State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee holds 3rd plenary meeting

THE 8th 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee organized the first day of its third plenary meeting at the Wizaya Mingalar Dhammathabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday.

The first day of meeting was attended by Chairman Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhama Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa and the members of committee, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min and officials.

The meeting was chaired by Bhama Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa and Joint Executive Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sehtila. In his opening address at the meeting, the Bhamo Sayadaw delivered Ovada Kahta (Admonishing speech) to the ceremony, saying the organizing of Sangha meeting of different sects after building solidarity among them. The meeting agreed to serve for the affairs of Sangha by adopting principles and procedures to handle cases in Sangha community.

The Sayadaw also explained the objectives of forming Sangha organizations at various levels, with the objectives, including for propagation of Sasana, observing disciplinary rules, prevention of misleading talks and publications against the original version of Pariyatti Sasana, promoting meditation practices in accordance with the traditional texts, exercising either or both of learning and practices, enjoying results from meditation practices, unity among any schools or members of Sangha.

The Sayadaw also advised to hold the religious exams in accordance with the rules and regulations, to adopt laws and rules for the emerging Buddhist universities.

SEE PAGE-2
State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee holds 3rd plenary meeting

FROM PAGE-1

He finally emphasized the importance of unity in Sangha community.

The term of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee has entered 40 years, and the Committee could hold religious exams, establishments of monk universities and schools for pre-siding monks.

On behalf of the Union Minister, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture supplicated the member of Sangha on the religious affairs, including plans for holding religious exams this year, census-taking process for Sangha with the assistance of Shine Hope Company for software, computers, printers and copiers as the process is useful for enforcing monastic rules, elections of Sangha organizations and holding examinations.

Then, the senior members of committee presented their reports on activities of respective Sangha organizations before concluding the meeting in the afternoon.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar Hluttaw Strategic Plan (2019-2022) Launching Ceremony held in Nay Pyi Taw


Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw, as the chairman of Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) on Hluttaw Development, U Tun Tun Hein delivered an opening remark at the ceremony.

He said that the JCC designed its second Myanmar Hluttaw Strategic Plan (2019-2022) based on the experiences of its predecessor and the guidelines of senior Hluttaw officials. It was aimed for the Hluttaw to take part in implementation of federal democratic system in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

It took six months to complete drawing the plan, with holding meetings and workshops.

The strategic plan has focused on promoting effectiveness in the areas of Hluttaw meetings and committees, capacity of Hluttaw representatives in performing their duties, capacity of Hluttaw staff and their services and communication technologies and cooperation.

The goal one of strategic plan was explained by Amyotha Hluttaw MP Daw Naw Hla Hla Soe, the goal two by Amyotha Hluttaw MP U Naing Tha, the goal three by Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Phyo Zayar Thaw, the goal four by Pyithu Hluttaw MP Daw Wint Wah Tun.

The Directors-General Hluttaw Office replied to the queries on administration before the conclusion remark by the Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The ceremony was also attended by MPs of Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, and Region / State Hluttaws, representatives of Hluttaw partner and staff members of Hluttaw offices.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

99th National Victory Day ceremony held in No 2 BEHS, Dagon

U Tin Myint, alumnus of the school, delivered welcoming greeting speech.

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyii presented awards to two students who passed with all distinctions in No2 BEHS, Dagon, in matriculation examination in 2019.

Daw Su Su Lwin, daughter of Sayagyi U Ba Lwin, awarded a scholarship to a student who got the highest marks in the exam.

Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun presented awards to students won in essays writing contests. The last programme of ceremony, students from No2 BEHS, Dagon, sung 'Zartimann' song.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)
VP U Henry Van Thio returns from Cambodia

VICE President U Henry Van Thio left Cambodia for Myanmar at 1:30 pm local time yesterday after attending the 2nd Asia-Pacific Summit in Phnom Penh. They were seen off at the Phnom Penh International Airport by Deputy Assistant Minister for the Office of the Council of Ministers Mr Thong Socheat, Myanmar Ambassador to Cambodia U Thit Lin Ohn, Myanmar Military Attaché Brig-Gen Win Ko-Ko, and officials from the Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché’s Office in Cambodia.

The Myanmar delegation arrived at Suvarnabhumi International Airport at 2:50 pm local time, and landed at the Yangon International Airport in the afternoon.

They were welcomed back by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, the Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar and officials.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar School of Politics organizes 8th forum in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Union Election Commission (UEC) Chairman U Hla Thein addressed an opening ceremony of the Myanmar School of Politics (MySoP) 8th Alumni Forum held at Grand Amara Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Present at the ceremony were Ambassador of the Netherlands Mr Riikka Lauri, officials from UEC Office, MySoP course attendees from election sub-commissions and political parties, NIMD/Demo Finland officials and MySoP officials.

First, UEC Chairman and officials took commemorative group photo with ceremony attendees.

In his speech delivered at the opening ceremony UEC Chairman said MySoP was a joint program of the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) and Political Parties of Finland for Democracy (Demo Finland), working under an MoU with the UEC. It was a school that was assisting and supporting towards establishment and development of a democracy system in Myanmar. MySoP focuses on strengthening the democratic role of politicians & political parties at the region/state level, and enhancing the practice of multiparty dialogues. At the moment about 500 had completed courses.

In the forum, election campaigning matters will be discussed. Code of Conduct (CoC) for political parties and Hluttaw candidates were practiced since 2015 and it was being amended to be in accord with the time and era. In addition to abiding by the CoC in the past election coordinating committees were formed resulting in reducing of conflicts and arguments. Emphasis must be placed toward abiding by the laws and rules in discussing election campaigning matters. Political parties are to thrive in a democracy system and were to abide by the laws and rules enacted in order to do so. UEC will conduct 2020 General Election according to the five norms of free, fair, transparent, credible and reflecting the will of the people said the UEC Chairman.

The ceremony came to a close after Ambassador of the Netherlands to Myanmar, Ambassador of Finland to Myanmar and officials from NIMD/Demo Finland delivered speeches.—MNA

(Translated by Zau Min)

IFC to provide technical assistance to cut water losses

By Nyein Nyein

THE International Finance Corporation (IFC) will offer technical assistance to reduce wastage in water distribution, which currently stands at 50 per cent, said Daw Thwe Naing Oo, deputy director of the Yangon City Development Committee’s water distribution project. We will plug water losses with technical assistance from the IFC, she said.

