Farmer rights leading committee to double down on promoting agricultural industries

**V**ICE President U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as the chairman of the Leading Committee for Farmer Rights Protection and Enhancement of their Benefits, asked committee members to help local farmers, who are witnessing a decline in markets for crops and fisheries products.

The meeting was held at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Agriculture in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The Vice President also said local paddy farmers are suffering a downturn in foreign demand, and that the recommendation committee for rice market has fixed the floor price of paddy for 2019-2020 financial year.

Under the article 23 of the Law of Protection of the Farmer Rights and Enhancement of their Benefits, the leading body has announced the price at K0.5 million per 100 baskets on 15 October 2019 with the approval of the Union government to be able to subsidize the farmers if the market paddy price declined under this rate by using the K15 billion operating budget of the State. The Vice President also urged the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council and the chief ministers of State/Regions need to facilitate the working groups in purchasing paddy/rice.

The government has permitted export 0.2 million tonnes of Lone Thwel paddy from October to December 2019 to address the excess stockpile of paddy in the local market, and the volume of export would be increased to 0.5 million tonnes by 1 January 2020.

He also advised the sugar-cane farmers who are suffering from the impact of freezing sugar market by preventing re-export sugar, illegal import and controlling import sugar for the actual need. A decline of price and excess stockpile of sugar in the local market have pulled down the price of sugar-canes by K2,000 to K5,000 per tonne.

The Vice President added Myanmar has seen a positive trend in export of livestock products, with over 40 countries of destination, and the EU could help export of fishery products from 24 processing factories. **SEE PAGE-3**
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses one report, approves another by committee scrutinizing the Constitution

**THE** 11th day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s 14th regular session was held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning where the Hluttaw discusses one report and approves another report of Joint Committee on Scrutinizing the second bill amending the Constitution. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw also approves Myanmar Insolvency Bill while Hluttaw’s approval was requested for commercial tax exemption on importing six Bullet Proof Toyota Landcruiser vehicles.

**Discussion on a 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 145 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives including U Sai Than Naing of Kayin State constituency.

The matter was discussed by U Myat Lay Oo of Htilin constituency, U Tin Htwe of Waw constituency, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative of Major Aung Kyaw Hnin, Daw Ht May of Rakhine State constituency 11, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Major Ye Tun, Daw Ei Ei Pyone of Ayeyawady Region constituency 8, Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative Lt-Col Myo Tun Aung, U Maung Myint of Mingin constituency, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Captain Daw Tin Mar Swe, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Captain Daw Myint Myint Nwe, Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative Major Aung Naing Oo, Daw Yin Min Hlaing of Gangaw constituency and U Maung Maung Laht of Sagaing Region constituency.

**Hluttaw approves another report of Joint Committee on Scrutinizing the Constitution**

Afterwards, secretary of the Joint Committee on Scrutinizing the second bill amending the Constitution Dr Myat Nyana Soe responded to the discussion of Hluttaw representatives regarding the committee report 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 committee secretary said the committee has no separate explanation to make as the comments and suggestions of the majority of the joint committee members as well as separate comments and suggestion of three joint committee members were included in the report. The committee secretary requested the Hluttaw to approve the report.

After the Hluttaw voted 347 for, 197 against and 4 abstaining, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw approving the report of the 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.

**Commercial tax exemption on importing six Bullet Proof Toyota Landcruiser vehicles**

As a final agenda of the day Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win explained to the Hluttaw on the matter of commercial tax exemption on importing six Bullet Proof Toyota Landcruiser vehicles sent by the President.

After the detailed explanation, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the matter to register their names.

The 12th day meeting of the 14th regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is scheduled to be held on 10 December. — Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Thant receives Czech Ambassador

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Thant received Ambassador of the Czech Republic Mrs Hana Motlova at the guest hall of Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In the meeting they cordially discussed promoting bilateral friendship relations and cooperation between Myanmar and the Czech Republic, strengthening the relationship between parliaments and promoting the development of the capacity of Hluttaw representatives including regions and states Hlutawas.

— MNA

(Translated by TTN)
Farmer rights leading committee to double down on promoting …

The Vice President added Myanmar has seen a positive trend in export of livestock products, with over 40 countries of destination, and the EU could help export of fishery products from 24 processing factories.

