Matho robe-weaving contests held at pagodas across nation

Traditional robe-weaving contests were organized at famous pagodas across the country yesterday, on the eve of the Full Moon Day of Tazaungmon.

At the Matho robe-weaving contest, a centuries-old tradition, participating teams make beautiful decorative robes for the Buddha statues in the temples. The teams that make the most beautiful robes win.

Tradition dictates that the weaving of the robes be completed in one evening, and that they be offered to the Buddha before dawn. If the weaving of a robe is delayed and cannot be completed, it is considered an unsuccessful attempt.

The most significant robe-weaving contest in Myanmar is the one held at the Great Shwedagon Pagoda. The 35th Matho robe-weaving contest was held yesterday at the pagoda, a national landmark of Myanmar. Nine teams took part in the event.

The ceremony was opened by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and members of the board of trustees of the pagoda.

A similar traditional event was also held at the Botataung Pagoda at 5 p.m. yesterday with the participation of 25 teams.

Meanwhile, the 22th robe-weaving ceremony was held at the Kaba Aye Pagoda in Mayangon Township yesterday evening. Seven teams of weavers took part in the competition.

The robes will be offered early tomorrow morning to Buddha images at the pagodas.

— Ko Ko Zaw

Contestants weaving a robe at the Matho Robe-Weaving Contest at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon yesterday.

PHOTO: YE HTUT

Weather bureau warns of landslides in hilly areas

The Meteorology and Hydrology Department has warned of possible rain-induced landslides in highland areas of Sagaing Region, and Chin and Rakhine states due to the influence of the cyclonic storm ‘Bulbul’, which is likely to weaken into a deep depression today.

“People living near highland areas in Sagaing Region, Chin and Rakhine states must remain on alert for landslide events, and trawlers, vessels, and ships off and along Rakhine coast are advised to prepare for possible contingencies,” stated an announcement from the Meteorology and Hydrology Department yesterday.

The severe cyclonic storm crossed West Bengal (India) and the Bangladesh coast yesterday, and it was downgraded to a cyclonic storm and forecast to continue moving east-north-eastwards.

Frequent squalls with rough to very rough seas will be experienced off and along Rakhine coast.

Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 45-50 m.p.h. Seas will be moderate to rough elsewhere in Myanmar. Wave height will be about 10-13 feet off and along Rakhine coast and 7-9 feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi coast.

— GNLM

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LOCAL NEWS
Islands in Kawthoung popular among Tazaungmone holidaymakers

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Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu visited Kyatkal Kyun Village of Yesagyo Township, Magway Region, to inspect the jaggery sugar production preparations made by Shwe Hintha Company on 9 November.

The Union Minister was accompanied by his regional counterpart U Win Maw Htay and Hlutaw representatives. He also discussed acquiring purified drinking water in the Shinmataung region, alternat-ing to money-yielding crops, and producing FA-approved consumable goods.

From there, the Union Min-ister visited Tha Pone Village (East) and inspected the water pumps and tanks built with a donation from the ’83 batch of Yangon Industrial University and with volunteer labour from the Department of Irrigation and Water Management. The donation is providing sufficient water to 589 villages from 117 households.

The Union Minister and Regional Minister then visited Shwe Hintha Company’s palm powder factory in YesagyoTownship. Palm powder is slowly seeing an increase in an orga-nic-conscious global market.

Next, the Union Minister visited Taungsin goat rearing village and inspected the animal farms there. He met with local goat herders and companies at Aung Dhamma Thuksa mon-astery and instructed them on proper animal husbandry prac-tices and efficient use of their farmland.

Afterwards, the Union Min-
ister handed over 250 packets of veterinary medicine to Regional Minister U Win Maw Htay for lo-cal residents affected by natural disasters.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister Dr Aung Thu meets officials at Shwe Hintha Company’s palm powder factory in Yesagyo Township, Magway Region yesterday. PHOTO: MNA
Poet’s Corner brings modern & classics together in Irrawaddy Literary Festival

THE 5th Irrawaddy Literary Festival continued its second day yesterday with domestic and foreign poets competing in the Poet’s Corner competition.

Held at Mercure Hotel in Mandalay, the festival is a volunteer-based event aiming to promote literature and Myanmar’s literary status and free admission for all.

The Poet’s Corner was mainly organized by Mandalay’s very own poets Maung Thin Pan and Wai Min Thant (Mangyi Bote).

“Poet’s Corner is a free platform for people to recite any kind of poem they like,” said Wai Min Thant. He continued: “The poem competition was originally planned to take place in the afternoon, as it was planned every year. But the enthusiasm of all the gathered poets pushed it to take place earlier. It’s a very pleasing sight to see the international poets come and listen intently to our poems. Furthermore, while we were reciting modern poems, they chimed in to classic poems written by Sayar Zaw Gyi. Plus, it was an invaluable experience to meet veteran poets Min Chan Mon and Mandalay Maung Aung Khin, both between 70 to 80 years of age.” A second year Myanmar Literature student from Mandalay University, Ma Hnin Wutt Yi said listening to the veteran poets was very enlightening and the opportunity to ask them questions was equally energizing.

More than a hundred literary enthusiasts from across Myanmar and over 30 international literates are attended the Irrawaddy Literary Festival, which will hold its last day today. — Mahn Sub-printing House (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo) •

Health & Sports Ministry signs development MoU with Indonesian counterpart

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe attended the Indonesia Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Health Expo (2019) from 7 to 9 November in Tangram, Indonesia.

He also signed an MoU with Indonesia’s Ministry of Health. The expo commemorated the 55th Indonesia National Health Day.

The health expo and Health Business Forum were opened on the morning of 7 November and the Union Minister attended them along with Dr Oscar Primadi, Secretary-General of Indonesia’s Ministry of Health, and Dr Engko, Director-General of the pharmaceuticals and medical equipment department.

The expo was also attended by health ministry officials from Iran, Japan, South Korea, India, Russia, Cambodia, Thailand, Singapore, Denmark, America, The Netherlands and Portugal, embassy officials and representatives from pharmaceutical companies.

The Union Minister was accompanied by Myanmar Ambassador Daw El El Khin, FDA Director-General Prof Dr Khin Zaw and assistant undersecretary Dr Kyaw Khine.

