Union Health Minister attends celebration of World AIDS Day 2019

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe attended the celebration of the World AIDS Day 2019, taken place at the Union Hall in Kyauk-kasan Sports Ground in Yangon yesterday morning.

At the event, the Union Minister said Myanmar has adopted the National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS (2016-2020), and preparing for extending of the plan to 2021-2025 period for prevention and treatments in coordination with the HIV programme and partner organizations to cover the whole country.

The lack of health knowledge, no access to preventive measures, drug injections into veins, sexual intercourse with women sex workers, male homosexuality, prisoners and migrant workers are mostly included in the spread of HIV/AIDS.

The Union Minister said that an estimated 237,000 people have been infected with HIV in 2018, and 0.57 per cent of them has suffered AIDS.

The newly infected cases in 2000 was 29,000 at the recorded rate, and declined to 10,000 in 2018. The figures also showed that the new cases were mainly found at the people who injected drugs (also known as PWID), female sex workers, and male to male sex contacts.

The highest infection rates were also found in Kachin State, northern Shan State, Sagaing Region and Yangon Region.

Medical treatments with the lifelong ART were given to 85,000 patients out of 200,000 HIV infected people in 2015, and over 175,000 patients received this medicine in September 2019, showing the figure has been double in comparing these two periods.

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World AIDS Day 2019 celebrated in Sittway

THE World AIDS Day 2019 was celebrated at the U Ottama Park in Sittway Town, Rakhine State yesterday.

At the event, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and Head of the State Public Health Department Dr Sai Win Zaw Hlaing made the remarks on the World AIDS Day 2019.

Afterwards, officials presented awards to the winners of essay, painting and cartoon on the World AIDS Day 2019 competitions.

The event held under the title “Communities make the difference” includes musical performances, entertainments, booths giving the knowledge of AIDS and quiz games.

With the guidelines from Ministry of Health and Sports and the assistance from foreign and local civil society organizations, the State Public Health Department led holding the event which was aimed at sharing knowledge of AIDS and raising health awareness.

—Zaw Gyi

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Khumi Tribe celebrates traditional New Year in Paletwa

KHUMI ethnic tribe held their traditional New Year festival in Paletwa, Chin State, yesterday with sports activities and concerts.

The festival was opened with the song “Graceful Khumi New Year” by Khumi ethnic women.

At the festival, outstanding students of Khumi ethnic tribe were honoured and the winners in volleyball, Sepak takraw, taekwondo and tug sports were awarded with prizes.

The visitors were also entertained with Khumi ethnic songs and the bonfire dance.

Since 2014, Khumi ethnic tribes in Paletwa Township celebrates annual traditional new year festival on December 1.

The New Year festival is organized by Khumi Literature and Culture Association.

The families of the ethnic tribe also celebrate the traditional feast at their homes in November and December at their convenience.—Maung Maung Kyawt (Paletwa)

(Translated by Bahtoo)
T&C Union Minister inspects upgrade of Yangon-Mandalay railroad

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung looked into Yangon-Toungoo railway section upgrade which is the phase one in developing Yangon-Mandalay rail network upgrading yesterday morning.

The Union Minister and officials inspected the completion of bridge construction between Swa and Konegyi stations before meeting with the railway staff at Toungoo Station.

At the Dinwin Station, the Union Minister discussed the works with the staff members and local companies which are working with the foreign counterparts in the project.

The Union Minister and party then arrived at Phyu Creek Bridge 203 and inspected soil preparations under the bridge. They also looked into soil tests near the milepost 95/3-6.

They also inspected Bridge 83 and 79 between Pyinpomyi and Phayagnyi stations, and a railway section near Htonegyi station. — MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung and party inspect the bridge construction between Swa and Konegyi stations yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Union Health Minister attends celebration of World AIDS Day 2019

FROM PAGE-1

Over 130,000 patients were treated at the state-run health centres up to September 2019, and some patients from the NGOs and local NGOs have been transferred to the public health centres.

Although ART medicines can help the HIV patients live longer, although this medicine can cause side effects for hypertention and diabetes.

The Integrated Biological and Behavioural Survey 2017 (IBBS-2017) has showed that the number of PWID was 93,000, and the rate of HIV infection to them was 34.9 per cent.

The rate of HIV infected pregnant women has gradually declined to 0.57 per cent in 2018 from 0.84 per cent in 2011. Myanma has targeted no mother to child transmission of HIV by 2025.

The Union Minister also emphasized to continue taking steps to prevent HIV transmission to child by pregnant women has gradually declined to 0.57 per cent in 2018 from 0.84 per cent in 2011. Myanma has targeted no mother to child transmission of HIV by 2025.

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Dr Tun Naing, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy, inspected the Mandalay Operation Center of Myanmar-China Oil and Gas Pipelines project in Singaing Township, Mandalay Region yesterday.

Upon the report by officials on collecting and distributing natural gas, the Deputy Minister said that the strength of pipelines was very important for sustainable distribution of the oil and gas, and instructed the officials to timely conduct necessary inspections and repairs to the pipelines and compressors.

He also urged the officials to conduct capacity building trainings for the local employees working at the project so that they can supervise the whole project.

Dr Tun Naing also called for improving the skills of the staff of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise by conducting pipelines maintenance training. He then inspected its control station.

Afterwards, the Deputy Minister and party arrived at the natural gas Off-Take Station in Taungthu Township, and inspected collecting and distributing natural gas in its control room.

The natural gases produced by Shwe Natural Gas Project were being transported to Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and inspected inside the station. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

E&E Deputy Minister inspects oil and gas projects in Mandalay

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(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)
Mass walk event organized to mark 2019 IDPWD

A mass walk event was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning to mark the 2019 International Day of People with Disabilities. PHOTO: MNA

Over 1,000 cyclists take part in Monywa mass cycling event

A mass cycling event kicked off on December 1, the first Sunday of the month, in Monywa with the participation of more than 1,000 cyclists.

“The cycling event has attracted more than 1,000 cyclists. Earlier, only 800 people joined the event. Well-wishers donated steamed sticky rice and coffee at the event,” said U Than Aung, director of the Sagaing Region Sports and Physical Education Department.

The cyclists were flagged off from Monywa’s public sports field. The participants cycled over 3 miles, taking 1 hour and 15 minutes to complete the trip.

“I have been cycling for health reasons for a month. I wish the mass cycling events are held frequently,” said a participant.

“The cycling event also includes 700 lucky draw programs for participants,” an event organizer said.

Sageing Region government receives 600 requests for jobs in Japan

AROUND 600 locals have sought permission from the Sagaing Region government to take up jobs in Japan, according to U Moe Kyaw Thu, Minister of Immigration and Human Resources for the region.

“Young people need to learn foreign languages and other skills. The Sagaing Region government has received 1,200 applications for overseas jobs, and 600 of the applicants want to work in Japan,” said U Moe Kyaw Thu.

The Japanese government is bringing in workers from ASEAN countries, including Myanmar, for 14 types of jobs — caregiving; cleaning buildings; manufacturing machine parts and tooling; assembling industrial machinery; electrical work; electronics; and information technology; construction; shipbuilding and ship machinery; automobile repair and maintenance; aviation; hospitality; agriculture; fisheries and aquaculture; manufacturing food and beverages; and, food services.

