Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses bill amending 2008 Constitution, puts two bills on record

THE ninth-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s 14th regular session was held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning.

Hluttaw discusses another report of Joint Committee on Scrutinizing the Constitution

The meeting started with Hluttaw representatives discussing a report of Joint Committee on Scrutinizing the second bill amending the Constitution on a bill amending the Constitution for the second time signed and submitted by 144 Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives including Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative Brig-Gen Aung San Chit.

The report was discussed by Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Captain Daw Khin Nyein Chan, U Win Maung of Magway Region constituency 6, U San Myint of Ayeyawady Region constituency 3, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Lt-Col Sai Aik Hla, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Major Ye Soe, U Wai Sein Aung of Rakhine State constituency 1, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Major Kyaw Min Han, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Major Thant Zin, U Soe Thein of Kayah State constituency 9, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Major Aung Thwin Soe, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Major Zaw Nyaw, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Major Saw Kyaw Aung Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Major Win Min Tun and Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Colonel Khin Maung Cho.

Discussions in contravention of rules removed from record

Following the discussion, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat informed the Hluttaw about recent Hluttaw meetings. Hluttaw representatives were cautioned to conduct discussions and debates according to the rules and regulations and in keeping with the dignity of their positions as representatives.

During the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting held on 26 November, 15 Hluttaw representatives had discussed a report of the Joint Committee on scrutinizing the second bill amending the Constitution, signed and submitted by 144 Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives, including Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Brig-Gen Maung Maung. Some of the discussions by some representatives were in contravention of the Hluttaw rules and regulations for ethics and regulations for representatives, said the Speaker.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker said that as the words used by five Hluttaw representatives during the discussion were not in conformity with the rules and regulations, they would be deleted from the record.

Hluttaw put two bills on record

Next, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw putting on record the Myanmar Medical Degree, Diploma and Certificate bill and a bill to prevent an Increased Quantity of Imports that were considered as approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

SEE PAGE-2
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses bill amending 2008 Constitution, puts two bills on record

Joint Committee on Amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 62/2019

MEETING 62/2019 of the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Committee Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Chairman of the Joint Committee Aung Myo Tha Aung, Joint Committee secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe, joint secretary U Htay Win Aung (a) U Pyone Cho and members who were Hluttaw representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives including Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Brig-Gen Maung Maung.

The meeting took place at the Mingalar Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein attends the meeting of the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution 62/2019 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. — MNA (Translated by Zaw Min)

DTVET launches system review report

The Department of Technical and Vocational Education and Training introduced a report that reviews Myanmar TVET system, at the Mingalar Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The report was produced by the assistance of GIZ Myanmar and the UNESCO. Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi remarked that the report will surely help the role of TVET put into the National Education Strategic Plan (2021-2030). He also urged the TVET should be implemented by conducting more skill training courses to benefit the respective regions, appointing high capable trainers, cooperating with private sector, supporting innovations with the advantage of digital technologies and making collaborative efforts.

The Head of TVET project from GIZ Myanmar Mr Eiko Kauffmann and UNESCO Myanmar Head of Office Ms Min Jeong Kim explained the process of producing the report. Then, officials from the GIZ Myanmar and UNESCO Myanmar handed over the Myanmar TVET System Review books to the Union Minister. A discussion was also made to implement the priority strategies and policies in the report, and to exchange views on sustainable development of technical and vocational education. The report launching ceremony was also attended by the chairpersons of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Education Promotion Committees, the members of National Education Policy Commission and the National Curriculum Commission, the Myanmar Rectors’ Committee, officials from the National Academic and Quality Assurance Assessment Committee (NAQAC), the Directors-General of Ministry of Education, Chairman and members of UMFCCI and departmental officials. — MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi addresses the Launching Ceremony of Myanmar TVET System Review Report in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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(Translated by Aung Khin)
Thai embassy celebrates National Day in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Embassy of Thailand celebrated the Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand and Thailand Father’s Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday and it was attended by Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe.

The event began with the national anthems of Myanmar and Thailand, followed by key-note addresses by Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe and Thai Ambassador Mrs. Suphattra Srimaitreephithak.

Afterwards, a documentary video about friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand was shown and the ambassador hosted a reception with Thai food to mark the day.

The reception was also attended by Union Ministers U Win Khaing, Dr Myint Hlwe and U Kyaw Tin, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Mya Tun Oo, senior military officers, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, departmental heads, ambassadors, diplomats and staff of the Embassy of Thailand and guests. — MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Investment Promotion Committee convenes 2nd meeting

THE Investment Promotion Committee (IPC), which was set up by the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (MIFER), convened its second meeting yesterday at its office in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and chairman of the IPC, U Aung Hla Tun, Deputy Minister for Information, U Hla Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, U Kyaw Myo, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications, U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Commerce, U Kyaw Lin, Deputy Minister for Construction, U Khin Mg Win, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy, U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Minister for Education, Permanent Secretaries of ministries concerned, director-general of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration and the secretary of the IPC, members of the IPC, the five task forces, and observers.

Speaking at the meeting, Union Minister U Thaung Tun took note of the important role of the IPC and the five task forces, and stressed that the success of the committee and its task forces would help ensure economic growth.

“By keeping this in mind, we hope to create a fair and prosperous society by promoting quality investment. These endeavors should reflect the government’s development policies in promoting a responsible investment environment,” he said.

U Thant Sin Lwin, secretary of the IPC, discussed matters pertaining to the Committee’s duties and responsibilities. And, he also presented an overview of the five task forces’ annual activities.

Then, team leaders from the five task forces made presentations on their Annual Activities Plans and opportunities and challenges faced by them. The presentations were followed by discussions and a recap by the IPC Secretary of the task force leaders’ presentations.

The meeting concluded at 12.30 p.m. with closing remarks from Union Minister U Thaung Tun.— MNA

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe addresses the celebration to mark the National Day of the Kingdom of Thailand and Thailand Father’s Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun attends the 2nd meeting of Investment Promotion Committee (IPC) in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA
Youth Integrity Camp 2/2019 concludes with certificate presentation ceremony

A closing ceremony of five-day Youth Integrity Camp in Mandalay concluded yesterday with a certificate ceremony awarded by Chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission U Aung Kyi and its member Daw Aye Aye Mu to the trainee teachers and students.

