VP U Henry Van Thio opens ASEAN ministers meeting on rural devt, poverty eradication

VICE President U Henry Van Thio addressed the opening ceremony of the 11th ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE) and related meetings held at the Horizon Lake View Resort Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his speech the Vice President said ASEAN member countries alternatively conduct ASEAN and related meetings as well as activities and it was a pleasure and honor to host AMRDPE and related meetings. On behalf of the Myanmar government the Vice President expressed his appreciation towards the ASEAN Secretariat and officials from member countries for their support and assistance towards successfully holding this meeting after the duty of chair for this meeting for 2019 was taken up.

It’s been 52 years since ASEAN was established. It is a regional organization formed to live together in a region where stability, peace, security, sustainable development, co-operation and social development prevails, and with the identical wish of developing vital interests of member countries, good examples and aims. The combined force of the three pillars of ASEAN support the establishment of a socially responsible and people centered community that has political equity and economic integration.

Under the heading of the third pillar of ASEAN – ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community – rural development and poverty eradication is included. In addressing issues pertaining to rural development and poverty eradication and in narrowing the development gap in the region, member States are striving together in the spirit of “ASEAN Help-ASEAN.” This would include documenting best practices and challenges of ASEAN member States in implementing their respective policies and programmes on rural development and poverty eradication and to facilitate information sharing among member States.

It was thankfully found that not only member countries but China, Japan and Korea also support the implementation processes. Conducting ASEAN+3 Village Leaders Exchange Program at Kuala Lumpur in October 2018 was meaningful toward the development of rural community.
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses IDA loan, Joint Public Account Committee report

The second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is scheduled for 13 November.— Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant

11th AMRDPE held in Nay Pyi Taw

11th ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE) was held at Horizon Lake View Resort Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was chaired by alternative chairman Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu.

The meeting was attended by ministers for rural development of ASEAN member States, ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General and officials.

At the meeting views were exchanged on the importance of sectorwise cooperation, sustainable development goals, handling climate change, social protection, strategy to strengthen implementing changes related to industrial sector, establishing a regional community that had good response, poverty eradication and reducing regional development gaps and discussions held on increasing momentum toward achieving Sustainable Development Goals (2030) and ASEAN 2025.

The meeting also recognizes and supports all countries in the ASEAN region cooperating in implementing country and region level policy works toward becoming a responsive, sustainable and all-inclusive ASEAN community, approved and supported in general to draw up rural development and poverty eradication Master Plan.

Similarly, the meeting put on record progresses in implementing the ASEAN Framework Action Plan on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (2016-2020) and preparation for Framework Action Plan (2020-2025).—MNA

Gala Dinner for ASEAN Leadership Award held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Gala Dinner for the 4th ASEAN Leadership Award on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication, its 11th Ministerial Meeting and related meetings was held at Nay Pyi Taw’s Horizon Lake View Resort Hotel yesterday evening.

The event was attended by Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu, ministers of ASEAN member nations, Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw, ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General, ambassadors, high-ranking ASEAN officials, representatives of dialogue partner countries to ASEAN, invited guests and other officials. Dr Aung Thu and ASEAN Deputy Secretary-General Mr Kung Phoak first delivered separate opening addresses. This was followed by a video presentation on the Awardees of 4th ASEAN Leadership Award on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication. This was followed by Dr Aung Thu and Mr Kung Phoak conferring additional rewards to the awardees, which includes NGOs, CSOs and private sector organizations of ASEAN member nations. Guests were treated to traditional Myanmar dance performances during the dinner. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)
VP U Henry Van Thio opens ASEAN ministers meeting on ...
Myanmar products on display at 2nd China Int’l Import Expo

The 2nd China International Import Expo (CIIE) kicked off on 5 November at Shanghai’s National Convention and Exhibition Center.

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint attended the opening ceremony. Representatives from 155 countries and 22 international organizations and more will be attending the expo.

Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping addressed the opening ceremony with his keynote speech on ‘Openness and Cooperation for a Shared Future’. This was followed by separate addresses from presidents of other countries in attendance.

In the afternoon, Dr Than Myint attended the Second Hongqiao International Economic Forum held at the same center.

On the morning of 6 November, the Union Minister visited the Myanmar exhibition booths at the expo and interacted with the booth owners, asking them of the market situation of the products on display, any challenges they may be facing, and whether they needed any form of assistance.

From there, the Union Minister and delegation visited the 1498-year old Jing’an Temple in Shanghai. They paid homage to presiding monk Dr Hui Ming and toured the temple. They then visited the Pilot Free Trade Zone nearby. The import expo will continue till tomorrow, while showcasing food products, jade and jewellery from 35 Myanmar companies.

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Conservation of Shwenandaw Monastery to get US aid

US Embassy in Myanmar granted US$300,000 more for conservation efforts of Shwenandaw Monastery, also known as Shwe Kyauk, a popular tourist attraction in Mandalay Region, according to a statement of US Embassy.

The US Embassy has contributed $1.1 million including $500,000 in 2014 and another $300,000 in 2016 for the work.

US Ambassador to Myanmar Scot Marciel said the aid of US for the historic monastery will benefit not only local people in Myanmar but also international visitors to study this important traditional cultural heritage of Myanmar.

The World Monuments Fund, one of organizations based in US and local craftsmen has been conducting the conservation work since 2014, with partial funding from the US Ambassador’s Fund.