At present, Hlawga, Gyothein, Phu Gyi, and Nga Moe Yeik reservoirs are the main sources of water supply in Yangon, providing over 265 million gallons of water every day. However, half the water supplied gets wasted, she said.

After expressions of interest (EOIs) were invited for water distribution through Public Private Partnership (PPP), 20 companies put their names forward to invest in the project, according to the YCDC’s tender evaluation committee. “Currently, the EOIs are under scrutiny. Later, we will seek requests for proposal and continue the tendering process,” Daw Thwe Naing Oo added.

Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe has urged Yangonites to systematically use water as half of the water supply is getting wasted amid an increase in Yangon’s population.

“Regardless of new water resources, systematic use is a must. The IFC will help to cover water losses in the urban water distribution network,” said U Maung Maung Soe. The YCDC decided to privatize water distribution to deal with the problem of water loss and staff shortage.

Additionally, the current rates for water supply do not cover production costs.

“Water meter bills must reflect the charges for laying the pipe network and the water distribution cost. If we compare the water meter rates with the distribution cost, the existing bills are much lower than that, excluding the cost of the machines. This being so, the government is making a loss on running this, like power supply,” said U Maung Maung Soe.

However, there is no plan yet to increase the water rate for now, he said. At present, the Yangon authorities are raising awareness about systematic water meter installation, dealing with water pipe leakages, systematic water consumption, management of water loss in urban water distribution, and curbing illegal connections to the water pipe network, he added.

(Translated by El Myat Mon)
Senior General attends ADMM-Plus (VIP Program) in PRC

A Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who attended Defence & Security 2019 in Thailand, left Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Bangkok on the night of 19 November to attend the ADMM-Plus (VIP Program) that is to be held in People’s Republic of China.

The Senior General and party arrived at the Nanning International Airport of China yesterday morning and flew on to the Guilin International Airport.

The Tatmadaw delegation led by the Senior General arrived at the Guilin International Airport at 4 am local standard time. They were welcomed by Assistant Chief of Staff Maj-Gen Chen Mintian of Southern Theater Command and officials.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, chiefs of armed forces and officials of defence ministries of 18 countries attended a joint counter-terrorism actual-troop drill of ADMM-Plus (VIP Program) held at the People’s Liberation Army Command and officials.

The Senior General and party met with attendees to the southern stairway of Shwedagon Pagoda. Afterwards, the Senior General and party visited Counter Terrorism Task Force Headquarters and Counter-Terrorism Task Group Headquarters and cordially greeted the delegations of the respective countries.

In the evening, the Senior General and party attended a dinner hosted by General Li Zuocheng together with the delegates of the respective countries.

Senior General and party listened to speeches of students from Dagon BEHS 2 and 3.—Nay Linn (Translated by Zaw Min)

Myoma school organize National Victory Day at Shwedagon Pagoda

THE Myoma Alumni Association in Yangon organized a ceremony to mark 99th anniversary of the National Victory Day at the Saturday Corner—southwest—of Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday morning.

The ceremony was held at the place where the late 11 Rangoon College students vowed to boycott the University of Rangoon Act enacted by the British rulers. The event was taken part by the alumni of Myoma National High School and students of Dagon B.E.H.S 2 and 3.

Secretary of the Myoma Alumni Association U Hla Myint Thein said, “The ceremony was held to commemorate the National Victory Day every year since 2016 and for maintaining national spirit of new generation.”

Before the ceremony, the participants gathered in front of No.2 Basic Education High School (Myoma), and marched by holding the names of post- ers printed with 11 historic students to the southern stairway of Shwedagon Pagoda.

The participants turned the pagoda in clockwise movements and paid respect to the monument which marked the vow to boycott the University of Rangoon Act before sharing merits for them.

The Myoma Alumni Association also celebrated the 99th National Victory Day at its office on Sagawa in Dagon Township, with the extended greetings of its chairperson and officials followed by performances of students from Dagon BEHS 2 and 3.—Nay Linn (Translated by Aung Khin)

7th Bagan Temple Marathon event to be held on 23 November

BAGAN will host the seventh Bagan Temple Marathon on 23 November, under an arrangement with Albatros Denmark Travel Company and Myanmar Voyage Company.

A total of 499 contestants, including 291 local marathon runners and 208 candidates from 35 countries, such as the US, Australia, Denmark, Asian, and African nations, have registered for the event.

The competition will include a full marathon, half marathon, and mini marathon.

The Bagan Temple Marathon is aimed at promoting the tourism sector of Myanmar and strengthening relationships with participating countries, said U Soe Tint, NyaungU District Administrator.

Officials from the concerned organizations will provide purified water, security services, healthcare services, and other necessary services to marathon runners, according to the event’s organizers.—Phay Lane (Bagan) (Translated by La Wonn)
Union Information Minister visits museums, media companies in Nanning

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint and Myanmar media delegation visited the Guangxi Museum of Nationalities, the Guangxi Planning Museum, the Guangxi Daily and the Guangxi Radio and Television Information Network Corporation Limited in Nanning City of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China yesterday.

At the Guangxi Museum of Nationalities, they viewed the displays of historical documents, traditional ceremonies and costumes and the lives of local communities. Construction of the museum was completed in December 2018 and opened to the public on 1 May this year. It is a specific museum to exhibit ethnic cultures and to cultivate unity of national races and patriotic spirit.

At the Guangxi Planning Museum, they looked around the displays on the emergence of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and booths of the provinces. The museum was established by the Guangxi Tourism Development Company.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister and party arrived at Guangxi Daily newspaper. It was founded on 3 December 1949, and is managed by the Guangxi Daily Media Group Co, Ltd. It is publishing five daily newspapers and four other publications. The number of users of its four websites has reached over 25 million.

The Myanmar media delegation then proceeded to the Guangxi Radio and Television Information Network Corporation Limited that airs seven radio channels and 10 television channels. It is also operating mobile TVs for news and other programmes. The 5G networks are used for broadcasts of mainstream and modern media platforms in cooperating with ASEAN countries.