Union MOEE Minister receives German Ambassador

Union NREC Minister attends climate change-themed event

Union Minister U Han Zaw receives German Ambassador

Director of the Yezin Forestry Research Department, under the Forestry Department, explained the facts and experiences of Myanmar’s project to reduce carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Additionally, officials from Cambodia and ROK also explained their REDD+ implementations, experiences and objectives, and experts from CIFOR and Wildlife Works represented their international experiences. The Union Minister also attended a panel discussion on opportunities in renewable energy sources to reduce climate change at the World Wide Fund for Nature Pavilion, New Zealand’s discussion on Impact of Climate Change on Pacific Blue Economics, and England’s research paper reading session on climate change and consequences on aquatic life.

Union Minister Dr Aung Thu, the secretary of Leading Committee, presented the committee’s works in 2019 future plans for 2020. The members of the Leading Committee also discussed the price in respective states and regions, preparations for natural disasters, markets and rehabilitation programmes.

Union Minister Dr Aung Thu coordinated on the discussions for making future plans. Finally, Vice President U Henry Van Thio made a conclusion remark on the meeting. The meeting was also attended by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Myo Aung, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, chief ministers of States/Regions, Deputy Ministers, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Social Development Committee, members of State/Region government, departmental heads, Vice Chairman of Myanmar Rice Federation, Chairman of Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association, the invited guests and officials.

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)
Independent Lawyers’ Association of Myanmar-ILAM issued a statement.
Following is the full-text of the statement.


1. Independent Lawyers’ Association of Myanmar (ILAM) supports and welcomes the Union Minister of Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s announcement in her sense of duty to represent and defend Myanmar before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 10 December 2019.
2. Since ICJ is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, where Myanmar is a member state, we must cooperate with it earnestly.
3. Myanmar values human dignity and is striving to abide by international norms of justice as well as universal human rights norms such as the rights to settlement, identity and life.
4. Myanmar will not tolerate or hide injustice, intimidation, and inhumane acts since Myanmar is a developing country that is aspiring to become a highly dignified and civilized country that does not discriminate based on the color of your skin, race, or religion.
5. Under such circumstances, we fully support the efforts of people's leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who was elected by the people, to shine a light of truth for the benefit of the entire population.

Myanmar Writers Club
Following is the full-text of the statement.

Statement of the Myanmar Writers Club

We have learned that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will personally head the delegation to resolve the lawsuit filed by The Gambia on behalf of the 57-member Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) regarding the issue of refugees from Rakhine State.

The Myanmar Writers Club welcomes Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s spirit of accountable leadership in safeguarding Myanmar’s national interests.

23 November 2019

Union Minister Dr Than Myint attends 30th anniversary of CFC in Netherlands

UNION Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint attended the 30th anniversary of Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) and the 31st Annual Meeting of the Governing Council in the Netherlands held at The Hague Marriott Hotel on 3 and 4 December.

As a representative of Myanmar for the governing body, on 3 December, the Union Minister took part in the panel discussions on the topics of ‘Learning from 30 Years of Commodity Sector Development’, ‘Harnessing commodity Value Chains for Development: an interactive debate’, ‘Investing to Create Positive Dynamics in Commodities’, and ‘What does impact business expect from impact investors: an Interactive Debate’.

On 4 December, Union Minister Dr Than Myint held an exclusive meeting with Mr Parvinder Singh, the Managing Director of CFC, on the assistance of financial resources and technology from CFC in the development of the agricultural sector of Myanmar and providing help for holding workshops in Myanmar.

The Union Minister also attended the programmes of 31st Annual Meeting of the Governing Council, and voted in the election of its managing director — MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)
UNION Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win meets Deputy Assistant Secretary of the US Treasury for Asia Mr Robert Kaproth and US Ambassador Mr Scot Marciel at the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung delivers the opening address at the ASEAN-Korea Tourism Capacity Building Workshop in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Union PFI Minister receives US delegation

UNION Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win received Deputy Assistant Secretary of the US Treasury for Asia Mr Robert Kaproth and US Ambassador Mr Scot Marciel at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed financial cooperation between the two countries, providing technical assistance to develop Myanmar’s financial sector, Myanmar’s process in countering money laundering and financing of terrorism, assistance to ensure quality projects in implementing public-private partnership projects concerning the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP), and America’s continued assistance in Myanmar’s development trek.

