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VP U Henry Van Thio to attend Asia Pacific Summit in Cambodia



The Myanmar delegation led by Vice President U Henry Van Thio poses for photo together with Dr Thomas G Walsh, the President of Universal Peace Federation (UPF), and party at the Sokha Phnom Penh Hotel yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

MYANMAR delegation led by Vice President U Henry Van Thio will attend the 2nd Asia-Pacific Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The Vice President and his entourage of Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and departmental officials arrived at Suvarnabhumi International Airport, Thailand, at 9: 20 am local time yesterday, and proceed to

Cambodia by flight. They landed on Phnom Penh, Cambodia at 12:30 local time.

At the Phnom Penh International Airport, the Myanmar delegation was welcomed by Deputy Minister for the Office of the Council of Ministers Mr Hem Kranhtony, Myanmar Ambassador to Cambodia U Thit Lin Ohn, Myanmar Military Attaché to Cambodia Brig-Gen Win Ko Ko, and officials from Myanmar

Embassy and Military Attaché Office in Cambodia.

The Vice President and party arrived at the Sokha Phnom Penh Hotel for their stay, and he received Dr Thomas G Walsh, the President of Universal Peace Federation (UPF), at the hotel.

They discussed the matters related to the 2nd Asia Pacific Summit and holding seminars and forums in Myanmar in cooperation with the UPF.

The meeting was also attended by Stockholm World Peace Prize winner Dr Ashin Sobita, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Soe Han, Myanmar Ambassador U Thit Lin Ohn and officials.

In the evening, the Myanmar delegation enjoyed the dinner hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia.—MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)

Construction of Gwachaung Bridge linking Rakhine, Ayeyawady starts

WORK on a bridge linking Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State began yesterday in Gwa, Rakhine State, with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin driving the stakes into the ground.

The bridge is estimated to cost about K2.5 billion, of which K500 million has been allocated by the Union Government from the State budget of the 2019-2020 fiscal year (1 October-30 September) and K2 billion has been funded by the Rakhine State Government.

This would be the second important bridge on the route connecting Rakhine State and Ayeyawady Region.

The first bridge — Kyaukchun — located at Kyaukchun Village in Gwa Township was commissioned into service on 21 November last year.

The Gwachaung Bridge would be a reinforced type bridge and measure 1,320 feet in length, 24 feet in width, and have the capacity to withstand loads of 75 tons.

Upon completion, the Gwachaung Bridge would serve as a new trade route between Ayeyawady and Rakhine, benefiting Gwa.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves motion condemning AA

THE 14th regular session of Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held its sixth-day meeting yesterday and approved a motion condemning AA group on abduction and detention of Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Whaei Tinn and demanded the immediate and unconditional release of U Whaei Tinn and other civil servants and civilian hostages detained by AA group.

The Hluttaw put on record reforming towns, wards, village-tracts and villages

In the meeting, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat submitted to the Hluttaw renaming, reforming, expanding and removing towns, wards, village-tracts and villages in Bago Region, Mandalay Region, Shan State and Ayeyawady Region sent by the President's Office and announced the matter as being put on record

Acceding to LLMC 1976, LLMC PROT 1996

Next, the matter of Myan-



Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 14th regular session holds its sixth-day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

mar acceding to Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims, 1976 (LLMC 1976) and Protocol of 1996 to amend the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims, 1976 (LLMC PROT 1996) sent by the President was discussed by U Maung Maung Ohn of Ayeyawady

Region constituency 5 and U Thant Zin Tun of Dekkhinathiri constituency.

In his discussion Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo spoke of the ministry heeding to the discussion and suggestion of the Hluttaw representatives and requested the Hluttaw to approve the matter.

After obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's approval of the matter.

Acceding to Hague Rules, SDR Protocol

Afterwards, the matter of Myanmar acceding to International Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules of Law Relating to Bills of Lading ("Hague Rules") Hague Visby Rules and SDR Protocol sent by the President was

discussed by U Maung Maung Ohn of Ayeyawady Region constituency 5 and U Thant Zin Tun of Dekkhinathiri constituency.

In his discussion Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo spoke of the ministry heeding to the discussion and suggestion of the Hluttaw representatives and requested the Hluttaw to approve the matter.

After obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's approval of the matter.

Hluttaw approves motion condemning AA group

In the final agenda of the day, an emergency motion tabled by Dr Hla Moe of Aungmyethazan constituency condemned AA group's abduction and detention of Chin State constituency 11

Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Whaei Tinn as an act of terrorism against national reconciliation and peace establishment process conducted by the State, and to the will and representation of the people. The motion demanded the safe, unconditional and immediate release of U Whaei Tinn and other public servants and civilian hostages detained by AA group was discussed by Hluttaw representatives.

Dr Than Win of Mandalay Region constituency 1, U Pa Htan of Matupi constituency, U Sai Win Aye (a) Sai Tun Aye of Mongshu constituency, U Thaug Aye of Pyawbwe constituency, Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency 11, U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Papun constituency, Daw Khin Saw Wei of Yathedaung constituency and U Zaw Thein of Wakema constituency discussed the motion.

After the discussion of the Hluttaw representatives, Dr Hla Moe said the motion was tabled to warn that the lawless acts of AA group was detrimental to the State's practical conducts, future aims and expectations and would not benefit the citizens as well as any other organizations and submit to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to approve the emergency motion.

After the Hluttaw voted 376 for, 7 against and 3 abstaining on the motion, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the emergency motion as approved by the Hluttaw.

The seventh-day meeting of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will convene on 20 November. — Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)



MP U Thant Zin Tun, Dekkhinathiri constituency. **PHOTO: MNA**



MP U Maung Maung Ohn, Ayeyawady Region constituency 5. **PHOTO: MNA**

Joint Committee on Amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 58/2019

MEETING 58/2019 of the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Committee Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Chairman

of the Joint Committee Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Joint Committee Secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe, joint secretary U Htay Win Aung (a) U Pyone Cho and members who were Hluttaw representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Hluttaw Deputy Speakers U Tun Tun Hein and U Aye Tha Aung attend the meeting 58/2019 of the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives German Ambassador



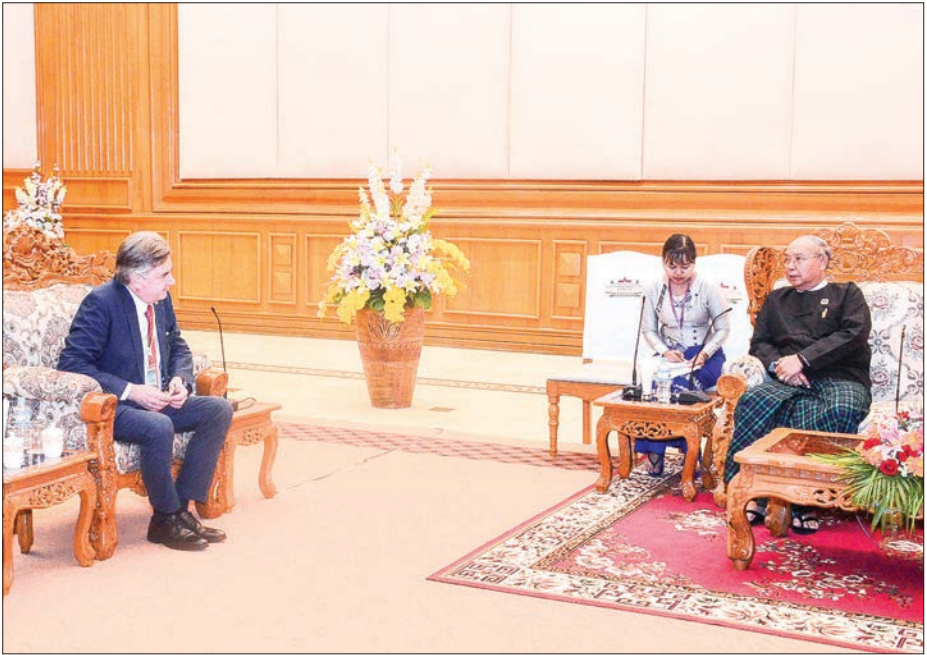
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat meets with German Ambassador Mr Thomas Karl Neisinger in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received German Ambassador Mr Thomas Karl Neisinger at the Pyithu Hluttaw guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting,

they discussed promoting parliamentary relations between Myanmar and Germany and ongoing cooperation in improving the capabilities of Hluttaw representatives, Hluttaw offices'

staff and developing the Hluttaws to aid Myanmar's democratic transition. — MNA
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives German Ambassador