The Union Minister and party also made discussions with Ms Fan Xiaoli, the Information Minister of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and its Deputy Minister Mr Gan Yi.

During the meeting, they discussed technology integration of mainstream and modern media, cooperation in news media between the two countries, collaboration in film and music, in addition to media sector, when holding 70th anniversary to mark the establishment of Myanmar-China diplomatic ties in 2020.

The meeting was concluded with posing for the documentary photo of the attendees.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)
AN alms-offering ceremony, organized by the Mandalay regional government as part of efforts to boost Myanmar-Thailand ties, will be held on 6 December in Mandalay. At the ceremony, alms-offerings will be made to 30,000 members of Sanghas, and the event will also include a photo contest.

A competition is being organized to get a good photo record of the ceremony, according to the Event Media Information Sub-Committee. The competition will be open to everyone. Photographers will be allowed to submit five 10X15 inch photo entries. The winner of the contest will be awarded K700,000, the second placed winner will get K500,000, the third placed winner will get K300,000, and there will also be a consolation prize of K100,000.

Registration will open from 2 to 6 December 12 noon. In order to register, applicants will need to submit two photos of license size to the Information and Public Relations Department. The department will issue ID cards to photographers, who will be required to wear white shirts on the day of the competition.

Photographers will not be allowed to take photos of important dignitaries from up close. Such photos will also not be allowed in the photo competition. Photographs of the preparation and management of the rice offering ceremony will be allowed in the competition. — Tn Tun Naing

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

**Smart cards issued to over 7,000 YBS drivers**

By Nyein Nyein

OVER 7,000 drivers employed by YBS bus lines have received smart cards, said U Aung Nyi Nyi Maw, Managing Director of the Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

“A total of 7,351 YBS drivers, who applied to the YRTA for smart cards, have been issued the cards, and nine of them are women,” he added.

“Following the issuance of smart cards, drivers will be strictly checked by the YRTA’s inspection team on whether they are holding the cards or not, starting from 1 November,” said U Aung Nyi Nyi Maw.

According to the YRTA, passengers will be able to send their complaints to the inspection team through two Viber contact numbers — 0944814749, 0944814715-4.

With the adoption of the smart cards, the YRTA will have the personal information of each driver, so, it will be simpler for the authority to deal with complaints or take action against undisciplined drivers, said the YRTA managing director.

The transport authority will have a centralized database detailing the job history and work experiences of YBS drivers. This will make it easy to trace drivers quickly, according to the YRTA.

As per data compiled by the transport authority during the first half of this month, it is currently dealing with driver indiscipline. It is looking into seven cases of drivers changing routes, 907 cases of fine receipts, 94 complaints against drivers, and seven road mishaps which have left three persons dead and two injured.

At present, over 100 bus lines are operating over 4,500 buses on 135 routes, along with the Airport Shuttle. The number of daily commuters has been estimated at 1.8 million.

(Translated by El Myat Mon)

**Kitchen fire engulfs 11 houses in Kyaikmaraw Township**

AN overheaded electric stove started a kitchen fire in a two-storeyed brick house and quickly spread to 11 adjoining houses on 21 November in Kyaikmaraw Township, Mawlamyine District. There were no casualties.

According to reports, around 9:15 am on Thursday, an electric stove overheated and sparked a fire in a house belonging to one U Sein Tha. The blaze quickly engulfed six other two-storeyed brick houses and five one-storeyed houses. The fire was extinguished around 10 a.m. by a combined team led by U Win Tin, head of the Township Fire Services Department, and comprising 40 firefighters, 20 auxiliary firefighters, and 17 fire engines.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Saw Kyaw Maung, Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Khan Zaw Oo, Township Administrator U Kyaw Myint, and officials inspected the site and provided the necessary aid to fire victims. The fire damaged property worth an estimated K17.7 million. The Kyaikmaraw Township Police have initiated legal action against U Sein Tha.

(Translated by La Wonn)

**Photo contest to be held at Myanmar-Thai alms-offering ceremony**

AN alms-offering ceremony, organized by the Mandalay regional government as part of efforts to boost Myanmar-Thailand ties, will be held on 8 December in Mandalay. At the ceremony, alms-offerings will be made to 30,000 members of Sanghas, and the event will also include a photo contest.

A competition is being organized to get a good photo record of the ceremony, according to the Event Media Information Sub-Committee. The competition will be open to everyone. Photographers will be allowed to submit five 10X15 inch photo entries. The winner of the contest will be awarded K700,000, the second placed winner will get K500,000, the third placed winner will get K300,000, and there will also be a consolation prize of K100,000.

Registrations will be open from 2 to 6 December 12 noon. In order to register, applicants will need to submit two photos of license size to the Information and Public Relations Department. The department will issue ID cards to photographers, who will be required to wear white shirts on the day of the competition.

Photographers will not be allowed to take photos of important dignitaries from up close. Such photos will also not be allowed in the photo competition. Photographs of the preparation and management of the rice offering ceremony will be allowed in the competition.

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(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)
Black, white sesame enter Mandalay market, get good price

TRADITIONAL earthen pottery businesses which have been passed down from generation to generation in Theetakan Village of Meiktila Township are shutting down as raw materials are getting increasingly difficult to find, said potters from the village. “The village has 82 households and a population of 400. Most men have been earning their living by making pottery at home, like their ancestors. Earlier, the business involved lower inputs costs and raw materials were easy to find. But now, input costs are rising and raw materials such as farmland, straw, fuel, and wood are becoming scarce,” said U Kyaw Myaing, 100-household leader.

“The cost of renting farmlands has increased slightly, and the rate for renting a cart has touched K2,500. With the changing climate, it is becoming difficult to cultivate paddy and straw is becoming rare. The scarcity of straws has led to a decline in pottery businesses in our village. Now, there are only 15 potters in our village,” he said.