WMF has researched the whole building and renovated the stairs and veranda, the ruins teak woodwork replaced by hard-wood, Pyinkado, and restored work on decorative mythical creatures.

Due to its historical facts and magnificent architectural works, Shwenandaw Monastery has been listed one of seven monasteries protected of Myanmar’s archaeology survey since 1919.

Before passing away, King Mindon lived in Shwenandaw palace. Under the reign of King Thibaw, King Mindon’s son, the building was relocated to a site outside of the Mandalay Palace moat and was transformed into a monastery.

(Translated by TTN)

Public Announcement for remonstration

Inn National League Party, headquartered at Yonegyi Road, near Taik Nang Bridge, Kantha Ward in Nyaungshwe in Southern Shan State, submitted an application for registration as a political party in accord with the Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 4-11-2019. In their application they mention that they will use the name, the flag and the emblem as described hereunder.

In accord with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules, it is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party’s name, flag and emblem may submit a complaint along with the supporting evidence within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement.

Union Election Commission

Inn National League Party Flag

Inn National League Party Emblem

Public Announcement for remonstration

Myanmar People’s Democratic Party (MPD) headquartered at No.3, U Ba Thin Road, Bago Ward, Hauk Kyant in Mingalar-don Township in Yangon Region, submitted an application for changing their political party’s flag and the emblem in accord with the Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law. In their application they mention that they will use the flag and the emblem as described hereunder.

In accord with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules, it is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party’s flag and emblem may submit a complaint along with the supporting evidence within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement.

Union Election Commission

Myanmar People’s Democratic Party (MPD) Flag

Myanmar People’s Democratic Party (MPD) Emblem
Government, UN agencies discuss resetting IDPs in Rakhine State

The Working Committee on Resettling Returnees held a coordination meeting at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement on 7 November.

Committee on the acceptance and resettlement of returnees Chairman and Union SWRR Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, working committee Chair—man and Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Joint-Chairman and Rakhine State Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transportation U Aung Kyaw Zan, UEHRD representatives, department officials and representatives of UN agencies attended the meeting.

Dr Win Myat Aye spoke first at the meeting. He said that while there have been people who fled their homes in Rakhine State during the ARSA attacks in 2017, there were also people who sought shelter in the closest homes of their relatives and the committee has been trying to resettle them.

He said as his ministry handles resettlement and socioeconomic development in the region, they formed the Committee for Accepting and Resettling Returnees and two relevant working committees in July 2018. He said his ministry has conducted numerous fieldwork to ensure genuine information is gathered to effectively assist the various processes.

The Union Minister said the State Counsellor mentioned the delicate yet complicated nature of the Rakhine State issue during the 10th ASEAN Summit in Bangkok. She said the UN agencies who have been located in Rakhine longer than the incumbent government should have a better understanding of the complexity of the issue.

The Union Minister they will firmly uphold the bilateral agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh, and the trilateral agreement with UNHCR and UNDP to verify and accept IDP returnees. He said they have already drawn a national strategic plan to resettle internally displaced persons and close down temporary IDP camps.

He said UN-Habitat has been helping with constructing residences, and authorities have been conducting work on the ground to relocate and resettle IDPs in nearby villages that are already starting, said the Union Minister.

Next, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung said they are beginning the internal resettlement process with two villages in Maungtaw Township. He urged relevant UN agencies and other officials to discuss the housing, education, healthcare, security and other matters suitable for the region.

This was followed by State Minister U Aung Kyaw Zan explaining the local cabinet’s work in the internal resettlement process.

Afterwards, representatives from UNHCR, UNDP and UN-Habitat discussed possible areas of cooperation, attendees provided suggestions, and the leading officials gave instructions where necessary.

MoI discusses textbook printing process with external printing houses

The Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun organized a meeting with private printing houses to discuss procedures to adhere to in printing, publishing and distributing school textbooks for 2020-2021 Academic Year at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Firstly, in his capacity as Chairman of the Subcommittee for Printing and Publishing School Textbooks, the Deputy Minister said new curricula for the coming academic year have been implemented. He said the number of books to be printed has gone up in line with the increased classes.

Over hundred million textbooks need to be printed this year; said the Deputy Minister, of which MoI’s Printing and Publishing Department (PPD) will handle 48.638 million and 76.62 million with be handed over to external printing houses through a tender system. He requested the external printing houses to give their earnest collaboration again, as they have done in the years before to print high-quality teacher guidebooks and textbooks.

Next, sub-committee Secretary and Director-General of PPD U Aung Myo Myint explained the guidelines for external printing houses to adhere to. Textbook Distribution Subcommittee Secretary and Basic Education Department Director-General U Kio Lay Win explained the points of cooperation related to the entire process, and Vice Chairman of the subcommittee, MoI Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, provided his input to the meeting.

This was followed by attendees engaging in general discussions to which the Deputy Minister provided suggestions and advice and finally delivered the closing speech.
New auto import policy for 2020 released

IMPORTS of only left-hand drive vehicles would be allowed under the 2020 vehicle import policy, according to news released by the Commerce Ministry.

Additionally, import permits will be issued for private cars belonging to no earlier than the 2017 model year. Private cars meant for non-commercial purposes would be imported under a consignment system, according to the release.

