State Counsellor arrives in Busan to attend ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives red carpet welcome on her arrival at Busan Airport yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, at the invitation of President Moon Jae-in, will attend the 30th anniversary of the Korea-ASEAN Dialogue Relations and the 1st Mekong-ROK Summit in Busan, the Republic of Korea. The State Counsellor and her entourage were seen off at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Union Minister U Kyaw Tin Tint Swe, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo, Deputy Chief of Mission Minister Counsellor of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea (ROK) in Myanmar Mr Jung Yung Soo and officials.

During the visit by a special flight, the State Counsellor is accompanied by Union Ministers Dr Aung Thu, U Kyaw Tin; Deputy Minister Dr Min Ye Paing Hein, Vice Mayor of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Ye Min Oo and departmental officials.

Union Minister U Min Thu and party also took the same flight to attend the 2nd ASEAN-Korea Ministerial Roundtable and Exhibition on Public Service Innovation.

SEE PAGE-3
UNION Information Minister arrives back from China

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint and the delegation members concluded a five-day visit to Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in south-west of People’s Republic of China for a media tour and arrived back in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

On 23 November, the UNION Minister and party visited Guilin City, and took a cruise ship along Li Jiang river with tourist attractions to Yangshuo town where they looked around the displays of rural cultures by cars.

On yesterday morning, they got a high-speed bullet train from Guilin to Guangzhou from which they flew back to Yangon.

At the Yangon International Airport, they were welcomed back by officials from the Ministry of Information and the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar. The delegation members of Director-General U Ye Naing from the Information and Public Relations Department, Chief Editor U Aung Naing Oo from the Myanmar Alin Newspaper, Assistant Director U Aung Win from the Myanmar Radio and Television, Senior Researcher U Aye Maung Rjaw from Myanmar Studies Group and Research Assistant U Saw Pyae Hmu from the Myanmar Motion Picture Promotion Division also took the same flight in coming back home.

— MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Youth Integrity Camp 2/2019 conducted to develop corruption free culture

The Youth Integrity Camp 2/2019, which was conducted to develop corruption free culture, was attended by 127 trainee teachers and students from 12 universities and colleges in Mandalay, Meiktila and Monywa.

The Union Minister said the ACC has developed a handbook for teachers at primary and secondary levels to educate students about anti-corruption knowledge and integrity, and the programme will be extended to the upper and higher education levels with the assistance of experts on related subjects.

He also remarked the lack of morals is the root cause of corruption and poverty reduction, and that teachers play key role for education and ethical development of students.

Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission also explained the reasons of camps for the Youth Integrity, saying to recognize the role of youth participation in implementing anti-corruption strategy and to develop integrity principles for young persons.

He also remarked that integrity is essential for building strong institutions in a country to prevent favoritism of authorities, instead of public interest.

The camp is aimed to lay a foundation for reducing opportunities and behaviours that can lead to corruption in every society in developing the culture of public integrity, to create a society that opposes corruption, and to develop accountable practices in the communities.

U Zarni Aung, the Minister for Electricity, Energy and Construction, appraised the camp which can help to build a corruption-free administration required for a clean government and good governance.

Ms Marie Pagie Cauchoics, the Country Manager of UNODC, emphasized the importance of integrity, anti-corruption and poverty reduction in the capacity building of the youth, and she concluded the state organizations need to conduct youth development programmes. She also assured the Youth Integrity Camps could help the young people to improve their dignity in respective roles.

— MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Yangon Region cabinet ministers receive SSEAYP national leaders

The ministers from Yangon Region government received the national leaders of 46th Ship for Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program (SSEAYP) led by Administrator Mr Shigeki Yamamoto at their office in Yangon yesterday.

Yangon Region Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Energy U Han Tun and SSEAYP Administrator Mr Shigeki Yamamoto made greetings remarks at the meeting.

Afterwards, Minister U Han Tun and the SSEAYP national leaders exchanged gifts, and posed for commemorative photos. Also present at the meeting were Department of Higher Education’s Director-General, rectors, deputy rectors-general, pro-rectors and officials, and officials from the SSEAYP Program.

— MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)
State Counsellor arrives in Busan to attend ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit

FROM PAGE 1

The State Counsellor and party arrived in Busan at 5:25 pm local time.

They were welcomed by Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Lee Tae-ho and officials, Myanmar Ambassador to ROK U Thant Sin Maung and wife Nang Myat Soe, Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Lee Sang-iwa and officials and their family members of Myanmar mission in ROK, together with the guard of honour of ROK at the Gimhae Air Base in Busan. The State Counsellor and party then proceeded to the Lotte Hotel for the stay, where Myanmar people in Korea welcomed them at the entrance of hotel. — MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)

H&S Union Minister attends gala dinner of 4th Asian Oral & Maxillofacial Trainees Conference

THE gala dinner to mark the 4th Asian Oral and Maxillofacial Trainees Conference was held at the Sedona Hotel on 23 November evening. Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe attended the dinner and made a speech, with suggestions to the Myanmar Dental Association and the Myanmar Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery to share the video records on the discussions at the conference to the medical doctors in Regions and States.

He also confirmed the introduction of a result-oriented integrated network course at the Universities of Dental Medicine commencing the first semester which will begin in December. President of Myanmar Dental Association Professor Dr. Thein Kyu and President of Asian Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Dr. Tian Ee Seah, and President of Myanmar Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Professor Dr. Kyu Kyu Swe Win made their remarks. The conference was attended by the oral and maxillofacial surgeons from Japan, China, Korea, Singapore, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Taipei. — MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)
By Nyein Nyein

The THB smart car park in downtown Yangon will feature red, yellow, and green zones, and a different tariff will be charged for parking vehicles in each zone, said U Lin Khaing, head of the Yangon City Development Committee’s Roads and Bridges Department.

