 phases and has a respectable objective. He said the end result from the project will benefit all future generations in the country. He offered his suggestion for the education ministry to be frugal in all areas applicable during the project.

The matter was further debated by 11 MPs.

MPs next debated the Joint Public Accounts Committee's report (15/2019) on the Department of Basic Education's progress concerning its construction projects with the allotted budget for 2018-2019 FY.

The third-day meeting of the 14th regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will be held on 8 November.—Aung Ye Twin, Aye Aye Thant (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

UEC Chairman 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 Kyaw Zin Tun)



Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein delivers the speech during the meeting with Executive Director of People's Alliance for Credible Elections (PACE) U Sai Ye Kyaw Swar Myint and party at UEC's office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



President U Win Myint pays homage to the Buddha images inside Kyaikkhami Yae Le Pagoda in Kyaikkhami, Mon State yesterday.
PHOTO: MNA

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.

From there, the President went by motorcade to construction site of the Sabel Gu Bridge on the Kyaikmaraw-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 Kyaikmaraw 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-Thai Death Railway.

After this, the President visited Kyaikkhami Yae Le Pagoda in Kyaikkhami Town where he offered offertories and donated money to the Board of Trustees.
—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



President U Win Myint observes the Japanese-era locomotive at Death Railway Museum in Thanbyuzayat, Mon State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Win Myint inspects the upgrading of Attayan (Sabel Gu) Bridge project in Mon State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Message of Greetings from President U Win Myint sent on the occasion of the 64th
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(7 November 2019)

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 1952 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 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 on Scrutinizing the second bill amending the 2008 Constitution meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. 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 2008Cyclone Nargis, floods, landslides and excess day temperatures, causing more 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.



Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses the fourth meeting of the National Land Use Council in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO:MNA

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 to manage forests for their sustainability, combat desertification, 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 resource, 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 NLCU, to get assistance from the technical advisory board and to collaborate with the working committees under the NLCU.

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

Then, the Secretary of NLCU and Union Minister U Ohn Win discussed accomplishment 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 Swe on the collecting spatial data which will be mainly included in the OneMap Data Portal, Deputy Director-General U Hlwan Moe from the Department of Agriculture Land Management and Statistics on implementing agricultural development strategy and Director General Daw Wah Wah Maung from the Pension Department on the works of technical advisory board.

The members of NLCU 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 NLCU.

Then, the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, the chief ministers of Stats/Regions and cabinet members discussed permissions of NLCU for the land uses in respective areas, settling disputes over land own-

ership, 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 Commerce.

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,” U Aung Htoo added.

Myanmar is an agricultural country and the agriculture sector is the backbone of its econ-

omy. 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 Ei 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 able to reward the confiscated farmlands and other lands in line with the existing laws.

The Central Committee was expanded with the forming of its branches for Nay Pyi



Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers the speech at the meeting of Central Committee for Scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Taw and other Regions/States on 26 April 2019. In doing so, each Pyithu Hluttaw MP and Amyotha Hluttaw MP took part in the respective district and township committees.

The Vice President also advised all the committees to address the complaints on land seizures, while the government ministries are releasing the confiscated lands to the original owners and the transfer of these lands to other ministries for reserved land.

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 Min-

ister 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

(Translated by Aung Khin)

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 Indonesian 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 Dharmajaya and Ms Christiana Chelsia Chan represented the IPC in discussion with MPC representatives Chairmen U Ohn Kyaing, the Vice Presidents, the Secretary and its members.—MPC

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Members of Myanmar Press Council and delegation members of Indonesia Press Council and UNESCO officials pose for a documentary photo at the meeting in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives ROK Ambassador



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Mr Lee Sang-hwa at the Bayinnaung Villa in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

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 Bayinnaung 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” embossed 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 Myanma 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 Court 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 Sanpya 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)

An opening ceremony of the 63rd branch of Innwa Bank Limited held in Hpa-an Township, Kayin State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Promote farmers' life through insurance system

TO promote the livelihood of farmers who make up over 70 per cent of the total population of Myanmar, we need to make legislations which can protect them when crops, cattle, or machinery fail.