To individually import vehicles with engines under 1,250 CC, the model year would have to be 2018 or later. Public buses from the model year 2016 or later would be allowed to be imported. Vehicles imported for religious use would need to be from the 2016 or later model years. Fire trucks, machinery, ambulances, and hearses manufactured in 2011 or later would be allowed to be imported for import.

Heavy equipment that cannot be driven on public roads such as excavators, bulldozers, wheel loaders, and tower cranes would be allowed to be brought into the country as long as it is 15 years old or less.

The new vehicle import policy would affect cars imported using slips issued in return for de-registration of old vehicles, cars imported under a consignment system, individually imported cars, cars with black license plates, vehicles for religious use, mini-buses, passenger buses, vehicles donated from abroad under the FOC system, fire trucks, ambulances, hearses, state-owned vehicles, and machinery which cannot be driven on public roads, such as excavators, bulldozers, and asphalt finishers.

According to market watchers, some people may not be able to afford new cars due to high prices, some may opt for an installment plan, while many would choose to purchase second-hand cars. — Ko Khant (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Over 4 mln gravel pits opened annually for construction businesses: association

WITH the aim to develop the construction sector in Myanmar, 2,500 entrepreneurs are opening more than 4 million gravel pits annually to cater to local construction businesses, according to the Myanmar Construction Stone Manufacturers Association.

“Our gravel production is also important for the development of the construction sector. Earlier, we were using river rocks for construction, which adversely affect the environment. Now, we are producing over 4 million gravel pits in rocky mountains using technology. Those gravel pits are being used in the local construction sector,” said U Zaw Min Aung, chairman of the association.

“Present, different sizes of construction stones are being produced in the states and regions, especially in Mon, Tanintharyi, and Mandalay. These stones are being used in the construction of roads, big projects, construction of buildings, and urban development projects, such as building of hotels and airports, and housing projects,” he said.

The Myanmar Construction Stone Manufacturers Association has 36 branch offices in states and regions, especially in Mon, Tanintharyi, and Mandalay.

At present, private cars and passenger vehicles manufactured in 2019 or later would be allowed to be imported. Private cars with engines under 1,350 CC, the model year would need to be 2018 or later. Public buses from the model year 2016 or later would be allowed to be imported. Vehicles imported for religious use would need to be from the 2016 or later model years. Fire trucks, machinery, ambulances, and hearses manufactured in 2011 or later would be allowed to be imported for import.

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According to market watchers, some people may not be able to afford new cars due to high prices, some may opt for an installment plan, while many would choose to purchase second-hand cars. — Ko Khant (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Athletes from 10 countries to participate in Kalaw Trail Run

With the aim of developing the tourism industry, Run Myanmar will hold the 4th Kalaw Trail Run on 7 and 8 December in Kalaw Town of Shan State. PHOTO: ZARNI MAUNG

4th Kalaw Trail Run will be held on 7 and 8 December in Kalaw Town, Shan State. PHOTO: ZARNI MAUNG

ONE miner was killed and three others were injured in a landslide on 6 November at a Phakant mining site belonging to the Aung Hein Min company.

According to a report, the landslide occurred around 10:30 pm on Wednesday at the site of a previous mudslide reported on 28 July. In the earlier incident, a 500-foot high cliff along the mine had collapsed into a lake below, killing 19 people, including security guards, company staff, and miners.

In the latest landslide, one miner, identified as Aung San Win, 30, died on the spot, while three others — Myo Htet Aung, 25, Wai Hlaing Oo, 30, and Myint Win, 27 — were injured and taken to Phakant Hospital.

Rescue operations were conducted at the spot by the Seikmu village administrator group, the Fire Services Department, and other related groups. — Tar Lin Maung (IPRD) (Translated by La Wynn)
Annual edible oil consumption crosses 1 mln tons: trade body

Palm Oil Networking Seminar held in Yangon on 8 November 2019.

PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG

MYANMAR’S annual edible oil consumption has risen to over 1 million tons, according to the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers’ Association.

“In the past, our country consumed only groundnut oil and sesame oil. With the increase in population and the development of food businesses, edible oil has to be imported. Now, Myanmar edible oil consumption has increased to over 1 million tons per year,” said U Myint Kyu, Chairman of the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers’ Association.

Myanmar oil crops such as sesame, groundnut and sunflower are used to produce 400,000 tons of oil per year. With an increase in local consumption, Myanmar imported 650,000 tons of oil. “Earlier, our edible oil entrepreneurs imported cloud point 10 quality edible oil from abroad. Oil of that quality is being used in neighboring countries. But now, we are importing cloud point 8, high-quality edible oil because we want people to consume healthy oil,” said U San Lin, vice chairman of the Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers’ Association.

“Edible oil is imported mainly from Malaysia and Indonesia. However, the price of edible oil from Malaysia has increased this year, and so we imported oil from Indonesia, where the price is a bit cheaper than Malaysia,” he said.

Myanmar has imported only cloud point 8 and IO-DING 58 quality edible oil with the permission of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), he added.

To allow local people to get healthy edible oil at a fair price, a Myanmar-Malaysia Edible Oil Network workshop was held on 8 November at the Sule Shangri La hotel in Yangon. The workshop was jointly organized by the Myanmar Edible Oil Entrepreneurs Association and the Malaysian Edible Oil Council.