“The car parking fee will depend on the color of the zone. It will range between K500, K1000, and K2000 per hour,” said U Lin Khaing.

The YCDC had invited Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from private companies for the smart car park project, and 26 companies had submitted their applications to the YCDC. Of them, the EOIs submitted by six companies for the construction of a smart car park in Yangon have been passed, and the firms have been asked to file tenders for the project by 29 November, according to the YCDC.

“The smart parking will collect parking data using advanced technology. Our tender evaluation teams will decide how to complete the bidding,” said U Lin Khaing.

Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe pointed out that an open tender or a public tender will be approved for the project. “Areas for smart parking will be announced,” he said.

“Smart parking areas and streets and roads will be notified through the media. The project is open to all qualified bidders. We will systematically select the winner who will complete the project,” U Maung Maung Soe added.

“The smart parking system will start in six downtown townships of Yangon, and the project will proceed to other townships”, said Daw May May Thwe, YCDC member.

“Earlier, the YCDC collected car parking fees through informal methods, such as the contract system. During the government transition period, that system was abolished,” said officials.

(Translated by El Myat Mon)

Over 181,000 narcotic tablets confiscated in four townships

POLICE seized over 181,000 narcotic tablets in four townships on Saturday, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

A combined team including police from anti-narcotic drug squad no.6 of Katha seized 23,350 stimulant tablets and a mobile phone from the motorcycle driven by Nay Myo Hein and Baukpa on board at mile post no (1/1) on Htilyi-Myaunggon road in Indaw Township.

Similarly, the police arrested Zaw Dan Aung (a) Ko Zaw who driving a Nissan Saloon car in possession of 1.05 kilos of heroin and 52, 650 stimulant tablets, together with a mobile phone at the same place.

Police from anti-narcotic drug squad no.25 of Taunggyi also seized 47 stimulant tablets while they searched the house of Tin Naing Min in Thida Street in Ottan Ward, Yakawsaw Town. In connection with the case, the house of Nye Ye Lin (a) Ko Ye was searched and 1,960 stimulant tablets were seized.

Anti-narcotic police from Tachileik also searched the house of Ma San San Aye at Lwesaton Village of Wanlon Village-tract in Tachileik Township and seized 2,000 stimulant tablets and 540 Thai Bahts.

Police from Monghsat also searched the Revo car driven by Yabar near Lwelpayin (2) Village of Saton Village-tract on Monghsat-Tachileik road in Monghsat Township, and confiscated 180,000 stimulant tablets approximately worth K 100 million.

Police filed charges against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—GNLM

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)
Drop in paddy rate pulls down rice price even as government draws purchase plan

PADDY price is on the decline even as the government is drafting up guidelines for the procurement of the crop at the basic price. In view of this, millers have held up processing rice, bringing down the supply of rice at the Bayintnaung market and Muse gate, and cooling prices.

“With the border demand decreasing, the price of rice is likely to remain on the low side,” according to Bayintnaung Commodity Depot.

The price of paddy dropped below Ky400,000 per 100 baskets in early November. At present, it is pegged at around Ky450,000 per basket. If paddy at the basic price, the regional government is waiting for rules and regulations, which will be set by the government.

As a result, millers are waiting for the right time for processing as rice price is cooling in the Yangon market.

On 15 October, the government fixed the basic price of paddy (low-quality variety) at Ky500,000 per 100 baskets (one basket is equivalent to 46 pounds) for this year’s monsoon paddy and the 2020 summer paddy. The government has pledged Ky15 billion for purchasing paddy, in case the market price falls below the basic price.

“The Bago Region government has asked for Ky8 billion to purchase paddy. To set the rules and regulations regarding that, we will call a meeting soon. Afterwards, we will pay the subsidy to them. However, we will not pay out at any rate so they can repay it. The Ayeyarwady Region government has sought around Ky3 billion. The existing fund is adequate to make the allocations. It is available so they can buy paddy, if the market price falls below the basic price,” said U Aung Htoo, the Deputy Minister for Commerce.

However, discussions on disbursing the funds allocated under the government purchase plan, rules, regulations, and payment terms are still under way, the minister added.

The agricultural management group and paddy purchase groups formed by the leading committee will initiate the purchase plans in remote places, where it is hard to trade paddy at the basic price. The plans are being drafted at present. The Myanmar Rice Federation and warehouse businesses will also cooperate in the plans.

Growers are facing financial hardships due to low price offered at harvest time, coupled with high input costs, said a grower from Yadase Township.

— Ko Htet (Translated by EMM)

Investment forums to be held in Shan State, Taninthayi Region this year

INVESTMENT forums will be held in Shan State and Taninthayi Region this year, said U Thant Sin Lwin, director-general of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

“The objective behind the investment forums is to explore potential investment opportunities in the state and region. The forums will also act as a bridge between local businessmen and foreign investors. They are also aimed at attracting investors,” he added.

The Shan State Investment Forum will be held on 26 and 27 November at the Royal Taunggyi Hotel. Taunggyi to promote investments in the tourism and agricultural sector in the state, said U Thant Sin Lwin.

The forum is being organized by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC), the Shan State Investment Committee (SSIC), and is supported by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

Meanwhile, the Taninthayi Investment Forum will be held on 6 and 7 December and it will present investment opportunities in the tourism and fishery sectors in the region.

Between 1 October and 16 November in the current fiscal year, foreign direct investment of US$329.18 million flowed into the country, including expansion of capital by existing enterprises, as per data provided by the Myanmar Investment Commission. The MIC has set an FDI target of $5.8 billion for the current financial year.

The DICA has been appraising local and international investors of the latest developments such as the recent enactment of the new Myanmar Investment Law and new investment opportunities. Under the new Myanmar Investment Law, those investing in undeveloped regions will be given tax exemptions as an incentive.