This is because crops that grew well in the past may no longer continue to do so due to climate change, and crops are getting damaged by droughts or floods every year.

Farmers are important to our country's economy as well as for achieving food sufficiency for our people. Due to this, the Protecting Rights and Enhancing Economic Welfare of Farmers Law was enacted.

Climate change-induced variation in rainfall patterns, droughts, flooding, and geographical redistribution of pests and diseases pose a major challenge to our farmers.

With the impact of climate change looming large on agricultural productivity, the insurance sector has a big role to play.

Crop insurance is now being offered in Ayeyawady Region and only covers paddy now, but it will cover other crops in the future.

The Seeds Law and the Fertilizer Law would be amended to guarantee compensation to farmers when they suffer due to poor quality seeds or fertilizers.

Meanwhile, we must provide protection to the livestock farming sector, especially for cattle for which permission has been granted for export.

With the permission, the price of livestock has increased from around K300,000-K400,000 to K1.5 million. As the changing policy has boosted the country's cattle farming sector, we need to launch the country's first-ever livestock insurance coverage facility for cattle farmers.

We believe that the scheme would benefit cattle farmers immensely as it aims to mitigate the risk of livestock loss due to accidental death, disease, partial disability, or even, death during calving.

At the same time, one of the key requirements regarding the promotion of farmers' livelihood is agricultural machinery insurance as the number of mechanics is very low in comparison to the number of machinery in rural areas.

We have been working to switch from traditional farming to mechanized farming practices, but our efforts have not yet met with success.

Now, there are a large number of farm equipment which are repairable standing idle in rural areas.

The government, on its part, should make plans for helping farmers with loans for agricultural machinery, including farm tractors and rice mills.

Hence, an agricultural insurance scheme should cover crops, cattle, and tractors.

We are confident that a successful insurance system is an important tool for poverty alleviation and job creation, particularly in the rural areas, as it safeguards the interests of farmers.



Addressing the question of intellectual property in the reforms process

By Aung Htoo

LONG-AWAITED and much-needed bills on copyright, trademarks, industrial design, and patents have been passed into laws just a few months apart in January, March, and May this year.

The Union Parliament of Myanmar finally passed the Myanmar Industrial Design Law ("IDL") on 31 January 2019 as a Pyidaungsu Htuttaw Law No. 2/2019 and it was signed by the President of Myanmar on the same day. However, it will be effective only after a notification is issued by the President of Myanmar.

Same day on 31 January, the Trademark Law was passed into legislation by the Pyidaungsu Htuttaw Law No. 3/ 2019.

Moreover, the Pyidaungsu Htuttaw Law No. 7/2019 - Myanmar's Patent Law - was enacted on 12 March 2019, providing a framework for the protection of inventions related to products and processes. This is the first legislation specifically addressing the protection of patents in the history of Myanmar.

The Copyright Law on Literary and Artistic Works in Myanmar was enacted on 24 May 2019 vide Law No. 15/2019, and will be promulgated soon. Myanmar is currently not a signatory to the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, or any other international IP rights treaty. With expectation for more than ten decades, the filling up in the mainstream of reform process with regards to intellectual property of Myanmar, the copyright is unique because it is covered under the century-old

Copyright Act (1914). Passing such laws in Myanmar is tantamount to filling in the necessary gap in the economic environment that is taking velocity to develop.

Legality and scope

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations, and that the Copyright Law of Myanmar is in line with the world body.

Laws are in line with the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) which is an international legal agreement between all the member nations of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

All the precondition, proviso, and prerequisite of Myanmar are in conformity with the International Conventions such as that of the Paris Convention; the Bern Convention; the Madrid Agreement; and the Madrid Protocol.

Myanmar is poised to ratify, sign or give formal consent to the relevant treaty, contract, or agreement, making it officially valid.

With the view to keep the law active and move into force, necessary steps are being taken for the realization of procedure, rule, regulation, precept, statute, ordinance, and norm. Relevant officials are making the documents to be ready in time for each and every law for the signing of the President.

