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

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 proceeded 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)

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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 the matter as being put by the President’s Office and requested the Hluttaw to approve the emergency motion. After obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw’s approval of the matter.

Region constituency 5 and U Thant Zin Tun of Dekkhinathiri constituency 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 Dr Hla Moe of Aungmyethazan constituency condemned AA group’s abduction and detention of 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 Thaw Win of Mandalay Region constituency 1, U Pa Htun of Matupi constituency, U Sai Win Aye (a) Sai Tun Aye of Mongshu constituency, U Thaung Aye of Pyawswe constituency, Daw Hta May of Rakhine State constituency 11, U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Paung 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.

Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s 14th regular session holds its sixth-day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. 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 secretaries 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

Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Whaei Tinn as an act of terrorism against national reconciliation and peace establishment process conducted by the State, 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.

The seventh-day meeting of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will convene on 20 November. — Aung Yee Thwin, Aye Aye Thant (Translated by Zaw Min)
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker  
receives German Ambassador

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker  
receives German Ambassador

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)

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 Mahn Win Khing Than meets with German Ambassador Mr Thomas Karl Neisinger in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khing Than received German Ambassador Mr Thomas Karl Neisinger at the Amyotha Hluttaw guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Both sides discussed 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 The Aung and officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw Office were also present. — MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)
UEC holds capacity building course for 2020 General Election

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 Goals.

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 Barhan, the Director of Human Development Directorate, ASEAN 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 Pipaw-in 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 Mussagulova, 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 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 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.

Translated by Zaw Min

Public service motivation forum held in Nay Pyi Taw

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.

Translated by Aung Rin
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 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 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 country.

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)

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 number 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)
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 Security, 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 experiences 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, UNESCAP conducting studies and assessments in ASEAN region and the effort to conduct policy dialogue on drought 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.

The Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State held a 20th coordination meeting 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 coordinating with the working groups of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Relief and Resettlement 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 had discussions and recommended on the draft strategic plan.

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)
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 Cat Linh station to the Vanh Dai 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

Union Minister receives Euro Cham Myanmar Energy Advocacy Group

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing received 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 met with 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 conducts 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 Mary Elizabeth, 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.

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 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 maternal 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$88 billion of that aid was made by private organizations. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)
Helping farmers manage climate change can improve agri practices

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

Meanwhile, most of Myanmar farmers have poor knowledge of the systematic use of agricultural inputs. And, environmentally sustainable and water-efficient technologies are in short supply. Therefore, an innovative system based on indigenous and traditional knowledge that improves the productivity in which increasing productivity is what our agriculture sector needs.

Myanmar is mainly an agricultural nation, with over 60% of the total land area is used for agricultural purposes. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is the backbone of the operation. Noteworthy is that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation have been taking measures to improve the agricultural sector, including the development of new agricultural technologies, training for farmers, and the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices.

With the increasing of climate change, the agriculture sector is facing new challenges. The government has been taking steps to address these challenges, including the development of new agricultural technologies and the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices.

The government has also been working with international organizations to improve the agricultural sector, including the development of new agricultural technologies and the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices.

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For several years now, we have been experiencing drought extreme, heat, flooding, weather volatility, shifting seasons, insect infestations, and other impacts that threaten farms, agricultural productivity, and food security.

TODAY, the environmental impact of our agricultural systems is becoming increasingly clear. The land degradation, water scarcity, erosion, and climate change are all factors that threaten food production and the production of crops has been declining year after year.

To tackle the impact of climate change, farmers are using a variety of inputs, including nitrogenous fertilizers, insecticides, and pesticides which can spoil soil health, lead to poor water usage, and deplete groundwater.

The amount of fertility inputs used by farmers per acre has been spiraling upward, mainly because of the need to increase yields and meet the growing demand for food.

The next is that input subsidies for farmers have resulted in the unbridled use of resources such as water and power, and skewed the cropping patterns, which has been increasing in proportion to the area planted to crops, and higher usage of chemical fertilizers.