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than meets with German Ambassador Mr Thomas Karl Neisinger in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received German Ambassador Mr Thomas Karl Neisinger at the Amyotha Hluttaw guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Both sides dis-

cussed strengthening Myanmar-Germany friendly relations and cooperation, parliamentary business of both countries, Hanns Seidel Foundation's assistance in developing Myanmar's Hluttaws, and

steps to amend the 2008 Constitution. Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw Office were also present. — MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Awarding ceremony for 2018 literary awards to be held on 27th November

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint chaired a preliminary coordination meeting yesterday for holding a ceremony to present National Literature Awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Awards, and the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards for 2018 at Yangon MRTV office. According to the meeting, the awarding

ceremony will be held on 27 November 2019 (1st Waxing of Nadaw, 1381 ME) at Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon. There will be two recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Awards, ten National Literature Awards, and 24 Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards at the event. Director-General U Ye Naing of the Information and Public Relations

Department, and Director-General U Aung Myo Myint and officials of the Printing and Publishing Department discussed the matters related with preparations for the awarding ceremony including reception, awarding and taking documentary photos. — MNA
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint attends the preliminary coordination meeting on holding awarding ceremony for the National Literature Awards at MRTV. **PHOTO: MNA**



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UEC holds capacity building course for 2020 General Election



Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein addresses the ceremony to open the “Training to Enhance Electoral Capacity” for the 2020 General Election in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE opening ceremony of Training to Enhance Electoral Capacity for 2020 General Election for officials and staff from various levels of election sub-commissions was held at Grand Amara Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. Union Election Commission (UEC) Chairman U Hla Thein attended and addressed the event.

The event was attended by UEC members and officials from Commission Office, course attendees from State/Region, district and township election sub-commissions and officials from International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA).

In his address UEC Chairman said this was the second capacity building course with the first successfully held for 104 attendees. The course will instruct

about the important lessons on election work processes with 10 headings. As the course was a training-the-trainer course, attendees are to systematically learn the lessons taught at the course while sharing their experiences. Only then can they conduct multiplier courses without difficulties said the UEC Chairman. Next, International IDEA Senior Programme Manager Mr Parvinder Singh also addressed the opening ceremony.

Afterwards, a commemorative group photo was taken and the first day programme of the course was continued. The course was jointly conducted by UEC and International IDEA and was attended by 93 personnel from State/Region, district and township election sub-commissions.— MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Public service motivation forum held in Nay Pyi Taw

A FORUM on public service motivation was held at the Grand Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with the aim to promote understanding about the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the Sustainable Development Goal.

At the Inter-Sectoral Dialogue Forum on Public Service Motivation to Support the Realisation of ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals, Chairman of Union Civil Service Board U Win Thein remarked the Civil Service Reform Strategic Action Plan (2017-2020) has gained momentum in two years after it was adopted in 2017.

The reform plan targets to persuade public coordination and develop the civil service staff with well-disciplined, quality and capacity-oriented, inclusive and immediate responsive manner in building up public trust.

The UCSB Chairman also said public service motivation is a driving force to encourage ethics and behaviours of civil service staff in developing fundamental values of capacity, fairness and coordination. He also emphasized capacity management system will help create a happy work environment in targeting organizational goals, while Myanmar is implementing the Sustainable Development Plan.

Then, Ms Rodora T Baran, the Director of Human Development Directorate, ASE-

AN Socio-Cultural Community Department of the ASEAN Secretariat, extended a greeting at the forum.

In the forum, topic on sharing innovations in ASEAN civil service staff sector in and outside the region was discussed by Mr Nelson G Sarmiento, the Director of Civil Service Commission from the Philippines, Dr Pipawin Leesamphandh from the Office of Civil Service Commission of Thailand, Dr Nant Khin Thin Su, the Principal/Pro-rector of Civil Service Academy under the Central Institute of Civil Service (Lower Myanmar) and U San Myint, the Director-General of Central Statistical Organization under the Ministry of Planning

and Finance.

Another topic on sharing civil service sector innovation in other countries was talked by Ms Susannah Luck, the Director of Integrity at Australian Public Service Commission, Ms Assel Musssagulova, the Technical Advisor on Public Service Motivation from the UNDP and Researcher Dr Federico Ceschel from the University of Rome Tor Vergata.

The topic on active role of civil service sector, leadership capacity and coordination was discussed by U Tin Soe, the Professor (Head) of Political Science Department at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) under the USCB, Ms

Susannah Luck, the Director of Integrity at Australian Public Service Commission, Ms Valentina Bianchini, the project manager of UNDP’s LEAP (Leadership, Effectiveness, Adaptability and Professionalism) and Dr John Vong the Expert on Leadership in Civil Service.

The following topics on sharing practices in civil service motivation and fostering human resources management and on good practices in generating active civil service staff in labour and education issues were talked by Ms Indah Kurnia Lestari, the Representative Vice-Chair from Ministry of Manpower, Indonesia and Dr Thein Win, the Director-General

from Higher Education Department.

The opening ceremony of two-days forum was also attended by Union Ministers U Thein Swe, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Dr Win Myat Aye and U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister U Tin Myint, Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, members of UCSB, Permanent Secretaries, departmental officials, senior officials from ASEAN member countries and the ASEAN Secretariat, and officials from the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) and the related supporting organizations and the local and international experts.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Civil Service Board Chairman U Win Thein delivers the address at the Inter-Sectoral Dialogue Fourm on Public Service Motivation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits shipyard, e-Education group in Bangkok

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and the Tatmadaw delegation are in Bangkok, Thailand, to attend the Defence and Security 2019 event after departing from Yangon on Sunday.

Yesterday, the Senior General first visited Marsun Public Company Ltd and observed its shipyard. The company was founded in 1980 and has delivered over 310 various types of vessels. These include Passenger Ferries, Motor Yachts, and Fast Patrol Craft.

Next, the Senior General visited iGroup Ltd, which focuses on E-Education. The iGroup (Asia Pacific) Limited, is a Hong Kong registered multinational



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing observes the Marsun Public Company Ltd in Bangkok, Thailand. PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES

organisation with offices spanning 14 countries in the Asia Pacific region and with a total staff force of over 1200.

They provide e-Journals, e-Books, e-Library and database services. Interestingly, iGroup was founded by Myanmar-born

Mr Pote Narittakurnle, who started working in Thailand 30 years ago, according to information released by the Office of the

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Media and Information Literacy Course conducted for MRTV staff



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun delivers the speech at the opening ceremony of Media and Information Literacy course in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

THE first Media and Information Literacy Course for the staff members of Myanmar Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information was launched at the Auditorium of MRTV in Tatkon in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun made an opening remark on the course, saying the rising num-

ber of social media users who search information and entertainments on mobile phones, and that media and information literacy has become crucial for identifying false news, rumours, hate speech and fake news in deceiving others.

He also said the course was intended to help the civil service staff understand

accountability and responsibility in using internets.

The experts from UNESCO and the Ministry of Information give lectures on knowledge about media and information literacy during the two-day course that is attended by 160 staff, including senior officers, of the MRTV.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)

UN SG Envoy meets locals, returnees in Maungtaw

DEPUTY MINISTER for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung headed UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms Christine Schraner Burgener and Rakhine State government officials to Maungtaw Township yesterday morning.

The Deputy Minister, the Special Envoy and party held talks with Head of Maungtaw District General Administration Department U Soe Aung and District Police Lt-Col Aung Myint Htay about development of Maungtaw areas in one-year period, peace

and stability of the area and matters related to the returnees.

They also met with ethnic locals, Muslim people and Hindu community who are living harmoniously in Maungtaw Township to ask about their living conditions, livelihoods and assistance of the government.

Then, they talked with the returnees from the other country. At the meeting, the Special Envoy asked about their living and difficulties, government supports and their difficulties while they were taking shelters in the other coun-

try. She also privately met with women from the fled families.

In the afternoon, the Deputy Minister and party arrived back to Sittway by the military helicopter.