In the past, the task was in the domain of the Ministry of Science and Technology (Myanmar) under the Ministry of Education.

Time has changed, and that the Ministry of Commerce will

be responsible for overseeing the four intellectual property rights laws namely for patents, industrial designs, trademarks, and copyright. The ministry is planning to set up a central committee, a copyright agency and copyright directorate.

Myanmar has been a WTO member since 1 January 1995 and abides the TRIPS, and also a member of GATT since 29 July

equipped herself in fulfilling these requirements.

In 1984, Brunei became ASEAN's sixth member and on 28 July 1995, Vietnam joined as the seventh member. Laos and Myanmar joined two years later on 23 July 1997. The ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation (AWGIPC) is the sectoral group responsible for IP issues in the region. The AWGIPC was es-

The Myanmar Industrial Design Law and the Copyright Law on Literary and Artistic Works will be enforced at the end of 2020.

1948. Therefore, the Ministry of Commerce is not a complete and total stranger to such international bodies in the context of Intellectual Property.

Myanmar is the largest country in mainland South-East Asia with a vast total land and became a 176th member country of WIPO (The World Intellectual Property Organization) on 15 May 2001.

The prime and most important WIPO function is administering multilateral international conventions, i.e. depositing treaties, states' instruments of accession, of conflicts settlement, ensuring treaties review, applying the registration functions for treaties reviewing the international registration of IP objects. Myanmar

established in 1996, pursuant to the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Intellectual Property Cooperation, which was signed by ASEAN Member States in Bangkok, Thailand on 15 December 1995.

Leaning on others

Unfortunately, Myanmar, at that time, was yet to enact local relevant laws for interacting with the international bodies with regards to the IP issues. With those poor backdrops, Myanmar has had to rely on the laws and rules of India under the British colonial era.

Depending and hanging on others, Myanmar had embraced the Registration Act of 1908; the Copyright Act of 1914; the Myan-

mar Patents and Designs Emergency Provision Act of 1946; the Indian Penal Code; and the Civil Laws of relevant ministries.

Over the years, the Ministry of Science and Technology teamed up with the Office of the Attorney-General and relevant ministries had worked out the compilation and drafting of IP Law beginning 2003.

At present, Intellectual Property Department is under the Department of Research and Innovation, Ministry of Education. It implements to emerge Intellectual Property Laws and plans to administer these IP laws after promulgating by undertaking the staff trainings to be skillful and quality for the future IP Office.

Aim, objective and implementation update

Over the year, the four IP laws for Myanmar all passed in early 2019 have been entrusted to the Ministry of Commerce for implementation.

Tasks to be implemented with regards to IP matters includes such as that of implementing regulations; that of the structure of the IP Office comprising the IP Central Committee (Policy); that of the IP Agency (Implementation) and the IP Department (Registration and Administration); that of the Trademark, Design, Copyright, Patent and Legal, Training, IT and other divisions; that of the finalizing the move from the Ministry of Education into the Ministry of Commerce with offices in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay; that of the recruitment of several hundred staff for the IP department; that of the plan for

a soft opening and launching of the trademark division at the end of 2019, and that of for the grand opening in the middle of 2020.

The Myanmar Industrial Design Law and the Copyright Law on Literary and Artistic Works will be enforced at the end of 2020.

The division and office of the new Myanmar Patent Law have been marked for opening at the end of 2021. It may be advisable that the esteemed companies wishing to register for Trademark Law should equip themselves to be ready at the beginning of 2020 for soft opening. The method and manner of Trademark Registration are similar to the Myanmar Companies Registration through e-Government system.

WIPO has created IPAS (Industrial Property Administration System), a workflow-based and highly customizable system that supports all the major business processes of an IP office. All the registration would be accepted online through the Internet.

Those who are not familiar with the digital application system would be facilitated and assisted at the Myanmar IP Offices.