“Women in the village are still making pottery on a manageable scale. Water pots, flower pots, planters, and earthen pots for palm juices are selling well in Meiktila, Mahlaing, and Thaungtha markets. But, water bottles are being used instead of water pots and bronze pots are also being used as flower pots. Therefore, potters are making fewer water and flower pots due to low demand in the market. Demand is still strong for planters and earthen pots for palm juices. We will continue to hand over our pottery businesses from one generation to the next even if raw materials become scarce, in order to maintain the cultural heritage of our family,” said Daw Tin Mya.—Thein Myint Kyaw (Meiktila)

WOODEN comb-making businesses in Thet Kael Kyin Village, Monywa Township, have almost vanished due to lack of raw materials. “Earlier, the whole village was involved in weaving, making rosary beads, and the comb-making business. Now, the village is almost deprived of wooden-comb making businesses and weaving businesses. There are only four people who are still making wooden combs,” said Ko Myint, a local from Thet Kael Kyin Village.

Thet Kael Kyin Village is located 5 miles from Monywa town. The village has over 960 houses with 3,500 residents and over 800 households. “Making a wooden comb involves ten steps. To make the combs, we were earlier using teak, Daung Nwe, Tamalan and Paduk wood. When the forests started to deplete over 30 or 40 years ago, we lost the opportunity to bring wood from the forests. Now, we are purchasing good-quality wood from firewood collectors to make the combs. The wooden combs are exported to international markets,” said a local involved in the comb-making business.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

Number of traditional potters shrinks in Meiktila as raw materials become scarce

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Elevating Myanmar’s sports

The fact that Myanmar used to be at the top of Southeast Asian and Asian sport competitions might raise a disbelieving eyebrow from the current generation. But whether they believe it or not, it is the truth.

There was once a time when Myanmar collected all the gold medals, and I could easily mention high jump, vaulting, discus throwing, hammer throwing, javelin throwing, swimming, diving, tennis, badminton, basketball, volleyball, weightlifting, judo, gymnastics and even soccer.

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Now, Myanmar is seeing individuals achieving success in badminton, chess, leshet and even soccer, where international teams are picking the single skilled players to come kick on their team.

The nations who were once left behind by Myanmar in international teams are gradually working their way from the pinnacle of Asian or global sporting events.

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The nations who were once left behind by Myanmar in international teams are gradually working their way from the pinnacle of Asian or global sporting events.

There once was a time when Myanmar collected all the gold medals, and I could easily mention high jump, vaulting, discus throwing, hammer throwing, javelin throwing, swimming, diving, tennis, badminton, basketball, volleyball, weightlifting, judo, gymnastics and even soccer.

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Chinese royal goldware of Ming Dynasty on display in Romania

BUCHAREST — An exhibition of Chinese royal goldware of Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) at the National History Museum of Romania in Bucharest, Romania. PHOTO: XINHUA

UN SG Special Envoy on Myanmar left Yangon

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms Christine Schraner Burgener left Yangon by air yesterday evening.

The UN SG Special Envoy on Myanmar was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Ministry of Foreign Affairs Strategic Studies and Training Department Director—General U Aung Myo Myint and officials. This is the UN SG Special Envoy's ninth trip to Myanmar—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union SWRR Minister attends 10th AMMSWD in Laos

The Union Minister said that the collections of Chinese royal goldware of Ming Dynasty — Dong Bo Zhai Collection — is the first collaboration between National History Museum of Romania and a Chinese private museum.

At its opening ceremony, Chinese Ambassador to Romania Jiang Yu said that “culture is colorful because of communica-
tion, and culture is enriched by mutual learning.”

“It is hoped that the people of the two countries will share their hearts and minds, and jointly build the friendship through cultural exchanges and mutual understanding,” she added.

Irina Cajal, undersecretary of state of the Romanian Culture Ministry, said that cultural exchanges are “the best way” to enhance friendship between the people of the two countries.

The exhibition is the second large-scale Chinese exhibition held at the National History Museum after the 2013 “Treasures of China,” which gives the Romanian people a chance to appreciate at close range the exquisite craftsmanship of ancient China, and enhance their understanding of China, said Cajal.

All the 145 pieces of goldware, dating from Wanli period (1573-1620) of Ming Dynasty, are the collections of Xi’an Qujiang Museum of Fine Arts. Zhou Tianyou, director of Qujiang Museum of Fine Arts, said he believes the collections could “play an active role in enhancing the bilateral friendship between China and Romania.”

—Xinhua
Uber may contribute more transport pollution than solution: study

LONDON — Ride-hailing pioneer Uber, rather than being part of the solution to urban transport may be adding to related problems, especially pollution from diesel cars, a study showed Thursday.

Transport & Environment, which groups NGOs in Europe to promote sustainable transport solutions, said Uber revolutionised the once heavily regulated taxi sector, attracting thousands of new Private Hire Vehicle (PHV) drivers.

But this “stellar increase in Uber drivers has not been offset by a similar reduction in taxi licences... and Uber’s appearance did not accelerate the reduction of car trips in London and Paris.”

Instead, “the convenience of door-to-door, app-based hire book makes travelling by (hire) cars in cities more and more popular, risking a reversal of a 15 year trend of reducing car trips in cities,” the Brussels-based TE said in a summary of the study’s findings.

By the same token, “the uptake of ride-hailing services across EU cities also poses a risk to the fight against pollution and climate changing emissions.”

Uber operations in London, Paris and Brussels likely pump out 525,000 tons of CO2 a year, equivalent to the emissions from 250,000 cars “which runs counter to the cities’ ambitions to reduce their climate footprint.”

These vehicles are mostly diesel, it said, noting that “only in London, where it is mandatory, is Uber making an effort to shift to cleaner electric-powered vehicles.”

Uber is currently unprofitable but valued at around $49 billion on the markets as investors key into its vision of a transport provider in a new world of electric vehicles and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

“It Uber continues its current business practice of adding more combustion engine cars and fossil-powered kilometres in our cities, it is an obstacle to the transition to green and sustainable cities in Europe,” TE said.

But Uber could also “do the right thing,” as promised in its share offer, and “stop adding fossil-fuelled cars to city roads and to rapidly electrify its existing fleet.”

In response Uber said it was committed to “stop adding fossil-powered kilometres to its share offer” and “do the right thing,” as promised in its share offer, and “stop adding fossil-fuelled cars to city roads and to rapidly electrify its existing fleet.”