— By Nyein Nyein (Translated by EMM)

Maritime trade up $216 mln as of 15 Nov

THE value of Myanmar’s maritime trade for the period between 1 October and 15 November in the 2019-2020 fiscal year totaled US$3.3 billion, an increase of over $216 million compared with the year-ago period, according to data provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

Meanwhile, the country’s total external trade crossed $4.59 billion, which was higher than the $4 billion recorded in the year-ago period.

— Mon Mon (Translated by EMM)
Tatmadaw True News Team holds press conference

THE Tatmadaw True News Team held a press conference at the Defence Services Museum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, on the issues of armed clashes with TNLA in northern Shan State, seizures of arms and ammunition, activities of AA armed group in Rakhine State and confiscations of narcotic drugs in respective commands.

It was attended by Chairman of Tatmadaw True News Team Maj-Gen Soe Naing Oo, Vice Chairman Maj-Gen Tun Tun Nyi, Secretary Brig-Gen Zaw Min Tun and senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), along with reporters from local news agencies, daily newspapers, journals, local TV news agencies and locally-based foreign news agencies.

Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary explained the moves of TNLA, seizures of arms and ammunition from Homein Village and surrounding area in Hukhin Village-tract, Namhsam Township, armed clashes with AA group in Rakhine State, mine explosions of AA, killing of innocent civilians, the Defence & Security 2019 and the ADMM-Plus (VIP Programme) attended by Commander in Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the official visit of Deputy Commander in Chief of Defence Services Vice Senior General Soe Win to Thailand, and confiscations of narcotic drugs at the respective military commands from 1 January to 20 November 2019.


Bloomberg formally announces US presidential candidacy

NEW YORK — Michael Bloomberg confirmed Sunday that he is running for president, joining the crowded field of Democrats seeking to take on his fellow New Yorker, President Donald Trump.

His 11th-hour entry highlights the fluid nature of the Democratic contest just three months from the primary.

"I'm running for president to defeat Donald Trump and rebuild America," Bloomberg, 77, said on his website as a $30 million Bloomberg ad campaign hit US airwaves.

The announcement ended weeks of speculation that the former New York mayor was preparing for a run at the White House.

He had prepared the groundwork for a possible bid for the Democratic nomination in recent weeks by registering as a candidate in primary voting states and filing paperwork with the Federal Election Commission.

"We cannot afford four more years of President Trump's recklessness and unethics, he is not in control of his temper and his words. We cannot afford four more years of President Trump's recklessness and unethics," the billionaire businessman said.

"He represents an existential threat to our country and our values. It is up to us to defeat him and save our country.

With a personal fortune of $50 billion, Bloomberg's candidacy will likely shake up the open race, with 17 candidates already vying to be the Democratic nominee to take on Trump next year.

Former vice president Joe Biden leads the race ahead of left-wingers Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, with moderate Pete Buttigieg in fourth place, according to national polls.

Bloomberg is poised to run as a centrist and analysts suspect he could take some of the support enjoyed by fellow moderate Biden.

Some believe that his "self-made man" image and support for fighting global warming makes him the best challenger for Trump.

Others on the left of the party who favor Warren or Sanders see him as the sort of billionaire they would like to tax heavily to reduce inequality.

"As a candidate, I'll rally a broad and diverse coalition of Americans to win," Bloomberg said in his statement, adding that he would "stand up" to Trump's "bigotry."

Bloomberg touted some of his achievements as New York mayor, including getting the city back on its feet after the September 11, 2001 attacks — he was first elected in January of the following year, taking over from Rudy Giuliani — and banning smoking in restaurants and bars.

He said he was best placed to take on Trump on the issues of gun violence and climate change.

Last week he apologized for his long-time support of controversial "stop and frisk" policing policy that disproportionately targeted black and Latino New Yorkers during his time as mayor—AFP


Hong Kong investments in Myanmar top $277 mln in Oct

THREE Hong Kong-based companies pumped in US$276.98 million into Myanmar in October, the first month of the current financial year, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Hong Kong topped the list of investors in October and was followed by China, which invested an estimated $86.68 million in four projects. Foreign direct investment (FDI) from Hong Kong dropped to $292.12 million in October from $356.27 million in September.

Investments also flowed into the country from Japan and Thailand.

Between 1 October and 15 November in the current fiscal year, foreign direct investment of $1.42 billion flowed into the country, including expansion of capital by existing enterprises, according to DICA.

The total figure includes investment of $1.443 million in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, under the Special Economic Zone Law.

The DICA intends to reach its FDI target of $5.8 billion in the current fiscal year.

South East Asian countries see investment potential in Myanmar on account of cheap labour and business opportunities. Thus, larger entities are likely to enter the country, said U Thant Sin Lwin, director-general of the DICA.

"We see much investment potential for large companies. We are prioritizing responsible businesses and so, we are taking special care while screening investment proposals," he said.

Large investments are likely to flow into the oil and gas, agriculture, mineral, manufacturing, and industrial estate sectors, he added.

The economic interaction between Myanmar and Hong Kong has been increasing rapidly. Hong Kong has emerged as the third largest investor in Myanmar, after Singapore and China. Between 1988 and October 2019, 109 enterprises from Hong Kong brought in foreign direct investment of $8.48 billion into Myanmar, according to official data on existing enterprises provided by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration—GNLM (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)
Wildfires in Oregon’s Blue Mountains to become more severe: Study
WASHINGTON—A recent study suggests that with the impact of climate change in Oregon’s southern Blue Mountains wildfire will become more frequent, extensive and severe.

Researchers from PSU, North Carolina State University, University of New Mexico and the US Forest Service looked at how climate-driven changes in forest dynamics and wildfire activity will affect the landscape through the year 2100.