‘Those who wish to work in Japan must be fluent in Japanese. They need to pass N4 and the required tests for related jobs. They would have to get a work visa from the Japanese Embassy, along with an offer of employment letter from their employers,’ he added.—Myo Win Tun

(Translated by EMM)
Onion imports possible only in case of shortage: Minister

A man carrying sacks of onion near a warehouse in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

DESPITE the surge in onion prices in the local market, onion imports will not be allowed during harvest time, said Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo.

Although traders said they are ensuring that cattle that is to be traded is free from foot and mouth disease, the minister said imports will be allowed only if there is a shortage of onions in the local market coupled with a price escalation. At present, more than 160 tons of onions from central Myanmar have flooded the local market.

The local market has witnessed a huge increase in onion prices owing to strong demand from Bangladesh. However, Bangladesh suspended purchase of Myanmar onions in October-end as the price rose dramatically in Dhaka.

On 20 September, onions fetched Ky600-900 per viss (one viss equals 1.6 kg) in the wholesale market. The price jumped to Ky2,000 per viss on 16 November.

“In early November, onions were priced around Ky2,000 per viss in the retail market of Pazuntaung Township. The price shot up to Ky4,000 per viss on 15 November,” said a housewife who lives on the junction of Bogoyoke Road and 51st street.

At the beginning of the onion season, onions were being sold for just Ky400-500 per viss. But, the prices rose in a volatile market mid-year. Although traders said stocking onions might lead to losses, the price of domestic onions crossed Ky3,000 per viss in 2015, 2018, and 2019.

“The price of onions was Ky200-500 per viss in September. Last month, Bangladesh’s demand for Myanmar’s onions coupled with high demand in the local market hiked up prices,” according to the Mandalay commodity depot.

Earlier, in response to the surge in prices, the government had allowed onion imports. In the previous years, China flooded the onion market with bulk supply. As their production in Myanmar exceeds self-sufficiency, onions are also shipped to external markets.

Onion prices may change depending on the weather conditions and market supply, said traders.—GNLM

(Translated by EMM)

Myanmar’s bilateral trade with Germany exceeds $820 mln last FY

TRADE value between Myanmar and Germany in the last fiscal year (2018-2019) reached US$821.5 million, according to data of the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar’s export to Germany surpassed its import, with $624.67 million worth of export and $196.86 million valued import, according to the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Beyond regional trade regime, Myanmar has established trade links with EU members. Germany is the biggest trade partner in European Union, followed by the UK and France.

The main export items are rice, pulses, tea leaf, coffee, garments on Cut-Make-Pack basis and fisheries. Meanwhile, machinery, data-processing equipment, electrical and optical goods, chemical products, motor vehicles and parts and pharmaceutical products, cosmetic, food and beverages and consumer goods are imported into Myanmar.


Trade value with Germany was registered at €373 million in the past mini-budget period (April-September 2018), €584 million in 2017-2018 FY, €342 million in 2016-2017 FY and €153 million in FY 2015-16 respectively.—GNLM

(Translated by EMM)

Farmers picking tea leaves in a farm in northern Shan State. PHOTO: KHINE SET WAI

Negotiations underway with China for cattle exports

MYANMAR has held a series of negotiations with China at the Joint Border Trade Cooperation and Coordinating Committee (JBTCC) meetings on legal exports of cattle along with cross-border control of communicable diseases.

While cattle exports are legal in Myanmar, livestock trade is still not permitted by China, according to the Myanmar Livestock Federation.

“They are ensuring that cattle that is to be traded is free from foot and mouth disease. Discussions between China and Myanmar are under way,” the federation stated.

Myanmar has officially permitted the export of cattle. Therefore, the Myanmar government is planning to enter into a Government-to-Government pact with China so that Myanmar traders have a legal trade channel with China and do not suffer losses by indulging in illegal trade.

In a bid to encourage legal trade, increase income, and create more jobs for local residents, Myanmar had in late 2017 granted permission for livestock trade, along with decentralized cattle exports from regional and state governments. But, this power was transferred from regional governments to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation, as they faced certain difficulties in the movement of cattle, according to an announcement from the Ministry of Commerce on 22 May.

Traders mainly export cattle to China through the Muse border gate, as well as to Thailand. Normally, a large cow is valued at over K1.6-2.5 million, but early this year, the suspension of trade led to Chinese traders resorting to price manipulation and offering a lower price of about K1 million.

Between the 2017-2018 FY and October in the current FY, over 460,000 heads of cattle, with an estimated value of over US$281 million, were exported to China through Muse, according to trade figures. At present, cattle that are over five years old are being exported, along with the required vaccination certificates, health certificates, and farming registration certificates. According to the 2018 cattle census, there are 11.5 million heads of cattle in the country.

The authorities have issued cattle export licenses to more than 300 companies in the Magway Region. There are around 5,000 companies holding cattle export licenses across the country.—GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)
Myanmar Buddha statue donated to disaster-hit northeast Japan

FROM PAGE-1

The drafting of the strategy began in 2018, and it was officially introduced on 19 November this year: The strategy will adopt action programs for the systematic closure of IDP camps.

The Union Minister said as the strategy has been drawn in accordance with international norms, the adoption of work programs in line with the policies, laws, and rules of the country in closing IDP camps is an important matter.

As stated in the strategy, region-wise work programs will be implemented after forming Union-, region-, and state-level committees. There are some other tasks in connection with the resettlement of IDPs and closure of IDP camps that the ministry will carry out before and during the adoption of the strategy. Those tasks will be integrated into the strategy.

“Connections is under way with UN agencies and the Red Cross, apart from the ongoing coordination between Kachin State government and KHCC, a Kachin social organization, in closing IDP camps in Kachin State. We are collecting a list of villages where the IDP camps will be closed and which are included in the resettlement program. In addition, we are coordinating with the Tatmadaw and the ethnic armed organizations for mine-clearance and raising public awareness about mines,” said the minister.

“As regards the dangers posed by mines, Myanmar representatives attended the Oslo Review Conference on a Mine-Free World in Oslo, Norway on 25 and 26 November for the first time, and discussed resettlement programs, the importance of humanitarian mine-clearing activities, and the different stages of the mine-clearing program. The discussions will be supportive of the strategy. There will be continued coordinated efforts as the task of the Work Committee on Resettlement of IDPs in Kachin State is in conformity with the national IDP resettlement and camp closure strategy. Pilot projects will be implemented in Kachin and Rakhine states. UN agencies and international bodies are urged to render their cooperation in implementing the Union-led state-wise work programs,” said Dr. Win Myat Aye.

In their discussions, the UN resident coordinator and resident representatives said it was an honor for everyone as the UN and international organizations were able to offer advice on and disseminate the strategy, which is being carried out under the leadership of the government after it was adopted with the involvement of a UN and international expert, Prof. Walter Kaelin. They said they were ready to partake in adopting and implementing work programs of the strategy, which are suitable for local needs in the future.

They, then, welcomed the marking of areas for pilot projects for adopting and implementing the work programs. They expressed the belief that the difficulties faced in the initial tasks can be turned into opportunities, and suggested the authorities listen to the voices of women and children IDPs while drawing work programs. Afterwards, they discussed the roles of the UN agencies, INGOs, and the Red Cross. — Kyodo News

(Translated by TMT)
Campaigners occupy German coal mines in climate protest

WASHINGTON — Ionosphere is the chaos in the night sky, about 60 to 600 miles above Earth’s surface. This layer of Earth’s atmosphere is blasted by solar radiation that breaks down the bonds of ions. Free electrons and heavy ions are left behind, constantly colliding.