The Special Envoy and party held talks with Rakhine State Hluttaw Speaker U San Kyaw Hla and Deputy Speaker U Mya Than at the Hluttaw about IDPs, ceasefire talks, possibility of more returnee arrivals, views on 2020 General Election and holding elections in Rakine State.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)



Deputy Minister U Soe Aung and UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener hold a meeting with ethnic locals, Muslim people and Hindu community in Maungtaw Township yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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High-level National Multi-stakeholder Policy Dialogue held in Nay Pyi Taw

A HIGH-LEVEL National Multi-stakeholder Policy Dialogue on Building Resilience to Drought in South-East Asia was held at Park Royal Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In his address at the event, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye said the event was the most important first step toward building resilience to drought. Findings of “Ready for the Dry Years: Building Resilience to Drought in South-East Asia” Report and experience of ASEAN member countries were to be shared in the event. The Union Minister briefly explained about Myanmar’s experience with drought, policy and strategies established to manage and overcome disasters urges continued cooperation with ASEAN Secretariat and United Nations Economic and Social Commission

for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP). Next UNESCAP Chief of Space Applications Mr Keran Wang spoke of the importance of preparation by agriculture countries against drought, UN-ESCAP conducting studies and assessments in ASEAN region and the effort to conduct policy dialogue on draught in other ASEAN countries.

In the second part of the event Myanmar’s drought management works were explained by officials from Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, Disaster Management Department, Agriculture Department and Rural Development Department. Officials from ASEAN Secretariat explained and discussed about future work processes on building ASEAN level drought resilience in cooperation with UNESCAP. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye delivers the speech at the high-level national multi-stakeholder policy dialogue in Myanmar held in Nay Pyi Taw on 18 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State holds 20th coordination meeting



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye and attendees pose for a documentary photo at the 20th coordination meeting of Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State organized its 20th coordination meeting at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

It was attended by Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, in his capacity as the committee chairman, Deputy Minister for State Counsellor Office and Vice Chairman of the committee U Khin Maung Tin, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs and Secretary of the committee Maj-Gen Than Htut, and committee members.

At the meeting, the Union Minister explained the committee’s works for peace and development of Rakhine State, the formation of Advisory Commission on Rakhine State chaired by Dr Kofi Annan

to identify the root causes of conflicts and the 88 recommendations of this commission, and the 48 recommendations of Investigation Commission led by Vice President U Myint Swe.

The Committee for Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State was formed on 12 September 2017 to implement the recommendations of two commissions in coordination with respective Hluttaw, Rakhine State government, relevant ministries, NGOs, partner organizations, partner countries, UN agencies and ASEAN member countries, with releasing a report in every four months each year, while it is focusing on social harmony and socio-economic development in Rakhine State.

The committee is coordi-

nating with the working groups of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) to foster the works of committee.

The strategic plans of the committees are aimed to solve development crisis, human rights crisis and security crisis which are major obstacles to peace and development in Rakhine State. The committee is taking priorities on the issues of citizen identification, the right to travel, IDP issues, education and health in line with the existing laws.

At the 20th coordination meeting, the committee members also made discussions and recommended on the draft strategic plan.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Joint Committee on scrutinizing Constitution amendment hold meeting

A JOINT Committee on Scrutinizing the second bill on amending the Constitution held a meeting at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D second floor meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Joint Committee on Scrutinizing the second bill on amending the Constitution Chairman Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee Chairman U Khin Maung Win,

Joint Committee secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe, joint secretary U Kyaw Soe Lin, members and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Joint Committee on Scrutinizing the second bill on amending the Constitution meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



T&C Minister visits Hanoi Metro Skytrain project in Viet Nam

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung visited construction project of the Hanoi Metro rapid transit system in the capital city of Viet Nam on 16 November morning during his visit in the Indochina Peninsula country to attend the 25th ASEAN Transport Ministers' Meeting (ATM) and associated meetings with dialogue partners.

The Union Minister and party observed the project by taking a train ride from the Cát Linh station to the Văn Đại 3 station. At the office of Project Management Unit, they listened

to the project.

The 13.1 km-long Hanoi Metro system consists of 8 lines, including 12 elevated and underground sections. The estimated cost for the project is US\$868 million and is slated to open soon.

The Union Minister and party also visited Vietnam Railway headquarters, and Deputy Director General Mr Phan Quoc Anh explained the existing and future railway system of the country.

The Union Minister and party arrived back to Yangon on 16 November afternoon.—MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung observes the Hanoi Metro rapid transit system project in Hanoi, Viet Nam on 16 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister receives Euro Cham Myanmar Energy Advocacy Group



Union Minister U Win Khaing meets with Euro Cham Myanmar Energy Advocacy Group delegation at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing received Euro Cham Myanmar Energy Advocacy Group led by European Union Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Kristian Schmidt and Ambassador of Italy to Myanmar Mrs Alessandra Schiavo at the Union Minister guest hall in Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, current and future programmes with international companies in the renewable energy sector, short and long term programs on increasing electricity generation and distribution, cooperation with private sector, arrangements to conduct projects in a transparent manner, present

and future work of national level renewable energy committee for the development of renewable energy sector; investment by EU companies in Myanmar electricity and energy sector; financial grant and loan programs by European Investment banks for development of electricity and energy sector; programs related to renewable energy sector and policy on climate change, programs for private sector to participate in future electricity and energy sector; cooperating to develop human resources and ongoing investment programs were discussed. — MNA
(Translated by Zaw Min)

Nairobi Summit pledges \$9 bln as aid

UNION Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population, U Thein Swe, attended the 25th World Population Day commemoration and Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The summit was also attended by Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, Danish Crown Princess Mery Eligabeth, national leaders and ministers from various countries, UN Deputy Secretary-General Ms Amina J Mohammed, UNFPA Executive Director Dr Natalia Kanam, and government officials, international organizations, and NGOs from more than 170 countries.

Session. He discussed that Myanmar has actively participated in International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) since attending an ICPD in Cairo, Egypt, in 1994. He also discussed the pledges Myanmar has made concerning areas of healthcare.

The Nairobi Summit agreed on eliminating maternity deaths, prevention of planned parenting, gender based violence and harmful actions on women by the year 2030. A joint research made by UNFPA, John Hopkins University, Victoria University, the University of Washington and

Avenir Health estimate that achieving this goal will require about US\$264 billion.

Governments and non-government organizations made over 1,200 pledges at the summit, including a pledge of US\$9 billion in aid. US\$1 billion of that aid was pledged collectively from Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Britain and other nations of the world. The remaining US\$8 billion of that aid was made by private organizations. — MNA
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

On the first day of the summit, the Union Minister met with UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programme) Mr Dereje Wordofa and discussed the success of the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census undertaken with UNFPA's collaboration, technical assistance in the 2019 Interim Census, implementation of an e-ID system in Myanmar, further assistance for the 2024 Census, and other areas of cooperation.

On the second day of the summit, Union Minister U Thein Swe took on the role of patron at the Health Work Force: The Dream Team for Sustainable Transformation



Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe addresses the 25th World Population Day commemoration and Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 in Nairobi, Kenya. **PHOTO: MNA**

Helping farmers manage climate change can improve agri practices

TODAY, the environmental impact of our agricultural systems is becoming increasingly clear. The land degradation caused by prevailing agricultural practices is threatening farmlands, agricultural productivity, and food security.

For several years now, we have been experiencing drought, extreme heat, flooding, weather volatility, shifting seasons, insect infestations, and other symptoms of a warming planet, and the production of crops has been declining year after year.

To tackle the impact of climate change, farmers are over-using inputs, including nitrogenous fertilizers, insecticides, and pesticides, which can spoil soil health, lead to power wastage, and deplete groundwater.

The amount of fertilizers used by farmers per acre has been spiraling upwards since some 15 years ago. The overuse of inputs and the triple cropping system has led to degradation of land.

The other problem is that input subsidies for agriculture have resulted in unmindful use of resources, such as water and power, and skewed the cropping pattern, which has, in turn, taken a toll on the environment as well. Monoculture has resulted in an increase in pest and disease attacks on crops and higher usage of chemical fertilizers.

Meanwhile, most of Myanmar farmers have poor knowledge of the systematic use of agricultural inputs. And, environmentally unsustainable farm practices and weather variations are to blame. Therefore, an innovative system based on indigenous and traditional knowledge that improves the natural resource base while increasing productivity is what our agriculture sector needs.