— MNA
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

MOEE : 50 pc Myanmar households gain access to national grid

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy held a press conference yesterday to explain their accomplishment in linking 50 per cent of all households in Myanmar to the national grid and of their future processes.

U Thura Aung Bo, Chief Engineer of the Electricity supply Enterprise Group, 5,448,706 from a total of 10,877,832 households across the nation are receiving electricity from the power grid as of December this year. He also explained the objectives of the electrification plans which aims to provide electricity to 5.88 million households (55% of nationwide number) in 2021-2022 FY, to 8.26 million households (75.95%) in 2023-2026 FY, and to 10.45 million households (96.07%) in 2030-2031 FY. He said the remaining 0.43 million households (3.93%) will be provided with alternative energy sources.

The Chief Engineer said they will commemorate the achievement of supplying electricity to half of the households in the entire country by 12 and 13 December in Nay Pyi Taw and other states and regions. MoEE officials then replied to questions from the media.— MNA
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Ministry of Electricity and Energy holds press conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

The workshop titled ‘Transforming Tourism Through Digital Marketing’ was held at the M Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung delivered an opening remark at the workshop which aimed for capacity building in tourism industry between ASEAN and the Republic of Korea.

The Union Minister said that the ministry has focused on digital technology in tourism industry of the country since 2018 for promoting the image of the country, expanding tourism market, and using digital marketing for distributing information to the Korean people.

Secretary General Mr Lee Hyuk from the ASEAN-Korea Centre also extended a greeting.

At the workshop, experts from the Centre and the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism discussed topics on development of digital marketing in the tourism industry in sharing information about the changing trend of technology in the tourism industry, increasing competence of Myanmar tourism industry and updated knowledge in the digital tourism industry.— MNA
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

ASEAN-Korea Tourism Capacity Building Workshop held in Nay Pyi Taw

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(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)
Joint Committee on Amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 65/2019

Dr Myat Nyana Soe, Joint Secretary of the Joint Committee U Htay Win Aung (a) U Pyone Cho, the Joint Committee’s members who are Hluttaw representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw office.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Union Minister for IFER receives US delegations

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, U Thaung Tun received US delegations led by US Department of Treasury Deputy Assistant Secretary for South East Asia Mr Robert Kaproth and US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Scot Marciel. PHOTO: MNA

Union PFI Minister receives Singaporean Minister

UNION Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win received Ms Indranee Rajah, Minister in the Prime Minister’s Office of Singapore and Second Minister for Education and Finance, and Singaporean Ambassador Ms Vanessa Chan at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed Singapore-based Infrastructure Asia’s process in developing Myanmar’s infrastructure sector, assisting in requirements for technology, investment and experience concerning implementation of Public-Private Partnership projects. Singapore’s possible assistance in Myanmar’s Project Bank, and prospective private sector investments in Myanmar’s industrial sector.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Court-Martial Assembles at Local Regiment

THE Presiding officer and members of Court-Martial convened in accordance with the Defence Services Act and the Defence Services Rules to conduct the trial on Incident of Gutapyin have assembled at the local regiment in Buthidaung on 26 November 2019 in conformity with the procedure at trial. Examination of military personnel witnesses and civilian witnesses for prosecution are continuing at trial Arraignment of accused personnel and examination of witnesses for defence will continue at trial in accordance with the procedure at trial according to the Office of the Judge Advocate General according to the Tatmadaw True News Information Team.—MNA

PHOTO: MNA
2nd Myanmar Development Effectiveness Roundtable Opening Ceremony held
Nay Pyi Taw, 5 December 2019

AN OPENING Ceremony in honor of the 2nd Myanmar Development Effectiveness Roundtable took place at the Myanmar International Convention Center in Nay Pyi Taw in this morning. Vice Chair of the Development Assistance Coordination Unit (DACU) and Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, U Thaung Tun, delivered the keynote address.

Union Ministers, Chair of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, Chief Ministers of States and Regions, Deputy Ministers, Hluttaw members, Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General, Ambassadors, Development Partners, domestic and international private sector representatives, NGOs, INGOs, and invited guests totaling in excess of 800 people, attended the ceremony.

In his keynote address, the Minister underlined the fact that all stakeholders including the private sector, the public sector, civil society organizations and development partners played an important role in driving Myanmar’s development agenda forward. The Minister expressed his appreciation to all development partners including the World Bank, ADB, USAID, JICA, DFID, UNOPS, GIZ, KOICA, Australia, China, EU, France, Italy and others country partners, UN and INGOs organizations.