From there, the Union Minister participated in the panel discussion of the Health Business Forum where he talked about organizing a workshop to swiftly issue licenses for medicine coming into Myanmar.

On 8 November, the Union Minister called on Indonesian Health Minister Dr Terawan Agus Putranto where discussed bilateral cooperation and signed the Memorandum of Understanding on developing the health sector of both countries.

Next, the Union Minister visited the central factory headquarters of Kalbe Company, who are also constructing a factory in Myanmar. He then visited the Presidential Indonesian Army Hospital and observed the latest technology used to treat an autoimmune-related disease, alzheimer and cancer at its Colicure Centre.

Afterwards, the Union Minister visited RSUPN Dr Cipto General Hospital, National Cancer Treatment Centre and Hospital to exchange experiences on the administration system and services provided.

The Union Minister and delegation arrived back in Myanmar on the evening of 9 November. — MNA •

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)
ISLANDS in Kawthoung District have attracted locals and foreigners in the Tazaungmone holiday period.

“This is our first trip to the natural islands in our lives,” said a man from Mandalay. He and his family decided to visit Kawthoung during the Tazaungmone holiday which began last Saturday and will end on the coming Tuesday.

Most of the local travelers hail from big cities such as Yangon and Mandalay. Most of the local travelers are from big cities like Yangon and Mandalay while most tourists are entering through the border with Thailand. Since the beginning of the holidays, the jetty in Kawthoung has been seen busy with travelers and ferries. There are 30 untouched islands featured in the archipelago trips in Kawthoung District.

Of them, visitors can make day trips to nine islands, and night trips to seven islands. At present, 12 hotels and resorts are offering their services in the area, and 28 tour agencies are operating 60 speed boats for visitors. — Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung) (Translated by KZL)

Over 200 tourists visit Mogok in October

WITH the Mandalay Regional government issuing permits to tourists seeking to visit Mogok, well-known as Myanmar’s ruby land, more than 200 tourists visited the region in October, according to Mandalay Region’s Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

“Earlier, visitors had to submit an application in Nay Pyi Taw to be allowed to visit Mogok. Then, they had to wait for one month or one-and-a-half months to be granted the permission. Now, permission is being granted by the regional government. So, tourists can now get permits to visit Mogok within five days,” said an official from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Foreign tourists who visited Mogok last month were mainly from China, Thailand, India, France, the United States, Britain, Russia, and Germany. A total of 207 tourists visited Mogok in October, and the number of visitors is rising month by month. The tourists arrived in the region via Mandalay. To develop tourism in the region, the authorities in February gave the green light to foreigners visiting three more villages — Kyaukpyat, Panlying, and Bernard. From January to October, a total of 1,257 tourists visited Mogok, with the region welcoming 185 tourists in January, 156 in February, 146 in March, 72 in April, 159 in May, 118 in June, 113 in July, 93 in August, 68 in September, and 207 in October. Mogok is famous among local and foreign travelers for its diverse ethnic groups and culture, ruby mines, the Kyaukpyat Stone Roof Tier landmark, and natural caves. Its mountains are also a destination for trekkers. — Aye Maung (Translated by Hay Mar)

Bomb scare in Nay Pyi Taw

A fake improvised explosive device was found last night at the Water Fountain Park in Nay Pyi Taw, setting off a bomb alert at the park which was packed with holidaymakers.

A police colonel from the Myanmar Police Force said the device was inspected and found to be a fake.

“The bomb is a fake. It is made like a time bomb. There is no detonator nor gun powder,” he said.

The fake IED was made out of a plastic pipe part filled with concrete and attached with wires, a mobile phone battery, and a circuit. — MNA (Translated by KZL)

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, and your name and title.

Contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, and your name and title.
**Mattress, bedding production help Monywa, Kyemon villagers earn livelihood**

MATTRESS and bedding production are helping families eke out a living in Monywa and Kyemon villages, Monywa Township, Sagaing Region.

“Our two villages are carrying out production of mattresses, bedding, and also other items out of wadded fabric. We purchase cloth from Yangon garment factories as the raw material. We try to ensure low levels of noise in our workplaces. Once we have wadding, we line it with Korean cloth and casual cloth from China and sow it up nicely. We make three types of wadded blankets. The wholesale price of a single blanket ranges between K3,500 and K4,000, while bedding costs between K12,000 and K14,000, depending on the quality of cloth. We make a ten-per-cent profit on a single piece. Last year, we purchased about 50,000 viss of raw materials. This year, we purchased about 30,000 viss of raw materials as the market has cooled. Mattress and bedding production businesses earn between K2.5 million and K3 million per year, and have created job opportunities for local people,” said U Bo Lin, a one-stop shop owner from Monywa village.

“We sew casual cloth bags for the wadding. A small bag costs K40 to K50. We can finish about 150 or 200 bags per day. A sewing business can earn from K5,000 to K10,000 per day,” said Ma Toe Toe, a tailor who makes blanket bags.

There are 1,500 houses in Monywa village and 700 houses in Kyemon village. About 75 per cent of the households are mainly involved in mattress and bedding production.

Workers make the mattress in Monywa, Sagaing Region. PHOTO: MAUNG CHIT LIN

Those villages are located beside the Sagaing-Monywa road and they are distributing mattress and bedding across the country.—Maung Chit Lin (In-daw) (Translated by Hay Mar)

**Thailand-Myanmar friendship bridge-2 to help boost bilateral trade**

WITH the Thailand-Myanmar friendship bridge-2 officially opening on 30 October, bilateral border trade between Myanmar and Thailand is expected to rise, according to sources from the Ministry of Commerce.

“A boost in bilateral trade is very important. The trade flow and logistics services are being increased through Mae Sot,” said Mr. Niyom Wairapanch, vice-chairman of the Thai Chamber of Commerce.

In the previous fiscal year, bilateral trade between Myanmar and Thailand reached US$4.99 billion. The top five export products through the Mae Sot checkpoint were energy drinks, motorcycles, diesel oil, mobile phones with components, and dried betel nuts, while the top five import products were corn, live cows and buffaloes, old slabs, and transformers.