At the ceremony held at Shwegyin Hotel in Mandalay, UNODC Country Manager Mr. Troels Vester and a trainee expressed thanks for the camp.

The ACC Chairman said that his commission is emphasizing a constructive approach through promoting integrity. He also remarked that corruption is a prevailing chronic problem in the community, blocking the ways for capable persons to the right positions to serve for the country. He also urged the trainees to contribute in creating a corruption free society.

The trainees developed 10 principles from the lectures learned from the camp. — MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar Fisheries Federation discusses promotion of seafood industry

THE Myanmar Fisheries Federation held a meeting with businesspersons from livestock and fishery sectors in Insein Township, Yangon, yesterday morning.

Chairwoman of the meeting and Vice President of MFF Dr Toe Nandar Tin extended a greeting, and the officials from state-owned and private fishery firms discussed market, production and investments in seafood production processes.

Dr Toe Nandar Tin said to the media, “We shared international experiences at the meeting for development of the country’s fishery industry. Foreign countries are interested in Myanmar fishery resources and that we are trying to develop this industry.”

(Translated by Aung Khin)
Union Minister attends completion ceremony of all-round development project buildings

UNION MINISTER for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung attended a completion ceremony of all-round development project buildings in Kayin and Mon states held at Kayin State Myawady Township Lay Ke Kawk Town on 27 November afternoon.

At the ceremony Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Kayin State Chief Minister Nan Khin Htwe Myint, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy, Air Force) General Mya Tun Oo, Peace Commission Vice Chairman U Thein Zaw, Karen National Union (KNU) Chairman Saw Mu Suy Poe, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama and the Nippon Foundation Chairman Mr. Yoshi Sasakawa delivered speeches.

Next, State Chief Minister Nan Khin Htwe Myint presented national registration cards (NRC) to locals who were resettling in Lay Ke Kawk Town and an official accepted it on behalf of the local populace.

Afterwards, Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung, State Chief Minister Nan Khin Htwe Myint, KNU Chairman Saw Mu Suy Poe and officials cut a commemorative ribbon to open all-round development project buildings in Kayin and Mon State, planted commemorative trees and released peace doves.

The new Lay Ke Kawk Town was established under the resettlement system for conflict displaced persons, refugees from camps in Thailand who wishes to return, KNU personnel and family members and migrant workers after the Union Government and KNU signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

From Financial Year 2016-2017 to Financial Year 2019-2020, the Ministry of Border Affairs had utilized K 21.082 billion for Kayin State and out of this K 1,891.216 million was used for Kayin State Myawady Township Lay Ke Kawk Town established in 2014. The funds were used for basic infrastructures of roads and bridges as well as constructing 200 houses and connecting electricity to it.—Htain Lin Aung (IPRD) (Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Minister for Border Affairs inspects development works in Kayin State

UNION MINISTER for Border Affairs Lieutenant General Ye Aung visited Kayin State and inspected the regional development on 26 and 27 November.

At the office of development supervising committee, he heard reports on the border area development works and called for systematic implementation of policies, objectives and planning of the ministry. He also inspected constructions of roads and primary school in Hlaingbwe Township, and gave cash assistance, stationery and school uniforms for the teachers and students.

On 27 November afternoon, the Union Minister and party arrived at the Vocational Training School of Domestic Science for Women in Myawady Township, and attended to the needs at the school.

He also inspected construction of the roads and bridge, low-cost housing, irrigation of stream water, power lines and other development works of the ministry in Lay Ke Kawk new town in Myawady Township.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)

IFER Union Minister receives Vice Governor of Yunnan Province

UNION MINISTER for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun received Mr. Dong Hua, the Vice Governor of Yunnan Province at Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations on 28 November 2019. During the meeting, they discussed further promotion of trade and investment promotion between the two countries.

LIP Union Minister receives Nepali Ambassador in Nay Pyi Taw

UNION MINISTER for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe received Ambassador of Nepal Mr Bhim K Udas at the guest hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to relaxation of entry-visa requirements, simplifying Myanmar citizens’ pilgrimage to Bodh Gaya in Nepal and Nepali pilgrims to Myanmar issuing over 100 countries including Nepal with e-visa for tourists and 55 countries including Nepal with arrival visa for business persons, coordination between the two Foreign Affairs Ministries for issuing arrival visa for Nepali tourists, cooperation of immigration and labour affairs.—MNA (Translated by TTN)

H&S Deputy Minister to attend opening ceremony of 30th SEA Games

DEPUTY MINISTER for Health and Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein will attend the opening ceremony of 30th Southeast Asian Games in the Philippines.

Dr Mya Lay Sein, in her capacity as Vice Chairperson of Myanmar Olympic Committee, and Myanmar delegation were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by officials from sports federations.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein seen off at the Yangon International Airport by officials before departing for the Philippines. PHOTO: MNA
Timor-Leste Embassy celebrates Proclamation of Independence Day in Yangon

The Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste celebrated the 44th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence Day of Timor-Leste at the Lotte Hotel in Yangon yesterday and it was attended by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint.

The even began with the national anthems of Myanmar and Timor-Leste.

Afterwards, Ambassador of Timor-Leste Mr Joao Freitas de Camara and Union Minister Dr Pe Myint delivered key-note addresses marking the Proclamation of Independence Day of Timor-Leste.

Next, they cut a cake to celebrate the 44th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence Day of Timor-Leste and posed for documentary photos together with the dignitaries at the event.

The event was attended by diplomats in Yangon, resident representatives of the UN agencies and invited guests.—MNA (Translated by GNLA)

South Korea extends support on smart cities to ASEAN

SOUTH Korea will strengthen cooperation with ASEAN member countries in the smart city field and ROK’s Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport plans to support four ASEAN nations through the Korea Smart City Open Network from 2020 to devise effective plans and conduct feasibility studies.

ROK Land Minister Ms Kim Hyun-mee made these remarks at the ASEAN-ROK Ministerial Meeting on Smart City, on the sidelines of the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit, on 25 November.

Union Minister for Construction, U Han Zaw, also attended the meeting after he departed from Yangon International Airport on 23 November and landed in Busan, South Korea, the next day. The Union Minister was accompanied by the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Nay Pyi Taw’s Mayor Dr Myo Aung and officials from his ministry.