In the implementation of such totally unaccustomed activities, the expertise of the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are to be solicited for the relieve and ease of the relevant companies. Therefore, the NGOs and the CSOs are to get involved in the public awareness campaign by providing training to the service providers and knowledgeable representatives with regards to the IP matters in the country.

SEE PAGE - 12



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 4:00 pm Wednesday 6th November, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (11:30) hrs M.S.T today, the depression over the Eastcentral Bay and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal has intensified into a Deep Depression and center at about (210) nautical miles West-Northwest of Maya Bandar (Andaman Islands), India, (435) nautical miles South-Southeast of Paradip (Odisha), India, (375) nautical miles Southwest of Patheingyi (Myanmar) and (395) nautical miles Southwest of Gwa (Myanmar). Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 7th November, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Sagaing Region, Kachin, Chin, Northern Shan, Kayah and Mon States, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Magway Regions and fairly widespread in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (8-12) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of increase of rain in Magway, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Chin and Rakhine States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7th November, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7th November, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7th November, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.). - Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar

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To contribute to local economic development and environmental conservation, a plastics recycling factory in Ngapali set up with the assistance from Stiftunglife Foundation based in Germany started operating on 8 January 2019.

In cooperation with private companies, "Rakhine State Investment Fair 2019" was held from 21 to 23 February 2019.



There are 25 locally invested enterprises under the Myanmar Citizens Investment Law and 28 foreign investment enterprises under the Foreign Investment Law.
To facilitate access loans for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), confirmation letters have been issued to the banks concerned for 37 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) entrepreneurs.

Tourism

For the systematic development of tourism, Rakhine State Local Tourism Working Committee and Primary Projects Supervisory Committee for Man Aung Island Tourism Development have been formed.



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Reports of Korean investors exiting Myanmar to invest in Bangladesh untrue: DICA



Director General of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) U Thant Sin Lwin. PHOTO: NYEIN NYEIN

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).

A report carried by Bangladeshi media agency bdnews24.com cited the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority stating on 5 November that 100 enterprises from South

Korea plan to leave Myanmar to invest in Bangladesh.

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.

“I have contacted with the commercial attache of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea. And, the attache said that one businessman has spread the information that is not real in Bangladesh. We completely reject reports of such a withdrawal (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 con-

tact 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. We are not accusing them. Our conclusion came from its background. So, what the KIC said is not legal,” said U Thant Sin Lwin.

South Korean investment in Myanmar stands at 6. 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 Hay Mar Tin Win)

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

A three-day Myanmar Thanakha 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 Thanakha

Planters, Producers and Exporters Association.

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

interest.

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

consumer products, and local food products at the expo.

The exhibition will be held from 9 am to 9 pm from 7 to 9 November at the Monywa Town Hall. —Win Oo (Zayar Tine)

(Translated by La Wonn)

61 illegally harvested teak logs seized in Bamauk; four arrested

OFFICIALS seized 61 logs of illegally harvested teak on Tuesday morning in Nantkhaung-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 Naing Oo, the Assistant Director of the Katha District Forest Department, and including officials from the the Forest Police Force conducted an in-

spection in the Nantkhaung-hu 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)



Forest Department officials inspect seized illegal teak logs in Bamauk Township, Katha District, Sagaing Region. PHOTO: LU AUNG (KATHA)

Thilawa SEZ most improved zone: Minister

By Nyein Nyein

OF the three special economic zones, Thilawa, Dawei, and Kyaukpadaung, 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 as there is good infrastructure,” said U Aung Htoo.

According to a discussion conducted on 30 October, con-



Thilawa Special Economic Zone. PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG

tainer trucks from Myanmar can reach the Laem Chabang Port in Bangkok, Thailand and so can trucks from Thailand to Yangon'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 Kyaukpadaung 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 Kyaukpadaung 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 Kyaukpadaung SEZ is likely to show quicker improvement than Dawei,” the minister said.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

CMP businesses import raw materials worth \$160.7 mln

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 financial 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 \$9.8 billion in the 2018-2019FY and \$8 billion in the 2017-2018FY.