Back in London, where it is mandated, tech giant Uber is currently unprofitable but valued at around $49 billion on the markets as investors key into its vision of a transport provider in a new world of electric vehicles and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

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In response Uber said it was committed to “do the right thing,” as promised in its share offer, and “stop adding fossil-fuelled cars to city roads and to rapidly electrify its existing fleet.”

“Do so, we are actively working with cities across Europe to create clean, safe and affordable modes of transportation.”—AFP

**Online fundraiser for bushfire-hit koalas tops Aus$1 mn**

SYDNEY — An online fundraiser for koalas injured in devastating bushfires topped Aus$1 million ($680,000) on Thursday, making it Australia’s biggest campaign on the GoFundMe platform this year.

Deadly bushfires have ravaged vast swathes of eastern Australia, and wildlife carers estimate the blazes have killed hundreds of koalas this month in New South Wales state alone.

A crowdfunding page set up by the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital to provide automatic water drinking stations for wild koalas soared past Aus$1 million, with donations from more than 20,000 people from countries including the United States, France and England.

The wildlife charity’s “Help Thirsty Koalas Devastated by Recent Fires” drive, which had an initial goal of just Aus$25,000, got more donations than any other campaign in Australia this year, GoFundMe said, and is the second-biggest since the platform launched Down Under in 2016.

It is one of 700 bushfire-related fundraisers launched on the platform in the past 10 days, which to date have raised a combined total of Aus$2 million.

The next-biggest has raised Aus$600,000 to support firefighters and people impacted by the blazes, which have killed six people, razed hundreds of homes and scorched about 1.5 million hectares (3.7 million acres) of land since October. The koala hospital, some four hours north of Sydney, has rescued 31 koalas from the scorched bush in recent weeks, and said it had been “overwhelmed by the kindness, good wishes and support from the Australian and international community.”—AFP

**US-born panda Bei Bei arrives in new China home**

CHENGDU — The US-born giant panda Bei Bei has arrived in southwestern China after a 16-hour flight, with plenty of bamboo for him to munch on as he settled into his new home.

The four-year-old cub, whose name means “precious, treasure” in Mandarin, appeared to be contentedly eating and amusing around his new cage at a research centre in Sichuan province, according to images broadcast Thursday by state broadcaster CGTN.

Bei Bei travelled aboard a specially outfitted Boeing 777F cargo plane called the “Panda Express”— paid for by FedEx — accompanied by his keeper from the National Zoo in Washington, US-born giant panda Bei Bei returned to China on a special cargo plane dubbed the ‘Panda Express’. PHOTO: AFP

**China ‘medicine’ demand threatens world donkey population: report**

LONDON — China’s demand for donkey skins to make a traditional medicine could wipe out more than half the world’s donkey population in the next five years, researchers said Thursday.

Nearly five million skins are used every year to make ejiao, a gel believed in China to be a cure for troubles ranging from colds to ageing, putting enormous strain on donkey populations around the world, Britain-based animal welfare group Donkey Sanctuary said in a report.

Ejiao was once the preserve of emperors but is now highly sought after by a burgeoning middle class, with production growing 20 per cent each year between 2013 and 2016, Donkey Sanctuary said. China’s domestic donkey population has collapsed by 76 per cent since 1992, and the country imports most of the donkey skins it uses, mainly from traders in South America, Africa and Asia. There are currently around 45.8 million donkeys in the world, Donkey Sanctuary said.

The donkey skin trade has resulted in “suffering on an enormous and unacceptable scale”, the group’s chief executive Mike Baker said in a statement.

Researchers documented instances of inhumanity and inhumane processing conditions, including donkeys being crudely bashed on the head at one slaughterhouse in Tanzania while still conscious and restrained.

At a holding facility in Brazil, malnourished animals were being kept in the same pens as “hundreds of donkey carcasses” that had contaminated the only available water source, “putting remaining donkeys at risk of either infectious disease or severe dehydration”—AFP
British Airways says flights hit by glitch

LONDON — British Airways flights were facing delays in and out of London’s Heathrow and Gatwick airports on Thursday after a technical glitch overnight, the airline said.

“Our teams are working hard to resolve a technical issue which is affecting some of our flights,” said a spokeswoman for BA, owned by airlines group IAG.

“We have rebooked customers on to alternative flights and offered hotel accommodation where they have been unable to continue their journeys last night.

“We are very sorry for the disruption to their travel plans. We plan to operate a full flight schedule today,” she added.

BA warned that there would be knock-on delays — but declined to comment on the nature of the problem nor the number of flights affected.

“This is the latest in a long line of British Airways technical glitches causing delays and cancellations,” said Rory Boland, editor of consumer magazine Which? Travel.

“Yet again it’s thousands of passengers who are paying the price — left tired, frustrated and with a lack of information and assistance from the airline.”

British Airways suffers computer glitch

Meanwhile only two months ago, the airline was forced to ground its entire UK fleet for two days when pilots went on strike in a bitter and long-running pay dispute.—AFP

Workers of Samsung unite, new union tells chipmaker staff

SEOUL — Under the watchful gaze of Samsung Electronics security personnel, health and safety staffer Ko Jee-hun stood outside his semiconductor plant, handing out leaflets touting the benefits of joining a trade union.

For almost 50 years the firm avoided unionisation of its employees — sometimes adopting ferocious tactics according to critics — while rising to become the world’s largest smartphone and semiconductor manufacturer.

It is the flagship subsidiary of the giant Samsung Group, by far the biggest of the family-controlled conglomerates, known as “chaebol”, that dominate the world’s 11th-largest economy.

But last week local author- ity officials in Suwon, where the chipmaker is headquartered, certified the National Samsung Electronics Union.

It is affiliated to the powerful Federation of Korean Trade Unions umbrella group (FKTU), and analysts say the move could spell trouble down the line for the firm.

Ko is the union’s deputy general secretary. “What’s at stake here is more than wages,” he said as he mounted a recruitment drive this week.

“We demand communication and to have our voices heard. Because we are not just components.”

The leaflets he handed out showed a series of cartoon characters complaining about issues from holidays and lunch breaks to forced early retirement and unexplained bonus reductions.