The Union Minister also attended the Breaking Ceremony for Busan Eco-Delta Smart City in the evening of 24 November, where ROK President Mr Moon Jae-in delivered the keynote speech. The ceremony was attended by prime ministers from ASEAN member countries, government ministers and deputy ministers, and mayors.

The Union Minister attended the ministerial meeting at Park Hyatt Hotel on the morning of 25 November and explained Myanmar’s smart city strategy and future cooperation with ASEAN, ROK and other affiliated organizations. A decision was also made to form a consultative body at the ministerial level between South Korea and the ASEAN member states for ensuring sustainable cooperation in the smart city sector.

Next, the Union Minister visited the ASEAN-ROK Smart City Fair 2019 at the Busan Exhibition and Convention Centre (BEXCO) along with representatives from ASEAN member states. Upon arriving at the Myanmar booth, the Union Minister received an explanation from Daw Aye Aye Myint, Deputy Director-General of Urban and Housing Development, on cooperation between Myanmar and ROK and her department’s implementation of the Smart City Strategy.

On 26 November, the Union Minister met with ROK Minister Ms Kim Hyun-mee and discussed the progress of the joint-national project on constructing the Korea Myanmar Industrial Park, the Dala Bridge and Dala Myothit projects, Myanmar’s Smart City initiative, and upgrading roads.

The Union Minister held a meeting with LH Korea’s CEO in Paradise Hotel. They also discussed the Korea Myanmar Industrial Park and technical support for implementing the Smart City project in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union Minister and his delegation returned to Yangon on the evening of 27 November and he inspected the project area of the Korea-Myanmar Friendship Dala Bridge yesterday.

Deputy Director-General U Kyaw Kaung Cho of the Bridge Department and project officials explained the project’s progress to the Union Minister, who provided feedback and suggestions in return.—MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

NCRPD report writing team holds third coordination meeting

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun presided over the third coordination meeting at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to discuss preparations for producing an annual report of National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (NCRPD).

The Deputy Minister, as the chairman of the report writing team, recounted the first coordination meeting’s resolutions on 9 October, including to produce the report in both Myanmar and English versions at the end of March next year and to collect contents, topics and articles from the relevant organizations till the end of December.

The second coordination meeting on 8 November agreed to collect reports from relevant organizations.

U Win Naing Tun, the Director General of Department of Rehabilitation, explained the ongoing works for producing the annual report with the contributions of sub-committees, the relevant departments, related organizations and activities at the States/Regions.

The attendees at the coordination meeting made suggestions on the works of relevant sub-committees, and the meeting was concluded with the closing remark by the Deputy Minister.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)
THE Union Attorney-General’s Office introduced a guidebook for drafting bills at the Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The book is aimed at government agencies in drawing up bills and drafting new laws.

Japan’s SMEs have high expectations of the book and the guidance it offers for drafting bills.

The book will be distributed to all branches of the Myanmar National Army, as well as to departments and regions.

The book is available in English, Burmese, and Japanese.

The guidebook is expected to provide useful guidance to the Myanmar National Army in the drafting of new bills and the revision of existing laws.

The guidebook is available for free download on the Myanmar National Army’s official website.

The guidebook is expected to be a valuable resource for the Myanmar National Army in its efforts to improve the quality of its laws and regulations.
The extraneous wealth of those in authority and even some of the decision makers in these tasks were the evidence to the corruption rampant there. Hence, we are suggesting and a relief to learn that the government is working hard to implement an effectively transparent open tender system and to do away with the old corrupted procedures. In fact, the series of serious policies concerning public funds have significantly dropped the misappropriation of taxpayer’s money.

It is our opinion that policies focusing on ensuring public funds are used to maximum efficiency are more suitable than those aiming to reduce their loss. The idea behind this is that in trying to prevent loss of public funds, officials may decide on cheaper options that do not meet the necessary standard for the job. Thus, deterioration due to insufficient quality will need repairs and maintenance that actually spends more public funds. Reducing expenditure does not mean the result will always be better. If we had spent the required amount to ensure the work meets the standard, and then we also save the national budget in the long run in the form of sustainable investments.

We urge those in authority to consider these facts when they make their decision.

The lasting Buddha images and religious buildings are a testament to Mrauk-U’s society’s adoration of religion. The ritual weakening of the Mrauk-U 1ST AD continues to persist to this day. But the disease of the systematically constructed city walls, moats and first during the construction of the city development show the decline of its heritage image. The unique aspect of Mrauk-U is the feat of engineering that enabled its residents to utilize the surrounding natural water resources to drive the development of its agricultural and agricultural systems.

Rakhine customs
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Spending smartly, not less, is key

MYANMAR is currently taking energetic steps out of decades of underdevelopment. With the democratic strength of the people, their representatives in parliament and the government, they are implementing development activities and projects with increased momentum. One of the top priorities of the government department has to design projects that bring about the maximum benefit to the nation and yield the highest quality in its results. All these processes make use of the national budget, which is composed of money from taxpayers. Hence, officials have to be wary of misappropriation and wastage of public money.

This is why government departments, regardless of the nature of their work, are required to operate on a transparent open tender system when vast sums of money are involved. They have to invite private companies that can deliver the desired quality of work involved in the designated period of time. This process used to be heavily corrupt when officials from long ago passed the tender to close associates or their own kin and to companies passing the highest bid.

It is a relief that archaeological items have been calculated in time and there is hope in the integrated management framework that will one day be in place to restore the area to its former glory, though maybe not complete, glory. The area has also been demarcated into the protected core and buffer zone according to the Protection of Cultural Heritage Law, so that it can be included in the world heritage list.

MraukU: Asia, the Indian Ocean and their heritage treasure

By Win Kyaw

T he history of Mrauk-U is the uniquely localised feature in Rakhine State that houses numerous cultural heritage. The architectural remains surrounding the city centre at its glorious presence in time long forgotten. Indeed, the city was a central hub for international trade from the 15th to 18th Centuries. Mrauk-U’s strategic location not only made it a place connecting national trade within the Indian Ocean region but also helped proliferate the Mahamuni Buddha image customs to the Buddhist nations of Southeast Asia. It was during the Mrauk-U era that images of the Buddha were crowned with mahatmya head-dresses and adorned with royal apparels. The custom of worshiping this variation of the Buddha image, which was originally spread to other cultures in the region, prominent architectural and historical heritage from the period that still stands to this day are the Shite-Taung temple, Thidamantein temple, Ratanap Pagoda and Linhsawin Pagoda.