According to the Directo-

rate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), the manufacturing sector is likely to attract the most foreign investments in the current fiscal year.

Myanmar's manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garments and textiles produced on the cutting, making, and packaging basis, and it contributes to the country's GDP to a certain extent.

The CMP industry has emerged as a very promising one in the export sector. The value of CMP exports was just \$850 million in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, but it tripled within two years to reach \$2.5 billion in

the 2017-2018FY, 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 Ei Myat Mon)

US dollar exchange rate slides on low demand



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

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 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 K1,503 on 28 February. Thereafter, it rose to K1,527 on 18 March and K1,538 on 14 May. The rate stood at K1,259 on 1 June and 1,514 on 26 August. Then, the dollar exchange rate hit a peak of K1,565 on 6 September. —Ko Htet

Myanmar-Bangladesh trade up \$1.5 mln

THE value of border trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh reached US\$2.8 million as of 25 October, an increase of \$1.5 million compared with the same period of the 2018-2019 fiscal year, according to figures released by 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 Maungdaw border trade camps. From 1 to 25 October, trade through the Maungdaw 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 Maungdaw gate. Myanmar also exported 319 tons of Rohu worth \$294,355 and 46 tons of dried fish worth \$28,935.

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

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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 Mingala Gaba 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 Maha Visudayama Zaygone Monastery in Pyinmana Town Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Dr Bhatanda Kawisara and Pre-

siding Sayadaw of Pauk Myaing Pariyatti Monastery Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhatanda Zanita will perform continuous recitation of Maha Pathana Pali 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 ceremony will be grandly held and broadcast live on MRTV. — MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Photo shows the religious objects of the Eternal Peace Pagoda at the Sasana Beikman of the Eternal Peace Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Addressing the question of intellectual property in the reforms process

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 and increase of investment and trade; that of the protection of the misuse of 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 commodities for the safety and benefits of the public; that of the protection of locally produce items of Myanmar and in preserving quality of goods in the market competition in the foreign trade; that of encouraging and supporting the creativity of 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.

Entering the global arena, Myanmar cooperated and worked with international communities with greater impetus. With the changes of market economic system, the country enjoys economic development to a certain extent.

During the time of National League for Democracy administration beginning 2016, the reform and restructuring have been rolled out in top gear.

On the political frontline, the National League for Democracy (NLD) party has vowed a brighter future for the nascent democracy and a commitment to peace and a federal Union, and for national reconciliation.

The government has presented its (12) points economic policy on 29 July 2016, highlighting the importance of developing a market-oriented system "in all sectors" and establish an economic framework in support of national reconciliation.

The Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) (2018-2030) is the national development vision - a vision that finds resonance in the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The MSDP delivers this strategy, providing an overall

framework for coordination and cooperation across all ministries, and all States and Regions to forge a common path towards the emergence of a prosperous, peaceful and democratic Myanmar. The Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) provides a long-term vision; a vision of a peaceful, prosperous and democratic country.

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 are being 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 also 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 protections 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, Kyaukpadaung, 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 as 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 to eurozone deposit insurance

FRANKFURT AM MAIN — German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz said Wednesday a “common European deposit insurance” should be included in EU “banking union” reforms, removing a potentially decisive block to the project.

“An enhanced banking union framework should include some form of common European deposit insurance mechanism,” Scholz wrote in the Financial Times, naming specifically “a European deposit reinsurance scheme.”

“This is no small step for a German finance minister,” he added, noting that Britain’s looming departure from the European Union has upped the pressure to strengthen its financial sector against competition from the US and China.



FILE : German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz and French Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire give a press conference following the 50th French-German economic and financial council in Paris on 19 September 2019. PHOTO: AFP

“We need to end the deadlock,” Scholz wrote.

In case of bank failure, first the national deposit guarantee schemes would step in, followed by “a European 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 Commission 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 depositors in case of bank

failures, northern nations like Germany have been reluctant, fearing that they would end up on the hook for less financially prudent neighbours.

Their refrain has often been that southern nations should first clean up “non-performing” loans, where borrowers are behind on payments, from lenders’ balance sheets.