Border trade via the new friendship bridge and Mae Sot is expected to top 160 billion baht in 2019-2020.

With the opening of the new bridge, exports from Thailand are likely to increase by more than 30 per cent. Mae Sot handles a major share — up to 60 per cent — of the total border trade between Thailand and Myanmar, followed by Mae Sai and Ranong-Kaw Thaung checkpoints, said Mr. Kich Aungyutisalit, chairman of the Thailand-Myanmar Business Council.

In a related development, Thailand Commerce Minister Mr. Jurin Laksanawisit held a meeting with the joint public and private sector consultative committee on Thailand-Myanmar border trade promotion at Mae Sot to boost border trade between the two countries.—GNLM (Translated by Hay Mar)

**Asian Investments in Myanmar on the rise**

By Nyein Nyein

INVESTMENTS in Myanmar by Asian countries are on the rise, said U Thant Sin Lwin, Director-General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Currently, Asian countries such as South Korea, Thailand and Malaysia are investing in Myanmar. About 20 local and foreign entrepreneurs arrive daily in Myanmar to negotiate investments, he added. “On 5 November, we met with a director-general from the Malaysia Economic sector. They want to make investments in cruising on the domestic river, construction of a new industrial city and construction of a housing project in the middle of Myanmar,” said U Thant Sin Lwin.

South Korea also applied to seek approval from MIC to invest in a hotel business in Mayangon Township, Yangon, with an investment of $5.5 million.

In October, Yangon Amata Smart and Eco City Ltd, part of the Thailand-based Amata Group, is developing the Smart and Eco City and related businesses on a 2,000 acre plot near Lay Daung Kan, Dagon Myothit East and South Townships, Yangon region.

The company invested $274.68 million, according to official statistics from DICA.

Entrepreneurs from Asian countries are interested in investments in hotels, oil and gas, industrial production, automobile businesses and other service businesses.

From 1988 to September 2019, some 50 countries have made 1,837 foreign investments, totaling $81.8 billion in 12 economic sectors. Singapore topped the list of foreign investors in Myanmar, followed by China and Thailand. The inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Myanmar reached $9.4 billion in the 2015-2016 fiscal year (FY), $6.6 billion in 2016-2017 FY, $5.7 billion in 2017-2018 FY and $4.5 billion in 2018-2019 FY. (Translated by Hay Mar)
Russian e-commerce booms despite economic doldrums

MOSCOW — Moscow photographer Galina Goryushina says that online shopping has changed her life.

“IT'S got more time for myself,” said the 30-year-old freelancer.

“I don't have to haul heavy shopping bags. And I don't waste money on silly knick-knacks laid out on the store shelves,” said Goryushina.

The young woman began shopping online a decade ago when she could not find clothes she liked in Russia and now makes most of her purchases online.

Russia may be a latecomer to the world of online shopping but e-commerce is experiencing explosive growth in the country despite a stagnant economy weighed down by Western sanctions.

Russia's economic growth stood at just 0.7 percent in the first six months of 2019.

Over the same period, the Russian e-commerce market has expanded by 26 percent to 725 billion rubles ($11.3 billion), according to a study by Data Insight, a Russian-based research agency.

The sector is developing rapidly despite numerous logistical challenges in the world's largest country including an often unreliable postal service.

Long distances and low population density make e-commerce an appealing and sometimes even the only option in Russia.

Even in affluent Moscow, where shopping malls offer a huge variety of consumer goods, many prefer to shop online to avoid the ubiquitous traffic jams.

“Transformative for the country”

One of Russia's biggest online retailers, Ozon, began as an online bookstore — much like the global giant Amazon — and later expanded into other types of merchandise.

On a recent tour of Ozon's offices in Moscow's business district, chief executive Alexander Shulgin said the potential for growth in Russia was enormous.

“I am absolutely confident that e-commerce will be absolutely huge in Russia, it’s transformative for the country,” he said, pointing to Russia's high internet penetration, with 86 million online users. — AFP

Fuel shortage, price hikes squeeze protest-hit Lebanon

BEIRUT — A rationing of dollars by banks in protest-hit Lebanon sparked growing alarm on Saturday as some petrol pumps ran dry and grocery stores hiked prices.

The president and banking officials responded by pledging to take steps to improve the situation and help businesses to stay open.

For two decades, the Lebanese pound has been pegged to the greenback and the currencies are used interchangeably in daily life.

But banks have been reducing access to dollars since the end of the summer, following fears of declining central bank reserves. Access was further limited this week after banks reopened for the first time since an unprecedented popular uprising began on October 17.

On Saturday, several petrol stations ran out of fuel because of a shortage of dollars needed to pay for imports, a syndicate head said.

“The petrol stations that opened today are the ones that still have reserves. They will close down as soon as supply runs out,” said Sami Brax, the head of the Syndicate of Gas Station Owners.

He said if officials do not facilitate access to dollars by Tuesday, “we will be forced to stop imports and close down all petrol stations”.

His warning came a day after hospitals threatened to stop receiving patients because of a lack of dollars to pay for medical imports. Current medical stocks in the country “will not last more than a month”, hospital syndicate head Suleiman Haroun said.

Price hikes

Grievances driving Lebanon's protests range from power cuts and poor social security to alleged state corruption. — AFP

Apple Card probed for alleged gender discrimination

NEW YORK — A New York financial regulator said Saturday it is investigating claims of gender discrimination by the new credit card from tech giant Apple and its issuer Goldman Sachs, after a cardholder's tweet about his wife's credit limit went viral.

American businessman David Heineemoer Hansson had tweeted on Thursday that the Apple Card is a “fucking sexist program.”

He said the card's “black box” algorithm had given him 20 times the credit limit of his wife, even though they file joint tax returns and she has a higher credit score.

Hansson tweeted a series of messages recounting fruitless chats with Apple customer service agents, who were unable to explain the disparity but blamed it on the algorithm that determines an applicant's credit-worthiness.

A “black box” algorithm refers to artificial intelligence systems whose decisions cannot be explained.

In March, Apple started offering the Apple Card, issued by banking giant Goldman Sachs.