“The real union has arrived,” it proclaimed, with a link and QR codes for employees to sign up.

The security guards would not let him stand directly outside the factory gate in Hwaseong, about 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of Seoul, forcing him to take up a position at the next intersection — but almost all passers-by took a copy.

“The fight has just only begun,” Ko told AFP.

Ahead of its formal establishment the union registered 400 expressions of interest from Samsung Electronics employees, the FKTU says.—AFP

Tough times for Yemen honey trade as war drags on

SANAA — Mohammed Manea has tended honeybees northeast of Sanaa for years, but despair that the production of “Yemen’s gold” is under threat as the war engulfing the country drags on.

The conflict has blighted millions of lives and brought the economy to the brink of collapse. Cottage industries such as beekeeping, coffee growing and artisan manufacturing have been hit particularly hard.

Beekeepers say clashes between the Saudi-supported government and Iran-backed rebels, alongside a humanitarian crisis that the United Nations has called the world’s worst, have throttled their livelihoods.

“When we recently arrived in this part of Hajjah province on the front line between the aggressors (the Saudi-led coalition) and the Huthis, the trucks were hit by an air strike,” Manea told AFP.

“One was carrying the honey, and the other was carrying the bees,” he added as he used his bare hands to remove a honeycomb frame crawling with bees from a hive in the rural region of Aalaa. Yemen is renowned for its Sidr honey, named after the tree from which the nectar is gathered. The honey is referred to informally as “Middle Eastern manuka”, a byow to its famed market rival from New Zealand.

‘Production has dropped’

Sidr honey is said to have medicinal properties and is a bestseller in the souks and bazaars of the Gulf where it retails at a premium.

It is also a natural product that is traditionally recommend- ed to new mothers to augment breast milk production.

Manea’s fellow beekeeper, Ali Kabsh, agreed that the business was suffering badly.

“Honey production has dropped,” he said pointing to the challenges of exporting during wartime and the logistical difficulties of keeping bees.—AFP

Workers of Samsung unite, new union tells chipmaker staff

Samsung Group is by far the biggest of the family-controlled conglomerates in South Korea. PHOTO: AFP
Saudi king says to use revenues of Aramco’s IPO to boost investment

RIYADH — Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud said on Wednesday that the revenues of the Saudi Aramco’s IPO would greatly enhance the size of the Saudi financial market in line with advanced international markets.

He also said Saudi Arabia is determined to carry on with its reform programs to raise its competitiveness to become one of the 10 most business-friendly countries in the world.

The Saudi king referred to opening of the tourism sector and issuing tourist visas as part of the steps to attract and diversify investments in the sector: “It provides great job opportunities and a cultural bridge to connect with the world to share our rich heritage and civilizational landmarks,” he said.

On Saudi Arabia’s host of the G20 summit in 2020, King Salman said it is another evidence of the pivotal role of the kingdom in the global economy: “We hope that the ambitious program will contribute to the enhancement of the kingdom’s march to serve the interests of all countries,” he said.

— Xinhua

India offers ailing telecom firms two-year moratorium on payments

NEW DELHI — India has granted the country’s beleaguered telecom giants a moratorium on spectrum payments until the end of March 2022, offering much-needed respite after the Supreme Court slapped a massive $13 billion bill on the companies.

Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel bore the brunt of last month’s court ruling ordering firms to pay their combined $92 billion rupees in past spectrum and licensing fees.

“The judgement saw Vodafone Idea record the biggest quarterly loss in Indian corporate history last week after it factored in the $4 billion levy. But New Delhi offered a measure of relief to the struggling sector late Wednesday, with the cabinet approving a moratorium on spectrum payments for the next two financial years. “Deferment of spectrum auction instalments will ease the cash outflow of the stressed (telecom providers) and facilitate payment of statutory liabilities and interest on bank loans,” the cabinet said in a press release. Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel, which was hit with a $3 billion bill, have warned that the ruling will exacerbate the telecom sector’s financial woes. The announcement didn’t appear to do much to help the share price of either firm, with Bharti Airtel down two percent and Vodafone Idea losing four percent on Thursday morning in Mumbai.”

— AFP

Investors win big in French lottery operator’s IPO

PARIS — Investors cheered a strong market debut Thursday for shares in France’s state-owned lottery monopoly, an IPO the government hopes will create support for further privatisations and bolster President Emmanuel Macron’s ambitious economic reforms.

The government reaped around 2 billion euros ($2.3 billion) from selling a 52 percent stake in the Française des Jeux (FDJ), whose scratchcards and lotteries are played by millions.

Around a third of the shares was reserved for some 500,000 individual investors, who snapped up a chance to own part of a company that will maintain its lottery monopoly for the next 25 years. The vast majority of French savings is parked in ultra-safe but low-interest savings accounts, reflecting deep suspicion of “speculative” markets which only hardened in the wake of the 2007-08 financial crisis.

But the demand for FDJ shares was buoyant, prompting the government to set the IPO price at 19.90 euros, the high end of the indicative range.

By 11:30 am (1030 GMT) the shares were up 16.7 per cent at 22.75 euros, even as the broader market slumped, with the CAC 40 index down 0.2 per cent.

Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire, who rang the opening bell at the Paris Stock Exchange to mark the occasion, hailed “an immense” success.

The strong trading debut “signals a reconciliation of the French with the economy and the markets’ after the 2008 crisis, he said.—AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (028 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN PROVE VOY. NO. (028 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.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.

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

PHONE No: 2301185

AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD
Pope meets Thai Buddhist patriarch on visit promoting harmony

BANGKOK — Pope Francis met with Thailand’s supreme Buddhist patriarch on Thursday in a gilded Bangkok temple on the first full day of his Asia tour aimed at promoting religious harmony.

This is the pontiff’s first visit to Buddhist-majority Thailand — where just over 0.5 percent of the population are Catholics — before he jets off to Japan on Saturday.

He is pushing a message of inter-faith peace on a four-day visit that will see him lead a mass later Thursday for tens of thousands of faithful from across Southeast Asia.