Myanmar is mainly an agricultural nation, with over 60 varieties of crops grown in the country according to season throughout the year. The Union Government has set in place a strategic plan to develop agriculture in order to produce sufficient food that is both safe and nutritional.

Myanmar is able to produce sufficient rice, the staple food, other crops for domestic consumption, and export the surplus.

To reduce the impact of climate change on agriculture, laws related to the use of fertilizers and pesticides need to be properly enforced and farmers need to be continuously given the necessary information and training to prevent overuse of both inputs.

Helping farmers manage climate change can help them improve farming practices. Making farmland available to new farmers and supporting conservation programs that protect it, supporting research on local implementation of climate-friendly farming techniques, such as no-till and silvopasture, and combining solar energy production with crops or grazing can go a long way in improving our agricultural sector.



Taking a crack at the brain: Neurosurgery in Myanmar

By Tar Yar, Kay Kay, Thi Thi Min, Min Thit (MNA)

(CONTINUED FROM
YESTERDAY)

SINCE 2012, a team of neurosurgeons from the University of Medicine 2, Yangon, and the Henry Ford Hospital from Detroit, USA, led by Prof Jack Rock has been providing medical treatment every November under the programme of the Foundation for International Education in Neurological Surgery (FIENS).

FIENS was founded by a group of leading neurosurgeons in order to address the critical lack of trained neurosurgeons in developing countries. Since 1969, they have provided hands-on training and education to neurosurgeons around the world.

Prof Rock and his team of medical professionals impart their skills and knowledge by working side-by-side with neurosurgeons nurses here including surgery methods, ICU response, pre and post-surgery care, and proper maintenance of surgical equipment.

The following are excerpts from interviews with officials, medical practitioners and other people involved in this charitable programme.

Dr Kyi Soe
Medical Superintendent,
North Okkalapa General Hos-
pital

"I arrived at this hospital about three years ago but the neurological department was only formed over a year after I arrived on 7 May 2017. This hospital started as a 200-bed hospital in 2006 and its has about 37 departments. But there are still three departments

we don't have and we have to send our doctors to Thingangyun or Yangon General Hospital. We don't have departments that focus on the digestive tract, urology or nephrology."

"Before he became the head of the neurological department in this hospital, Dr U Win Myaing had to make preparations for 5 years. When I first got here, our emergency department was staffed with only a few assistant doctors but now it is staffed with special nurses. The main issue at North Okkalapa General Hospital is space. There isn't much of it."

"We have about 1,200 outpatients and 1,100 to 1,300 inpatients. The space complication means we discharge patients who have been treated and can recover at home. I wish to express my gratitude to the medical practitioners in this hospital who have to deal with a large workload with limited personnel."

Professor Dr Jack Rock
Henry Ford Hospital

"I first arrived in Myanmar with Dr Merwyn Bagan, FIENS' Chairman, on 13 February, 2013. I've been to many other countries as a volunteer neurosurgeon. My visit to Myanmar coincided with then President Obama and Foreign Secretary Hillary Clinton's visits as well. I came here because I wanted to help."

"My first visit here lasted 18 days. I performed surgery alongside doctors U Win Myaing and U Kyi Hlaing and the neurology students at Yangon General Hospital. Then in 2014, I performed surgery alongside other medical practitioners including biomedical engineers, emergency response



Neurological surgeons operating on a patient at operation room in North Okkalapa General Hospital.

doctors and otolaryngologists. We started to do the endoscopic pituitary surgeries alongside Dr Bhome Myint Tun at North Okkalapa General Hospital."

"We started taking two residents from Myanmar back to the US for a two-month rotations starting from 2016. It was in that same year we introduced the technique of an awake surgery for brain tumours. It's where the patient is awake during the surgical process. This is because we can minimize the risk of damaging critical parts of the brain that controls speech or motor skills."

"An American lady donated US\$30,000 to cover the expenses of Myanmar students coming with us on the two-month course. Then we received more donations and have now taken along eight students in total. We have also received numerous donations for researching people with head injuries. We've finished that research last year and submitted it to the largest research body and won an award. We also won an award for it at the annual Congress of Neurological Society."

"I started teaching neurology students of North Okkalapa Hospital through Skype every fortnight starting from two years ago. They always have questions prepared for me." "I have made a firm commitment to help revise the neurological curriculum into a more efficient and comprehensive form. We have a plan to call the medical engineers to America for a course on handling and maintaining medical equipment. And a similar plan for neurological nurses as well."

"Some neurosurgeries aren't

too difficult. The patient will be good as new after two to three months. This is beneficial for everybody."

Mr Andy Steiner
Biomedical Engineer

"I do repairs and preventive maintenance on the equipment. We do the best we can with limited resources but we try our best to make things better for people in Myanmar."

"The Myanmar patients need us, our expertise and we teach as best we can to pass along better abilities for the people. We help the country by bringing our knowledge, our expertise and teach you so you can run your own hospital a little bit better."

"My opinion of Myanmar is things are picking up. Things are going well. With future endeavours here, we can help you make a difference. The future is bright. We will help you move forward and make the opportunities for your country way, way better than without us."

"I have helped your ministry provide the support and equipment support so that you can maintain your capital purchases, because that's a lot of money that you spend on equipment. Without the maintenance or repairs, you would just end up buying more new equipment. So, the investment of the biomed tech would help provide longevity and lasting equipment for your hospitals."

"The equipment, as we know, is the backbone of the operation. Our surgeons and neurosurgeons do the work but without the equipment, without the maintenance

on the equipment, it's a tough job. So, the future and abilities will be enhanced with our presence and I really hope we can do it for a long, long time."

"Six years ago, when we first started coming, we spoke with the ministry (of health and sports) and they understood that the equip-

"The infrscan only takes about a minute to scan someone's head for signs of internal bleeding or clotting.

ment needs to be maintained. Now, six years later, it's amazing that everything is coming to fruition. I plan to train some engineers on how to be proactive in making the equipment last longer."

Ms Tracy Enos
Head Nurse

"I have been to Myanmar since November 2014 and this is my sixth time here. I teach on the use of surgical equipment and apparatuses in the operating theatre. I also teach how to use new apparatuses and new surgical methods while working together with the doctor."

"The people here are very receptive and cooperative. A big difference between nurses here

and back in the US is we only need to inspect the surgical apparatuses and send them to the disinfection department but the nurses here have to do that themselves."

Ms Tarsa Patrick
Head of Neurophysiological Monitoring

"I work with intraoperative neuromonitoring. This means I am a part of the surgical team and I assist in the surgery by monitoring the integrity of the nervous system, thereby protecting the patients and helping the surgeon. My main duty during surgery is to ensure nothing unnecessary takes place"

"Coming to Myanmar is my first time here and I am very humbled and honoured to be here. Everyone here has been very gracious and generous. I am also teaching people here and I am sure they will be able to help patients here like we do in the future."

Mr Yosef Ben Dor
Infrscan Expert

"I am from Israel and this is my first time in Myanmar. I accompanied Dr Jack Rock here because I wanted to carefully explain the use and importance of this equipment (infrscan) in rural areas. You can easily teach general practitioners, nurses and emergency response personnel how to use this."

"The infrscan only takes about a minute to scan someone's head for signs of internal bleeding or clotting. It's greatest asset is to help places far away from neurosurgeons or neurologists determine if a person is suffering from internal bleeding in their cranium."

Ms Marianne Langlois
ICU Specialist, Boston Massachusetts

"I have worked with Dr Jack Rock for many years. I am currently working at a hospital in Boston after my time at Henry Ford Hospital. This is my second time in Myanmar. I teach first-aid emergency response to the nurses and students here. I also take care of patients before surgery begins."

"I used to perform neurosurgery as well, but now I simply assist patients in critical conditions. Sometimes an operation may go well but the patient isn't well cared for and doesn't recover as well as they should. It's nice working with the hardworking people here."

(Translated by Pen Dali)



President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures acting on tip-offs

The Office of the President issued Press Release No. 42/2019 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 16 November.