They used a forest landscape model, LANDIS-II, to simulate forest and fire dynamics under current management practices and two projected climate scenarios, reported the study published in – Ecosphere. They found that even if the climate stopped warming now, high-elevation species such as whitebark pine, Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir will be largely replaced by more climate- and fire-resilient species like ponderosa pine and Douglas fir by the end of the century.—ANI

Man shot dead by New Zealand police after 15-hour hostage
WELLINGTON—The New Zealand police shot dead a man who held children hostage for 15 hours at a property in Bellevue, North Island, on Sunday (Nov 24).

According to the New Zealand police, local police were called to a property in Oriana Crescent, Tauranga, at around 12.25am local time, after a man threatened his partner with a knife.

The woman escaped and called the police from a neighbour’s house. Three children were still in the house with the man. The police arrived at the property and found the man holding a large machete to the throat of one of the children. The man then retreated into a wardrobe with that child and a second child.

The police withdrew immediately and managed to help the third child escape safely.

As the hours dragged on, medical personnel saw concerns grow for the two children remaining in the house due to a lack of food and the possibility of dehydration from the high temperature in the part of the house where they were barricaded.

The police entered the property soon after 3pm local time, where they were confronted by the man. He was shot and pronounced dead at the scene.

The two children who had been taken hostage were safe and uninjured.

Further investigation of the incident was going on and the man’s death would be referred to the coroner, said the New Zealand police. —Xinhua

Old newspapers can be used to grow carbon nanotubes: Study
WASHINGTON—Old newspapers are the solution towards providing a cheap and green solution for the bulk production of single-walled carbon nanotubes, suggest researchers.

Carbon nanotubes are tiny molecules with incredible physical properties that can be used in a huge range of things, such as conductive films for touchscreen displays, flexible electronics, fabrics that create energy and antennas for 5G networks. The new study, published in the – MDPI Journal C – details the research experiments carried out in producing carbon nanotubes which could help to solve some of the problems associated with their large scale production such as the high cost of preparing a suitable surface for chemical growth and the difficulties in scaling up the process, as only single surface growth processes have been previously available.—ANI

Lebanon anti-graft protesters march for nature too
BEIRUT—Surrounded by sweeping pines, lemon trees and bean stalks, hundreds of Lebanese protesters march along, chanting against a planned dam that would drown the valley under their feet.

Unprecedented protests about corruption in Lebanon since October 17 have given new life to activism against the controversial structure planned for a lush valley south of Beirut. Since the start of the year, the future construction site in the Bisri Valley has been cordoned off and several trees uprooted to make way for work to begin. But emboldened by the anti-graft protests, nature lovers have since November 9 ignored the gates and barged through them, hoping to save what remains of their country’s ravaged ecosystem. Environmental activists in Lebanon say they have their work cut out.

They cite overflowing landfills, a polluted coast, quarries gnawing into mountains and state neglect combating forest fires that hit the country last month before the mass protests began. Standing on a shack roof near the Bisri Valley, environmental activist Bassam Zeinedine encourages hundreds of fellow hikers who have come to show their support for the dam protest.—AFP
Endless task that needs boundless energy, enthusiasm

The current economic environment of the nation calls for the promotion of micro industries and small and medium-sized enterprises as they are vital sources for job and income generation for a majority of the country’s population. On its part, the government is working on creating high-quality jobs and making strategic changes through its economic digitalization program. Furthermore, it is working and encouraging innovations and initiatives that can generate jobs.

The last few years have shown that labor, particularly the young generation, is the driving force in promoting any initiative. These workers, who are supposed to be the most productive, are being held back. They referred to as “events” in the rest of this article in most cases. The young generation are the most influential and local experts, highly qualified and with wide experience. Most of these events are knowledge dissemination and brainstorming sessions. Perhaps opening up to these young people and considering their ideas will be beneficial to the country.

This has been a significant success for the country, and a result of the cooperation between the government and the private sector. Such initiatives can benefit all. We must continue our task of facilitating the functions of government departments and reducing unnecessary procedures that can hinder new initiatives. So, we all must strive for further development of the national economy through reforms programs, digitalization, inclusive economic growth, and private corporate strategies.

National development is an endless task that needs boundless energy and enthusiasm.

By Lokothar

Perhaps some of these are of interest to professionals and others from among the public, who could also be held in Yangon or Mandalay, or in other major cities, so as to be accessible to a wider general public.

Conferences, Meetings, Symposia, Seminars and Workshops

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can submit their writing by email to the following email address, with the following information. A fee is charged to submit your work in Myanmar:

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HIROSHIMA — Survivors of the nuclear attack on Hiroshima told Pope Francis on Sunday of the “scene of hell” after the bombing, as the pontiff hit out against the use of the weapons.

The pope began his four-day trip to Japan with stops in Nagasaki and Hiroshima, where he paid tribute to those affected by the two bombs dropped by US forces in 1945 at the end of World War II. In Hiroshima, Francis met several survivors of the attack, who echoed his calls for the world never to forget the atrocity of the bombings.

Yoshiko Kajimoto was 14 years old when the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, killing at least 140,000 people. “When I went outside, all the surrounding buildings were destroyed. It was dark as evening and smelled like rotten fish,” she told the pope at the Peace Memorial in the city.

Her eyes closed tight and her voice trembling occasionally, she described people “walking side by side like ghosts, people whose whole body was so burnt that I could not tell the difference between men and women.”

“No one in this world can imagine such a scene of hell,” she added, recalling the days of white smoke that hung above the city as the victims were cremated.

Kajimoto found her father three days after the attack, but he died 18 months later from radiation exposure.