Defense on three sides
Mrauk-U is located on the east coast of the Bay of Bengal has mountain range is as well. The Simon mountain range and spur that descends from north to south connects with the southern edge of the Chin mountain range. The Maung Long range crosses off to the north and ranges gradually slopes downward near Shuang Put and then descends to villages to the south.

To the east of Mrauk-U, near the Lay Myo River Delta are two smaller mountain ranges called Myalap and Parma. To the west lies expanses of plains and creeks and fringes of the Kaladaw, Lin Moy mountain range and more hills that play an important geographical role in Mrauk-U’s water resources and production process. With this in mind, we can see the natural defences surrounding Mrauk-U on three cardinal directions. Residents constructed numerous city walls and moats to the east, which they considered to have the weakest natural defence. The city’s distance of 6 kilometers from the ocean became its selling point as a safe economic location in the Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal areas. The remnants of the old city can be gathered in a comfortable display near Shuang Put and this area is a landscape of Buddha image, pagodas, palaces and structures.

Unique craftsmanship in caves, Buddha image, nat shrines, monasteries and palaces to house the Digpalpas, which are currently over a thousand such structures catalogues.

Multi-sector development
Mrauk-U’s defense, agricultural, trade and religious achievements are an interesting site of development. This was made possible by a clever water resource engineering system and other innovations that adapted to the city’s surroundings. The fact that it became an important city for commerce in the Indian Ocean region, drove development of Buddhist architecture and became a major city of business and multi-sector development in Buddhist history are its main evidences.

The lasting Buddha images and religious buildings are a testament to Mrauk-U’s society’s adoration of religion. The ritual weakening of the Mrauk-U 1ST AD continues to persist to this day. But the disease of the systematically constructed city walls, moats and first during the construction of the city development show the decline of its heritage image. The unique aspect of Mrauk-U is the feat of engineering that enabled its residents to utilize the surrounding natural water resources to drive the development of its agricultural and agricultural systems.
Traditional umbrella businesses thriving in Mandalay

With Pathein umbrella, one of Myanmar’s traditional handicrafts, enjoying a strong demand in the local market, umbrella makers are earning a good income and their numbers are increasing in Mahasaungmye Township of Mandalay Region.

“Earlier, we had to suspend the umbrella business during the rainy season. But this time, we received a number of orders even in the rainy season. Earlier, there were only two umbrella businesses in our ward. Now, the number of umbrella businesses has increased to eight. We have been trying to use plastic caps instead of wood caps for two years now,” said Ko Myint Soe, an umbrella business owner.

Traditional umbrellas are made completely by hand. First, bamboos are trimmed and dipped into water. Then, threads are connected to the trimmed bamboos and cloths are fixed onto the shaped bamboo with glue paste and then, the umbrellas are dried under the sun.

“Nowadays, traditional umbrellas are selling well. Earlier, only monk umbrellas enjoyed a high demand. Currently, a large number of golden umbrellas are being produced and they are selling well in the market due to a high demand from hotels. Meanwhile, the demand for monk umbrellas is not dying and sometimes, we have to make customized monk umbrellas. We have been practicing the art of making traditional umbrellas for 25 years, and passed it on to the next generation,” said an umbrella maker.

Lagunpyin plant to supply 40 mln gallons of water to Yangon

With the completion of the Lagunpyin water treatment facility, expected to provide 40 million gallons of water every day to Yangon, and work on the plant is currently 70 per cent complete, according to the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

“The YCDC plans to supply 40 million gallons of water per day from the Lagunpyin water supply project in 2022. Meanwhile, 70 per cent of the construction has been completed,” said U Than Han, acting deputy director of the assessment of water supply project under YCDC.

In addition, the Lagunpyin water project will provide water to the Thilawa industrial zone, east Dagon, north Dagon, south Dagon, Dagon Seikkan, as well as Thakayta and Dawbon townships.

The project will be divided into two zones — Zone 1 and Zone 2. Zone 1 will provide water to six downtown townships, including Ahlon and Sanganuary, and Zone 2 will cover Hlinethaya Township and other townships. The project will provide 60 million gallons of water to Yangon Region, according to the YCDC — Myint Maung Soe (Translated by La Womn)

Yield of monsoon paddy likely to increase in Indaw Township

The yield of monsoon paddy in Indaw Township is likely to increase this year compared to last year although only 38 per cent of paddy fields have been harvested, said U Thein Khine, township head of the Indaw Township Agriculture Department.

“In the 2017-2018 fiscal, Indaw township produced a total of 87.10 baskets per acre from 56,558 acres monsoon paddy field. In the 2018-2019 FY, a total of 55,063 acres monsoon paddy fields were cultivated in the township. Currently, only 38 per cent of paddy has been harvested and a total of 88.52 baskets per acre have been produced. So, the production of monsoon paddy may show an increase this year compared to last year,” said U Thein Khine.

A demonstration of relay cropping system and a monsoon paddy harvesting were held on 27 November on local farmer U Maung Cho’s monsoon paddy fields, he said.

“In order to figure out the yield of paddy, a total of 0.10 acre of paddy was harvested and the paddy yield was estimated at 92.6 baskets. Additionally, the use of seed moisture testers was also demonstrated,” said U Phone Maung, district head of the Katha District Agriculture Department.

The demonstration and harvesting were attended by U Than Win, Saguing Region Hluttaw representative, U Phone Maung, U Thein Khine, officials from the Agriculture Department, district agricultural experts, and local farmers — Myo Win Tun (Translated by Hay Mar)
White peanut markets open with stable price in central Myanmar

ALTHOUGH the white peanut market receives China’s high demands, the prices are still freezing in Monywa market according to U Thein Oo, an owner of Myanmar Thein Depot.

“Currently, the price of peanuts has decreased to low price and the peanuts in the market are from ChaungU, Myinnmu, and Myaung townships. The old peanuts from Budalin, Tabayin and Kani townships fetch K2,800 per viss (a viss equals 1.6 kg) but they are currently out of stock in Monywa market. The new peanut ranges K3,000 per viss in current market. Moreover, this crop of peanut has received the high demands due to the quality,” said U Thein Oo.