This dance was previously measured through a method called incoherent scatter radar in the northern hemisphere, where researchers beam radio waves into the ionosphere. The electrons in the atmosphere scatter the radio wave “incoherently.” The different ways they scatter tell researchers about the particles populating the layer. Now, researchers have used radar in Antarctica to make the first measurements from the Antarctic region. They have published their preliminary results in the Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology.

Taishi Hashimoto, assistant professor at the National Institute of Polar Research in Japan, said: “Incoherent scatter radar is currently the most powerful tool available to investigate the ionosphere because it covers a wide altitudinal range and it observes essential ionospheric parameters such as electron density, ion velocity, ion, and electron temperatures, as well as ion compositions.”

While these radars are powerful, they’re also rare due to their size and power demand. Using the Program of the Antarctic Syowa Mesosphere-Stratosphere-Troposphere/Incoherent Scatter (PANSY) radar, the largest and fine-resolution atmospheric radar in the Antarctic, researchers performed the first incoherent scatter radar observations in the southern hemisphere in 2015.

— ANI

Researchers use largest radar in Antarctica for first measures of Earth’s ionosphere

SPREMBERG — Thousands of activists on Saturday occupied several opencast coal mines in eastern Germany, seeking to put pressure on the government to phase out the fossil fuel—a divisive issue in the country’s rust belt.

Wearing masks and dressed in white, hundreds of campaigners stormed into the Jaenschwalde Ost mine while another 450 sat down on a railroad connected to the site.

Similar action hit the Welzow-Sued mine, also in the Lausitz basin.

Meanwhile, MIBRAG which operates another mine— the Vereinigtes Schleenhain site— south of Leipzig said about 1,200 protesters blocked a coal excavator, forcing the group to halt operations.

“We have nothing against peaceful protests and the exercise of democratic rights, but we reject all forms of breach of laws and violence,” MIBRAG chairman Armin Eichholz said in a statement.

Both MIBRAG and Czech-controlled LEAG which operates the two Lausitz mines said they were filing legal action against the protesters. Police were able to clear the mines only after several hours.

In these mining regions, thousands of jobs depend on coal. But some residents are also threatened with the loss of their homes over a planned expansion of mining.

Underlining the division over the coal industry, dozens of pro-coal militants also gathered in the Lausitz basin. —AFP

(Almost) nothing can stop bacterium decimating Florida’s oranges

FORT PIERCE — Peter Spyke, a third-generation citrus farmer, said: “We’ve lost a great deal of our productive capacity.”

As the first reports of the bacterium decimating Florida’s oranges began to circulate in 2005, a third-generation citrus farmer, Peter Spyke, a third-generation citrus farmer, said: “We’ve lost a great deal of our productive capacity.”

Spyke, a third-generation citrus farmer, said: “We’ve lost a great deal of our productive capacity.”

Florida’s orange production will be down by 80 percent this season (harvests last from November to April depending on the citrus variety). Grapefruits are the most affected. “We’ve lost a great deal of our productive capacity and along with that we’ve lost juice plants, we’ve lost jobs, we’ve lost packing houses,” said Spyke, a third-generation citrus farmer.

At this point we haven’t identified any way to make the trees immune to HLHb, he said during a tour of his orchard.

Florida citrus farmers have generally been reluctant to destroy contaminated trees, and as a result 90 percent of their groves are infected — compared to only 19 percent in Brazil, while Europe so far has been spared the blight. Sprays used to treat trees in Florida have been ineffective. —AFP

Campaigners say the government’s plans to phase out coal by 2038 announced this year do not go far enough. PHOTO: AFP

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

PHOTO: AFP

2 DECEMBER 2019
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
Inclusive participation is a key to boosting community-based tourism

EXPERIENCE is the knowledge or skill we get from doing, seeing, or feeling things. Evidence is the available body of facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid. For tourism health interventions, evidence typically refers to the effectiveness of an intervention in achieving an outcome that will create lasting changes in the health of the population. This evidence is usually published in scientific literature such as in professional journals, books, or government reports. There are several major types including: documentary evidence, digital evidence, demonstrative evidence, exemplary evidence, physical evidence, prima facie evidence, scientific evidence, and testimony.

World Health Organization (WHO) defined Traditional Medicine (TM) as the skills and practices based on the health practices, approaches, knowledge and beliefs from various cultures, whether explicable or not, incorporating plant, animal and mineral medicines, spiritual techniques, therapies, manuals and exercises, applied singularly or in combination in the maintenance of health and well-being including diagnosis, intervention, or treatment of physical and mental illness.

Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) provides the health professional be able to understand the relationships between research and evidence, to use and appraise evidence and to determine its applicability with regard to a particular patient’s health condition.

The practice of evidence—based medicine means integrating clinical evidence with the best available clinical evidence from systematic reviews and clinical assessment and judgment that individual clinicians acquire through clinical experience and clinical practice. It cannot be denied that there is a long tradition in TM to explain every single thing under the sun. What does a drug do? What practices go beyond the scientific field. But there are still many practices that cannot be understood. EBP for these clinical experiences and skills acquired from clinical practices must be proved by evidence when the whole world is demanding standardization and international harmonization.

For that to happen, all-inclusive TM domains need to work together. There is a famous quote by the 37th President of the United States of America, John F. Kennedy. “Do not ask what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country!” Likewise, please do not ask what TM domain do for you; ask what you can do for the promotion of TM domain.

TM is much more important in the 21st Century as guidelines and values standards that have the potential to provide the best medical care at the lowest cost. The advantage of EBP is that knowledge gained from large clinical trials is directly applied to patient care. The use of EBP promotes consistency in individual patient treatments that are supported by evidence, like the use of antibiotics to treat infections. EBP promotes quality and improved quality of life.

Evidence-based practice (EBP) is the integration of the best research evidence with clinical expertise and patient values which when practiced by clinicians will ultimately lead to improved patient outcomes. There are 5 steps in implementing EBP: Acquire, Appraise, Evaluate, Practice, and Audit.

1. Ask—Formulate an answerable question
   One of the fundamental skills required for EBP is the asking of well-constructed clinical questions. By formulating an answerable question you focus your efforts specifically on what matters. These questions are usually triggered by patient encounters which generate questions about the diagnosis, therapy, prognosis or management.

2. Acquire—Find the best available evidence
   The second step is to find the relevant evidence. This involves identifying search terms which will be found in your carefully constructed question from step one; selecting resources in which to perform your search such as PubMed and Cochrane Library; and formulating an effective search strategy using a combination of MEDLINE terms and limitations of the results.

3. Appraise—Appraise the evidence
   It is important to be skilled in critical appraisal so that you can further filter out studies that may be flawed but that are relevant. Use a simple critical appraisal method that will allow you to answer your questions. What did question tell you? Were the methods valid? What are the results? What conclusions do you draw from the results?

4. Practice—Implement the evidence
   Individual clinical decisions can then be made by combining any of the 5 processes involved in the clinical decision-making process. In the next time a question is asked?

5. Audit—Evaluate the outcome
   The final step in the process is to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of your decision in direct relation to your patient. Were the expectations of the new intervention achieved? How well did the intervention work? Did the outcomes meet the expectations of the new intervention? Were the outcomes of the new intervention better than or equal to the outcomes from any other intervention?