The workshop was attended by U Zaw Min Win, President of the UMPCCI, Dr. Kalyana Sundram, CEO of the Malaysian Edible Oil Council and representatives, Myanmar Edible Oil Dealers’ Association chairman and officials, and officials from the FDA — Myint Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Workshop on catalyzing finance for agricultural value chains held

THE UK-aid funded DaNa Facility and the Myanmar Economic Association (MEA) organized a workshop on Agri-cultural Value Chain Finance: policy, practice and inclusion on 8 November in Yangon.

The workshop brought together stakeholders from the government, the private sector, NGOs, donor organizations, and research institutes to review the current state of policy and practice, emerging reforms and developments, and discuss opportunities to expand access to agricultural finance in the coming years.

Financial products and services that flow to or through any point in an agricultural value chain — starting from inputs for production of the product to the end consumer — that enable investments that increase stakeholders’ income and growth and competitiveness of the chain were discussed at the workshop.

Agriculture represents over a quarter of the Myanmar economy and provides employment to over two-thirds of its people. Financing models that leverage value chain connections to lower the cost of financing, manage risk, and enhance inclusivity can play an important role in the development of the rural economy.

“While agricultural value chains are increasingly well researched, there is still much more to learn, which requires further knowledge-building, including research. Research has the potential to benefit practitioners and policymakers by providing a solid evidence base for policies, development programs, and private sector investment,” said Ms. Dulce Simmanivong, Regional Manager for the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

Delegates were given the opportunity to share their knowledge and experiences with nationally and internationally recognized experts through presentations, panel discussions, and networking opportunities at the workshop.

“Improving agricultural productivity and encouraging inclusive development through agricultural finance value chains is an important issue for Myanmar economy,” said U Kyaw Min Htun, chairman of the Myanmar Economic Association.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

CBM announces new round of Foreign Bank Licensing in Myanmar

The Central Bank of Myanmar announced the new round of Foreign Bank Licensing on 7th November. Following is the full-text of the announcement — GNLM

CBM announces new round of Foreign Bank Licensing in Myanmar

7th November

OVER the past years the Central Bank of Myanmar has initiated a process to open the domestic banking market to foreign banks. Two rounds of stringent licensing process were successfully completed, the first in 2014 and the second in 2016. A total of 13 reputable financial institutions were granted permission to open a Branch and conduct onshore wholesale banking business. The Central Bank of Myanmar is pleased to have welcomed these reputable institutions into the country and is thankful for their contribution to the Myanmar economy as well as their support to deepen economic ties with corporations and investors from their respective countries.

Encouraged by this success and in line with the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, the Central Bank of Myanmar has decided to further liberalize the Banking market. To do so, a third round of foreign bank licensing will be initiated and opened to foreign banks with representative offices in Myanmar:

Two types of Licenses will be issued in the upcoming round of licensing. Foreign banks may apply either for a Branch or for a Subsidiary License:

- For a Branch License, the wholesale banking permissible products and services remain unchanged from the existing foreign bank Branch License. Licensees will be allowed to establish one place of business only; A minimum paid-in capital of USD 5 million will be required for operation, with USD 40 million to be locked-up for two (2) years with the Central Bank of Myanmar.
- For a Subsidiary License, wholesale banking activities will be allowed at the start of operations. In addition, onshore retail banking activities will be permitted under the Subsidiary from the 1st of January 2021. Subsidiaries will be allowed to establish up to ten (10) places of business being branches or off-site ATMs. A minimum paid-in capital of USD 100 million will be required for operation.
- Conversion of existing foreign bank Branch into Subsidiary will be allowed starting from June 2020. Three (3) full years of activities as a Branch in Myanmar will be required before submitting a request for conversion to the Central Bank of Myanmar. Further information on the conversion process will be provided by the Central Bank of Myanmar in due time.

From the 1st of January 2020, foreign bank ownership into a Myanmar domestic bank exceeding 35% of the capital of the domestic bank may be permitted on case by case basis.

As immediate next step of the upcoming licensing round, a request for Expression of Interest (EOI) will be shared with eligible banks by the Central Bank of Myanmar:

The Central Bank of Myanmar

THE CENTRAL BANK OF MYANMAR

Call

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Whistleblowing breaks the silence and is often difficult for a normal employee to do. Most of the time, they decide to keep mum. Staying still will not harm you.

It is clear that investors will establish their businesses in areas that have stability, are facilitative, and have capable human resources. Therefore, we need to give compensation. The Myanmar National Law enacted in 2016 has made our commitment stronger to create a favorable, appropriate, or indirectly expropriation-out in accordance with the law. This Law is based on the 2008 State Constitution, the government will guarantee it will not be amended without the consent of the 2/3 majority in the Union Parliament. The government guarantees it will take no actions which effect unforeseeable property or investor rights, and is likely to result in the expropriation of an investment. An investment needs to be with the consent or discretion, investors will face the same compensation as being an accomplice, or indirectly expropriation.

Believing that quality investment, one that is responsible and guaranteed rights, including small and medium-sized investors. In accordance with the 2008 State Constitution, the government will guarantee it will not be amended without the consent of the 2/3 majority in the Union Parliament. The government guarantees it will take no actions which effect unforeseeable property or investor rights, and is likely to result in the expropriation of an investment. An investment needs to be with the consent or discretion, investors will face the same compensation as being an accomplice, or indirectly expropriation.