The white and red peanuts are ministry, the exports of finished industrial goods totaled $850 million in the 2014-2015 FY, as per figures provided by the Ministry of Commerce. According to the Ministry of Commerce, the export market has increased to China, Japan, South Korea, and Thailand.

Manufacturing exports soar to $1.125 bln as of 15 Nov

EXPORTS of finished industrial goods touched a high of US$1.125 billion between 1 October and 15 November in the current fiscal, an increase of $195.7 million compared with the corresponding period of the previous financial year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

As per figures provided by the ministry, the exports of finished industrial goods totaled $930 million during the same period in the 2018-2019 FY.

In addition, the manufacturing sector is likely to attract the most foreign investments in the 2019-2020 FY, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). Myanmar’s manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in garment and textiles produced on the cutting, making, and packaging (CMP) basis, and it contributes to the country’s GDP to a certain extent.

The CMP industry has emerged as a very promising one in the export sector. The value of CMP exports was just $850 million in the 2015-2016 FY, but it tripled within two years to reach $2.5 billion in the 2017-2018 FY, as per figures provided during the Myanmar Global Investment Forum 2018, held on 12 December.

In the first month of the current financial year, exports of clothes produced under the CMP system topped $230 million.

Japan is the largest market for Myanmar apparel, followed by the European Union.

The Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association has more than 500 members, and the garment factories in Myanmar employ more than 500,000 workers. Investors prefer to invest in cheap-labor countries like Myanmar — GNLM

PHAKANT Town will soon get a gems and jewellery market to be set up in Phakant

PHAKANT Town will soon get a gems and jewellery market next to the office of the Gems and Jewellery Traders Association in Hunmar village, on the side of the road to Seikkmu village.

The market is being developed by the Gems and Jewellery Traders Association (Phakant). The stake driving ceremony was held on 27 November, and the Kachin State Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, the township administrator, and officials attended the event.

According to the chair of the association, U Maung Tun, the market will create job opportunities for migrant workers and local residents. It will also ease traffic congestions in the informal market, he added.

Winter sesame enters Monywa market in mid-November

WINTER sesame started entering the Monywa market in mid-November, said U Thein Oo, the owner of the Myanmar Thein Depot.

“Winter sesame has started to enter the Monywa market from Monywa, ChaungU, Myaung, Budalin, Dabayin, and Ayadaw townships. The crops entered the market between 10 and 15 November. Sesame normally enters the market in mid-November. But, it will enter the market much later,” said U Thein Oo.

Black sesame and white sesame were prescribed as export products before 2011. Mixed sesame, from which sesame oil is produced for local consumption, was also prescribed for exports in 2011.

“Black sesame and white sesame are normally exported to the China market. The sesame varieties fetch a good price, depending on their quality,” said U Thein Oo.

“Sesame is easier to grow than other crops and has less potential to be unprofitable. It can also be grown with other crops,” said U Bo Hmat, a sesame grower from Budalin Township.

“The price of white sesame is ranging between K43,000 and K50,000 per basket (one basket equals 18 viss), while the price of black sesame is in the range of K65,000-K75,000 per basket,” said U Bo Hmat. — Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

MFF to disseminate glass eel fishing techniques

By Neyin Nyein

TECHNIQUES to catch glass eels will be shared with those engaged in the fishing business in the current financial year, said Dr. Toe Nandar Tin, Vice President of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF).

The MFF will disseminate information on capturing glass eels in cooperation with the Fisheries Department, she said.

“Glass eels are hatched in the sea and carried by waves to the coast. They can be trapped and captured using stones and fishing nets,” said Dr. Toe Nandar Tin.

“After hatching in the sea, glass eel larvae move with the waves towards the coast. However, we do not know their hatching season and a survey is required for the whole year,” she added.

Glass eels are flowing into the Myanmar market through the Myanmar-Bangladesh border and then they are being sent to other towns through the Kawthoung market.

“Glass eels have expert potential. The fishing method is simple and it can be a lucrative business for fishing workers,” said Dr. Toe Nandar Tin.

Glass eels enjoy a strong demand in China, Japan, South Korea, and Thailand. — Township IPRD

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PHAKANT Town will soon get a gems and jewellery market to be set up in Phakant.

“The market is slated to be completed by the end of 2020. It will include 27 buildings with 108 rooms. Each unit will be sold for K75 million and buyers would be allowed to split payments into four installments,” he said.

The market will have food court, restaurants, and housing facilities, said U Maung Tun. “There will also be three bazars for vendors, who cannot afford to buy shops, and there will be space for 400 vendors per bazaar,” he added.

The Myanmar Gemstones Law has been enacted. After the bylaws are instituted, gems traders will be allowed to hold jade and trade it in the market, according to the Phakant gems market. — Township IPRD

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India, ADB sign $451 million loan to strengthen power connectivity in Tamil Nadu

NEW DELHI — India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Thursday signed a 451 million dollar loan to strengthen power connectivity between southern and northern parts of Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC).

CKIC is a part of East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC) in Tamil Nadu and ADB is the lead partner of government for developing ECEC, according to an official statement. The signatories to the loan agreement were Sameer Kumar Khare, Additional Secretary (Fund Bank and ADB) at the Department of Economic Affairs, and Kenichi Yokoyama, Country Director of ADB’s India Resident Mission.

“The project will help Tamil Nadu state government to meet the increasing demand for power supply from industry and commercial enterprises in the state through transfer of power from new generation facilities, including renewable energy in southern CKIC to industrial hubs in the state’s northern region,” said Khare after signing the loan agreement. — ANI ■

ECB’s new president Lagarde signs euro banknotes

FRANKFURT — The new president of the European Central Bank (ECB) Christine Lagarde signed here on Wednesday euro banknotes, vowing to nurture and sustain European citizens’ trust in the single currency.

With currently 23 billion banknotes in circulation with a value of 1.26 trillion euros — a third of which are being used outside the euro area, the world’s second largest reserve currency has been playing a role in bringing Europe closer together, fostering a common identity and a sense of shared destiny in the currency bloc.

“It serves as the most tangible symbol of European integration, a process which has brought peace, freedom and prosperity to our continent,” Lagarde said at the signing ceremony which is customary in them.