TM, the report emphasizes the importance of recognizing TM, more thrust to TM practices, philosophies of treating disease and not just medicines; evidence-based research; and the recognition of traditional and clinical stages should be strengthened and supported; when decision-making and quality harmonization; global guidelines on policies; and establishment of mechanisms and TM networking platform implementation so that the methodology is supported by conventional methods and guidelines on TM research are needed to be developed; traditional practices, healers and ecosystem should not be exploited during processes, which turn into a global Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) should work together to avoid bioprospecting and related issues at the backdrop of bioprospecting. More need to think globally and start us thinking about: Why am I doing this in this way? Is there evidence that can guide me to do this in a more effective way? As health professionals, part of providing a professional service are ensuring that our practice is informed by the best available evidence. EBP also plays a role in improving TM, as relevant sources are used wisely and that relevant evidence is considered.

In conclusion, TM is demanding international harmonization. It is time to think globally and locally to ensure that our practice is informed by the best evidence. As health professionals, part of providing a professional service are ensuring that our practice is informed by the best available evidence. EBP also plays a role in improving TM, as relevant sources are used wisely and that relevant evidence is considered.

In Myanmar, the traditional medicine practitioners provide health care to public.

Traditional medicine practitioners provide health care to public.

PHOTO: MOHI

Time to Improve Experience of Evidence-based Practice in Myanmar Traditional Medicine

(Dr. Than Lwin Tun, May Thazin & Honey Soe) (Ministry of Health and Sports)

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 02nd December, 2019: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kayah, Chin and Rakhine States. Degrees of certainty is 85%. Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 02nd December, 2019: Light scattered showers are likely to occur. Degrees of certainty is 85%. Weather will be partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR VANGAON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 02nd December, 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 02nd December, 2019: Partly cloudy.

We need to provide popular tourist spots with sufficient restrooms and a responsive sanitation system. We also need to conduct public awareness campaigns to ensure a clean and green environment.

We need to provide popular tourist spots with sufficient restrooms and a responsive sanitation system. We also need to conduct public awareness campaigns to ensure a clean and green environment.

In a recent news report, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, chairman of the Ethnic and Public Affairs Management Office, quoted the importance of inclusive participation in developing community-based tourism, which is a business friendly to living standards as their income, environment and natural resources, at a conference in Katha Chin State.

Community-based tourism implies a business that ensures significant opportunity to protect the development of livelihoods and protection of traditional values, cultures, and environment. It is also a tourism enterprise, owned, operated, and managed by the local people, and where their voices and concerns are acknowledged.

While implementing community-based tourism, locals will see an improvement in their living standards as their income, environment and natural resources, at a conference in Katha Chin State.

In community-based tourism, attracts more tourists through hospitality and better services.

However, the country has another problem, and that is lack of sanitation. We need to provide popular tourist spots with sufficient restrooms and a responsive sanitation system. We also need to conduct public awareness campaigns to ensure a clean and green environment.

As our country already has a natural advantage for the business, we need innovative ideas and effective methods to attract more tourists through hospitality and better services and inclusive participation to ensure the development of community-based tourism.
Singapore orders Facebook to correct anti-government website

SINGAPORE—The Singapore government has ordered Facebook to issue a correction notice on an anti-government website’s page after the site’s editor remained defiant over an article it posted to the social networking site earlier this month.

Singapore had ordered a small alternative news website, the States Times Review, to issue a correction notice on Thursday. But its 32-year-old editor, Alex Tan, now an Australian citizen working in Australia, has refused to comply.

On Friday, a government office that enforces controversial new laws to combat fake news said Home Minister K. Shanmugam has instructed Facebook to issue a correction notice to the States Times Review’s official Facebook page.

The so-called Targeted Correction Direction, allows the government to obtain the cooperation of providers of internet intermediary services, such as Facebook, in these types of cases. If an organization such as Facebook refuses to cooperate, it can be slapped with a fine of up to $81 million ($730,000), and in the case of a continuing offense, a further fine of up to $810,000 daily.—Kyodo News

Taliban should accept US proposal for ceasefire: Afghan govt

KABUL—President Ghani’s spokesperson Sediq Sedigi on Sunday said that the Taliban should accept United States’ proposal for a ceasefire agreement as that would pave way for the direct talks between the group and the Afghan government.

This statement of the Afghan government comes after US President Donald Trump advocated a peace “owned by the Afghan government” during his Thursday meeting with the Taliban. His comments came a day after he and Afghan officials brought together Japanese foreign and defense ministers in mid-December, according to reports.

“America wants peace, and the Taliban should accept US proposal for ceasefire. If they (Taliban) are really committed to giving up the war - in our opinion - the best opportunity is for them to accept that opportunity,” Tolo News quoted Sedigi as saying.

During his first and a surprise meeting to Afghanistan earlier this week, US President Donald Trump had said that the terms of the deal between Washington and the Taliban would have to include a Taliban ceasefire, adding that he thought the group would agree to it.

“The Taliban wants to make a deal and we’re meeting with them and we’re saying it has to be a ceasefire and they didn’t want to do a ceasefire and now they do want to do a ceasefire. I believe it’ll probably work out that way,” he said.—ANI

Japan, India to conduct fighter jet drill for deeper security ties

NEW DELHI—Japan and India agreed Saturday to conduct their first-ever joint fighter aircraft exercise in Japan as part of efforts to promote bilateral security cooperation in the face of China’s military build-up and regional assertiveness.

In the inaugural “two-plus-two” security talks, the foreign and defense ministers of the two Asian democracies also welcomed the significant progress in negotiations for an acquisition and cross-servicing agreement, or ACSA, and called for an early conclusion, according to a joint statement issued after the talks in New Delhi.

The two governments are planning to sign the ACSA, which would allow the two sides to share defense capabilities and supplies including fuel and ammunition, when Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visits India for talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in mid-December, according to Japanese officials.

“Tokyo and New Delhi aim to have a joint exercise involving fighter jets from Japan’s Air Self-Defense Force and the Indian Air Force next year,” the officials said.

It will be the fourth such drill for Japan after ones with the United States, Britain and Australia. Speaking at the meeting, part of which was open to the media, Japanese Defense Minister Taro Kono said the launch of the talks “symbolizes a higher level of integration in Japan-India security ties in the Indo-Pacific region.” The talks also brought together Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi, Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyan Jaishankar and Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh.—Kyodo News

China introduces mandatory face scans for phone users

BEIJING—China will require telecom operators to collect face scans when registering new phone users at offline outlets starting Sunday, according to the country’s information technology authority, as Beijing continues to tighten cyber controls.

In September, China’s industry and information technology ministry issued a notice on “safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of citizens online”, which laid out rules for enforcing real-name registration. The notice said telecom operators should use “artificial intelligence and other technical means” to verify people’s identities when they take a new phone number.

A China Unicom customer service representative told AFP that the December 1 “portrait matching” requirement means customers registering for a new phone number may have to record themselves turning their head and blinking. “In next steps, our ministry will continue to increase supervision and inspection... and strictly promote the management of real-name registration for phone users,” said the September notice.—AFP

All 16 leaders working to resolve India’s concerns over RCEP: Japan

NEW DELHI—Commenting on India’s decision to not join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a spokesperson of the Japanese Foreign Ministry on Sunday said that all the countries of the grouping are working to resolve New Delhi’s concerns over RCEP. “All the 16 leaders are working to resolve issues related to India on RCEP in a satisfactory way,” Amabhi Kaura, Deputy Press Secretary in the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said here.