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Comparison chart reflecting foreign tourist arrivals at international airports, sea ports and border gates

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Comparison chart reflecting foreign tourist arrivals at international airports, sea ports and border gates

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<td>21005</td>
<td>27590</td>
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In order to create more employment opportunities in Rakhine State, 118 trainings were organized for 2969 trainees in this reporting period. The following table provides details of the trainings organized in the past.

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<td>Women-centered vocational training</td>
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<td>639/20</td>
<td>778/19</td>
<td>730/20</td>
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<td>Financial liberal/ business training</td>
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Transportation

![Construction of Let Pan Su Bridge on Thanlwin River Road](Image1)
![Construction of Kyauk Phyu Bridge on Hpa-An Maungdaw Road](Image2)

- In Rakhine State, 49 new bridges will be built, with 20 currently under construction and construction of 29 bridges under the new project is in progress. Of the 49 bridges, the construction work of Pan Phe Chaung Bridge, Let Pan Su Bridge and Ram Thit Kyee Bridge has been 100% completed.
- The other 46 including Kin Chaung, Pyon Shay, Kyaik Tan, Kha Yan Chaung, Yar Maung, Kha Yu Chaung Bridges are 50.04% completed.
- For roads across the Mayu Mountain Range such as Kyaik Pyu-Inndin-Zadipyin Road and Kyein Chaung-Goppi Mountain Passes Road, the construction of new road, laying hardened foundation and the construction of 66 box culverts up to 50 feet in length are being carried out.
Golden Umbrella to be hoisted atop Eternal Peace Pagoda on Fullmoon of Tazaungmon

A ceremony to hoist the golden umbrella atop the Eternal Peace Pagoda constructed near Gangaw Flower Roundabout, Razathingaha Road, Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, will be held in conjunction with the consecration ceremony on the morning of full-moon day of Tazaungmon which 11 November 2019.

The Union government and citizens of Myanmar constructed the Eternal Peace Pagoda under the leadership of Ashin Sandadika with an aim of eternal peace in the union. Of the nine auspicious ceremonies related to the construction of pagodas, six were already held.

The umbrella hoisting ceremony and consecration ceremony will be broadcast live on Myanmar Radio and Television.—Han Lin Naing, Hein Min Soe

(Translated by Zaw Min)

YANGON’S Film Development Center received a visit from Japan’s Commissioner for Cultural Affairs Mr Miyata Ryohei and his delegation yesterday. They also visited the Film Repository on Sasana Yeikthar Road in the same township.

The Japan delegation first visited the film development center at No. 50, Bahan Township and were greeted by center Chairman and Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department, U Ye Naing, and staff. They observed the training courses, workshops, film analysis and the three renovated studios there.

The Film Development Center was established with the objective to provide quality training, facilitate discussion among the film community, and strengthen connections across all generations. The Japan delegation and Myanmar officials discussed the cooperation with the International Labour Organization since becoming its member in 2007, setting up a reporting mechanism and addressing forced labour complaints.

A National Complaints Mechanism (NCM) has been in development in 2019. During the time period before the NCM is fully established, the High Level Working Group (HLWG) consisting of representatives from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and relevant ministries is handling complaints of forced labour.

This being the case, victims of forced labours or concerned persons can safely contact HLWG and ILO via the following phone numbers and email addresses.

Phone: 067-3430184, 067-3430229, 067-3430274
Email: mol@mptmail.net.mm, molipoffice@gmail.com, research.org.dol.mm@gmail.com

Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Japan Cultural Affairs Commissioner visits Yangon’s film center, repository

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Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Public announcement for safely reporting forced labour

MYANMAR has been cooperation with the International Labour Organization since becoming its member in 2007, setting up a reporting mechanism and addressing forced labour complaints.

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Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

88 Generation Peace and Open Society conducts informative talks

88 Generation Peace and Open Society conducted a joint informative talk at Myitta Soe Private Middle School, Kawthoung on 7 November.

At the talk U Jimmy (a) Kyaw Min Yu and U Min Ko Naing (a) Paw Oo Tun of 88 Generation Peace and Open Society spoke to audience at informative talks in Kawthoung yesterday.

PHOTO: MNA

U Min Ko Naing (a) Paw Oo Tun of 88 Generation Peace and Open Society speaks to audience at informative talks in Kawthoung yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)
Erdogan criticizes EU for its attitude towards Turkey

BUDAPEST — Visiting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan criticized here on Thursday the European Union (EU) for its attitude towards Turkey, which he termed as “far from constructive,” during a joint press conference with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban.

“Recently, the EU’s attitude toward our country has been far from constructive,” Erdogan said, adding that in his opinion the EU also has failed to keep its word and failed to give Turkey as much money to hold back the flow of refugees as it had promised.

“Some 3.6 million Arabs and nearly 300,000 Kurdish refugees are currently in Turkey, and many of them want to move on to Europe,” he warned, adding that “due to the cooperation we have stopped the crowd so far.”

The Turkish president said he highly appreciated that Hungary’s has always supported his country’s accession to the EU. Erdogan said it is not possible to stop the flow of migrants to Europe without Turkey.

“Hungary’s foreign policy is based on the assumption that migration to the EU cannot be stopped without Turkey. As a result, Hungary is a strategic partner for Turkey, which has already stopped 350,000 illegal migrants this year alone,” he said.

Since 2013, Orban and Erdogan have met on an annual basis to discuss security issues — both countries are NATO members — and to assess the development of economic and cultural ties. —Xinhua

Catalan leader denies ties to jailed separatists

BARCELONA — The head of Catalonia’s regional government on Thursday denied having links to seven separatist activists jailed in September on suspicion of belonging to a “terrorist” group that pleaded to occupy the Spanish region’s parliament.

Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, who is facing a general election on Sunday, had said that Catalan president Quim Torra explain after local media reported that members of the group had told investigators that the order to occupy the assembly came directly from Torra.

According to transcripts of taped phone conversations included in court documents seen by AFP; two of the jailed activists discussed a plan to occupy Catalonia’s regional parliament in Barcelona with “the Catalan government inside” and “resist during one week.”

In the recorded conversations, one of the suspected leaders of the group implicated Torra and his predecessor Carles Puigdemont, who is currently in Belgium, calling them by the code names “Gandalf” and “Lisa.”

In a video of his interrogation by police which was leaked to the media, the man also said that the plan “came from the presidency, from Torra.”

Catalonia’s regional government said in a statement that Torra “denies” the reports which lacked “any type of credibility.”

“Moreover, he maintains he never had any type of relationship with the detained,” the statement added.

‘Threats and coercion’

Spain’s Guardia Civil police force suspects the activists had planned to occupy the Catalan parliament after Spain’s Supreme Court on October 14 sentenced nine Catalan separatist leaders to jail terms of up to 13 years, prompting days of angry street protests.

Police in September arrested nine separatists, accusing them of belonging to a new and unknown group, the Tactical Response Team.

Spain’s top criminal court, which had ordered the investigation into the group, ordered that seven of them be held in jail while the probe continues.

The court suspects the group allegedly intended to use “any means, including violent ones” to establish an independent republic and possessed materials that could be used to make explosives. —AFP

Tears, hope as foes reconcile before Bougainville independence vote

ARAWA — Once-sworn enemies in Bougainville’s cruel decade-long civil war are holding a series of reconciliation ceremonies, hoping shared tears and apologies can bury the past ahead of a landmark vote on the region’s independence from Papua New Guinea.

Former separatist fighters and PNG military are meeting face-to-face, trying to come to terms with a conflict that left up to 20,000 people dead in the bloodiest fighting the South Pacific witnessed since World War II.

Until a 1997 truce, George Diva was a fighter with the pro-independence Bougainville Revolutionary Army.

Now a 56-year-old, he still carries deep scars on his chest from a battle that left him unable to work. But he is adamant reconciliation is the only way the next generation can enjoy a brighter future.

“We had enough loss, sorrow and pain,” he told AFP during a reconciliation ceremony this week on the neighbouring island of New Britain, where he fled.

“We don’t want to fight any more.”

Tens of thousands like him were displaced as the interminable and complex conflict raged through the 1990s, amid extrajudicial executions, torture, mass killing and the arrival of foreign mercenaries from Britain and beyond. “I killed one of my own cousins,” Diva said.

“I killed more people, but I have made compensation for the lives I took.”

To cap the 20-year peace process, more than 200,000 Bougainvilleans will from November 23 to the hallowed box to choose between independence from Papua New Guinea or more autonomy.

The island territory’s residents — many of whom feel culturally closer to the nearby Solomon Islands than Papua New Guinea’s complex patchwork of tribes and language groups — are expected to back independence.

The process then requires a “negotiated outcome” between the central and regional governments to achieve final status. —AFP

Romania presidential hopefuls court crucial emigrant vote

PARAESTI — With a religious icon pinned to a wall, washing hung out to dry, and a table and two chairs standing on a terrace, Paraesti looks like almost any other village in rural Romania — at least at first glance.

But Paraesti is actually more of a ghost village where, with a population of just 250 people, nearly one house out of every two stands empty.

The state of abandonment only becomes apparent on closer inspection: wooden pillars are cracked, roofs partly caved in, and yards tangled with weeds.

“There aren’t many people left on this street. Most are gone or have died,” says Viorica Barlas, 70, who lives alone in her house on a steep hill.

Since the fall of communism 30 years ago, about four million Romanians out of a total population of 20 million have left the country in search of better-paid jobs elsewhere. —AFP
Daimler mulls slashing 1,100 senior jobs: report

FRANKFURT AM MAIN — German luxury carmaker Daimler plans to cut 1,100 management jobs worldwide in fresh efforts to cut costs as it grapples with expensive recalls and a slowing global market, a German newspaper reported Friday.

The pull would see the Mercedes-Benz maker slash one tenth of all senior roles in Germany alone, the Süddeutsche Zeitung wrote, citing an email sent to staff by the group’s works council.

Daimler CEO Ola Källenius will unveil details of the layoffs at a capital markets day in London on Thursday, it said.

According to the daily, Källenius will also ask German workers to refrain from asking for pay hikes as the group weathered headwinds from global trade tensions, costly recalls and a massive “die-seisage” fine.

Daimler refused to comment on the “speculations”, saying in a statement that it remained “in a constructive dialogue with worker representatives”.

But it warned that the group needed to take action to tackle “major challenges worldwide”. Like its rivals, the Stuttgart-based firm is spending billions in the shift towards the electric, autonomous vehicles of the future.

It has also been hit with mass recalls linked to faulty Takata airbags and to diesel cars allegedly fitted with software to dupe emissions tests.

—AFP

Japan’s Idemitsu Kosan boosts lubricant output in Indonesia by 80%

BEKASI (Indonesia) — Japanese refiner Idemitsu Kosan Co. has launched a new lubricant plant equipped with an automated production system to boost up its output in Indonesia by some 80 percent.