“The banknotes are part of our economy, our identity and our culture,” she underlined, adding that the ECB has an immense responsibility to ensure that people maintain their trust in them.

As the ECB’s fourth president, Lagarde embarked on her eight-year term on 1 November, 2019. — Xinhua ■

Japan beer exports to S Korea dry up amid hiccup in ties

TOKYO — Not a single drop of Japanese beer was exported to South Korea last month, according to official figures on Thursday, as a boycott campaign against Japan over a historical dispute dried up demand.

Japanese beer shipments to South Korea stood at 7.9 billion yen ($72 million) last year, accounting for more than 60 percent of the country’s global exports of the amber nectar.

But the finance ministry in Tokyo said exports had plunged to zero, as the two countries remain locked in a dispute over trade and Japanese war-time atrocities. Already in September, year-on-year exports had fallen 99 percent, dealing a blow to Japanese brewers such as Kirin, Asahi and Sapporo. A Kirin Holdings spokesman declined to comment, saying only: “We are watching developments.”

Exports of Japanese instant noodles and sake to South Korea have also plummeted. Ties began a downward spiral after a series of South Korean court rulings ordering Japanese firms to compensate war-time forced labour victims.

This infuriated Tokyo, with Japan insisting the matter was settled in a 1965 treaty normalising diplomatic relations between the two countries, which included significant reparations.

The historic dispute morphed into a trade spat between the two market economies, as Japan removed South Korea from a so-called “white list” of countries that enjoyed streamlined export control procedures. — AFP ■

Stock markets retreat as Trump triggers Chinese anger

WASHINGTON — Stock markets mostly fell Thursday as China-US trade talks took a jolt from a US law backing Hong Kong protests that has angered Beijing.

US President Donald Trump signed into law a bi-partisan bill that voiced support for the pro-democracy protests, prompting a sharp response from Chinese officials.

Global equities have been surging in recent weeks — with Wall Street hitting multiple records — on expectations the closely followed trade negotiations would result in a partial pact soon. “European stock markets are in the red today as US-China trade tensions have ticked up a little on the back of President Trump signing the Hong Kong bill,” said David Madden, analyst at CMC Markets UK.

“This is a new dimension to the US-China relationship, and it has the potential to derail the trade talks. Traders are fearful that China will lash out at the US, which is why stocks are lower,” he added. The dollar dropped versus main rivals and oil prices were lower as well.

Trump on Wednesday put his name to the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, China said it would respond with “firm countermeasures” after Donald Trump signed into law a bill recognising Hong Kong’s rights.

Photo:AFP

ECONOMY

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

PHOTO:  AFP

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Photo:AFP

ECONOMY

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

PHOTO:  AFP
Belgium-based blockchain tech leader SettleMint launches operations in India

NEW DELHI — One of the fastest-growing block- chain technology giants, Belgium-based SettleMint, announced the launch of its India operations at a ceremo- ngy hosted at the private residence of Ambassador of Belgium on Tuesday evening.

To be headquartered out of New Delhi, SettleMint’s latest footprint in India is the fifth after Belgium, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Singa- pore. Speaking at the occa- sion Matthew Van Niekerk, CEO, SettleMint, said, “We are delighted to begin our journey in India, which is currently a hotspot of block- chain technology activity. Keeping in line with the incredible adoption pace of blockchain technology world over, India as well stands to benefit from blockchain as a key tech- nology to realize Prime Minister’s vision of becoming a $5 trillion economy.”

Highlighting Settle- Mint’s dramatic journey, Van Niekerk, added, “We have reached delivering a solution rather than hype in the blockchain lifecycle. SettleMint drastically reduces the complexity of blockchain technology, making it easy and fast for an organization to turn a business concept into a working blockchain appli- cation from 12-18 months to at most a few weeks.” —ANI

End of an era as Japan’s Panasonic exits chip business

TOKYO — Japanese electronics giant Pana- sonic said Thursday it was exiting the semicon- ductor business, selling its loss-making subsidi- ary to a Taiwanese firm as it struggles with intense competition from China and South Korea.

It marks the end for a once iconic Japanese busi- ness, with Panasonic seen as a global chipmaking powerhouse in the 1980s and 1990s.

The Japanese con- glomerate said it was offloading its subsidiary Panasonic Semiconduc- tors Solutions to Taiwan’s Nuvoton, with the sale scheduled to take place in June. A spokeswoman for the firm told AFP Panasonic would receive $250 million.

The firm said it was the “best way” in the face of “extremely intense com- petition with rival firms’ business expansion and massive investment”.

The unit logged an op- erating loss of 23.5 billion yen ($215 million) for the fiscal year ended in March, according to the Nikkei business daily.

Panasonic as a whole reported a whole forecast a 27-per cent drop in operating profit to 300 billion yen this fiscal year to March 2020.

However, traders cheered the news, with shares in the firm closing up 2.82 per cent at 1,099 yen. Only last week, Pana- sonic said it would end its production of liquid crys- tal display panels by 2021, again in the face of Chi- nese and South Korean manufacturers dominating the global market.—AFP

Nissan to invest 33 bil. yen on advanced manufacturing technology

YOKOHAMA — Nissan Motor Co. said Thursday it will invest 33 billion yen ($301 million) to introduce advanced manufacturing technology at a plant in Ja- pan to tackle the challeng- es of producing next-gener- ation vehicles such as electric, intelligent and connected cars.

Nissan plans to intro- duce the manufacturing technology at its facto- ries around the world, in- cluding those of alliance partners Renault SA and Mitsubishi Motors Corp., following the initial invest- ment at its plant in Toguchi Prefecture in 2020.

“A leap in Nissan’s production technology will be key in enhancing our (overall) technology as vehicles become more complex and advanced,” Nissan Executive Vice President Hideyuki Saka- moto told a press con- ference at the automaker’s headquarters in Yokoha- ma.— Ryodo News

Belgium-based SettleMint announced the launch of its India operations at a ceremony hosted at the private residence of Ambassador of Belgium on Tuesday evening. PHOTO: AFP

Nissan’s announcement of producing next-gen- eration vehicles such as electric, intelligent and connected cars.