The ministry made the arrests and acted on information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, of the Office of the President, as of 16 November.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 20 November issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar. — GNLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office Announcement 4/2019

7th Waning of Tazaungmon 1381 ME
18 November 2019

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Announcement 4/2019

1. At the fourth-day meeting of Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 14th regular session held on 13 November 2019 Pyithu Hluttaw representative Dr Hla Moe of Aungmyethazan constituency tabled an emergency motion condemning AA Group for the abduction and detention of Chin State constituency 11 Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Whaei Tinn on 3 November 2019 while he was on his way to attend the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 14th regular session. The act was a terrorist act against national reconciliation and peace establishment process conducted by the State as well as to the will and representation of the people and demanded the safe, unconditional and immediate release of U Whaei Tinn and other public servants and civilian hostages detained by AA group.

2. An announcement was made of the Hluttaw deciding to approve the emergency motion after it was discussed by eight Hluttaw representatives at the sixth-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 14th regular session held on 18 November 2019.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
(Unofficial Translation)

Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment, hear cases

UNION Supreme Court sits at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning with Chief Justice of the Union Supreme Court U Htun Htun Oo and all Union Supreme Court judges and passed judgment on 10 special civil appeal cases, one (Certiorari) criminal case and four (Certiorari) civil cases. It also heard four special criminal appeal cases and one special civil appeal case. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Doctor gives medical check-up to a child.

CBM Governor attends Southeast Asian central bank governor meetings

A delegation led by Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung attended the 55th Southeast Asian Central Bank (SEACEN) Governors' Conference/High Level Seminar and the 39th SEACEN Board of Governors' Meeting from 13 to 14 November in Singapore.

The Governor first attended a seminar on the effects of financial technology on monetary stability at Singapore EXPO Convention and Exhibition Centre on 13 November. Keynote speeches were delivered there by Queen Maxima Zorregueta Cerruti of The Netherlands, Managing Director Mr Ravi Menon of the Monetary Authority of Singapore, and General Manager Mr Agustin Carstens of the Bank for International Settlements.

On 14 November, the CBM Governor attended the 55th SEACEN Governors' Conference/High Level Seminar at JW Marriott Hotel where they discussed on data-driven economy and AI-driven economy. Later in the afternoon, they attended the 39th SEACEN Board of Governors' Meeting. There, Dr Indrajit Coomaraswamy handed over the role of



Central Bank of Myanmar's Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung poses for a photograph with high-level officials at the SEACEN Board of Governors' meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**

Chair of the SEACEN Board of Governors to Mr Ravi Menon. Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and delegation returned to Myanmar on 15 November. — MNA
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo) ■

Conference held to promote govt bonds market



Deputy Minister for Planning & Finance U Maung Maung Win and attendees of the conference pose for a photo. **PHOTO: MNA**

A conference on investing in Myanmar government bonds was organized at the Melia Hotel in Yangon yesterday. It was jointly organized by the Ministry of Planning and Finance, the Asian Development Bank and the UK's Department for International

Development.

Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win delivered an opening remark on the conference where the experts from ADB, DFID, Japan, Thailand, Georgia and Myanmar discussed development of Myanmar investment markets, loan management policies of Japan, experiences of bonds in Thailand, selling of government bonds to settle budget deficits in Georgia, emerging government bonds in Myanmar and regional government bonds in respective currencies.

The Ministry of Planning and Finance has been selling securities and exchange in auction system since 2015 to the state-owned banks, private banks, foreign outlet banks, securities and exchanges companies and insurance companies.

The conference was aimed to promote the primary bond market of Myanmar to the secondary level. It was attended by the officials from Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar, Treasury Department, Financial Regulatory Department, state own banks, private banks, foreign bank outlets, financial organizations, international partner organizations, securities and exchange companies and insurance companies.—MNA ■
(Translated by Aung Khin)

Objectives of the 99th National Victory Day

- * Perpetuation and strengthening of the Union spirit
- * Building the peace of the Union through mutual trust
- * Building a federal democratic nation
- * Promoting all-round development of the Union through collective strength of all national races

အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ မသန်စွမ်းသူများနေ့

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

"The Future is Accessible"

"အကားအဆီးကင်းစေရေးအတွက် လူမှုဘဝအတွက် အရေးအသားချမှတ်ခြင်း"

နေပြည်တော် ၃၀.၁၂.၂၀၁၉

Construction of Gwachaung Bridge linking Rakhine, ...



PHOTO: MNA

FROM PAGE-1

With the new road link, travelers would be able to visit destinations such as beaches and islands in Gwa and Thandwe by road, and Rakhine State would likely see tourism development.

Rakhine State is uniquely positioned to support the emergence of economic and industrial zones, with its range of pristine beaches and cultural heritage sites.—Zaw Gyi (Panita), Zin Oo (Myanma Alinn) ■

Onion prices continue to rise as export demand remains high

THE local market has witnessed a huge increase in onion prices owing to strong demand from the neighboring country, according to onion depot owners.

On 20 September, onions fetched K500-900 per viss (one viss equals 1.6 kg) in the wholesale market. The price jumped to K2,000 per viss on 16 November.

In early November, onions were priced around K3,000 per viss in the retail market of Pazuntaung Township. The price shot up to K4,000 per viss on 15 November, said a housewife who lives on the junction of Bogyoke Street and 51st street. At the beginning of the onion season, onions were being sold for just K400-500 per viss. But, the prices rose in a volatile market mid-year. Although traders said stocking onions might lead to losses, the price of domestic onions crossed K3,000 per viss in 2015, 2018, and 2019.

The price of onions was K800-



Labourers carrying sacks of onions on their shoulders. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

900 per viss in September. Last month, Bangladesh's demand for Myanmar's onions coupled with

high demand in the local market had hiked up prices, according to the Mandalay commodity depot.

In response to the surge in prices, the government has allowed onion imports. In the previ-

ous years, China flooded the onion market with bulk supply.

At present, there is inflow of Chinese onions into the local markets, with the wholesale prices ranging between K1,100 and 1,600 per viss.

Myanmar's onions are also being shipped to China. Myanmar exported 19,417 tons of onions worth US\$7.797 million in the 2017-2018 financial year, 28,659 tons worth \$8.468 million in the mini-budget period (April to September, 2018), over 69,180 tons worth \$15 million in the 2018-2019 FY, and 3,889 tons worth \$1.53 million between 1 and 14 October in the 2019-2020FY through the Muse 105th mile trade zone, as per data released by the Trade Department.

The prices may change depending on the weather conditions and market supply, said traders. —Khin Saing/Thant Zin
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Domestic investments touch K160.95 bln, \$47.63 mln in current fiscal

Domestic investments by Myanmar citizens reached K160.95 billion and US\$47.63 million in the first 21 days of the current fiscal, according to a press release issued by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Between 1 and 21 October, eight local enterprises were allowed to invest in the manufacturing, agriculture, real estate development, and other ser-

vices sectors by the Myanmar Investment Commission and the investment committees of Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Kayah State. To simplify the verification process of investment projects, the Myanmar Investment Law allows region and state Investment Committees to grant permissions to local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or \$5 million.

While some projects no longer need MIC approval, businesses that are strategic to the government require a permit from the commission. In addition, those businesses that have large capital investments exceeding \$5 million and that may have a possible impact on the environment and the local community need to be approved by the MIC's proposal assessment team. —GNLM
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Individual trades exceed K5 bln at border gates in October

TRADE with the use of Individual Trading Cards (ITCs) touched K5.2 billion at the border gates in the first month of the current financial year, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Trade values reached a record K3.167 billion at the Myawady gate in the current FY, according to the Commerce Ministry. But, the figure only reflects imports as individual trading card holders did not export goods through the Myawady gate.

The Trade Department issued nine cards in October, and card holders conducted trade worth K5.2 billion. While imports

exceeded K4.69 billion, exports were valued at just K510.5 million.

The value of trade carried out by individual card holders stood at K19.05 million at Tamu, over K1.26 million at Muse, K3.167 billion at Myawady, K10.34 million at Tachilek, K4.35 million at Lweijel, K133 million at Kanpikete, K149.8 million at Kawthoung, K178.4 million at Reed, K983.4 million at Mawtaung, K480 million at Htikhee, and K75.02 million at Kengtung, as per data from the Commerce Ministry.