Reiterating the risk-reduction message, Scholz urged “further reducing the number of non-performing loans” and an end to banking supervisors treating sovereign debt as risk-free. That did not go far enough for other officials in Berlin, who told the FT the Social Democratic Party (SPD) finance minister had not secured the backing of Chancellor Angela Merkel and her centre-right CDU.—AFP ■

Asian investors bide their time as they weigh trade prospects

HONG KONG — Asian investors moved cautiously on Wednesday as optimism 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 better-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 Chinese 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 investors could be reaching their limit for more gains until there is more movement on the trade talks.

“Sentiment is extremely optimistic and it could be that we are nearing the peak of the sentiment wave, and a phase one Sino-US deal is fully priced,” he said.—AFP ■

Thank for Being A Part of Our Wedding Day

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

And

Mr. Omar Fayez, M.Sc (International Relations-Economics, FRANCE), Vice President (Goldman Sachs, New York, U.S.A), son of Dr. Essam Fayez (Professor, Al-Azhar University Cairo) and Mrs. Hadia Sherbini, 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 Fayez

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

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

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

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

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

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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.

Video 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 vic-



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

tim in the chest.

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

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-racked 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 Pramote Prom-in told AFP.

In the largest death toll in 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 ■



Mu Sochua, a former vice president of the Cambodia National Rescue Party, speaks to the press in Jakarta on July 30, 2018, asking the international community to reject the results of the Cambodian general election as it was conducted in an undemocratic way. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Cambodian opposition figure vows to return despite risk of arrest

JAKARTA — A Cambodian opposition figure on Wednesday vowed to return home this week-end along with other leaders of their banned political party after years of self-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 wait 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 ■

NEWS In BRIEF

Malaysia hands jail term to laundrette cat killer

KUALA LUMPUR — A Malaysian man who killed a pregnant cat by putting it into a laundrette dryer has been sentenced to 34 months in jail, official media reported, in a case that sparked outrage.

K. Ganesh was handed the prison term Tuesday after being found guilty of breaking animal protection laws at the self-service laundry outside Kuala Lumpur in September last year, official news agency Bernama reported. He will remain free on bail for now as he plans to appeal. The 42-year-old was the second man to be sentenced over the killing after a taxi driver was jailed for two years for the crime in January.

Malaysians reacted with fury when CCTV footage went viral showing the cat being stuffed into the dryer late at night. Two men then inserted tokens into the machine to set it running and left. A female customer later found the animal’s carcass and the matter was reported to the police.—AFP ■

Pakistan to allow 5,000 Indian Sikh pilgrims per day without visas

NAROWAL — The Pakistani government has completed its portion of a corridor to facilitate visa-free, cross-border visits by up to 5,000 Indian Sikh pilgrims each day to Kartarpur Sahib, a revered shrine in Pakistan.

The Kartarpur Corridor, which includes a carriageway and raised footpaths on both sides, connects Dera Baba Nanak, a Sikh shrine in India’s northern state of Punjab, with Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan’s Punjab province — an idea that has taken decades to materialize.

On the Pakistani side, the corridor will serve a sprawling 450-acre complex including the shrine, which has been given a facelift, a terminal, accommodations, dining halls and a shopping mall. It was completed to mark 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism who spent the last 18 years of his life at this site.—Kyodo News ■



Thailand’s three southernmost provinces have been in the grip of a conflict that has killed more than 7,000 people. **PHOTO: AFP**

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 strident launch Wednesday to a 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 minority 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 31 January. 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 Pal-



Prime Minister Boris Johnson (l) has compared his rival Jeremy Corbyn (r), leader of the Labour Party, to Stalin as Britain's election campaign formally gets underway. **PHOTO: AFP**

ace to ask the 93-year-old monarch to dissolve parliament. But Britain's election season has been informally open for months. Johnson has spent most of his four months in office making lavish government spending promises and paying weekly visits to hospitals and schools. He revved up his campaign further by penning a front-page piece for Wednesday's

edition of The Daily Telegraph — a right-wing newspaper for which he worked for years. "The tragedy of the modern Labour Party under Jeremy Corbyn is that they detest the profit motive so viscerally — and would raise taxes so wantonly — that they would destroy the very basis of this country's prosperity," Johnson wrote.—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 Hadi al-Ameri, with the required blessing of Iraq's Shiite religious leadership.