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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 Zorreguieta 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 Marriot 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 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

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 owned banks, private banks, foreign bank outlets, financial organizations, international partner organizations, securities and exchange companies and insurance companies.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)

Construction of Gwachaung Bridge linking Rakhine, ...

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 Pharn-taung Township. The price shot up to K4,000 per viss on 15 November, said a housewife who lives on the junction of Bogoke Street and 31st Street. At the beginning of the onion season, onions were being sold for as low as K600-500 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 K2,000 per viss in 2015, 2018, and 2019.

The price of onions was K200-900 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 previous 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; 20,659 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 2019-2020 FY through the Muse 695th 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 services 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 proposals 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 K310.5 million.

The value of trade carried out by individual card holders stood at K19.65 million at Tamu, over K1.26 million at Muse, K3.167 billion at Myawady, K10.34 million at Tachileik, K4.35 million at Lweje, K133 million at Kamphkee, K149.8 million at Kawthoung, K178.4 million at Reed, K385.4 million at Maw-coung, K480 million at Htilkhe, and K75.02 million at Kengtung, as per data from the Commerce Ministry.


The trade department has issued 1,906 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)
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 feature 400,000 flowering plants, including 30 local species and 30 Thai 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 Tin, 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 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 Avocado Growers and Producers Association in Pyin Oo Lwin will organize an avocado festival at the December Garden.

Yagon 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 areas of Yangon. Yangon, the capital of Myanmar, is the main Christmas celebration venue. People will participate in entertainment programs. Everyone can join the festival with us," said the secretary of the festival organizing committee.

The three-day event will be held over three days with more than 400 participants in the city of Yangon. The festival will be kicked off on 25 December at the Holy Trinity Baptist Church, Thakhin Mya Mart’s Cathedral, Immanuel Church, 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 around the Bogayoke Aung San 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.

About 40 fake K10000 banknotes seized in Ngwehsaung

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

Ko Aung (24) 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 K10000 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 given by Daw Tin Wai Hsan from Hmyinhto Village in the same village-tract.

The two suspects have 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 Kyaiaklat

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

Jointly organized by the Ayeyawady Region 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 Mo 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 Danbyu townships out of the planned events in 26 townships. — Kyaiaklat IRPD

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Timor Leste Ambassador elected as Dean of Diplomatic Corps

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

At the event, Chairman of IBPC U Aik Htun, Ambassador of Malaysia Mr. Zabairi Baharan and Ambassador of Indonesia Mr. Prof Dr. Iza Padri extended greetings.

Afterwards, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste Mr. Jojo 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 and Line plan to spend 100 billion yen ($920 million) every year in artificial intelligence and other technologies to offer integrated services from online retailing, advertising and mobile phone services based on their customer data.

“We will become the strongest ‘one team’ in the internet industry,” Kenzaro 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. (0186-939N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI ARiSE Voy. NO. (0186-939N/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. (901) 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

The opening ceremony for Children Literary Festival held in Kyaiaklat Township, Pyapon District in Ayeyawady Region.

PHOTO: MNA

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

PHOTO: MNA

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS
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 lootd 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 Al 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 measures internet 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 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 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 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. PHOTO: AFP

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Russia says has handed ships back to Ukraine ahead of summit

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 dozen 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.

“This was an excessive use of force. Abuse 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 Cambodian 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 is the co-founder of the banned Cambodia National Rescue Party.

PHOTO: 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 demilitarisation 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 25 people turned turtle in the Sutlej river near day 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 Inam 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

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

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 impossibly 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

GotabayaRajapaksa’s landslide election win split the island nation of 21.6 million on religious and ethnic lines as never before. — Xinhua

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP
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 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 football 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.

Norgijo Tsedenbal, 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 Stadium in Yangon, the meeting hall of Thuwunna Referee Assessors Workshop for Top Referee Instructors and Referee Assessors Workshop, which were MFF advisor U Bunny Tin U Tun Hla Aung, director of Referee Department U Tun Hla Aung, and officials.

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

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 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 £335.4 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 £304.5 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 transfers, 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