Individual trades topped K737 million in the period from 21 November, 2012 to 31 March,

2013; exceeded K6.6 billion in the 2013-2014FY; crossed 9.3 billion in the 2014-2015FY; stood at over K6.4 billion in the 2015-2016FY; rose above K18.5 billion in the 2016-2017FY; touched K45.9 billion in the 2017-2018FY; K22.5 billion during the mini-budget period (April-September, 2018); and K59.04 billion in the 2018-2019FY.

The trade department has issued 1,696 cards so far with the aim of boosting trade. Businessmen can trade goods worth K3 million per day using ITCs, and the Trade Department has granted trade of up to K15 million per day over five days. —Ko Htet
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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FOR BRIGHT FUTURE THROUGH BILATERAL FRIENDSHIP

13th regular session of Second Anyotha Huttaw holds 16th-day meeting

ROK President pays state visit to Myanmar

State Counsellor holds talks with ROK President

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses pandemic reduction, safeguarding ecosystem

San Suu Kyi, ambassador of spouse

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မြန်မာ့အောင်စာပေ

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December Garden to showcase 400,000 flowering plants at Pyin Oo Lwin Flower Festival

THE December Garden will host its first flower festival from 18 December to 18 January in Pyin Oo Lwin Town.

The flower festival will features 400,000 flowering plants, including 30 local species and 30 Thailand species. Moreover, works of local floral decorators such as flower waterfalls, flower carts, and heart-shaped gardens will be displayed at the festival to bring about environmental awareness among people.

“With the aim to conserve the environment, we have built all buildings with wood, bamboo, and natural products. All the things in our garden are decorated with streams, waterfalls, and flower gardens. In addition, visitors can take recreation while enjoying the natural scenic views of our garden,” said U San Tint, in charge of the garden. The month-long flower festival will take place on 50 acres out of the 150-acre Garden. An entrance fee of K1,000 will be charged per person



Visitors are going sightseeing at December Garden in Pyin Oo Lwin. The first flower festival will be held in December Garden from 18 December to 18 January **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**

during the festival.

“Pyin Oo Lwin Town is one of the tourist attractions in Mandalay Region because of its weather, organic food, and tourist sites. We can promote not only the tourism sector of Pyin Oo Lwin Town, but also

create job opportunities for local people,” said Ko Kyaw Zin Oo.

The flower festival will also be held at the National Kandawgyi Botanical Garden in Pyin Oo Lwin like the previous year. Additionally, the Avo-

cado Growers and Producers Association in Pyin Oo Lwin will organize an avocado festival at the December Garden. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay sub-printing House) ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

Yangon to host 3rd Christmas Festival in urban area

THE Christian communities in Myanmar will celebrate Christmas Festival from 23 to 25 December in the urban area of Yangon, for the third time, under the permission of the Yangon Region Government, according to the festival organizing committee.

“This will be the third time we will hold a Christmas festival in Myanmar. We have planned to set up eight stages in the Yangon downtown area for the festival. The festival

will be held over three days and performers and singers will participate in entertainment programs. Everyone can join the festival with us,” said the secretary of the festival organizing committee.

The entertainment stages will be placed at the corner of the Bogyoke Aung San Road and Shwedagon Pagoda Road, in front of the Central Hotel and KFC outlet on Bogyoke Aung San Road, between Sakura Hotel and Wazira

cinema, near Ruby Mart, St. Mart’s Cathedral, Immanuel Baptist Church, Thakhin Mya Park in Ahlone Township, and Sawbwar Gyi Kone Park in Insein Township.

The three-day event will be inaugurated at 6 p.m. on 23 December at the Holy Trinity Cathedral performance stage at the corner of the Bogyoke Aung San Road and Shwedagon Pagoda Road, and the closing ceremony will be held on 25 December night at St.

Mary’s Cathedral.

Festive lights will also be lit along the Bogyoke Road and other places of celebration, and free food counters will be arranged for visitors. Performers will sing Christmas hymns with bands and give dance performances. Well-known singers will also perform at the festival from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. for three days, — Thi Thi Min ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

About 40 fake K10000 banknotes seized in Ngwehsaung

A man has been arrested and counterfeit Myanmar kyat banknotes seized at his house in Ngwehsaung, Ayeyawady Region, yesterday.

Ko Aung (a) Ko Chit Maung Maung who lives in Shwe Phar Village, Thazin Village-tract in Ngwehsaung Township, was

taken into custody by the police after they discovered 39 counterfeit Myanmar Kyat banknotes buried in the compound of his house.

Following a tip-off that he spent one K1000 fake note at a refilling station and another one at a restaurant, the police

interrogated him at the police station.

The suspect also confessed that the banknotes he spent were counterfeit ones.

After the interrogation, the police searched his house.

He also confessed that the counterfeit banknotes were giv-

en by Daw Tin Wai Hsan from Hmyinhto Village in the same village-tract.

The two suspects has been charged for possession of counterfeit banknotes at the Ngwehsaung Police Station. Mu Mu (IPRD)

(Translated by Ba Htoo)

Children Literary Festival organized in delta town Kyaiklat

THE Children Literary Festival is in progress in Kyaiklat Township of Pyapon District in Ayeyawady Region.

Jointly organized by the Ayeyawady Regio government, the Information and Public Relations Department, the Department of Basic Education and the Township Management Committee, the two-day festival was opened at

the entrance of Government Technical Institute yesterday. At the opening ceremony, school children performed with songs and dances, and received cash awards presented by Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Hla Moe Aung and wife, and government officials.

The Chief Minister and party also looked around exhibitions and

book sales at the festival where he talked to the children about prominent persons of the region to encourage the children for their future.

The local government has successfully held the festival in Chaungtha, Zalun, Einme and Danubyu townships out of the planned events in 26 townships.— Kyaiklat IPRD (Translated by Aung Khin)



The opening ceremony for Children Literary Festival held in Kyaiklat Township, Pyapon District in Ayeyawady Region. PHOTO: MNA

Timor Leste Ambassador elected as Dean of Diplomatic Corps



Attendees pose for a photo at the reception to honour Timor Leste Ambassador Mr Joao Feitas de Camara held in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

INTERNATIONAL Business Promotion Center, - IBPC hosted a reception in honour of Timor Leste Ambassador Mr Joao Feitas de Camara for being elected as the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps at Pan Pacific Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

At the event, Chair-

man of IBPC U Aik Htun, Ambassador of Malaysia Mr Zahairi Baharim and Ambassador of Indonesia Mr Prof Dr Iza Padri extended greetings.

Afterwards, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste Mr Joao Feitas de Camara spoke words of thanks.

Then, the Timor-Leste ambassador gave a token to IBPC Chairman and IBPC Chairman also gave to Ambassador a bouquet.

All the diplomats and invited guests took a documentary group photos and followed by entertainment program.—Yi Yi Myint (Translated by TTN)

SoftBank's Yahoo Japan, messaging app Line to merge by Oct 2020

TOKYO — A SoftBank Corp. group firm said Monday it has agreed to merge its subsidiary Yahoo Japan Corp. with messaging app provider Line Corp. by October next year to create the largest online company in Japan to compete with Amazon.com Inc. and other foreign rivals.

By making full use of the combined number of domestic users, exceeding 100 million, Yahoo Japan



Photo taken in Tokyo on 15 November 2019, shows the logos of Line and Yahoo Japan. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

and Line plan to spend 100 billion yen (\$920 million) every year in artificial in-

telligence and other technologies to offer integrated services from online retail-

ing, advertising and mobile phone services based on their customer data.

"We will become the strongest 'one team'" in the internet industry, Kentaro Kawabe, president of Z Holdings Corp., said at a press conference. The company operates Yahoo Japan. The merger will place Line under the wing of telecoms and internet conglomerate SoftBank Group Corp., which has

been transforming into an investment powerhouse.

The total sales of Yahoo Japan and Line would be the largest among Japanese online business operators, surpassing e-commerce giant Rakuten Inc. Their merger plan will need to pass the scrutiny of antitrust authorities. Under the deal, SoftBank Corp., the mobile unit of SoftBank Group, and Naver, which owns 73 percent of

Line, will make a tender offer to buy the remaining shares, with each spending around 170 billion yen (\$1.6 billion). Line will be delisted from the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

Z Holdings plans to make Line a wholly owned subsidiary, while SoftBank and Naver will set up a fifty-fifty joint venture with Z Holdings under its umbrella, they said.—Kyodo News ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ARISE VOY. NO. (0186-593N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI ARISE VOY. NO. (0186-593N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE., LTD.