She told Francis her mother suffered illnesses from the atomic bomb for 20 years, and described her own battles with stomach cancer and leukaemia. —AFP

Pope Francis held emotional encounters with survivors of the nuclear attack. PHOTO: AFP

**Mann Ki Baat: PM Modi announces launch of ‘Fit India School rankings’**

NEW DELHI—In his 59th edition of the Mann Ki Baat radio program, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday announced the launch of ‘Fit India School grading system’ in schools across the country.

“In the Fit India Movement, schedules have been drawn for ranking schools in accordance with fitness. The schools that achieve this ranking will also be able to use the ‘Fit India’ logo and flag,” Modi said. The Fit India School rankings have been divided into three categories - The Fit India Schools, which is the first level of ranking, Fit India School (3 star) and Fit India School (5 star).

The level of ranking will depend on how much importance the school gives to inculcating overall fitness among its students and teachers and infrastructural facilities available for fitness activities.

“Schools can declare themselves as fit by visiting the Fit India portal. Fit India three-star and Fit India five-star ratings will also be given. I appeal that all schools should enrol in the Fit India ranking system and Fit India should become innate to our temperament. That it becomes a mass movement and bring awareness is what we must strive for,” the Prime Minister said.

The Fit India School ranking system has been drawn up by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in discussion with the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Speaking about the importance of the ranking system, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju said: “The ranking system will help parents understand if a school attaches importance to fitness activities or not.”—ANI

**Record turnout in H.K. district elections amid political crisis**

HONG KONG—An unprecedented number of voters turned out Sunday in the first public elections since mass pro-democracy demonstrations plunged the city into a months-long political crisis and economic recession. The district council elections are expected to serve as a barometer of public opinion of the increasingly violent protests, which China claims are only supported by a minority of radical separatists. By 12:30 p.m., about 31 percent of the 4.1 million eligible voters had cast ballots, compared with the nearly 15 percent turnout in the last election in 2015, Registration and Electoral Office figures showed.

Less than an hour after polling began at 7:30 a.m., officials urged voters to wait patiently while some voting stations were overwhelmed with long queues.

Lengthy queues snaked out of polling stations across the territory in the election for 18 district councils. PHOTO: AFP

Aside from a lingering standoff between radical protesters and police at a university in Kowloon, no anti-government demonstrations were reported in the city. The turnout in the first hour of polling was nearly four times higher than in 2015, as rumors circulated online that polling stations could close early due to possible violence.

Pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong, whom the government barred from running in the election for his advocacy of self-determination for Hong Kong, was among the early voters along with the city’s leader Carrie Lam.—Kyodo

**5.9-magnitude quake jolts New Zealand, felt by thousands**

WELLINGTON—A 5.9-magnitude earthquake hit North Island, New Zealand, on Sunday morning and was felt by thousands of people. More than 5,000 people reported feeling the earthquake which occurred offshore around 5:34 a.m. local time on Sunday. There is no report of human casualty yet. The earthquake, which struck out at sea about 50 kilometers north-west of Te Kaha, Bay of Plenty in the North Island of New Zealand, was initially rated as 5.3-magnitude but has been upgraded to 5.9-magnitude. The depth of the earthquake is 115 kilometers down the sea. GeoNet, which monitors seismic activity in New Zealand, said deeper quakes such as this one were often widely felt, especially on the East Coast of North Island.

At about 7:30 a.m., the agency said it had reviewed the quake and upgraded it from a 5.3 to a 5.9. It remarked people to “drop, cover, and hold on” in the event of an earthquake.—Xinhua

China’s system of socialist rule of law contains richer implications: law expert

BEIJING—Law expert Mo Jihong with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences explained the rich implications of “the system of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics.” Calls were made for the expression to be upheld and improved at the fourth plenary session of the 19th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee.

The system of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics, unlike the Chinese socialist system of law, which more refers to a static system of laws and regulations, has five sub-systems, including a system of laws, a system of law enforcement oversight, as well as a system of party rules and regulations, Mo said.—Xinhua

**ASIA**

25 NOVEMBER 2019
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
Johnson unveils manifesto for Brexit Britain

LONDON — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson unveiled his Conservative Party’s manifesto on Sunday, pledging to move on from Brexit and austerity in a bid to secure a general election victory.

Having taken over a minority administration in July and been unable to speed his EU divorce deal through parliament, Johnson is seeking a clear victory at the December 12 snap election.

He sees Britain’s third general election in four-and-a-half years as the only way to break the Brexit logjam.

Johnson is promising to bring back his Brexit deal to parliament before December 25 if the centre-right Conservatives are returned to power.

“As families sit down to carve up their turkeys this Christmas, I want them to enjoy their festive-season free from the seemingly unending Brexit box-set drams,” Johnson said ahead of the launch. “The Conservative manifesto, which I’m proud to launch today, will get Brexit done and allow us to move on and unleash the potential of the whole country,” he said.

“Oven-ready” Brexit deal

The main plank of the Conservative manifesto is the Brexit deal Johnson negotiated with Brussels in October. He claims the treaty is “oven-ready” and good to go — as long as he can get a majority.

He insists the deal will allow Britain to regain control over its laws, money and immigration policy.—AFP

Two dead, one missing after rainstorms drench south France

PARIS — Two people lost their lives and one more was missing Sunday after historic levels of rain drenched the south of France, provoking major floods that are only now starting to recede, officials said.

One corpse was found in the village of Mug, just north of France’s Mediterranean coast, close to where a rescue dinghy had capsized on Friday evening with three members of the fire brigade and three civilians aboard, the local authorities in the southern Var region said.

One of the civilians had been reported missing.

The second body, of a man in his 50s, was found in the village of Cabasse in a car, said the local authorities, without giving further details.

Meanwhile, another man, in his 70s, was still missing in the village of Saint-Antonin-du-Var after going out during the night amid heavy rain. Searches are continuing.