He was seen as an almost professorial figure who could tackle unemployment and government graft as Iraq's first prime minister since the defeat of the Islamic State group.

Most observers expected summer protests would put an early end to his mandate, and even he said he had his resignation letter "in his pocket."

So when popular demonstrations erupted in early October over corruption and lack of jobs, the premier readied a resignation speech to deliver live on television, three government

sources told AFP, requesting to remain anonymous.

He never gave it.

"He was fully intending to resign during the first week 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 3 October, 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 the political parties that brought him to power," a second official said.—AFP



Baghdad and south Iraq have been rocked by a second wave of rallies over government corruption, unemployment and poor services. **PHOTO: AFP**

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 mismanagement 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 so far "revealed 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 otherwise achieve their personal objectives."

Krahenbuhl himself was alleged to have been romantically



The outgoing head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, Pierre Krahenbuhl, is 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. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

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 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 the services 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 years after more than 700,000 Palestinians were expelled or fled their lands during the 1948 war surrounding the creation of Israel.—AFP ■

Nigerian 'sex slavery' ring goes on trial in France

LYON — Twenty-four suspected 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 arrivals were women and girls lured to Europe with false promises of jobs as hair-

dressers or seamstresses, only to find themselves selling sex on arrival to repay their debts. Nigerians now outnumber Chinese or Eastern European sex workers on the streets of France and some other European countries. Last year, 15 members of a Paris-based female-led pimping ring known as the "Authentic Sisters" were sentenced to up to 11 years in prison for forcing girls into sex slavery in France. Many were themselves former trafficking victims-turned-perpetrators.—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 Phyo Thu, Captain Si Thu Moe Khant, Thet Hein Soe, Nyan Lin Htet, Yan Kyaw Soe, Zaw Win Thein, La Min Htwe, Saw Kyaw Ae, Khun Kyaw Zin Hein, Kaung Khant 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



Myanmar's Khun Kyaw Zin Hein (white) tries to take the ball past Chinese player Mohemaiti (red) during the opening match of the AFC U-19 Championship 2020 Qualifiers at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MFF**

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 tourney. 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 play 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 (Tgi)

Myanmar National League transfer window set for 2020

THE transfer window for the 2020 season of the Myanmar National League, which will be held from the first week of January, 2020 to the last week of October, 2020, has been set by the league, according to a statement on the MNL website.

For the first season of the Myanmar National League, the transfer window has been fixed from 9 November, 2019 to 9 January, 2020.

Meanwhile, for the second season, the transfer window has been set from 6 April, 2020 to 6 May, 2020.

There will be 12 teams participating in the 2020 Myanmar National League and the exact date and fixtures for the tourney will be released soon, said officials.

The 2020 domestic league will be organized by the Myanmar National League and the Myanmar Football Federation. The current defending champion of the MNL is Shan United. The team set a no-loss record in last year's MNL.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

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 showpiece and after quarter-final (2011) and semi-final (2015) 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 Kirchoff 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



Tendai 'The Beast' Mtawarira bites his medal after South Africa defeated England in the Rugby World Cup final in Japan last Saturday. **PHOTO: AFP**

head prop since debuting in 2008 and he is the third most capped Springbok with 117 after retired duo Victor Mayfield and Bryan Habana. He combined powerful scrumming with loose-play surges that triggered chants of "Beast, Beast, Beast" from excited South African supporters. While many

footballers in South Africa have nicknames, the 'Beast' is the only top-level rugby player to have one.

"I have been privileged to play this great game and achieve many career goals over the last 12 years of playing senior rugby," said Mtawarira in a statement issued by SA Rugby.—AFP ■

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 are "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 Kosicke told German daily Bild.

"That why 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 ■