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MADRID TRADER VOY. NO. (946W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MADRID TRADER VOY. NO. (946W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/T.M.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V EURO SKY

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EURO SKY VOY. NO. (1901) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of WILMAR where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES SINGAPORE PTE, LTD

Phone No: 2301928

Iran calmer despite more ‘riots’ over oil price hikes

TEHRAN (Iran) — Iran said it still faces “riots” even though the situation was calmer Monday after days of violent protests sparked by a shock decision to hike petrol prices in the sanctions-hit country.

Major roads have been blocked, banks torched and shops looted in the nationwide unrest that has left at least two dead — a civilian and a policeman.

Footage of the violence showing masked young men on debris-strewn streets setting buildings ablaze has been aired on state television, which rarely shows any signs of dissent.

The Basij militia, whose commander Brigadier General Gholamreza Soleimani said

“America’s plot (had) failed”, reported looting, according to semi-official news agency ISNA.

Demonstrations broke out on Friday after it was announced that the price of petrol would be raised by 50 per cent for the first 60 litres and 200 per cent for any extra fuel after that each month.

The authorities in the Islamic republic say they have arrested more than 200 people and restricted internet access.

Netblocks, a website that monitors net traffic, tweeted: “40 hours after #Iran implemented a near-total internet shutdown, connectivity to the outside world remains at just 5% of ordinary levels”.

Government spokesman



This bank was set ablaze by protesters in Iran’s central city of Isfahan. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ali Rabiei said the situation was “calmer” on Monday.

But there were still “some minor issues and tomorrow

and the day after we won’t have any issues with regard to riots”, he told a news conference, without elaborating.

“There have been gatherings in some cities, in some provinces,” he said.

Pressed to give figures on the number of casualties in the unrest, he said: “What I can tell you today is that gatherings are about 80 per cent less than the previous day.”

The situation on the streets has been unclear largely due to the internet outage that has stemmed the flow of videos shared on social media of protests or associated acts of violence.

Iran’s economy has been battered since May last year when President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the US from a 2015 nuclear agreement and reimposed crippling sanctions. —AFP ■

Russia says has handed ships back to Ukraine ahead of summit

KIEV (Ukraine) — Russia said Monday it had handed over three navy ships it seized a year ago from Ukraine, in the latest move to ease tensions between the two countries ahead of a crucial summit.

After an exchange of prisoners in September and the withdrawal of some frontline forces over the last few weeks, the handover marked another step in trying to resolve the five-year conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Efforts have been building since the election this year of Volodymyr Zelensky as Ukraine’s new president, and on Friday France announced he would hold his first face-to-face talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Paris on 9 December. The talks, which will also include French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, will be the highest-level negotiations on the conflict since 2016.

Russia’s foreign ministry



The Ukrainian ships were seized in November last year in the most serious confrontation between the two countries since the start of the conflict in 2014. **PHOTO: AFP**

said on Monday that the ships — two gunboats and a tugboat — had been handed over to Ukraine.

It said they had “illegally crossed the Russian border” and been held as evidence but were no longer needed. There was no immediate confirmation of the handover from Kiev.

The Ukrainian ships were

seized in November last year in the most serious confrontation between the two countries since the start of the conflict in 2014.

Russian forces boarded and took control of the vessels as they headed through the Kerch Strait, a narrow waterway giving access to the Sea of Azov that is used by Ukraine and Russia.—AFP ■

Gas, food running short in Bolivia amid protests

LA PAZ (Bolivia) — Bolivian taxi driver Carlos Lara has spent three nights sleeping in his car at a service station, hoping that gas supplies held up by supporters of ex-president Evo Morales will make it through.

“No gas, no work,” the 72-year-old Lara said Sunday as supporters of Morales continued to block a road leading from La Paz to a refinery to the east, leaving gas stations bone dry.

He has been waiting in his car since 7 am on Thursday, and kills time by listening to the radio or chatting with taxi colleagues who, like him, are on the lookout for a truck with gas so they can get back to work.

“They tell us that the gas will arrive ‘maybe tomorrow,’ and the next day it is ‘maybe tomorrow’ again. And that is where we are right now,” said

Lara, pointing to several dozens cars in line with him.

The scene is repeated at just about every gas station in La Paz, Bolivia’s administrative capital and ground zero of a red hot political crisis.

Morales resigned a week ago amid violent protests over alleged fraud in his re-election to a fourth term in presidential voting on 20 October.

Ever since then, Morales backers have demonstrated daily to demand the resignation of Jeanine Anez, a conservative senator who was legally in line to replace him and declared herself acting president on Tuesday.

Clashes have broken out with security forces, especially in the central city of Cochabamba, a Morales stronghold. Nine people died, according to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. —AFP ■

Chile’s president condemns police violence after four weeks of unrest

SANTIAGO (Chile) — President Sebastian Pinera condemned on Sunday for the first time what he called abuses committed by police in dealing with four weeks of violent unrest that have rocked Chile.

“There was excessive use of force. Abuses and crimes were committed, and the rights

of all were not respected,” the president said in a speech to the nation as it marked a month of turmoil that has left 22 people dead and more than 2,000 injured.

Furious Chileans have been protesting social and economic inequality, and against an entrenched political elite

that comes from a small number of the wealthiest families in the country, among other issues.

Accusations of police brutality and human rights violations have been levelled since the protests broke out, prompting the United Nations to send a team to investigate. Amnesty

International has also sent a mission.

“There will be no impunity, not for those who committed acts of unusual violence, nor for those who committed excesses and abuses. We will do what is best for the victims,” he said, referring to protesters first and then the security forces.

The crisis is Chile’s biggest since its return to democracy in 1990 when long time dictator General Augusto Pinochet yielded to democracy.

More than 200 of those injured have sustained serious eye injuries, some even going blind in one eye, after being shot by police.—AFP ■

Cambodian opposition leader still to face treason trial: PM

PHNOM PENH (Cambodia) — Cambodian opposition figure Kem Sokha, freshly freed from house arrest, will still stand trial for treason, strongman premier Hun Sen said Monday.

Kem Sokha, 66, is the co-founder of the banned Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), which was dissolved ahead of widely criticised elections last year.

Arrested in 2017 and accused of plotting to overthrow Hun Sen's government, he was detained first in a remote prison and then under house arrest before his bail conditions were relaxed last week. The court closed the investigation into his case on Friday but Hun Sen, who has ruled Cambodia since 1985, clarified Monday he would still



Kem Sokha, 66, is the co-founder of the banned Cambodia National Rescue Party. PHOTO: AFP

face trial.

"The charges (against Kem Sokha) will not be dropped," Hun Sen said amid swirling rumours the King would soon pardon him. "They simply closed the investigation so the case can be sent

to trial," he said, without confirming when it would start. The case would take "a long time" to finish, he added, also offering a veiled threat to other opposition members not to "run into walls".—AFP ■

Trump calls on Kim to hold summit "soon" amid stalled nuclear talks

BEIJING — US President Donald Trump called Sunday on North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to hold a summit "soon," as denuclearization negotiations between the two nations have shown few signs of moving forward.

Pyongyang quickly responded to Trump's remarks on Monday, urging the United States to abandon its "hostile policy" against North Korea if it wants to continue bilateral talks.

Earlier Monday, meanwhile, North Korean First Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui, a close aide to Kim, left Pyongyang for Russia, apparently to exchange views with Russian officials on how to expedite negotiations with the United States.

As North Korea has asked

the United States to shift what Kim has claimed are one-sided demands in nuclear talks by the end of this year, all eyes are on whether the two countries can resume their stalled working-level meeting in the not-so-distant future. Addressing Kim directly, Trump tweeted on Sunday, "I am the only one who can get you where you have to be. You should act quickly, get the deal done. See you soon!"

On the same day, the United States and South Korea said that they have decided to postpone their joint air defense exercises, scheduled for later this month, as an olive branch to the North. Pyongyang has denounced such drills as rehearsals for an invasion. — Kyodo News ■

10 die, several missing as wooden boat capsizes in E. Pakistan

ISLAMABAD — A wooden boat capsized in Pakistan's eastern district of Okara on Monday, killing 10 passengers and leaving several others missing, a government official said.