New York state regulators will “be conducting an investigation to determine whether New York law was violated and ensure all consumers are treated equally regardless of sex,” said a spokesman for Linda Lacewell, the superintendent of the New York Department of Financial Services.

“Any algorithm, that intentionally or not results in discriminatory treatment of women or any other protected class of people violates New York law,” said Goldman spokesman Andrew Williams: “Our credit decisions are based on a customer's creditworthiness and not on factors like gender, race, age, sexual orientation or any other basis prohibited by law.” — AFP

Apple began offering the Apple Card credit card, issued by Goldman Sachs, in March 2019. PHOTO: AFP
**Australians warned worst bushfires may be yet to come**

SYDNEY — Sydney is facing a “catastrophic” fire threat, authorities said on Sunday, as firefighters in eastern Australia raced to prepare for worsening conditions after ferocious bushfires devastated communities.

Fires have killed three people and razed more than 150 homes since Friday, but cooler weather overnight provided a welcome reprieve for firefighters and residents.

Authorities were assessing the damage on Sunday, with more than 100 fires still burning across New South Wales and Queensland, including several blazes that remained out of control.

Wider swaths of the states — including greater Sydney — are now bracing for perilous fire conditions predicted for the coming days, as is Western Australia state.

It is the first time Sydney has been warned of a "catastrophic" fire danger, the highest possible level, since the grading system was introduced in 2009.

Massive fires tore through several towns on Friday and Saturday.

The mayor of Glen Innes, where two people died, said residents were traumatised and still coming to terms with their losses.

"The fire was as high as 20 foot (six metres) and raging with 80 kilometres-an-hour (50 miles-an-hour) winds," Carol Sparks told national broadcaster ABC.

Five people reported missing have been found, but the unpredictable nature of the disaster means officials have not ruled out the possibility that others could still be missing.

NSW Rural Fire Service spokesman Greg Allan told AFP in a statement.

The operation to free the last belugas started five days ago.

"In the region of Primorsky Krai, the operation to release the marine mammals into their natural habitat has been completed," the police said.

**Russia releases last belugas from ‘whale jail’**

MOSCOW — The last whales held in a notorious facility dubbed the ‘whale jail’ in Russia’s Far East were released on Sunday, the institute overseeing the operation said.

The fate of the whales, which were captured to perform in aquariums, sparked international outrage earlier this year after pictures appeared in the media of them struggling to swim through ice-encrusted waters in cramped enclosures.

Moscow eventually bowed to pressure to release the 90 beluga whales and 11 orcas, which were held for more than a year in the secretive facility in Srednyaya Bay near the far eastern town of Nakhodka.

The whales have since been released in batches, with the last of the orcas freed in August.

The All-Russian Fisheries and Oceanography Institute said the operation to free the last belugas started five days ago.

"In the region of Primorsky Krai, the operation to release the marine mammals into their natural habitat has been completed," the police said.

**Icelandic students see chilling reality of melting glacier**

VIK (Iceland) — Icelandic seventh-grader Lilja Einarsdottir is on an unusual field trip with her class: they’re measuring the Solheimajokull glacier to see how much it has shrunk in the past year, witnessing climate change first-hand.

"It is very beautiful but at the same time it is very sad to see how much it has melted," says Lilja, bundled up against the autumn chill in a blue pomm-pom hat.

Each October since 2010, now-retired schoolteacher Jon Stefansson has brought students aged around 13 from a school in Hvolsvollur — a village about 60 kilometres (40 miles) away — to the glacier to record its evolution.

The results are chilling: nestled between two moss-covered mountain slopes, Solheimajokull has shrunk by an average of 40 metres per year in the past decade, according to the students’ measurements.

On this blustery October day, the youngsters — armed with a GPS, a measuring tape and two yellow flags — calculate the distances on foot from various spots, struggling against strong winds.

Once done, some of the students hop in a dinghy and cross a lake of brown meltwater to reach the so-called terminus, or front of the glacier.

Here, they determine the gap between the terminus and a handpainted sign at the end of a footpath, where previous students have recorded their measurements over the years.

The numbers on the sign, pitched in black sand and steadied at the base by a pile of stones, indicate how many metres of ice have disappeared over the past years: "24", "50", "110".

"When (the first students) started here, you couldn’t see any water. So it (the glacier) was very big at first," says Lilja. —AFP}
For as long as the world stands

YANMAR's education system during the reign of kings and emperors was based on monastic schools. Members of the royal family and commoners alike received the same uniform teaching at monasteries. They were first taught the fundamentals of Buddhism, ethics, and discipline, and eventually, divination, medicine, astrology, mathematics, and humanities. The education system was appropriate for the time and was improved over the years. This allowed Myanmar to influence its neighbors back then.

After the second Anglo-Burmese War in 1856, the British government established the education department in Lower Burma which changed the nation's education system. Monastic education declined during colonial rule as less people sought its instruction.

The nationalistic spirit, strength, and unity forged through the student movement pushed Myanmar forward on the path to independence. And, these qualities must be passed down generation to generation as long as the world stands.

The festivals of Tazaungmone

YANMAR peo-ple are 'happy-go-lucky'.(1) Type of life is short and impermanent, so they learn to live through thick and thin. You can see that in the "The Law of Chance" (Lokatanaya suttaa).(2) Hence they are healthy and display the "Path of Chance".(3) (Lokatanaya suttaa).

They live happily by holding festivals. Every mon carries the responsibility for mons all. Mons can receive kurma offerings to eat. Mons are celebrated, cooked food and eat it to be happy. Mons are celebrated, cooked food and eat it to be happy.

Kathin is derived from a Pali word "Kathina" meaning "firm" or "durable". Mons who receive and wear Kathin robes gain five durable merits.