The 82-year-old head of the Catholic church also delivered impassioned remarks about the plight of vulnerable children and women who he said deserved a “dignified” future. In a highly symbolic meeting Thursday, he sat down with Thailand’s supreme Buddhist patriarch Somdej Phra Maha Muneeewong at the Ratchabophit temple in Bangkok’s historic old quarter.

“Catholics have enjoyed freedom in religious practice, despite their being in a minority, and for many years have lived in harmony with their Buddhist brothers and sisters,” the Pope said in a speech at the meeting. The pair sat before a brilliant gold Buddha statue inside the ornate temple, built 150 years ago by the former Thai King — the supreme patriarch barefoot and draped in orange robes as they spoke.

In an earlier speech, the Pope said the meeting was “a sign of the importance and urgency of promoting friendship and inter-religious dialogue”. It was the same temple visited by John Paul II on the last papal trip to Thailand in 1984.

This visit coincides with the 350th anniversary of the founding of the “Mission de Siam”, marking the first papal mission from Europe in the 17th century. Though Christianity’s first visitors were initially met with scepticism, today Thailand’s nearly 400,000 Catholics face little discrimination.

The head of the world’s 1.3 billion Catholics met with Thailand’s Prime Minister Prayut Chan-0-Cha at a red-carpet welcome ceremony at the government guest house, before addressing medical staff at Bangkok’s St. Louis hospital.

—AFP

Philippine police say will arrest anyone flouting vaping ban

MANILA — Philippine police were ordered Wednesday to arrest anyone caught vaping in public, just hours after Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte announced he would ban e-cigarettes.

The abrupt prohibition, revealed by Duterte late Tuesday, adds to a growing global backlash against a product once promoted as less harmful than tobacco smoking.

Duterte, a former smoker, called the devices “toxic” and said vaping introduced “chemicals” into the user’s body.

He ordered the arrest of anyone vaping publicly in a country that already has some of Asia’s toughest anti-smoking rules.

No formal, written order has been made public that spells out the scope of the ban or penalties for violations.

Duterte is notorious internationally for his deadly anti-narcotics crackdown, but he has also targeted tobacco with a wide-ranging ban on smoking in public. Citing “the order of the president”, on Wednesday a statement from the head of the Philippine police ordered “effective today, all police units nationwide to enforce the ban on use of vapors; ensure that all violators will be arrested”.

The ban came days after Philippine health authorities reported the nation’s first vaping-related lung injury, which resulted in a 16-year-old girl being hospitalised. Vaping has taken off in the Philippines, with speciality shops and vapers puffing away in public a common sight. —AFP

N Korean leader Kim not to attend ASEAN summit in S Korea: KCNA

SEOUL — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has declined an invitation to attend an upcoming summit between South Korea and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to be held in the port city of Busan from Monday. It added that “(Pyong-yang) does appreciate hopes and sincerity from the South, but would like to ask for understanding that our Chairman failed to find proper reasons to visit Busan in the end.”

Inter-Korean ties have been in a stalemate. The two leaders agreed in their last summit to resume an inter-Korean tour project, but Seoul has been unwilling to defy US-international sanctions against the North.

—Kyodo News
Three navy ships held by Russia return to Ukraine port

KIEV — Three navy vessels that Moscow seized last year and handed back to Ukraine have arrived at a Ukrainian port, though Kiev said they were stripped of equipment.

The Nikopol, the Berdyansk and the Yany Kapu were seized in November last year in the Kerch Strait, in the most serious confrontation between Russia and Ukraine since the beginning of the conflict in east Ukraine in 2014. The two gunboats and a tugboat were seized in evidence following what Moscow says was an illegal breach of the Russian border. The ships were welcomed back on Wednesday evening by the Ukrainian navy and President Volodymyr Zelensky, who reviewed them in the Black Sea navy port in Ochakiv.

“I am very happy that our navy vessels are back where they belong. As promised, we have brought back our sailors and our ships,” Zelensky said.

“The two gunboats and a tugboat were handed back this week after they were held in evidence following what Moscow says was an illegal breach of the Russian border.” PHOTO: AFP

The two gunboats and a tugboat were handed back this week after they were held in evidence following what Moscow says was an illegal breach of the Russian border.

Ukrainian ships and were greeted from the shore by Ukrainians holding national flags.

The Ukrainian defence ministry said that “the Russians have dismantled some communication and navigation equipment on board,” and the ships will be examined by Ukrainian investigators and military prosecutors.

This will permit Ukraine to use the information “for judicial review of Russia’s actions in Ukrainian and international courts,” Admiral Igor Voronenko said in a statement.

Sailors from the three ships were held by Moscow for months before being released in October in a high-profile prisoner swap with Ukraine, a long-anticipated measure aimed at easing tensions ahead of a Ukraine peace summit next month. The presidents of Ukraine and Russia, with mediation by their counterparts from Germany and France, will meet in Paris on December 9 aiming to end the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

—AFP

Georgia jails opposition protesters

TBILISI — A court in Georgia on Thursday jailed 10 opposition demonstrators for terms ranging from four to 13 days for “disobeying police orders” during protests which were dispersed with water cannon.

Tens of thousands of anti-government protesters this week demanded snap polls after the ruling party in parliament failed to enact promised reforms.

The 10 defendants had been arrested Monday at a peaceful protest outside parliament.

Twenty-five more await verdict later Thursday from the Tbilisi city court.

In a separate case, the court ordered the pre-trial detention of prominent opposition activist Giorgi Burua, who is a shareholder of the pro-opposition Mtavari TV channel. Burua has been charged with “illegal possession of firearms” which he accused police of planting in his car.

He could face up to seven years in prison if convicted.

Georgia’s opposition said the crackdown was an attempt at frightening the protesters by powerful billionaire Bidzina Ivanishvili, the leader of the majority Georgian Dream party accused of orchestrating the crisis.

“These arrests, Ivanishvili tries to sow fear to stop the protest movement, but he gets an opposite result,” said MP Nika Melia, a leader of Georgia’s main opposition force United National Movement “Popular anger is growing,” she told AFP. Melia is under house arrest over his role in anti-government protests over the summer.

Groups of protesters on Thursday symbolically locked the entrances to several government buildings with paddlocks — including the prime minister’s office while he was leading a cabinet meeting.