The Alpes-Maritimes and Var regions have since Friday been hit by torrential rainstorms that also caused huge waves in seaside areas.

The senior official for the Var region, Jean-Luc Vide-laine, told AFP that the rains had been of “historic” intensity, adding that the damage will be “considerable”.

He said that water levels were now going down but added that the situation was “far from returning to normal”.

In some areas of the Var region, the equivalent of two or three months of rain fell in just 24 or 48 hours.—AFP

Ivan vows to punish ‘mercenaries’ behind street violence

TEHRAN — Iran vowed Sunday to severely punish “mercenaries” arrested over a wave of street unrest sparked by a fuel price hike, as much of the country came back online after a week-long internet blackout.

Authorities say calm has been restored and have announced plans to hold a pro-gov ernment demonstration to condemn the “rioters” at Tehran’s Enghelab Square on Monday afternoon.

The protests first flared on November 15, hours after a surprise announcement that petrol prices were being raised by as much as 200 per cent with immediate effect.

Highways were blocked, banks and petrol stations set on fire and shops looted as the demonstrations turned violent and spread to dozens of urban centres across the country.

Citing law enforcement officials, Fars news agency said on Sunday that 180 ringleaders had been arrested over the street violence, which it has blamed on enemies abroad.

“We have arrested all stooges and mercenaries who have explicitly made confessions that they have been mercenaries of America, of Monafeghin and others,” said Rear-Admiral Ali Fadavi, deputy commander in chief of the Revolutionary Guards.

Monafeghin is a term Iran uses to refer to the People’s Mujahedeen of Iran (MEK) opposition in exile group, which it considers a “terrorist” cult.

The government said the fuel price hike would allow it to provide welfare payments to the needy in Iran, where many have struggled to make ends meet since the US reimposed sanctions after withdrawing from a landmark nuclear deal.—AFP

Bolsonaro’s son faces probe over ‘ghost employees’

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazilian prosecutors have started a new investigation into the eldest son of President Jair Bolsonaro over suspicion he embezzled public money by hiring “ghost employees,” officials said.

The Rio de Janeiro Prosecutors’ Office said in a statement Saturday they were investigating Flavio Bolsonaro — a 38-year-old senator — in relation to “the employment of ghost employees” from his cabinet.

The events in question date to the period he was regional deputy of the State of Rio.

Flavio’s father, the far-right president Jair Bolsonaro, took office on a promise of eradicating corruption but has been repeatedly hit by scandals involving his son.

At the beginning of the year another investigation initially focused on Flavio’s former bodyguard and driver, a policeman named Fabrizio Queiroz.—AFP

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Tiny German oil firm strikes black gold on the Rhine

RIEDSTADT (Germany) — Outside the small town of Riedstadt, near Frankfurt, a bright green derrick pumping oil from deep underground marks a rare rural German site where that is still a profitable business.

As Berlin battles to reach climate neutrality by 2050, minnow Rhein Petroleum sees a niche for its unusually pure crude during the transition phase, although its output is dwarfed by the more than two million barrels a day still consumed by Europe’s top economy.

Manager Carsten Reinhold holds up a flask of the lukewarm, dark liquid the pumps have been heaving up from 1,500 metres (5,000 feet) below ground since last year. Low in sulphur, such “light and sweet” crude oil resembles the so-called Brent reservoir found in the North Sea. “It would be a shame to burn it all up” to fuel road traffic, Reinhold says, as this type of oil is especially suited to manufacturing industries, feeding into chemicals, pharmaceuticals, textiles and even blades for wind turbines.

A tanker truck passes by twice a week on average from siphon 33,000 litres (8,700 gallons) from the site’s metal storage tanks, some of it from the firm’s other drilling site in Bavaria. It brings the oil to a refinery 80 kilometres (50 miles) away.—AFP

Britain election maintains uncertainty for Japanese firms

LONDON — The likely re-election of Prime Minister Boris Johnson will not end the Brexit uncertainty for Japanese firms who are also worried about the impact of his “hard Brexit” vision for the country, according to trade experts. Polits indicate Johnson’s Conservative Party will win a majority in December’s general election, leading to Britain’s formal departure at the end of January and then negotiations on a free trade agreement.

Johnson says the trade deal has to be in place by the end of next year, leading to fears of another no-deal cliff edge for Japanese firms along with the rest of British industry, have been hampered by parliamentary deadlock on the way ahead since the 2016 referendum result.

Trade experts believe the deal will instead take several years to negotiate and, in the long run, will create more trade frictions and costs than was envisaged under Johnson’s predecessor Theresa May’s plan, which envisaged closer customs and regulatory cooperation, was considered a softer form of Brexit.—Kyodo

Tesla cybertruck orders near 150,000 just days after launch

LOS ANGELES — Tesla’s new electric pickup truck has secured almost 150,000 orders, the company’s chief executive Elon Musk boasted on Twitter, just two days after its big reveal went embarrassingly wrong.

The billionaire Tesla co-founder floured on stage in California on Thursday when the vehicle’s armoured glass windows cracked in a demonstration intended to prove their indestructible design. Shares in the company plunged 6.1 percent following the Cybertruck’s bumpy launch. PHOTO: AFP

CLAiMS DAY NOTICE
MV SINAR BANDUNG VOY. NO. (637 N/S)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDUNG VOY. NO. (637 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’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 SUMADERASHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAiMS DAY NOTICE
MV HORIZON 9 VOY. NO. (23)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HORIZON 9 VOY. NO. (23) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MITSUI O.S.K KANKAI LTD
Phone No: 2301178
Bad debt disposals by Japan’s regional banks double in 1st half

TOKYO—Bad debts written off by Japan’s regional banks doubled in the six months to September from a year earlier, reflecting the slow recovery of the country’s local economies, according to data recently compiled by an investment bank. Of 78 listed regional banks in Japan, 77 had disposed of non-performing loans totaling 195.8 billion yen ($974 million) during the period, including loans which the banks set provisions against, Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities Co. said.