The Minister also noted that Myanmar’s economic growth was forecast to grow at 6.8 percent in 2020 which places Myanmar amongst the fastest growing economies in both the region and globally, and that growth was leading to increased productivity and improvements to living standard experienced by Myanmar’s people.

The Minister also emphasized the implementation of Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, supported by the establishment of key institutional mechanisms including the Project Bank, the Land Bank, a new Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center, and Central Transformation Unit. The Minister also warmly acknowledged development partners’ support to the development of a MSDP National Indicator Framework.

The Minister went on to highlight a number of key economic reform related achievements under the guidance of the MSDP, including the creation of a more investment enabling environment, increasing openness of the insurance and banking sectors, the implementation of the legal framework supporting Intellectual Property Right, and the establishment of a Competition Commission. The Minister also underscored Myanmar’s remarkable achievement noting that Myanmar was recognized as one of this year’s 28 most improved economies on the World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business Index.

The Minister explained the government’s commitment to achieving universal health coverage by 2030, and National Health Plan (2017-2021) which led to the achievement of a 90 percent reduction in Malaria cases, and 85 percent of eligible HIV/AIDS patients received the life-saving drugs. Furthermore, monthly cash payments to pregnant women as part of the Government’s “1,000 Days” are leading directly to significant health improvements to mother’s and their babies.

The Minister also highlighted linkages between the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women 2013-2022, and the newly drafted Prevention and Protection of Violence Against Women Law, and the newly enacted a new Child Rights Law, and the empowerment of Women in Myanmar more broadly. The Minister concluded his remarks with 3 key messages, the first being the crucial role of partnerships between development partners, the private sector and civil society in order to attain the goals outlined in the MSDP. The second, message noted the need for more systematic and well-structured Strategic Coordination Groups to facilitate MSDP implementation and monitoring. The third message noted that Myanmar must seek to use Official Development Assistance (ODA) wisely and in ways that can draw additional private sector financing for sustainable development.

The opening ceremony was followed by 2 Roundtable Discussions. The first Roundtable Discussion on “Coordinating Assistance in Support of Myanmar’s National Development Priorities” was moderated by Mr. Newin Sinsiri, Asian Development Bank Country Director, Deputy Ministers for Planning, Finance and Industry U Set Aung and U Min Ye Paing Hein, Daw Si Si Pyone, Director General of Treasury Department, and Daw Thway Thway Chit, Director General of Planning Department, shared updates relating to the implementation of MSDP, and the Project Bank online portal and associated project financing mechanisms.

Moderated by U Than Aung Kyaw, Director General of Foreign Economic Relations Department, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, the second roundtable discussion was continued by the remarks given by the United Nations, USAID, the Myanmar CSO Partnership for Aid and Development Effectiveness, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, AustCham Myanmar, and the INGO Forum. In their remarks, they expressed their commitments to support the future Myanmar’s development program and shared experiences, views as to how to strengthen a new set of Strategic Coordination Groups in support of more effective cooperation.

Following that, the summaries of previous day discussions were presented by the co-moderators.

The second Roundtable Discussion focused on “Mainstreaming the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan” moderated by Dr. Wah Wah Maung, Director General, Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, U Hla Moe Aung, Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region and U Saw Bo Bo Wai Maung, Social Affairs Minister of Kayin State, discussed investment opportunities, cooperation programs and future development prospects of their respective States and Regions.

Then, U San Myint, Director General of Central Statistical Organization, Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, U Than Aung Kyaw, Director General of Foreign Economic Relations Department, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, and Mr. Gordon Johnson, United Nations Development Program Resident Representative, presented a proposed National Indicator Framework to support the financing, monitoring and evaluation of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, and revitalizing the new set of Strategic Coordination Groups which development are now being planned.

The sessions were followed by open dialogue between all participants.

Union Minister U Thaung Tun provided remarks during the closing session. In his remarks, the Minister expressed appreciation to all parties including development partners, CSOs, NGOs, INGOs, UMPCCI and the private sector, officials and all concerned persons who have continued to support Myanmar’s development agenda and reform process, as well for assistance which made possible this most successful event. The Minister committed to continue close collaboration with development partners in support of Myanmar’s development journey—MNA
Ensuring safety of workers

In accordance with the 1939 Employment Restriction Act to review the 2011 Employment and Skills Development Law, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population has granted licenses to local employment agencies registered with the Investment and Companies Administration Department. Under Section 35 of the 2013 Employment and Skills Development Law, those found guilty of offering employment services illegally or operating without a license can be sentenced up to three years in prison or fined, or both. Hence, those who wish to operate local employment agencies should apply to the ministry for a license, in accordance with the set rules.