Kathin is the annual style of robe offering festival. In Kathin (July), we offer robes to Buddhist monks as they need to change dry cloths as a result of hot rainy season. In Kathin season, we offer Kathin robes to Buddhist monks because living Buddhism is prescribed. It back ground Kathin of Kathin offering is as follows:

While Lord Buddha was residing in the city of Kapilavastu, thirty Buddhist monks from various monasteries came to pay homage to Lord Buddha. Being a long journey, they intended to spend the Kathin rain retreat at Luang Prabang. (4)

There were two types of robe offering festivals. In Kathin (July), we offer robes to Buddhist monks as they need to change dry cloths as a result of hot rainy season. In Kathin season, we offer Kathin robes to Buddhist monks because living Buddhism is prescribed. It back ground Kathin of Kathin offering is as follows:

1. Mons who receive Kathin robes for mons who wish to gain merit. Mons who received Kathin robes for mons who wish to gain merit. Mons who received Kathin robes for mons who wish to gain merit.
2. Mons who received Kathin offering of Strawberry. Mons who received Kathin offering of Strawberry. Mons who received Kathin offering of Strawberry.

In Kathin season, we offer Kathin robes to Buddhist monks because living Buddhism is prescribed. It back ground Kathin of Kathin offering is as follows:

Mons at Kathin season have a Kathin festival offering. Mons at Kathin season have a Kathin festival offering. Mons at Kathin season have a Kathin festival offering.

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**PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

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**FORECAST VALID UNTIL THE 11th NOVEMBER, 2019:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Southern Rakhine and fairly widespread in fairly widespread in Mandalay and Mvyagyi Regions, Shan (North and South) State, scattered in Bago and Irrawaddy Regions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 45m/s. Sea will be moderate in Shanyan region. Waves height will be about 9-12 feet in all and along Rakhine Coasts and 6-8 feet in Delta, Gulf of Mottama, and off and along Mon-Tam-Tin.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Light rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Shanyan region and scattered in Bago and Irrawaddy regions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**FORECAST FOR VANGAN AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th November, 2019:** Likely of isolated to light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (90%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th November, 2019:** Likely of isolated to light rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (90%).

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**MYANMAR DAILY WEATHER REPORT (Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday, 11th November, 2019)**

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**BAY INFERENCES:** Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the North Bay and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

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**SPECIAL FEATURES:** According to the observations at (18:30 HST today, the Severe Tropical Storm "Nakri" is centered at about 170nautical miles north of Pho Yen (Vietnam). It is forecast to move west Northward and cross the coast of middle Vietnam during next 24hours after that it will degenerate gradually.

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**NATIONAL**
The festivals of Tazaungmone

FROM PAGE 9

Tazaungmone is the month of festivals. Almost all kinds of festivals take place in this month because of clement weather. The following are other religious festivals of this month. Matho-Thingan weaving and offering. Literally translated “Non-stale robe”. It is the kind of robe made all at once with the prayer trees in the temple for a month. It is now known as socio cultural significance. Two traditional festivals of full moon Tazaungmon are Mea Zi Festival and Kyi Ma Noel Festival. Both are connected with the Festival of Net Katha Thabin as mentioned earlier in this article. Legend says that on Full moon Night of Tazaung Mon the guardian god of Kyat ta ku also the guardian god of Fire “Agni” comes down to visit the guardian god of Mea Zalee Tree (cassia siamea). The guardian gods of all herbal trees gather at Mea Zalee Tree to pay respect to Kyattika or Fire God. So it is believed that all medicinal herbal trees or plants gathered at mei zalee tree make the Tree’s medicinal properties increased and more potent. People make a good salad of mei zalee buds, and tender leaves and offer to all friends and strangers for dana of health and longevity. Mea Zalee salad is of course one of our favourite Sat lards.

Next festival Kyi Ma Noe literally means boys wake up in early morning. It is in fact a customary prank played by male youths before crows wake up. It is also known as Chief’s Night Saw ya net Kat (Chief’s Constellation) on Full moon Tazaungmon sheds its rays on to the Earth. Anyone who gets caught in the rays suffer temporarily. Just as the rays touch any parts of the body, it sheds its rays on to the Earth. Anyone who gets caught in the rays suffers temporarily. What is it? Why do not you let real owner come to claim it? Whereupon these old ladies yell out “you stupid son of bitch stop and go away. None of your business who comes to claim you’ll go to hell”. Youthjoy such kind of sharp remarks from the old ladies. Nothing serious happen only for merrymaking.

In remote villages and towns, such Thie’s days are performed on Full moon Tazaungmone but Kyet Tha Kalatha Chet Curry has now become ‘Tourists’ favourite meal at food stalls and restaurants are ordered to make it for foreign tourists, who enjoy the background history of it.

Most festive month of Tazaungmone is epitomized by the following folk song

"Don’t die so soon Oldman bent and double, A go hota ah kyai, 52-year-old from Shanghai, his wife and son took advantage of a visa to move to Europe. "Since we got the visa, we’ve travelled to many European countries. Every time we come back to Greece, the moment we set foot in the airport, we feel like it’s home. “ The heritage, its history, the democracy, the freedom. We really like its atmosphere,” Jiang says. “Since we got the visa, we’ve travelled to many European countries. Every time we come back to Greece, the moment we set foot in the airport, we feel like it’s home.”

The following morning they wait to see who come to claim the stolen pieces. But of their stolen odds and ends they “steal” (pinch) are displayed at the public places, street functions. The following morning they wait to see who come to claim the stolen pieces. But of their stolen odds and ends they “steal” (pinch) are displayed at the public places, street functions. They also take pots, clothings, Ladies underwear, braziers, their stolen odds or ends. Their grandmas or femining modesty, girls do not come to claim the stolen pieces. But of their stolen odds and ends they “steal” (pinch) are displayed at the public places, street functions. They also take pots, clothings, Ladies underwear, braziers etc. The youths hiding nearby will yell out “Grandma, Aunty is it your own underwear? Why do you not let real owner come to claim it?” Whereupon these old ladies yell out “you stupid son of bitch stop and go away. None of your business who comes to claim you’ll go to hell”. Youthjoy such kind of sharp remarks from the old ladies. Nothing serious happen only for merrymaking.

In remote villages and towns, such Thie’s days are performed on Full moon Tazaungmone but Kyet Tha Kalatha Chet Curry has now become ‘Tourists’ favourite meal at food stalls and restaurants are ordered to make it for foreign tourists, who enjoy the background history of it.

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Cambodian opposition leader released from yearlong house arrest

PHNOM PENH—The leader of the banned opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party was released Sunday from yearlong house arrest after being charged with treason, but is still prohibited from engaging in political activities, a court said.