An opening ceremony for the plant was held on Thursday in the West Java industrial area near the company’s head office in Jakarta.

Idemitsu invested $52 million to build its second Indonesian lubricant plant on an 80,000-square-meter tract of land in the Greenland International Industrial Center in Cikarang, West Java, according to the Indonesian government.

The plant has started to make engine oil for cars and motorcycles as well as industrial oils, as does the existing plant, increasing the firm’s total annual output capacity in the country to 115,000 kiloliters from 65,000 kl.

In line with the country’s policy to update the industry, the new plant is equipped with automated filling and contamination prevention systems, with inventory and product data information shared with the company’s head office in Japan through a computer link.

“Demand for lubricants is expected to grow further along with the growing population in Indonesia. It is an important market with good prospects,” Kazuiku Nyudo, vice president of Idemitsu Kosan’s local arm, Pt. Idemitsu Lube Techno Indonesia, told NNA on Thursday.

—Kyodo News

Alibaba sets eyes on $15 bn Hong Kong listing: report

BEIJING — Chinese online retail titan Alibaba is hoping to raise up to $15 billion in a Hong Kong IPO, a report said Friday, which would be the city’s biggest listing for nine years.

The share sale by Asia’s biggest company would also come as Hong Kong authorities battle months of sometimes violent protests that have dented the financial hub’s economy and reputation.

Alibaba is looking to scoop up between $10 billion and $15 billion in the initial public offering, Bloomberg News cited unnamed sources as saying, and is looking to hold a hearing into the move — as mandated by the Hong Kong exchange rules — next week. The firm declined to comment on the report when contacted by AFP.

International Foundation For Electoral Systems (IFES)

Due to a typo in the previous announcement, The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), has extended the deadline for a Request for Quotations for Technology Equipment in Myanmar (RFQ-20-002) to November 19, 2019. Interested vendors can find details about the RFQ at: (https://www.ifes.org/sites/default/files/addenda_no._3_rfq-20-002_technology_equipment_in_myanmar.pdf)

TRANSFERING DISTRIBUTOR FOR REGISTERED PESTICIDE

The manufacturer of Viet Trung Pesticide Joint Stock Company (Viet Nam) has registered the following products in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board to distribute in Myanmar by Viet Trung Myanmar Company Limited.

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Now Viet Trung Joint Stock Company has changed distributor from Viet Trung Myanmar Company Limited to Naing Toe Aung (Myanmar) Agro Group Co., Ltd. Any Objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board within 14 days from this advertisement date.

Viet Trung Myanmar Company Limited.

No.86, First Floor corner of Shwe Phue Myaw & Bayint Naung Street.

Daw Pone, Yangon Myanmar

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

ML PACITA VOY. NO. (053W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.L PACITA VOY. NO. (053W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.F.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 Day. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

—BIZ/AD

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M’S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

ML OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (027N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.L OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (027N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.J.P 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 Day. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

—BIZ/AD

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M’S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185
In line with the saying, which goes: “Ten kinds of flowers which humans neither offer to the Buddha images nor to gods,” the art of sculpture is one of Myanmar traditional arts and crafts. The works of sculpture can be identified as optional and modern ones. The optional sculptural works have been flourishing in the Myanmar’s sculptural arena since yore but emergence of the modern sculpture is not much long time.

Myanmar sculptors focus on carving the statues based on 550 Jataka stories in the embryo lives of the Lord Buddha as well as daily living events of the people in the past. Such kinds of sculptural works have been produced for many years.

However, the modern sculpture has entered the arena of Myanmar arts and crafts for some years. After the cyclonic storm Nargis had hit Myanmar in 2008, the Central Cooperative Union has been organizing a wooden sculpture contest on a yearly basis. The optional sculptural contest has been held in Yangon Region yearly with the aim of not wasting trunks of rain trees which fell in past years. In this regard, the optional sculpture means the sculptural works freely created by sculptors with the use of their favourite woods based on their thoughts.

The modern sculpture is different from original structures and forms. It is shaped in modernized thoughts, similar to that of the modern arts. It is one of the sculptural works in innovative measures. It can be said that modern sculptors emerged in the Myanmar sculptural arena due to the thing that the Central Cooperative Union inserted such event into the contest in addition to the optional sculptural event in past three or four years. Currently, sculptors carve modern sculptural works which are in high demand of the market.

Recently, a large number of modern sculptural works made of Yintaik (Dalbergia cultrate) were showcased in the Yangon Region’s hotels and tourism show where visitors praised in wonder of significantly modern sculptural works.

“Modern sculptural works are more favourite among the visitors than ordinary works. The formers are in high demand of the market. Hence, sculptural entrepreneurs focus on gathering of modern sculptural works. The best wood to carve the modern sculptural works is Yintaik (Dalbergia cultrate). All these works are made of Yintaik (Dalbergia cultrate) specifically,” said Daw Aye Aye Kyaing, manager of Yintaik World Sculpture Industry on Waizayanta Road in South Okkalapa Township.
Yintaik (Dalbergia cultrate) trees generally thrive in the tropical part of Bago mountain ranges. In its nature, the tree cannot be used in producing furniture. The trunks of the trees are small but long. So, it is used in carving statues of sculpture. The wood is hard, rigid and ponderous. The central part of the trunk is hollow.