His comments came a day after India and Japan held their first foreign and defence ministerial talks to further strengthen strategic ties.—ANI

India’s concerns remain: Japan’s foreign minister

NEW DELHI—Japan’s Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi on Sunday said that all the countries of the grouping are working to resolve New Delhi’s concerns over RCEP. “All the 16 leaders are working to resolve issues related to India on RCEP in a satisfactory way,” Motegi told the media. His comments came a day after India and Japan held their first foreign and defence ministerial talks to further strengthen strategic ties.—ANI

India’s decision to not join RCEP a ”disappointment” for Japan: Motegi

NEW DELHI—Japan’s Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi on Sunday said that all the countries of the grouping are working to resolve New Delhi’s concerns over RCEP. “All the 16 leaders are working to resolve issues related to India on RCEP in a satisfactory way,” Motegi told the media. His comments came a day after India and Japan held their first foreign and defence ministerial talks to further strengthen strategic ties.—ANI

Japanese and Indian defense ministers met with a “satisfactory” outcome, Motegi said.
Saudi Arabia takes over G20 presidency from Japan

RIYADH—Saudi Arabia became the first Arab nation Sunday to take over the G20 presidency as it seeks to bounce back onto the world stage following global upturn over its human rights record.

The oil-rich kingdom has promoted a liberalisation drive, including granting greater rights to women, but faced strong criticism over a crackdown on dissent and the murder last year of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

The G20 presidency, which Saudi Arabia takes over from Japan, will see it host world leaders for a global summit in its capital next November 21-22.

“The kingdom of Saudi Arabia assumes the G20 Presidency today, leading up to the summit in Riyadh,” in 2020, the official Saudi Press Agency said.

“The Saudi G20 presidency is committed to continuing the work from Osaka and promoting multilateral consensus.”

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the kingdom’s de facto ruler, hailed it as a “unique opportunity” to shape international consensus, SPA added.

“When Saudi Arabia assumes the G20 presidency, it will become the first (Arab) nation to lead this intergovernmental body,” Dennis Snower, president of the think-tank Global Solutions Initiative, said in a statement.

“This presidency... will be challenged by a central paradox: global risks like climate change, demographic developments, such as low birth rates, rising life expectancy and aging societies... but rising populism and nationalism are preventing progress at the multilateral level.”—AFP

EU commissioner says digital tax initiatives may need to be revived

BRUSSELS—The European Commission’s outgoing finance chief has called for reviving European initiatives to introduce a digital tax for the region if attempts to find a global solution fail.

Pierre Moscovici, the commissioner for economic and financial affairs, said in a written interview with Kyodo News that the EU’s proposal, although rejected by some members in March, led to “unprecedented” progress at the international level.

While a common approach to the issue could be found in 2020, the EU should play a central role in the process, said the commissioner of the EU’s executive body whose new members will take office on Dec. 1 for a five-year term.

“If we do not succeed in finding a global solution, the European Commission will launch its own initiatives to make it possible to tax digital activities at their fair value, because the current situation is no longer tolerated by European citizens,” the former French finance minister wrote.

The earlier proposal to apply a 3 percent tax rate to digital advertising, e-commerce and other digital activities was rejected by some member states including Ireland which granted reduced taxes for Apple Inc.’s operations.—Kyodo

Terror checks intensified as London attack enters election fray

LONDON—Britain’s Boris Johnson said Sunday the security services were stepping up monitoring of convicted terrorists released early from prison, as the London Bridge attack became embroiled in the election campaign.

The prime minister revealed around 74 people with terrorist convictions had been released early from prison in a similar way to Usman Khan, who left jail last December and went on to stab two people to death in Friday’s rampage. “They are being properly invigilated to make sure there is no threat,” Johnson told the BBC in an interview.

“We’ve taken a lot of action as you can imagine in the last 48 hours,” he said, adding he would not provide “operation details”.

Khan, 28, was shot dead while wearing a fake explosives vest by police on London Bridge after a stabbing spree that also injured three people launched at a nearby prisoner rehabilitation event he was attending.

Members of the public were hailed as heroes for preventing even greater loss of life by tackling him — one armed with a five-foot (1.5-metre) narwhal tusk and another with a fire extinguisher.

The incident comes two years after Islamist extremists in a van ploughed into pedestrians on the bridge before attacking people at random with knives, killing eight people and wounding 48.—AFP

News In Brief

Iraq parliament approves PM resignation, protesters mourn dead

BAGHDAD—Iraq’s parliament approved the resignation of the embattled cabinet on Sunday, after two months of violent unrest that have left more than 420 people dead and thousands mourning them in nationwide marches.

Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi said Friday he would submit his resignation to parliament following a spike in the death toll among protesters who accuse the entire ruling elite of being inept, corrupt and beholden to foreign powers.—AFP

Japan looking into Kashmir issue carefully, hopes for peaceful resolution

NEW DELHI—Japan is carefully looking into the situation in Jammu and Kashmir after its Foreign Minister said on Sunday a day after its Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministers held a ministerial dialogue with India.

“Regarding Kashmir, I can say it is a situation carefully looked at and we are aware of the long-standing difference in view with of this. We hope the peaceful resolution will be done,” Atsushi Kaifu, the Deputy Press Secretary in the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.—ANI
U.S. becomes net oil exporter in Sept. for 1st time in 70 years

WASHINGTON—The United States became a net exporter of crude and petroleum products in September for the first time in 70 years on the back of increased shale oil production, government data showed Friday. U.S. monthly oil exports surpassed imports by 88,000 barrels per day, making the country a net exporter on a monthly basis for the first time since the government started compiling data in 1949.

Projecting the trend will continue, the U.S. Energy Information Administration expects the country to be a net exporter of crude and petroleum products in 2020 as well.

The growing role of the United States as a global energy supplier would exert downward pressure on oil prices, according to the data, U.S. oil exports in September rose 18 percent from a year earlier to around 8.76 million barrels per day, while its imports dropped 12 percent to about 8.67 million barrels. After becoming the world’s largest crude oil producer in 2018 for the first time in 45 years on the back of increased shale production, the country’s oil exports have expanded rapidly. According to the IEA’s short-term energy outlook, released earlier this month, U.S. crude oil and petroleum net exports are expected to average 750,000 barrels per day in 2020 compared with average net imports of 520,000 barrels per day in 2019.—Kyodo

Six European countries join barter system for Iran trade

PARIS—Paris, London and Berlin on Saturday welcomed six new European countries to the INSTEx barter mechanism, which is designed to circumvent US sanctions against trade with Iran by avoiding use of the dollar.

“As founding shareholders of the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchange—INSTEx, France, Germany and the United Kingdom warmly welcome the decision taken by the governments of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, to join INSTEx as shareholders,” the three said in a joint statement. The Paris-based INSTEx functions as a clearing house allowing Iran to continue to sell oil and import other products or services in exchange.—AFP

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(23/2019-2020)

Sr No. Tender No. Description Remarks
(a) MOGE-C001/2019 Provision of 3D Seismic Data Services for Onshore Block RSF-1 US$ Ks
(b) DMP/L – 180 (19-20) Maintenance, Inspection and spare requirements Services for PLC (Daw Nyein) and Ywama (GDS) Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of services with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 2 December 2019 at the Finance Department, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than 14:00 pm on 30 December 2019.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time 30-12-2019, 14:00 pm

Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. +95 67 – 411206/411214

Request for Proposal for Consultancy Services
RFP No. 49/Consultancy UKT/ 2019-2020

1. Department of Hydropower Implementation is in the process of preparing the consultancy services of the Upper Kengtawng Hydropower Project (51 MW) which is located on Nam Teng River, about 14 km South-west of Kengtawng Township, Sothern Shan State, Myanmar.