Investigations into Kem Sokha's case are now concluded and he has been temporarily discharged before his upcoming trial but cannot leave the country and is required to cooperate with authorities at any time, according to a statement from the Phnom Penh Municipal Court.

The statement did not say when Kem Sokha will be tried but sources with knowledge of the situation have suggested by mid-December at the latest.

Afghan chief executive wants halt to election recount

KABUL—Afghanistan's Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah called Sunday for a halt to a recount of the recent presidential election, saying he would not accept "fraud-marked" results.

The move adds a fresh layer of uncertainty following the September 28 poll, which already has been marred by record-low turnout and continued bickering between Abdullah and his rival, President Ashraf Ghani. "The recounting should be stopped. We are trying to save the process from fraudsters," Abdullah said at a rally of his supporters in Kabul. "A fraud-marred election will not be accepted. The result should be based on the clean votes of our people," he added. Abdullah, who unsuccessfully ran in the previous September 28 poll, which already has been marred by record-low turnout and continued bickering between Abdullah and his rival, President Ashraf Ghani. "The recounting should be stopped. We are trying to save the process from fraudsters," Abdullah said at a rally of his supporters in Kabul. "A fraud-marred election will not be accepted. The result should be based on the clean votes of our people," he added. Abdullah, who unsuccessfully ran in the previous presidential election, is fighting for his political future,网友们 added. "We came here because it's a once in a lifetime event," she told AFP, انها أذنها الفرصة الأولى، فहما أطلقها روحيًا. "We're at Disneyland levels of crowding. The security check won't finish in time for you to see the parade," one policeman with a loudspeaker warned those still in line.

Eight dead as Cyclone Bulbul smashes into India, Bangladesh coasts

NEW DELHI—Eight people died and more than two million others spent a night huddled in storm shelters as Cyclone Bulbul smashed into the coasts of India and Bangladesh with fierce gales and torrential rains, officials said Sunday.

The cyclone packed winds of up to 120 kilometres (75 miles) per hour when it hit late Saturday, closing ports and airports in both countries. "Three people were killed in India's West Bengal state, two after uprooted trees fell on their homes and another after being struck by the falling branches of a tree in Kolkata. A fourth person died in a wall collapse in nearby Odisha state.

In Bangladesh, four more were killed by falling trees and at least 20 people were injured. The cyclone also damaged some 4,000 mostly mud and tin-built houses, Bangladesh's disaster management secretary Shah Kamal told AFP. In coastal Khulna, the worst-hit district in Bangla-
desh, trees swayed violently and were ripped from the ground in the fierce storm, blocking roads and hampering access to the area. Some low-lying parts of the district were flooded, disaster management minister Enamur Rahman told AFP. Authorities said the cyclone was weakening as it moved inland. "It has turned into a deep depression, causing heavy rainfall," Bangladesh weather bureau deputy chief Ayesha Khattab told AFP. Bulbul hit the coast at the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest which straddles Bangladesh and India, and is home to endangered species including the Bengal tigers and the Irrawaddy dolphins.—AFP

Cheering crowds greet Japan's new emperor in rare parade

TOKYO—Tens of thousands of flag-waving spectators cheered Japan's new Emperor Naruhito on Sunday during a rare open-top car imperial parade that was rescheduled after a deadly typhoon.

Some in the crowd camped overnight to nab a prime stop on the route at the palace for the 30-minute parade featuring the emperor and his wife Empress Masako.

The event was one of the final events marking Naruhito's ascension to the throne after his father Akihito earlier this year became the first Japanese emperor in two centuries to abdicate.

The royal couple emerged from the palace moments before 3:00 pm (0600 GMT), with the Emperor wearing formal Western clothing and the Empress dressed in a long cream gown and jacket, wearing a tiara passed down by her predecessor. Security was high for the event, with long lines forming hours ahead of the parade and thousands of police deployed to search bags and move spectators through metal detectors.

Security forces lined the entire length of the route in double rows, keeping close watch as the slow-moving parade passed, flanked by police on motorbikes. In the minutes before the parade began, police at one checkpoint warned would-be attendees that the area was full. "We're at Disneyland levels of crowding. The security check won't finish in time for you to see the parade," one policeman with a loudspeaker warned those still in line.

‘Once in a lifetime’

Yoko Mori, 64, lined up from 10:00 am to secure a spot, traveling from Saitama outside Tokyo. "We came here because it's a once in a lifetime opportunity and we wanted to celebrate this event," she told AFP, انها أذنها الفرصة الأولى، فهناك أطلقها روحيًا. "We're at Disneyland levels of crowding. The security check won't finish in time for you to see the parade," one policeman with a loudspeaker warned those still in line.

Japan’s Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako wave during their royal parade in Tokyo. PHOTO: AFP

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Villagers gather in front of a collapsed house after Cyclone Bulbul hit the area in Bakkhali, Bangladesh, on November 10, 2019. PHOTO: AFP

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Four people were killed in Odisha state. Odisha state. Odisha state. Odisha state.
Romania votes for president with liberal incumbent favoured

BUCHAREST—Romania voted in the first round of a presidential election on Sunday, with pro-European incumbent Klaus Iohannis the favourite to win, potentially adding to a liberal fight against the region’s prevailing nationalism. Iohannis of the centre-right National Liberal Party (PNL) repeatedly clashed with the beleaguered government of the left-wing Social Democratic (PSD) party, which collapsed last month.

His main rival in the presidential vote, the PSD’s Viorica Dancila, served as prime minister for the government, which took power in 2016. The PSD’s government had engaged in a long battle with Brussels -- and Iohannis -- over allegations it was trying to push through controversial judicial reforms in order to neutralize the judiciary and benefit PSD politicians.

“The Romanians are deciding on the future of their country,” Iohannis, 60, told reporters as he cast his ballot at a school in the capital Bucharest. After casting her own ballot, Dancila told supporters she voted “for a safe and dignified Romania.”

He has made rule of law a central plank of his campaign which has mirrored that of Slovaki anti-corruption activist Zuzana Caputova, who won the presidential election in that country in March.