A Nissan Leaf, an electric vehicle is displayed at the Nissan Booth at CES 2017 at the Las Vegas Convention Center on January 5, 2017 in Las Vegas, Nevada. PHOTO: AFP

Japan’s Panasonic has been gradually selling off some of its loss-making units. PHOTO: AFP

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Changing Distributor for Registered Pesticide

Distribution of pesticide registered by Shandong Weifang Rainbow Chemical Co., Ltd is changing from RAINBOW AGROSCIENCES CO., LTD to Agro Green Land Chemical Co., Ltd. Any objection to this change may be submitted to Co-Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyongone, Insein within 2 weeks.

**Trade Name**

1. Dalomat 247 SC
2. Rice Water 32 WP

**Active Ingredient**

1. Lambda Cyhalothrin 106 G/L SC
2. Quinclorac 28% + Bensulfuron-methyl 4% WP

**Registration Type/ No**

Provisional : 2015 - 3949
Provisional : 2017 - 3949

**Add: Building No. (C), Room No. (402), Level-4, Dagon Center (1), Bagoyar Road, Sanchaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar**

Phone: 09456060160, 09456060180
S Korea top court repeals ex-Pres. Park’s bribery acquittal

SEOUL — South Korea’s Supreme Court on Thursday tossed out a lower court ruling that had acquitted jailed former President Park Geun Hye over a bribery case involving the country’s intelligence agency, ordering a retrial of the case at the appeals court.

The Seoul High Court had acquitted the former president of the charge of accepting bribes from the National Intelligence Service, while sentencing her to five years in prison for still causing the state to lose funds.

The top court determined that Park should also be found guilty of accepting bribes in the case.

A retrial at the high court is highly likely to extend the existing prison sentence for the former president.

S Korea launches unidentified projectiles, says South Korea

PYONGYANG — North Korea has conducted the launch of an unidentified projectile, said the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff on Thursday. South Korea is analyzing the data related to the launch, Yonhap News Agency reported. This is already the twelfth launch of this kind since May. Pyongyang last test-fired on 31 October, when it tested two unidentified projectiles towards the East Sea. — ANI

India, UK reaffirm commitment on counter-terrorism cooperation

LONDON — India and the United Kingdom (UK) strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and reiterated their commitment to work together to tackle the menace. Both sides made the commitment during the 13th meeting of India-UK Joint Working Group on counterterrorism which was held in London on November 25 and 26. “The 13th meeting of India-UK Joint Working Group on counterterrorism was held in London on 25-26 November. Both sides condemned terrorism in all its forms and reaffirmed their commitment to work together to combat terrorism,” the Indian High Commission in London tweeted on Wednesday.—ANI

Singapore invokes fake news law against anti-gov’t website

SINGAPORE — The Singapore government on Thursday invoked its controversial new fake news law for a second time, ordering the editor of an anti-government website to put up a correction notice declaring that a recent social media posting contains falsehoods.

Home Minister K. Shanmugam instructed a government agency that was recently established to enforce the new law to issue a “correction direction” to Alex Tan, editor of the online States Times Review, over a 23 November article that he posted on his Facebook account.

“A correction direction has been issued to the ‘States Times Review’ Facebook page requiring STR to carry a correction notice stating that its article contains falsehoods,” the Home Ministry said in a statement posted on its website.

The Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act was passed by Parliament in May and came into force on 2 October despite concerns from some quarters that the law gives too much power to the government to decide what news is fake.

The 23 November Facebook post had focused on a recent incident in which a Facebook page whose name appeared to be similar to a student union of the National University of Singapore alleged that the ruling People’s Action Party planned to field a Christian evangelist female candidate in the next general election. It claimed a whistleblower has been arrested.

—Kyodo News

Furious China threatens retaliation over US law on Hong Kong

BEIJING — China on Thursday summoned the US ambassador and threatened retaliation after US President Donald Trump signed legislation supporting Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters, just as the world’s top two economies edge towards a trade truce.

Trump signed the legislation under heavy pressure from Congress, where it attracted rare bipartisan support, and in a statement spoke of his “respect” for Chinese President Xi Jinping, calling for both sides to “amicably settle their differences”.

But Beijing lashed out furiously, summoning the US ambassador, threatening unspecified “firm countermeasures” and warning Washington not to implement the legislation.

“The nature of this is extremely abominable, and harbours absolutely sinister intentions,” the Chinese foreign ministry said in a statement.

“China strongly urges the US side to correct mistakes and change course,” the ministry added later.

In Hong Kong, the government expressed “extreme regret” after Trump signed legislation requiring an annual review of freedoms in Hong Kong and banning the sale of crowd control equipment like tear gas.

“The two acts are obviously interfering in Hong Kong’s internal affairs,” the city government said in a statement, warning the move would “send the wrong message to the protesters”.

And Beijing’s liaison office in the city condemned Washington’s “disgusting conduct”, saying it would bring “trouble and chaos” to Hong Kong. —AFP
Poll shows UK Tories headed for comfortable win

LONDON — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s Conservatives are heading for a comfortable win in next month’s election, according to a detailed new poll, amid reports Thursday that the rival Labour party is refocusing its strategy.

The YouGov survey published late Wednesday said if the contest were held now, the Conservatives would match 44 seats from the main opposition party to win a 68-seat majority in the House of Commons.

The poll — the biggest so far in this campaign to predict election results seat-by-seat — uses a model that correctly forecast 98 per cent of seats in the last election in 2017, according to YouGov.

Britain votes on Dec. 12. With Johnson hoping to secure a majority to be able to push through his plan to leave the European Union at the end of January.

The data showed larger swings from Labour to the Conservatives in areas that are more pro-Brexit, especially in England’s northern and central regions.

Labour has promised a new referendum on Brexit, and although leader Jeremy Corbyn says he would be neutral, many of his top team have said they would campaign to stay in the EU.

“As expected, the key thing deciding the extent to which each of these seats is moving against Labour (is) how that seat voted in the European Union referendum” in 2016, said Chris Curtis, YouGov’s political research manager.

The Tories are keen not to seem complacent, however.

Dominic Cummings, a Johnson advisor who masterminded the 2016 Brexit campaign, warned just hours before the YouGov poll was published that the race remained tight.

“As someone who has worked on lots of campaigns, things are much tighter than they seem and there is a very real possibility of a hung parliament,” he wrote in his personal blog post addressed to Brexit supporters.