The data excluded Suruga Bank which posted an unusually large write-offs of massive murky losses a year earlier due to an unusually large whammy of sluggish loan recovery. —Kyodo

US meat producers want a slice of vegan market

NEW YORK—The growing craze for vegetarian versions of juicy burgers and sausages has created such a buzz that even traditional meat producers are trying to get in on the action.

The big players are trying to capitalize on the success of products from companies like Beyond Meat and Impossible Burger.

The largest US meat producer, Tyson Foods, in June launched a new line of plant-based proteins and meat-vegetable blends called “Raised & Rooted.” And competitors Hormel Foods, Perdue Farms and Smithfield have unveiled similar initiatives to take a slice out of this new market.

“Our food culture is changing at a rapid pace,” said Bryan Krebske, brand manager at Hormel Foods.

There is an “increasing curiosity and motivation to try great-tasting, alternative protein sources such as plant-based proteins while decreasing their consumption of animal-based protein.”

Regardless of whether it is the start of a new trend, or a passing fancy, the agri-food giants do not want to miss the opportunity. Rather than target vegetarians, they are going after the 95 percent of consumers who eat meat. But unlike the upstart alternative meat companies, which cite the carbon footprint of raising cows and other livestock, traditional players have a harder time using environmental or animal rights arguments to promote their products.—AFP

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Daw La Min May, H.G.P.
For Sanet Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.,
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
Level 8A, UFC Tower, Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thayein Phyu Road, Botataung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated 25 November 2019
immy@kch.yangon.com

CALL FOR ANDALAS UNIVERSITY (UNIVERSITAS ANDALAS/UNAND) SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS - INDONESIA

ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/2021

Andalas University (Universitas Andalas/UNAND) in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Yangon, offers scholarship to Myanmar nationals. The University is located in Padang, West Sumatra, Indonesia. The scholarship aims to encourage more beneficial cooperation between Indonesia and Myanmar.

UNAND, established in 1956, is the oldest university outside of Java Island and the fourth oldest university in Indonesia. Its main campus in Padang covers 500 ha area. In 2009, UNAND ranks 11th of the best universities in Indonesia and it has a selective admission policy based on entrance examinations and students’ past academic record and grades. Currently, the university owns 15 faculties and 8 Postgraduate Programs; and is a home to almost 25000 students.

The Postgraduate Programs includes 6 Master’s Degree Programs, namely Bio-Technology, Counselling and Development Communication, Area and Rural Development, Environmental science, Integrated Management of Natural Resources, and Housing and Residence Development; and two Doctorate Degree Programs, namely Agricultural Science and Development Studies.

Myanmar nationals are encouraged to apply for the Master’s Degree scholarship.

Eligibility for the Scholarship

A. Applicants should:
1. Be nationals of Myanmar;
2. As it is for Master’s Degree Scholarship, applicants should be under 35 years;
3. Provide a Curriculum Vitae;
4. Provide a copy of university certificate of graduation and have a GPA at least 3 out of 4;
5. Have at least a TOEFL Score of 550 or IELTS score of 5.5;
6. If the required documents are in Myanmar Language, provide an authenticated English translation of each document by the authorized institution.

B. The Scholarship Package
1. Return economy airfare between Myanmar and Padang, Indonesia;
2. Tuition fees and basic medical insurance;
3. Indonesian Language Course;
4. Monthly stipend to cover living expenses equivalent to local living cost;
5. Accommodation;
6. Visa application expenses; and
7. Support for thesis expenses.

C. How to apply

Provide all the required documents and submit them to the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia not later than 6 February 2020. Once fulfilled, the Embassy in cooperation with UNAND will contact the applicants to share information on how to proceed.

For more information, please contact Ms. Sylvia Masri, First Secretary for Information and Socio-cultural Affairs, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Yangon.
Tel: (951) 254465, 254469, 229750, ext. 105
Fax: (951) 254468
E-mail: pensosbud@kthyangon.org
LEFT my home town more than 40 years ago. The last time I went there was more than 11 years ago. My home town Kyaiklat was in Ayeyawady Region Pyapon District. Kyaiklat also had a well known Pali name Dhamma Pala. Dhamma means “teachings of Buddha” and Pala means “maintaining or preserving.”

During the colonial era, Ledi Sayadaw U Nyanadaja wrote his famous poetic prose Nwa-myitta-sa (Affection to cow) encouraging Buddhists not to kill cattle and eat beef and later he led a successful beef boycotts. Ledi Sayadaw came to Kyaiklat on Myanmar Era (ME) 1264 (1902) and preached about non-killing and consumption of beef. The entire town folks follow the Sayadaw’s sermon according to the town’s other name of Dhamma Pala resulting in municipal cancelling cattle slaughterhouse license in Kyaiklat because there was absolutely no consumption of beef. Kyaiklat was also made famous by its town folks consisting of Maha Gita (Great Classic Music) U Pyone Cho, movie director U Thukha, writer Dagon Taya and musician Sein Bo Tint.

Collapsing pagoda or Kyaiklat

According to Ministry of Home Affairs’ records and Myanmar encyclopedia, Kyaiklat starts as a village established in 1840 by ethnic Mons who migrated from Bago Region and other parts of Ayeyawady Region. There was a 9 yard high pagoda on the river bank west of the village. Due to river bank erosion the pagoda collapsed into the river. In Mon language, Kyaik Loid means collapsing pagoda and as time goes by the word became Kyaiklat and that was where the name of the town came from.