In Hungary too, the nationalist government of Prime Minister Viktor Orban suffered a rare setback last month when centre-left candidate Gergely Karacsony united the opposition to wrest the mayoralty of the capital Budapest from Orban’s Fidesz party.--AFP

Spain votes in repeat general election amid Catalonia tensions

MADRID—Spain voted Sunday in its fourth general election in as many years amid heightened tensions over the separatist push in Catalonia that has fuelled a surge in support for upstart far-right party Vox.

The repeat polls were called after Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez failed to secure support from other parties following an inconclusive election in April which saw his Socialist party win the most votes, but no working majority in parliament. Opinion polls however suggest this new election will fail to break the deadlock. Neither the left nor the right look likely to win a ruling majority in Spain’s 350-seat parliament.–AFP

Russia’s Napoleon expert confesses to chopping up lover

History lecturer Oleg Sokolov liked to dress up as French emperor Napoleon. MOSCOW—A prominent Saint Petersburg-based Napoleon expert has confessed to murdering his young lover and former student and dismembering her body in a grisly crime that sent shock waves across Russia.

Oleg Sokolov, a 63-year-old history lecturer who received France’s Legion d’Honneur in 2003, was arrested Saturday on suspicion of murder after he was hauled out of the icy Moika River with a backpack containing a woman’s arms. “He has admitted his guilt,” Sokolov’s lawyer Alexander Pochuev told AFP adding he regretted what he had done and was now cooperating. Sokolov was reportedly drunk and fell in as he tried to dispose of body parts.

After disposing of the corpse he reportedly planned to commit suicide at the Peter and Paul Fortress, one of the former imperial capital’s most famous landmarks, dressed as Napoleon. Sokolov teaches history at Saint Petersburg State University, President Vladimir Putin’s alma mater, and was close to the Russian authorities. He told investigators that he shot and killed his lover during an argument and then sawed off her head, arms and legs, local media reported. Pochuev suggested Sokolov may have been under stress or emotionally disturbed. “He is an elderly person,” he said, adding he was being treated for hypothermia in a hospital. Police discovered the decapitated body of Anastasia Yurchenko, 24, with whom Sokolov had co-authored a number of works, and a blood-stained saw at his home.

‘Simply monstrous’

The historian, who also taught at Sorbonne University, is the author of books on French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte. He acted as a historical consultant on several films and took part in historical re-enactments of Napoleonic wars. Both he and his lover studied French history and liked to wear period costumes, with Sokolov dressing up as Napoleon. Students described Sokolov as both a talented lecturer who could impersonate the French emperor and his generals and a “freak” who called his lover “Josephine” and liked to be addressed as “Sire”.—AFP

Farmers blocked as Israel-Jordan enclave deal expires

NAHARAYIM (Israel) — Israelis were prevented from entering Jordanian border enclaves on Saturday after a deal allowing farmers to work land there expired, 25 years after a landmark peace treaty. Since the two countries signed the deal in 1994, Jordan has allowed Israeli farmers access to the territories of Ghamar in the north and Baqura in the south under a renewable 25-year arrangement. In October last year however, Jordan’s King Abdullah said his country had notified Israel that it wants them back.

An AFP journalist in northern Israel on Sunday said the yellow gate to a bridge over the river dividing the two countries, long the portal for Israeli farmers to access Baqura, was locked. Baqura, known in Hebrew as Naharayim, lies on a spit of land where the Jordan and Yarmuk rivers meet. Ghamar, deep in the Negev desert south of the Dead Sea, is known in Hebrew as Tzofar.

The lands have been privately owned by Israeli entities for decades, but the 1994 deal saw the kingdom retain sovereignty there. Since the heady days of Israel’s second peace treaty with an Arab state — after Egypt — relations with Amman have been strained. Opinion polls have repeatedly found that the peace treaty with Israel is overwhelmingly opposed by Jordanians, more than half of whom are of Palestinian origin. —AFP

The gate on the Israeli side of the border with Jordan at Naharayim / Baqura was locked on Sunday. PHOTO: AFP
Nigeria targets oil companies for a greater share of profits

LAGOS—In a move Nigeria’s president hailed as a “landmark moment”, Africa’s largest oil producer approved legislation this week to bolster its share of revenues from international majors.

The authorities say the amendment – heralded as the biggest change in decades to its production-sharing deals – will bring billions of dollars into state coffers as the country belatedly claims an “equitable share” of its vast natural resources. But oil industry insiders have slammed the change as an ill-planned attempt to grab money and warn that it could prompt an exodus of investments as foreign firms turn their backs on Nigeria.

The changes redraw the Deep Offshore (and Inland Basin Production Sharing Contracts) Act which was in force since it was passed in 1993 when Nigeria was under military rule. The law mandated that the split of revenues between the state and the international oil firms should be reviewed if prices climbed over $30 per barrel. But while crude has soared far above that point over the past two decades, a revision of the formula for revenue sharing was never carried out.

Buhari’s government have accused previous Nigerian lawmakers of having vested interests in making sure the bulk of oil revenues remained in private hands. The new law sets a staggered “royalty” rate on crude oil sold above $20 – rising to the highest rate of 10 percent if the price reaches more than $50 a barrel – with the revenue due to the government increasing in line with oil price rises. AFP

Tech juggernaut Saudi Aramco faces new test: shareholders

DHAHRAN—From robots to sniffer drones, Saudi Aramco has ramped up spending on technological innovation while its rival cut back amid soft oil prices, but the energy giant risks losing its edge after its much-anticipated IPO.

Aramco Arabia is offering a sliver of the company, touted as the kingdom’s crown jewel, in its upcoming initial public offering that is the bedrock of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s ambitious strategy to overhaul the oil-reliant economy.

Its market debut on the Riyadh stock exchange will raise pressure for higher profit margins on a company that so far has been answerable to no one except the government.

“Aramco has never had to answer to investors looking at the company’s quarterly results,” Ellen Wald, author of the book “Saudi Inc.”, told AFP. “When it goes public, that will change.”

In recent years the world’s most profitable company, billed as a juggernaut of innovation, increased spending on research and development as most of its competitors scaled back.