2. The Employer requests for proposals to the qualified, well experienced in hydropower projects and eligible international consulting firms on the basis of open tender announcements in order to carry out the consultancy services of the said project in Myanmar Kyat.

3. The RFP document can be obtained from Department of Hydropower Implementation during office hours at 2nd December, 2019 by the authorized representative of the consultant firms upon submission of a written application in the name of Department of Hydropower Implementation.

4. A consulting firm will be selected under Qualify and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method and procedures as described in the RFP.

5. The proposals shall be submitted in six sets (one original and five duplicates) in two separate and sealed envelopes clearly marked “Technical Proposal” and “Financial Proposal” on or before the 16th January, 2020 not later than 10:00 Hours to Tender Receiving and Scrutinizing Committee, Department of Hydropower Implementation.

6. Only technical proposal will be opened on the same day at 10:30 Hours at meeting room, Department of Hydropower Implementation, in the presence of authorized representatives of the firms who choose to be present. Absence of the representative of the firms shall not hinder the opening of the proposal.

7. A pre-proposal conference will be held at 10:00 Hours on 11th December, 2019 at Department of Hydropower Implementation, Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

8. Invitation letter and Request for Proposal documents with detailed information shall be available at the following address during the office hours.

Procurement Branch, Department of Hydropower Implementation, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Office No. (27) Nay Pyi Taw, Phone : 067-8104189, 067-8104190, Email-dirpro.dhpi@moee.gov.mm.

Tender Receiving and Scrutinizing Committee, Department of Hydropower Implementation, Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

Claims Day Notice
M.V. ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1020 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITTMIP.

1. Open tenders for 2019-2020 fiscal year are invited for supply of the following services in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

2. The Open Tenders forms including Description of services with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available during office hours commencing from 2 December 2019 at the Finance Department, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, No. (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than 14:00 pm on 30 December 2019.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time 30-12-2019, 14:00 pm

Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. +95 67 – 411206/411214

2 December 2019
The Global New Light of Myanmar
China’s Trip.com chief on journey to boost working mothers

BEIJING — The head of Chinese travel giant Trip.com, Jane Sun, is on a mission to propel women through the workforce, spearheading novel approaches such as encouraging babies on business trips and free egg freezing.

As a working mother, she understands the challenges faced by many women in China, whose participation in the labour force has been falling for decades. She runs China’s largest e-commerce company and is one of the country’s business elite: a Silicon Valley returnee who moves in friendship circles with the likes of Alibaba founder Jack Ma and has the ear of the government.

But as well as moving the business to new markets globally, Sun is also looking closer to home for female representation across the 45,000-strong Trip.com workforce.

Jane Sun wants to drive female representation across the 45,000-strong Trip.com workforce. PHOT0: AFP

China’s Trip.com chief on journey to boost working mothers

Nissan, Renault, M’bishi to set up advanced tech development company

TOKYO—Nissan Motor Co., Renault SA and Mitsubishi Motors Corp. agreed to set up a new company to jointly develop advanced technologies for next-generation vehicles, as the alliance seeks to bolster their cooperation after its leader Carlos Ghosn was ousted, sources familiar with the matter said Sunday.

Engineers from the three automakers will focus on studying artificial intelligence and other key technologies at the new company, and its operation scale and other details will be announced by the end of January, the sources said.

Nissan and Renault are jointly working on development of platforms and engines and purchasing of parts under the alliance at present.

The three carmakers look to step up joint operations in the coming years, as their industry faces a radical shift in customer demand to connected, autonomous, shared and electric vehicles. The shift in business environment requires automakers to boost investment in technology — Kyodo ■

Request for Proposal for Consultancy Services

RFP No. 46/Consultancy MFL/2019-2020

1. Department of Hydropower Implementation is in the process of preparing the consultancy services of the Middle Paunglaung Hydropower Project (152 MW) which is located on Paunglaung River, about 32 km North-East of Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

2. The Employer requests for proposals to the qualified, well experienced in hydropower projects and eligible international consulting firms on the basis of open tender announcements in order to carry out the consultancy services of the said project in Myanmar Kyat.

3. The RFP document can be obtained from Department of Hydropower Implementation during office hours at 2nd December, 2019 by the authorized representative of the consultant firms upon submission of a written application in the name of Department of Hydropower Implementation.

4. A consulting firm will be selected under Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method and procedures as described in the RFP.

5. The proposals shall be submitted in six sets (one original and five duplicates) in two separate and sealed envelopes clearly marked “Technical Proposal” and “Financial Proposal” on or before the 15th January, 2020 not later than 13:00 Hours to Tender Receiving and Scrutinizing Committee, Department of Hydropower Implementation.

6. Only technical proposal will be opened on the same day at 10:30 Hours at meeting room, Department of Hydropower Implementation, in the presence of authorized representatives of the firms who choose to be present. Absence of the representative of the firms shall not hinder the opening of the proposal.

7. A pre-proposal conference will be held at 14:00 Hours on 10th December, 2019 at Department of Hydropower Implementation, Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

8. Invitation letter and Request for Proposal documents with detailed information shall be available at the following address during the office hours, Procurement Branch, Department of Hydropower Implementation, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Office No. (27) Nay Pyi Taw, Phone : 067-6104189, Email-dirpro.dhpi@moe.gov.mm.

Request for Proposal for Consultancy Services

RFP No. 47/Consultancy UYI/2019-2020

1. Department of Hydropower Implementation is in the process of preparing the consultancy services of the Upper Yeywa Hydropower Project (280 MW) which is located on Mitta Ngwe River, about 32 km south of Kyauk Mt Township, Northern Shan State, Myanmar.

2. The Employer requests for proposals to the qualified, well experienced in hydropower projects and eligible international consulting firms on the basis of open tender announcements in order to carry out the consultancy services of the said project in Myanmar Kyat.

3. The RFP document can be obtained from Department of Hydropower Implementation during office hours at 2nd December, 2019 by the authorized representative of the consultant firms upon submission of a written application in the name of Department of Hydropower Implementation.

4. A consulting firm will be selected under Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method and procedures as described in the RFP.

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8. Invitation letter and Request for Proposal documents with detailed information shall be available at the following address during the office hours, Procurement Branch, Department of Hydropower Implementation, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Office No. (27) Nay Pyi Taw, Phone : 067-6104189, 067-61041490, Email-dirpro.dhpi@moe.gov.mm.

Request for Proposal for Consultancy Services

RFP No. 48/Consultancy TH/2019-2020

1. Department of Hydropower Implementation is in the process of preparing the consultancy services of the Tha-ta-yi Hydropower Project (111 MW) which is located on Tha-ta-yi Chay River, about 19 km north-east of Thandwe Township, Rakhine State, Myanmar.

2. The Employer requests for proposals to the qualified, well experienced in hydropower projects and eligible international consulting firms on the basis of open tender announcements in order to carry out the consultancy services of the said project in Myanmar Kyat.

3. The RFP document can be obtained from Department of Hydropower Implementation during office hours at 2nd December, 2019 by the authorized representative of the consultant firms upon submission of a written application in the name of Department of Hydropower Implementation.