Kyaiklat, my home town

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

All had accepted the fact that the name Kyaiklat came from the word literally meaning collapsing pagoda but there were several versions on which pagoda that collapsed. The first was between No. 6 road and No. 7 road on Bogyoke Street in the present day Kyaiklat Town. The second was in Ward 5, formerly known as Pho Taw Gon. Both had pagoda that had collapsed. Finally on the eastern most part of Kyaiklat, at a river confluence that was locally called “Chun Htate” also had a pagoda that had collapsed. This was where boards to Maubin, Dedaye, Twante, Pyapon, Bogale, Wakanma and Mawlamyinegun anchored to wait for tide and wind. Whichever pagoda was the source of the town’s name, the name Kyaiklat inarguably came from the word “collapsing pagoda.”

Kyaiklat region in the history

In 1861, the village became a town and town commissioner Mr. Maxwell and secretary U Sein Htoo plotted the town plot. It was a small town that was only 1.22 mile wide situated on Pantaput Creek in the delta area of Ayeyawady River. Kyaiklat Township covers an area of 274.312 sq. mile and had six wards, 87 village tracts with 421 villages. It was bordered by Dedaye Township in the east, Wakanma and Mawlamyinegun townships in the west, Pyapon Township in the south and Maubin Township in the north.

In 1875 Kyaiklat Township and Maubin Township were included in Thongwa District. When Pyapon District was formed in 1903, Kyaiklat came under it. Kyaiklat town committee was formed in 1900 and municipal board was formed. On 27 May 1905, the municipal authorities designated Kyaiklat as a town officially. Kyaiklat Township despite being surrounded and criss-crossed with creeks and rivers was 16.53 ft. above sea level and was rarely flooded or inundated. However, heavy winds and storms in 1972, 1976, 2006 and 2008 causes numbers of deaths to people and livestock as well as causing some material damages.

The region receives more than 100 inches of rain annually, paddy was the main agriculture product while coconut, betel nut, banana and mangoes were also produced. As it was a top rice producing township, the township had 43 major rice mills as well as 202 small scale rice hullers or rice huskers. Rice produced was sent to Yangon.
transporting goods while people mostly travelled by road.

The township had one technical school, nine high schools, 29 middle schools and 179 primary schools. Kyaiklat Town had a 50-bed hospital while the township had one station hospital and 41 rural health clinics.

Of the total of 523 pagodas in the township, Tilawka Marazein, Sandamuni and Standing Buddha Image in Kyaiklat Town were the most famous. Sandamuni Buddha image was sculpted on 1st Waxing of Nattaw ME 1281 (22 November 1919). Donor U Tun and Daw Su from Shwe Tha Chaung Village on the opposite bank of the river brought over sculptors from Mandalay to sculpt the Buddha image. The sculpting of the Buddha image took about a year. After the donors passed away, the Buddha image was renovated three times with the last renovation conducted on 9 September 1997.

The 27 ft high Standing Buddha Image on the other hand was sculpted from a single teak log with a diameter of 14 ft 3 inches. The teak log was found drifting in a creek in 1885 and two donors, U Kan Htoo and U Kya Phu fetched wood sculptor U Lun and his team from Mandalay to sculpt it into a standing Buddha image. The process was said to have took about four years. The Standing Buddha Image was placed in Shan Kyaung monastery compound.

In addition to the pagodas, Kyaiklat also had a unique drinking water pond. The pond situated to the south of Kyaiklat was 2,000 ft. long and 750 ft. wide. The pond was dug during the colonial period by the town people and there were no record of the exact year on which it was dug. The entire town folks came out to help again in renovating the pond’s embankment in 1971 and the pond was still in use as a drinking water pond.

Kyaiklat Town given the name Dhamma Pala by Seventh head of Shwekyin Religious Order (Sect) was a peaceful town in Ayeyawady Region. It now had become a place of visit for Yangonites who made a day return visit by car. Kyaiklat town folks who were working or migrated to other towns usually came back to their home town on National Victory Day. This was a new tradition that started several years back probably due to the roads that made travel faster and more convenient.

There were significant changes and development in the roads and buildings of my home town when I went back there after not returning for more than 11 years. But the tradition and habit of offering morning meals by ward morning meal donor groups during the rain retreat months remained unchanged. Town folks were still using the water from the big drinking water pond. Religious examinations traditionally held in Pyapon District’s four towns of Pyapon, Kyaiklat, Bogale and Dedaye were still held regularly.

The tradition of venerating U Shin Gyi or Lord of the Sea or Conqueror of the Seas, was held in three parts in Kyaiklat starting from the month of Tabodwe.

and central Myanmar.

Kyaiklat Township annually produces more than 20 million Tins (1 Tin = 40.9148 liter) of paddy, both monsoon and summer, while 79 fish ponds also produced more than 1 million Viss (1 Viss = 1.63293 kg) of fishes.

Kyaiklat Town was a town stretched in an east-west direction with four main roads laid in the east-west direction. The four were Strand Road (now Bogyoke Road), U Sandar Road, U Pyone Cho Road and Maxwell Road. U Sandar was a well known traditional medicine doctor. U Pyone Cho was Maha Gita U Pyone Cho. Maxwell was the town commissioner that plotted the town plot.

According to figures released in March 2017, Kyaiklat Township had a population of 192,392 with the majority being Bama and Kayin.

Prior to 1997, Kyaiklat Township residences used waterways for transport. Travel was by boats and ships. By waterway, Yangon was 48 miles, Maubin was 16 miles and Mawlamyine-gan was 45 miles away. In 1997 Yangon-Maubin-Kyaiklat-Bogale road was built and ever since, waterways were used only for transporting goods while people mostly travelled by road.

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(KT)
30th SEA Games men’s football tourney: Myanmar to play Malaysia today

Midfielder Yan Paing Soe joins Yangon United for 2 years

World Cup winner De Klerk celebrates Sale return with La Rochelle win