Aramco said it incurred R&D expenses of $91 million in 2018, up from $607 million in the previous year. Its technological prowess was on display in a recent media tour of its sprawling Dhafran headquarters in eastern Saudi Arabia, akin to a manufactured American suburb with quaint houses, shopping plazas and schools for its 15,000-strong workforce.

Engineers hunchered over computers in an air-conditioned command centre with giant screens tracking the flow of crude from oil fields, through a complex web of pipelines and refineries, to tankers dispatched around the world.

Workers displayed innovations, from production-boosting drilling technology to nimble robots that crawl over pipes to carry out repairs and drones fitted with “sniffers” to detect leaks and inspect flare tips.

“Over the past five years, our R&D spending has more than doubled,” said Ahmad al-Khowaiter, Aramco’s chief technology officer. AFP

Huawei leads China’s tablet market in Q3: IDC

International Data Corporation (IDC). Shipment of Huawei’s tablets amounted to 2.12 million units, up 24.4 percent from a year ago, accounting for 37.4 percent of the total market. Apple’s iPads ranked second with a 33.8 percent share, followed by Xiaomi, which took 5.9 percent of the market.

The data also showed the total shipment of tablets in China reached 5.67 million units, expanding for six consecutive quarters, according to global market intelligence firm

China’s hottest investment: overpriced sneakers

SHANGHAI—Forget stocks, real estate, even cryptocurrencies – China’s hottest investment nowadays may be the Nike, Adidas, and Puma basketball shoes that “sneakerheads” like Hu Huaqian fight to get their hands on.

Enthusiasts worldwide have fuelled an expanding bubble in high-priced sneakers, often limited-edition collaborations between big names in sportswear and fashion, rappers or athletes.

But in China the craze is at fever pitch, with devotees driving soaring trading volumes on online “sneaker exchange” platforms, prompting warnings from authorities about dangerous speculation as resale prices approach 5,000 percent.”The sneaker market is no longer just a game for enthusiasts. Speculators are flocking into the business now,” said Hu, who travelled 300 kilometres (187 miles) to Shanghai for the chance to buy the latest Nike Air Jordans. AFP

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
M.V PROSPERITY

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PROSPERITY VOY. NO. (06/19) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of T.M.I.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 from 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 Claim’s Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
M.V EVER RELIANCE

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EVER RELIANCE VOY. NO. (047) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of I.B.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after Claim’s Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS BEN LINE AGENCIES (SINGAPORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928
Pa-O land with true natural beauties (Part 2)

By Thiha (the Traveller)

Kaungdaw natural cave
Kaungdaw natural cave with a statue of a hunter known as Kaungdaw was really beautiful. Much thanks was owed to the locals and the head monk of a local monastery for maintaining the nature. We actually went quite deep into the cave hoping to reach the end but didn’t dare to go any further beyond the point where electric lights were lit. The sight inside the cave was great with overhanging speleothems or cave formations but as we went deeper, there were waters on the ground so we beat a hasty retreat back to the mouth of the cave.

Taung Hti Bwar Cave and Wingabar Mountain
Wingabar Mountain was 3.5 miles (5.7 kilometre) from Pinlaung near the village of Taung Hti Bwar. The cave at Wingabar Mountain known as Yar Za Cave or Hti Bwar Cave was long with many paths making it confusing for some visitors to find the way in or out. This makes the visit to the cave an exciting one. Most visitors can figure their way in or out so don’t be too concerned about getting lost but you may choose to go along with some locals too.

Orange farm
Oranges from Pinlaung were good. Even though we went at a time when it was not available, we visited an orange farm. During winter time, the orange tree will be full of oranges. A visit to an orange farm is one you must make if you ever made it to Pinlaung whether there are oranges or not.
Villages producing Pa-O traditional wicker ware

Villages producing Pa-O traditional wicker ware are must-visit places for any visitors, local or foreigner. Buying one as a souvenir would be better still as all were within the range of K1,000 to 5,000. Ask a local guide to show you around. The guide will show you right into the homes where the wicker wares were produced. You will not only see first-hand how the wicker wares were produced but also how the locals live.

Pa-O lacquer ware

I was pleasantly surprised to find out that Pa-O had lacquer ware. Even though this practice was becoming close to extinction, it would be great if the locals continue to produce this useful handicrafts that at the least would be a very attractive souvenir for any visitors be they locals or foreigners.

Footprint of King Kyansittha

Ask a local guide to show you where a footprint said to be of King Kyansittha was. There were two footprints of the great King Kyansittha of Bagan at some distance from one another near Pinlaung.

Many more places of interests

There were many more places of interests near Pinlaung like Sin Hsin Waterfall, Aye Chan Myay Resort, Haa Waterfall, Ywet Pone Thi (Pa-O) Coffee factory, Bahu Chaung water hole and cave, Shan paper making works, Pa-O traditional light festival, Rain Calling Festival where locally produced rockets were fired to induce rain, Laneli Bridge and Nant Mon Waterfalls.

Use local guides to see all places of interests

In Myanmar, we used to say that if we ask we can reach any village and the same goes with any places too. But if you don’t know what was there to see or visit, you wouldn’t be able to ask and visit it. So it is best to get in touch with a local guide and work out in advance what can be seen or visited. Find out what can be seen and where to go and then decide what to see and where to go. On my part, I contacted a local guide and arranged my trip to Pinlaung and its neighbourhood. May all have a happy visit to Pinlaung and nearby places.

Translated by Handytips
THE Myanmar National Women's Team, who are preparing for the SEA Games, lost to the Chinese women's league champions Jiangsu Suning with a 0-2 win over in the 2019/20 season, extending their unbeaten run to 24 consecutive matches. The result means that the Myanmar National Women's Team have already qualified for the 2020 AFC Women's Asian Cup, where they will join China, Japan, and South Korea as the hosts.

Despite the loss, the Myanmar National Women's Team can still qualify for the AFC Women's Asian Cup if they win their remaining two matches against Thailand and the Philippines. The team will be further boosted by the return of star striker Chawinga, who missed the previous two matches due to injury. The Myanmar National Women's Team have high hopes for the upcoming matches and are determined to qualify for the AFC Women's Asian Cup.