4. A consulting firm will be selected under Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method and procedures as described in the RFP.

5. The proposals shall be submitted in six sets (one original and five duplicates) in two separate and sealed envelopes clearly marked “Technical Proposal” and “Financial Proposal” on or before the 16th January, 2020 not later than 13:30 Hours to Tender Receiving and Scrutinizing Committee, Department of Hydropower Implementation.

6. Only technical proposal will be opened on the same day at 13:30 Hours at meeting room, Department of Hydropower Implementation, in the presence of authorized representatives of the firms who choose to be present. Absence of the representative of the firms shall not hinder the opening of the proposal.

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8. Invitation letter and Request for Proposal documents with detailed information shall be available at the following address during the office hours, Procurement Branch, Department of Hydropower Implementation, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Office No. (27) Nay Pyi Taw, Phone: 067-6104189, 067-61041490, Email-dirpro.dhpi@moe.gov.mm.

Tender Receiving and Scrutinizing Committee

Department of Hydropower Implementation, Ministry of Electricity and Energy
A Visit to Saddan Cave & Saddan Lake in Myanmar

IN Kayin and Mon States where there are plenty of natural limestone-mountains, caves such as ‘Bayintnyi Cave’, ‘Yathyapyan Cave’, ‘Kawtgone Cave’, ‘Waeyapyan Cave’ and ‘Saddan Cave’ are the famous tourist attractions for those from home and abroad. In those caves wonders of nature, Buddhist cultural heritages and antiques can be viewed. Most of the caves are the cul-de-sac ones with no exits at the ends. Some are the ones with both entrances and exits.

To the Saddan Cave

Out of the natural caves in Kayin State, the Saddan Cave has both entrance and exit. Its entrance is the widest and its length in the cave is the longest, among all the caves there. In Eastern Poe Karen Language, the Saddan Cave is called ‘Htant Kamart Khamite’ for ‘Kant Eit’ tree. That’s ‘Hrant’ for a cave, called ‘Htant’ in Kayin State, the Saddan Lake had been named after the Buddha-to-be King Saddan Elephant. The Buddha-to-be King Saddan Elephant took pleasure by playing in this lake. So, the Saddan Lake had been named after the King Saddan Elephant.

The Saddan Cave is accessible through several routes, via ‘Ein-du’ village, 13 miles far from Ein-du along the red earth road. After passing the villages—‘Kawt-War-Hsu’ village, 5 miles far from Ein-du and ‘Ein-du’ village on the motorway, east of ‘Zwegabin’ mountain. The study group proceeded to ‘Kawt-War-Hsu’ village, 5 miles far from Ein-du along the red earth road. At the threshold of the cave entrance of width, some Buddha Images on clay tablets can be seen. At the entrance of the cave around, we can reach the Saddan Cave by boat, on arrival at the village of ‘Kawt-Tha-Loe’ 10 miles far from ‘Hpa-an’.

Now, being the rainy season, the open space where motor vehicles coming to the Saddan Cave used to park in summer is now being inundated with water. The lake covering 20 acres, which is situated at the southern part of the mountain is nearly always flooded with water. The lake is joined to ‘Hsin-Hai-Taung’ called ‘Htant-Bai-Nart’ and ‘Inn-Gyi—the Lake’ in the south. Local people used to say that the said Lake had been the one in which the Buddha-to-be King Saddan Elephant took pleasure by playing in this lake. So, the Saddan Lake had been named after the King Saddan Elephant.

At the threshold of the stairways at the entrance of the Saddan Cave, two white elephant statues with 12 feet each in height can be found. Those white-elephant statues were inaugurated on the full-moon day of Tabaung, 1339 ME.

Two signboards which read in Myanmar/English Bilinguals ‘These caves are parts of our national heritages, hence the need to preserve them,’ had been erected nearby. In addition, on the signboards eco-system of limestone, benefits which result from the limestone mountain and causes which can ruin limestone-mountains were described with color photos.

We have to climb up along the 3-tired stairways floored with enameled plates to the entrance of the Saddan Cave, which is 50 feet high above the ground. The entrance of the Cave is about 100 feet in width and it is 70-100 feet in height. The Cave faces east, so it gets light and sunshine which makes the Cave dry and clean. In rainy seasons, as there is leakage of some water in the Cave, it is humid in it, or otherwise in summer seasons.

Buddha Images on Clay Tablets of the Saddan Cave

At the side of the mountain and at the entrance of ‘Kawt-gone’ and ‘Yathyapyan’ Caves, Buddha Images are mostly found. Likewise, in the Saddan Cave as well miniature Buddha Images on clay tablets can be found to have been donated on the interior wall of the Cave at the upper right corner of the cave entrance of width. Some Buddha Images on clay tablets of the Saddan Cave had come off to destruction. Now, two big empty spots can be seen 20 feet high from the ground, at the north of the Cave, in which clay images seem to have been pasted on the wall. The upper spot is estimated at about 6 feet in length, and the lower one at nearly 8 feet. At a conservative estimate, there will be some 1000 of Buddha Images of 2 and half inches each in height, in those spots.

After inspecting the broad entrance of the cave around, we can enter the cave so that we can go out from the exit of the cave. At the end of 19th brick stairway at the south-west corner of the Cave, we started to get into the cave. In rainy seasons, the whole inner part of the Cave is wet with water, and the ground surface is smooth. Previously, the path in the cave was completely dark. Yet, roads had been paved newly and lights had been installed. From the entrance of the Saddan Cave to its exit, it is 4 furlong long.
in some caves. While animals and beasts lived situations of locations human mountains. Depending upon tunnels that go into sides of mountains. Most of the natural caves are caused by water usually causes caves. Limestone-mountains situated near to sea coasts caused caves due to lapping of sea waves and touching with saline water constantly. Similarly, erosion of underground water usually causes caves. Most of the natural caves are tunnels that go into sides of mountains. Depending upon situations of locations human beings in the Stone Age used to have lived in convenient Caves while animals and beasts lived in some caves.

Caves and their surrounding areas

In the natural limestone caves in Kayin State, millions of bats live. Bats are biological species that controls the ecosystem of the surrounding area of the caves. In the Saddan Cave, there are seven kinds of bat species and thirteen kinds of invertebrate animals living. Bats feed on crop-destroying insects in agricultural farms of the surrounding areas. Simultaneously, they help crops to pollinate and spread seeds. Feces of bats are excellent natural fertilizers and it is also the feed for some living things residing in the cave and the lake.

While going through the cave, we saw bats resting in groups whenever we looked at towards the roof of the cave with the help of the torchlight as we heard bats making high-pitched squeaks. Due to the flash light of the torchlight, bats suddenly flew, but in a very short period of time they went back to their original places. We saw some colored images of palms on the wall somewhere in the cave. Those are not the murals drawn by people in the Stone Age which were found in the ‘Pyadarlin Cave’. In fact, they are graffiti scrawled by those who came into the cave, by coating their palms with yellow soil on the floor of the cave and pressing it onto the wall.

No evidence was found that the Saddan Cave had not been a place Stone Age people resided, though water was available easily there. ‘Pyadarlin Cave’ situated in ‘Ywangan’ township, southern Shan State could be found out to be a place where Stone Age people lived, according to the result by using half-life period method over some pieces of charcoal, ashes and left-over found in the cave. It will have yet to make research as to whether Stone Age people lived in the Saddan Cave or not.