Deputy Commissioner Okara Maryam Khan told Xinhua that the boat carrying about 35 people turned turtle in the Sutlej river near the MalhuSheikha area of Okara, a district in the eastern Punjab province.

A total of 10 bodies, including women and children, have been recovered so far, Khan said, adding that another 10 passengers have been saved and rescue work is still underway.

Local police chief Mohammad Imran said the boat sank as there were too many people onboard and it was

made of poor quality material.

He said most of the passengers were on their way to a funeral when the accident happened.

He added that additional rescue teams are being called in from Okara district and other nearby areas to help the rescue and search operation.

Following the incident, all district administrations and rescue teams have rushed to the area and the bodies were shifted to a nearby hospital.

In Pakistan, wooden boats are often used to transport goods and people on rivers and lakes, and most of them are operated without life jackets, sometimes causing deadly accidents. — Xinhua ■

Symbolic swearing-in for Sri Lanka's new president

COLOMBO (Sri Lanka) — Sri Lanka's new president and scourge of the Tamil Tigers Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Monday urged minorities unnerved by his election victory to work with him, as he was sworn in at a ceremony steeped in symbolism for his core supporters.

Having spearheaded the brutal end of the Tamil separatist war a decade ago, Rajapaksa is a divisive figure but popular among his own majority Sinhalese-Buddhist community.

His landslide win split the island nation of 21.6 million on religious and ethnic lines as never before, seven months after deadly Islamist attacks. Unusually, his

inauguration was held at a revered Buddhist shrine with an imposing stupa — reputedly built by a Sinhalese king who vanquished invading Tamils over 2,000 years ago. At the ceremony, Rajapaksa put his success down to the "extraordinary blessings of the Buddhist monks".

"The main message of the election is that it was the Sinhala majority vote that allowed me to win the presidency," the 70-year-old retired lieutenant colonel said.

"I knew that I could win with only the votes of the Sinhala majority. But I asked Tamils and Muslims to be a part of my success. Their response was not what I expected. However, I urge

them to join me to build one Sri Lanka," he said. Rajapaksa was defence chief under his brother Mahinda's 2005-15 presidency, when the military conducted a no-holds-barred campaign to end the 37-year war in which 100,000 people perished.

This makes the brothers heroes among Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority and the powerful Buddhist clergy. But around 40,000 Tamil civilians were allegedly killed in the closing stages of the conflict, which ended in 2009, and Saturday's election saw Tamils — who account for about 15 percent of the population — vote overwhelmingly against Rajapaksa. —AFP ■



Gotabaya Rajapaksa's landslide election win split the island nation of 21.6 million on religious and ethnic lines as never before. PHOTO: AFP

China's aircraft carrier passes through Taiwan Strait

BEIJING — A Chinese aircraft carrier passed through the Taiwan Strait on Sunday to conduct scientific research tests and routine training in relevant waters of the South China Sea, according to a spokesperson for the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy. The organization of the

cross-regional tests and training of the homemade aircraft carrier is a normal arrangement in the process of aircraft carrier construction, is not aimed at any specific target and has nothing to do with the current situation, spokesperson Cheng Dewei said. — Xinhua ■

Pre-match press meet held ahead of Myanmar-Mongolia qualifier match

A pre-match press conference was held yesterday at the Pull Man Mandalay Mingalar Hotel in Mandalay, ahead of the 2022 World Cup Qualifiers match between Myanmar and Mongolia.

At the press meet, Antoine Hey, the head coach of the Myanmar national football team, said his team has beaten Kyrgyzstan and would try to gain three points in the match against Mongolia.

“If our team wins the game, we can challenge again in the qualifiers. Our players are confident and ready for the game. The support of our fans is very important for us, and more fans than those who came to the match against Kyrgyzstan are



Head coach of Myanmar national football team Antoine Hey (l) and Head coach of Mongolia national football team Michael Weiss (r). **PHOTO: MFF**

expected to come. We would take the victory together with fans, and pay back the debt of the previous loss,” he added.

Zaw Min Tun, the captain of the Myanmar national foot-

ball team, said: “While we won the match against Kyrgyzstan, we are not overconfident. We will try our best to win the match against Mongolia. We have prepared our best to fix

weaknesses in our defense.”

Michael Weiss, the head coach of Mongolia national football team, said his team played a friendly match against Cambodia, and is ready to take

on Myanmar.

“Despite the weather change, it wouldn’t be a problem. We have played in Yangon two times. It would be a tough match as Myanmar team is better than in the previous matches,” he added.

Norjmoo Tsendenbal, the captain of the Mongolia national football team, said as Myanmar team showed their abilities in the match against Kyrgyzstan, the upcoming match will be an interesting one.

Myanmar and Mongolia are scheduled to face each other at 5 p.m. today at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay. —Kyaw Khin

MFF holds workshop for referee instructors, assessors

THE Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) launched the MFF Top Referee Instructors and Referee Assessors Workshop for 2020 (Pre-Season) yesterday at the meeting hall of Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

At the event, MFF general secretary U Ko Ko Thein and Referee Committee chairman U Win Cho delivered opening

speeches.

Also present at the event were MFF advisor U Bunny Tin Aung, director of Referee Department U Tun Hla Aung, and officials.

U Tun Hla Aung, U Khin Maung Than, U Hla Tint and U Hla Min have been roped in as trainers for the workshop, which ends 22 November. —Kyaw Khin



The MFF Top Referee Instructors and Referee Assessors Workshop for 2020 (Pre-Season) is in progress at the meeting hall of Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 18 November. **PHOTO: MFF**

New era or false dawn? Tsitsipas win invites caution

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Stefanos Tsitsipas said he was ready for a breakthrough Grand Slam victory after winning the ATP Finals in London — but a glance at recent history invites caution.

The 21-year-old Greek was in bullish mood after he beat Dominic Thiem, having ousted Roger Federer in the semi-finals, to become the season-ending event’s youngest winner since 2001.

“I believe I’m really close to being crowned a Grand Slam champion,” he said, after his 6-7 (6/8), 6-2, 7-6 (7/4) triumph in London on Sunday. “I know these are strong words that I say but I do feel I belong there.”

But although Tsitsipas’s victory feels significant, he is the fourth first-time champion in as many years at the season finale, which has proved a poor predictor of future success.

Last year, young German Alexander Zverev pummelled Novak Djokovic in the final but



Stefanos Tsitsipas poses with the ATP Finals trophy. **PHOTO: AFP**

he had a miserable time at this season’s Slams — while the Serb, 32, picked up the Australian Open and Wimbledon titles to take his overall tally to 16.

Rafael Nadal, 33, won a barely credible 12th French Open title and added the US Open, underlining the fact that the old guard were still very much in charge.

No member of the “Big

Three” — also featuring Federer — has won the season-ending ATP Finals since 2015, when Djokovic picked up his fifth title.

Djokovic was also the last ATP Finals champion to go on to win a major title.

Injury-plagued Andy Murray has won only two trophies since he secured his sole ATP Finals title in 2016, crowning his strongest season. —AFP ■

Lack of Champions League begins to hit Man Utd finances

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Manchester United’s failure to qualify for the Champions League is beginning to erode the club’s finances, but increased commercial income helped the English giants post revenues of £135.4 million (\$174 million) for the first quarter of the 2019-2020 season on Monday.

That represents a £400,000

increase on the same period for the previous year thanks to more sponsorship income and two extra home games compared to the same stage of last season.

Broadcasting revenue fell by nearly £10 million due to a lack of Champions League football, which will make an even bigger impact in figures for the second quarter of the year when five of

the six group games are played.

United are expecting the 2020 annual revenue to fall to between £560-580 million, compared to £627 million for the year ending June 30, 2019 due to the lack of Champions League revenue.

However, the failure to qualify for the competition is also reflected in a 6.8 million drop in

the club’s wage bill for the first quarter of the season.

Net debt rose £137 million to £384.5 million due to spending on players such as Harry Maguire, Aaron Wan-Bissaka and Daniel James in the summer transfer market.

“The significant investments that we have made in recent years in areas such as trans-

fers, recruitment infrastructure, analytics and our academy are already beginning to bear fruit,” said United’s executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward.

“Our ultimate goal is to win trophies by playing exciting football with a team that fuses graduates from our academy with world-class acquisitions.”

—AFP ■