The protests gripped Tbilisi in the biggest anti-government protest in years, more than 20,000 demonstrators rallied Sunday outside the parliament building and some protesters who attempted to block building entrances were dispersed on Monday. —AFP

Yellow vest marches took place in several cities across France, including Bordeaux. PHOTO: AFP

French police officer faces judge over ‘yellow vest’ violence

PARIS — A French police officer was to appear in court Thursday on charges he hurled a paving stone at protesters during a “yellow vest” rally, the first member of the security forces to face trial after a wave of claims of police violence during the weekly protests.

The court hearing comes just days after the first anniversary of the anti-government rallies, which were again marked by clashes with police and vandalism in Paris last Saturday.

Demonstrators accuse police of using brutal tactics to suppress the movement, in particular the use of heavy rubber bullets that activists say have cost some two dozen people to lose an eye.

The fierce violence that flared during the protests earlier this year shocked many in France and made headlines worldwide, as rioters ran amok burning cars while facing off against police firing tear gas, stun grenades and water cannon.

Paris prosecutors have signalled 212 cases of alleged police violence to the IGPN police oversight body, of which 18 are being examined by investigating magistrates to decide if there is enough evidence to press charges.

The officer on trial Thursday was captured on video heaving a paving stone toward a crowd during a May Day rally in Paris, a scene which quickly went viral on social media.

The brigadier, a member of France’s elite CRS riot-control police based in the southwestern city of Toulouse, faces charges of “deliberate violence by a person in a position of public authority.” —AFP

Tens of thousands of protesters gathered outside parliament on Monday. PHOTO: AFP
Myanmar U-22 football team prepare for 30th SEA Games

THE Myanmar U-22 football team has been taking intensive training for the upcoming men’s football tournament of the 30th Southeast Asian Games from 20 November on the artificial turf in Bahan, Yangon.

Myanmar Football Federation president U Zaw Zaw came to the training session on Wednesday and spoke words of encouragement to the team.

Team Myanmar will be led by head coach Velizar Popov for the Games.

The 40-player squad was selected by Velizar Popov last month.

The subcommittee of the men’s football competition of the SEA Games has allowed participating teams to use five players who are over 22 years old this year.

Five players who are above 22 have been selected on team Myanmar by the head coach: Haing Bo Bo, Kyaw Ko Ko, Aung Thu, Si Thu Aung, and Zaw Min Tun.

Myanmar has been placed in Group A for the 30th SEA Games competition with host Philippines, Malaysia, Cambodia, and Timor Leste.

Myanmar will play the opening match against Malaysia on 25 November, the Philippines on 27 November, Timor Leste on 29 November, and Cambodia on 2 December.

Team Myanmar matches will take place at Rizal Memorial Stadium in Manila, but the team’s match against Cambodia will be played at Bihan Football Stadium in Bihan.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

AC Milan offer Ibrahimovic six-month deal - reports

MILAN — Sweden star Zlatan Ibrahimovic has been offered a six-month deal to come to the aid of struggling former Italian giants AC Milan, according to reports in Italy on Thursday.

The 38-year-old striker confirmed his departure from Los Angeles Galaxy last week following the club’s elimination from the Major League Soccer playoffs.

Gazzetta dello Sport and Sky Sports Italia reported that the former seven-time European champions have now made contact with the player’s agent Mino Raiola.

The US-owned club want the former Swedish international for six months and are prepared to pay him six million euros ($6.6 million) if he remains for 18 months in total, Gazzetta claimed.

Milan finished fifth last season, missing out on a return to Champions League football by just a point to city rivals Inter.

They have had a poor start and are 14th after 12 games before they host last year’s runners-up Napoli on Saturday in the San Siro.

Ibrahimovic played for two seasons between 2010 and 2012 with AC Milan, helping them to their last Serie A title, and scoring 42 goals in 61 league appearances.

He also won three league titles with Inter Milan, and two with Juventus, which were both revoked following the ‘Calciopoli’ match-fixing scandal.—AFP

‘Humble’ Mourinho not planning on big changes at Spurs

LONDON — Jose Mourinho is not planning on wholesale changes as he tries to turn Tottenham’s season around and believes he is humble enough to have learned lessons from his failed spell in charge of Manchester United.

Mourinho replaced Mauricio Pochettino as Spurs boss on Wednesday after the Argentine’s five-and-a-year spell ended in the sack with Tottenham 14th in the Premier League. The Portuguese has won 25 trophies in a storied managerial career at Porto, Chelsea, Inter Milan, Real Madrid and United.

However, his time in charge at Old Trafford ended in the sack 11 months ago having failed to win the league at a club for the first time since he left Portuguese minnows Leiria to join Porto in 2002.

“I am humble enough to try to analyse my career. Not just the last year, my career; the evolution, the problems, the solutions,” said Mourinho in his first press conference as Tottenham boss on Thursday. “I was humble enough to do that. The principle of the analysis was not to blame anyone else.”

Pochettino was let go less than six months after reaching the club’s first ever Champions League final, but results domestically have been on the slide for nearly a year.

The Argentine had been keen for a bigger turnover of his squad in recent seasons to prevent his time in charge from changing. However, Mourinho insisted he will not demand millions to spend in the transfer market.—AFP

MFF 100 Plus Cup: Yangon, Mon teams reach quarterfinals

THE Yangon Region and Mon State teams have advanced to the quarterfinals of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) 100 Plus Cup Under-14 tournament, which is being held at the MFF artificial turf in Yangon.

The Mon State team beat Yangon Region team 2-1 in yesterday’s Group B match, but both teams have qualified for the quarterfinals as they performed well in previous matches.

Two more matches yesterday ended in a draw result.

The Northern Shan State team played to a 2-2 draw match against the Eastern Shan State team. Meanwhile, the match between the Magwe Region and Mandalay Region teams ended in a 1-1 draw.

The remaining group matches will be played today at the same venue. The Rakhine Region team will play against Sagaing Region team and the Tainthalyi Region team will face Kayin State team in Group D. The MFF 100 Plus Cup tournament is being held with the aim of grooming talented youth footballers. The competition started on 16 November.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)