We saw light, which comes through the roof of the cave, shining along the route while passing into the cave. In some places fluorescent tubes were found to have been installed. At the time when we arrived, we had an experience of groping in the dark for nearly one hour as there was no electric light. At the end of the Cave we saw the light coming through the roof of the cave suddenly, we could not see even the stairways.

At the exit of the Saddan Cave, we saw water drops leaking continuously from the roof. Though we cannot know how many years it has been dropping like this, we saw many pools on the floor of the cave. When we walked down along the stairways from the exit of the cave, 3 boats were found to have been moored at the shoreline of the lake of great width. We can see around the Cave by a boat in the lake with the green Saddan Cave in the background.

As the region of the Saddan Cave with rarity of damages to the natural environment can control the ecosystem very well, it became a famous tourist attraction for travellers from home and abroad. Lime-stone-mountains adjust the connection of the currents of the watersheds. And, the underground currents are also filling water resources. By maintaining the favorable ecosystem of the Saddan Cave, the natural caves will last for many years, with the progress of the tourism industry. (Translated by Khin Maung Oo)

Reference: The Holy Saddan Cave (Mahn Thint Naung, Kawkareik) Notes on Travelogue

Acid which contains in rain water erodes the limestone mountain. Over a long period of time, stalagmites and caves had been caused along the cracks. Underground current water as well caused underground springs. Limestone-mountains situated near to sea coasts caused caves due to lapping of sea waves and touching with saline water constantly. Similarly, erosion of underground water usually causes caves. Most of the natural caves are tunnels that go into sides of mountains. Depending upon situations of locations human beings in the Stone Age used to have lived in convenient Caves while animals and beasts lived in some caves.

Htun-Htunt-Phan

Htun-Htunt-Phan is situated at the north of the Lake. At 450 feet far from south of the Lake is Hsin-Hai-Taung, which is called ‘Htun-Bai-Nort’ in Kayin language. It is 200 feet high. At the height of 30 feet between the two mountains, there is an entrance of the cave measuring 10 feet in width.

While crossing the wide lake after passing ‘Htun-Htunt-Phan’ Cave the boat was rowed slowly. As the water is too shallow at some places, boatmen moved their boats by pushing the lake bottom with the bamboo pole. As the lake water was so clear that duckweeds growing at the bottom of the lake were seen, as were lotus and lycainth on the surface of the lake. Aquatic creatures are living in the lake. In 2014, it was designated as the sanctuary, and catching fishes and other creatures living in water were strictly prohibited. It is pleasant and peaceful to travel in a boat in the lake with the green Saddan Cave in the background.

Notes on travelogue

TOURISM

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

2 DECEMBER 2019

PHOTOS: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)
First Nay Pyi Taw Bike Week concludes with rock concert

NAY PYI TAW hosted a rock and bike festival from 29 November to 1 December, which attracted about 3,000 motorcyclists and prominent rockers. The first Nay Pyi Taw Bike Week 2019 ended at the Water Fountain Garden with a concert by the Great Empire Music Band and rockers. In the evening yesterday, the last day of the festival, prominent vocalists Zaw Win Htu, N Zar Ni, Wai La, and Their Di Lu gave performances at the Water Fountain Garden. Among the visitors at the festival were Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman Dr. Myo Aung and representatives, members of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, members of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Affairs Committee, and their wives. “This event is a gathering of motorcycle lovers from motorcycle clubs across the country. About 3,000 motorcyclists from over 100 motorcycle clubs participated in the festival. The profits of the festival will be donated to philanthropic schools,” said Ko Paing Gyi, from Joker Biker MC based in Nay Pyi Taw. “It would be great if the authorities invite motorcycle clubs from foreign countries to future festivals because the country can earn foreign income from the festival,” he added. The First Nay Pyi Taw Bike Week 2019 commenced on 30 November at the entrance of the Water Fountain Garden. It was formally opened by Dr Myo Aung and members of the Nay Pyi Taw Council and the Nay Pyi Taw Development Affairs Committee. The motorcyclists rode from Zabuthiri and Ottarathiri townships and ended at the Water Fountain Garden. Motorcycle parts and souvenirs were also sold to the public during the festival. —Han Lynn Naing (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

30th SEA Games men’s football: Myanmar, Cambodia to fight for place in semifinals today

The Myanmar U-22 men’s football team sing the national anthem ahead of their match against Timor Leste on 29 November at the Rizal Memorial Stadium in Manila, the Philippines. PHOTO: SOE WIN TUN

THE Group A match between the U-22 men’s national football teams of Myanmar and Cambodia at the 30th SEA Games, scheduled today, will be broadcast live on MRTV and MRTV Sports channel from 6:00 pm. The match will be also aired live on Myanmar Radio.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

30th SEA Games women’s football: Myanmar to play Malaysia today

The Myanmar U-22 men’s football team will sing the national anthem ahead of their match against Timor Leste on 29 November at the Rizal Memorial Stadium in Manila, the Philippines. PHOTO: MFF

THE Myanmar men and women athletes won two silver and six bronze medals in Arnis, the national sport and martial art of the Philippines, yesterday at the stadium of Angeles University Foundation, Clark City, the Philippines. In the 55-kg men’s event, Myanmar’s Soe Paing won the silver medal. The Philippines won the gold medal and Viet Nam and Cambodia took the bronze medals in the event. Meanwhile, Win Thet Paing of Myanmar took the bronze medal in the (+55-65kg) featherweight class, and Thet Naing Win secured a bronze medal in the 60-65 kg class. Ban Hlian Kawl of Myanmar grabbed the bronze medal in the 65-kg weight class. In the women’s event, Thancharoen won the bronze medal in the 50-55 kg weight class and Hia Nwe Aye (Myanmar) also grabbed bronze in the 50-55 kg weight class, while Moe Moe Aye (Myanmar) won the bronze in the 50-60 kg weight class.

And, in the (+60-kg weight class, Thet Wai Oo (Myanmar) took the silver medal for Myanmar after losing to her Viet Nam opponent in the final.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

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THE U-22 men’s national football teams of Myanmar and Cambodia will play a decisive Group A match in the men’s football competition of the South East Asian Games today at the Binan Football Stadium in Binan, the Philippines. The match will start at 6:30 pm (Myanmar Standard Time), according to the Myanmar Football Federation. So far, Myanmar has played three of the four matches in Group A, winning two matches and conceding one draw. Myanmar played to a 1-1 draw against Malaysia on 25 November; having defeated the Philippine team by 2-1. The team also prevailed over Timor Leste by 3-1. Meanwhile, Cambodia is currently placed second in the standing table, with four points from two matches played (one win and one draw). Cambodia has been stronger this year than in the previous edition of the SEA Games. The team played to a 1-1 draw against host Philippines in a tough first match on 25 November; and then, the team trounced Timor Leste 5-0 in their second match on 27 November. Team Myanmar is now at the top of the standing table with 7 points, followed by Cambodia and the Philippines, who have each garnered 4 points, Malaysia has secured one point, and Timor Leste has netted no points. If the match between Myanmar and Cambodia ends in a draw, Myanmar will still have enough points to proceed to the semifinal stage, according to football experts. Cambodia also has potential for entering the semifinals, they said. Currently, in Group A, Myanmar, Cambodia, and the Philippines are popular contenders for a spot in the semifinals of the SEA Games, and today’s match promises to be a thrilling one for fans.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

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