“Without a majority, the nightmare continues. All other MPs will gang together to stop Brexit and give EU citizens the vote,” Cummings added.—AFP

US envoy to EU accused of sexual misconduct

PORTLAND — United States Ambassador to European Union Gordon Sondland, who provided key testimony in US impeachment hearings has been accused of sexual misconduct by at least three women.

Sondland denied the allegations and his lawyer has alleged that the accusers are trying to influence the inquiry against the president. The New York Times reported. A US-based magazine ‘Portland Monthly’ on Wednesday published the article in which the women have told their stories.

One of the accusers, Jana Vogel, who owns Portland Monthly, said that she met Sondland in 2003 to seek investment for her art collection which included a picture of himself with US former President George W. Bush and he exposed himself in the pool house. She also accused the ambassador of forcibly kissing her.

Another woman Nicole Vogel, who owns Portland Monthly, said that she met Sondland in 2003 to seek investment for a news magazine. Vogel said that Sondland took her to a hotel room and then “grabs my face and goes to kiss me”.

Vogel said that she refused and left the room. Later on, she had received an email in which Sondland declined funding for her project.—ANI

Maldives ex-president Abdulla Yameen gets 5 years jail for money laundering

MALE — Former Maldives President Abdulla Yameen was sentenced to five years of imprisonment in a money laundering case on Thursday.

A five bench panel of a court in Maldives also ordered Yameen to pay a USD 3 million fine in the case. The court ruling found the 69-year-old guilty of laundering over USD 1 million of state money for personal gain, Maldives Independent reported.

The panel ruled that Yameen invested the money despite reasonable grounds to suspect that it was ill-gotten and violated an agreement signed with the Anti-Corruption Commission to hold the USD1 million in an escrow account. The new bench has announced the verdict after Judge Ahmed Halim was suspended hours before he was to announce the verdict on 5 November.

Yameen’s supporters including former ministers and lawmakers protested outside the criminal court during the hearing. They have accused the government of “hijacking” the judiciary. Yesterday, Yameen warned supporters to beware of “vultures” who might take over the opposition coalition if he is sent to prison.—ANI

Mysterious reappearance of Turkey’s missing

ANKARA — News that a loved one was in custody would be unwelcome in most circumstances — but when the police called Sumeyye Yilmaz, she felt her prayers had been answered.

Her husband Mustafa Yilmaz had been missing for eight months.

At last, she knew he was alive and she would see him again.

But she could not take in the news, asking the officer on the phone if he was sure. “There are many Mustafa Yilmazes, I didn’t want to be disappointed,” she told AFP.

The next day, he was finally back in her arms.

Police told Sumeyye that her husband was “found” on 21 October and was in good health, but she could see he had lost weight and his hands and face were “ice cold”.

Sumeyye feared her husband, a 33-year-old physiotherapist, had been tortured and said he looked anaemic, but he gave no account of his missing months and told her only that he had been “hiding”. —AFP

A large burden on my shoulders has gone,” Sumeyye Yilmaz says after being reunited with her husband who had been missing for eight months. PHOTO: AFP

Trade Mark Ads Call this today 092512155, 09974424848
Soe Lin Oo fights to a draw against Thailand’s Pharparus

THE main bout of the Myaing Gyi Ngu Lethwei event between Myanmar star Soe Lin Oo and Thailand icon Pharparus, held on 27 November in Kayin State, ended in a draw.

The match proved to be thrilling as both are star fighters with a lot of experience in lethwei and Muay Thai.

The first round started with Soe Lin Oo putting up a careful fight, while Muay Thai fighter Pharparus launched an attack with high and low kicks, which Soe Lin Oo blocked using his hand.

Soe Lin Oo relied on his strong right punch, but Pharparus landed his left punch, and the first round proved to be testing for both fighters.

The second round was more active, with Pharparus using strong punches. One left punch of Pharparus hit the right side of Soe Lin Oo’s face, but although bloodied, Soe Lin Oo did not buckle.

In the third round, Soe Lin Oo deflected continuous attacks from Pharparus, who tried to hit him again on the face. Soe Lin Oo used close punches, hitting Pharparus continuously, but Pharparus, too, remained standing.

Soe Lin Oo dominated the fourth and fifth round, landing strong punches and using elbows, but he seemed exhausted and could not manage to knock his opponent out, and the fight ended with a draw. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

FIFA ranking of Myanmar men’s national football team jumps to 136

THE Myanmar men’s national football team has climbed 11 spots to 136 from 147 in FIFA rankings, according to a statement released yesterday by FIFA.

The FIFA stated that Myanmar is currently the most improved team in Asia. The team moved up in the rankings following its 3-0 victory over Nepal at a FIFA international friendly match on 7 November.

The FIFA ranking was also based on the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers matches in which Myanmar got two consecutive wins within a week. Myanmar beat Tajikistan by 4-3 and Mongolia by 1-0 in the Group F matches of the World Cup Qualifiers 2022. While Tajikistan has fallen five positions to 121 in the world rankings, Mongolia has slipped four spots to 190.

Kyrgyzstan has also climbed down two positions and is currently ranked 96th by FIFA.

At present, Japan is ranked first in Asia, while Australia (42nd) and Qatar (55th) have maintained their positions to complete the top five.

Malaysia, thanks to wins over Thailand and Indonesia in the Asian Qualifiers, has jumped four places to 154th in the rankings. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Myanmar women footballers prepare for SEA Games match against Malaysia

THE Myanmar women’s national football team underwent special training yesterday at the Philippines Football Federation (PFF) artificial training ground in Binan, the Philippines, ahead of their match against Malaysia at the SEA Games.

Team Myanmar, led by head coach U Win Thu Moe, has been placed in Group A with host Philippines and Malaysia for the tourney.

As the previous Group A match between Myanmar and the Philippines on 26 November ended in a 1-1 draw, Myanmar will be focusing on a win in the match against Malaysia on 2 December so they can gain the first place and advance to the semifinals.

Meanwhile, Group B has two ASEAN powerhouses — Thailand and Viet Nam. The opening match of Group B between Thailand and Viet Nam on 26 November also finished with a 1-1 draw, and there is much interest in which team would advance to the semifinal with the first place.

The last match for Group A between Myanmar and Malaysia will start at 2.30 p.m. Myanmar Standard Time on 2 December at the Binan Stadium in Binan. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)