“Generally, the trunks of Yintaik (Dalbergia cultrate) plants are about 10-12 inches in diameter. Its smell is bad. The smell of the trunk does not have fragrance. Wood is black so it can be carved well to make sculptural works. The large trunk has a hollow in the axis. So, it cannot be created as sculptural works. The large trunk is gradually increasing in the market for 500-1,000 kinds of sculptural works. The smell of the trunk is hollow.

It was reported that Yintaik (Dalbergia cultrate) plants can be carved for 500-1,000 kinds of sculptural works. Production of modern sculptural works is gradually increasing in the market with high demand. Works of the sculptors are better and better. However, Yintaik (Dalbergia cultrate) plants are rare year by year. Hence, the sculptural works made of Yintaik (Dalbergia cultrate) wood may be rare in the future. Consequently, the modern sculptural market may reach the highest position. Whatever it maybe, sculptors in Myanmar sculptural art have posted a milestone in carving the modern sculpture showing capability of market competitiveness in keeping abreast of other sculptural works across the world in addition to shaping the significant works of traditional sculpture.

Translated by Than Tun Aung
AFC U-19 Championship 2020 Qualifiers: Myanmar lost 0-3 to South Korea

THE Myanmar U-19 men’s national football team suffered a 0-3 defeat against the South Korean team in the Group I match of the AFC U-19 Championship 2020 Qualifiers, held yesterday at Thwunna Stadium in Yangon.

Myanmar lined up with goalkeeper Pyae Phyo Thu, Wai Yan Soe, Captain Si Thu Moe Khant, Thet Hein Soe, Nyan Lin Htet, Aung Ko Oo, La Min Htwe, Ye Min Kyaw, Naung Naung Soe, Pyae Sone Naing, and Hein Htet Aung.

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

Though Myanmar was playing against one of Asia’s best teams, the team did not play defense and launched an open attack, using the same speed, stamina, and power as the South Korean players.

Team Myanmar forced the play at the start with neat and tidy tackling, but better passes and deliveries from South Korean players occasionally kept Myanmar’s midfield and defense busy.

Due to some misunderstandings among Myanmar defenders, South Korea scored three consecutive goals in the middle of the first half.

With South Korea leading by three goals, Myanmar changed tactics in the second half and played more carefully.

Team Myanmar had scoring opportunities in the second half, but the South Korean goalkeeper cum captain Baek managed to block all strong kicks by Myanmar strikers.

There were no goals in the second half till the final whistle, and the match ended with a win for South Korea. With the victory, South Korea will advance to the next stage of the tourney.

South Korea’s Kim (white) tries to get the ball past Myanmar players (red) during yesterday’s group match for the AFC U19 Championship 2020 Qualifiers at Thwunna Stadium in Yangon. PHOTO: MFF

As Myanmar had faced a 0-2 loss against China on 6 November, the team is out of the reckoning for the championship. Myanmar will next play Singapore on 10 November though the two teams have no chances of qualifying for the AFC U19 Championship 2020.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Myanmar national women’s team in China for friendly matches

THE Myanmar national women’s football team trained at the Taihu Football Centre in Suzhou, China yesterday ahead of friendly matches against Chinese football teams, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The team is playing friendly matches to prepare for the upcoming 2019 South East Asian Games, which will be held in the Philippines.

The team will undergo training in China for eight days—from 8 to 15 November.

Team Myanmar left for China on 7 November. The team is being led by head coach U Win Thu Moe for the training sessions and friendly matches in China.

Team Myanmar will play a friendly match against the Jiangsu Suning Women’s FC, and two friendly matches against China Women’s Youth Selection Team, said a source with the MFF.

After their training tour, head coach U Win Thu Moe will select the final list of players who will compete in the upcoming 2019 SEA Games women’s football event, for which Myanmar has been placed in Group A along with Malaysia and host Philippines.

Myanmar will take on the Philippines on 26 November in the opening match of the women’s football competition at the SEA Games. The competition will be held from 26 November to 9 December at the Biyan Football Stadium in Biyan, Laguna, the Philippines.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Yangon United signs midfielder Aung Kyaw Naing

YANGON United has signed midfielder Aung Kyaw Naing from Ayeyawady United on a two-year contract, according to the football club’s official website.

“I am very pleased to join Yangon United, one of the best teams in the Myanmar National League. I had got a chance to join the club earlier. At the time, I thought I was not ready to join the club and I had passed up the chance. But now, the head coach and the team officials have made another offer and I am eager to come here. It has been my dream to be in Yangon United since I began my footballer life. Now, my dream has come true,” said Aung Kyaw Naing.

“I will do my best as far as I can for the club. And, please, watch my performance on the pitch and advise me. And, I will deliver what our fans want and will help the team lift the trophy,” he added.

The 26-year-old midfielder is a graduate of the Institute of Sports and Physical Education.

Aung Kyaw Naing started his professional career with the Nay Pyi Taw FC. He played for the team for four years. He moved to Ayeyawady United in 2015 for two years. Next, he joined Balestier Khalsa Club of Singapore and then the Angkhong Club in Thai League-2 for another two years. Then he came back home and joined Ayeyawady United in 2019.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Midfielder Aung Kyaw Naing (l) and an official hold the insignia of the Yangon United F.C. as part of the player’s signing ceremony. PHOTO: YUFC