Meanwhile, the ministry has invited complaints against illegal employment agencies and licensed employment agencies flouting rules set by the government. Agencies found breaking the rules will be charged in accordance with the 2011 Employment and Skills Development Law. Local and overseas employment agencies are required to act in an ethical manner, remain transparent, and refrain from committing labour violations when dealing with workers and international employers. The law prohibits forcing of illegal employment services.

This shows how the Union Government has not been neglecting grant workers, and continues to protect them. The employment business is not a trade, but an aspect of human health. Concerning animal health and socio-economic impact, the transboundary animal diseases have been revealed as paramount important livestock diseases. In order to regional tripartite workshop has been held among the international, the prioritized diseases are Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), African swine fever (ASF), Rift Valley Fever, Anthrax, Leprosy, and so on. Based on the consideration of socio-economic and socio-economic impact of the 2013 Employment and Skills Development Law endorsed by the Union Government, the prioritized diseases are FMD, Anthrax, Leprosy, Rift Valley Fever, and socio-economic impact.

Therefore, Member States of ASEAN agree to categorize the prioritization of livestock diseases in terms of the severity, technical, socio-economic aspect and human health.

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By Kaung Htet Thar

Prioritizing Livestock Diseases among ASEAN

20,000 villages in 20 provinces are supplied with electricity from the national grid. In those remaining, the government has been developing grid-connected and alternative energy sources. Electricity is made available to the majority of remote regions.

The ministry is making concerted efforts to create more employment opportunities for both domestic and overseas jobs hunters through an online labour exchange management system. At the same time, all citizens need to refrain from operating illegal businesses to ensure the safety of workers, or their legal action.

Electricity supply to Kyalintaw Town from the grid

Electricity supply to Sathet Town from the grid

3. Railway

Construction of the railway will include the townships of Mong, Pyin, and Thein Sein. The engineering work on the railway will be completed in the next fiscal year.

5. Water supply

Construction of the water supply system will include the townships of Kayin, Pyin, and Thein Sein. The engineering work on the water supply system will be completed in the next fiscal year.

6. Telecommunication

Construction of the telecommunication system will include the townships of Kayin, Pyin, and Thein Sein. The engineering work on the telecommunication system will be completed in the next fiscal year.

7. Health services

Construction of the health services system will include the townships of Kayin, Pyin, and Thein Sein. The engineering work on the health services system will be completed in the next fiscal year.

8. Education

Construction of the education system will include the townships of Kayin, Pyin, and Thein Sein. The engineering work on the education system will be completed in the next fiscal year.

9. Public service

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Over 93,000 tourists visited Mandalay Mahamuni Pagoda in five months

THE Mandalay Mahamuni Pagoda welcomed more than 93,000 tourists from July to November this year, according to statistics provided by the pagoda’s board of trustees.

The pagoda collected an entrance fee from visitors from 1 July to 30 November.

“We sent Korean tourists to the Mandalay Mahamuni Pagoda. They offered flowers and prayers at the pagoda. Then, they looked around the pagoda. In the evenings, we send tour groups to Mandalay Mountain, Kyauktawgyi pagoda, Kuthodaw Pagoda, and Shwenandaw Kyaung. We also send them to some significant places in Mandalay. The tour groups enjoy visiting Mandalay,” said Daw Soe Nyunt Kyaung, a tour guide.

A total of 93,838 tourists visited the Mandalay Mahamuni pagoda in the last five months, including 16,348 in July, 19,020 in August, 14,736 in September, 17,531 in October, and 26,203 in November.

Tourists visit Mahamuni Pagoda in Mandalay. PHOTO: THAN ZAW MIN (IPRD)

By Nyein Nyein

THE applications of 115 out of 156 bus owners who had sought import slips for family-use cars in exchange for de-registration of their buses, manufactured in 1999-2003, have been approved by the Union government, said U Hla Aung, joint secretary of the Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

“The first time, the Union government has permitted de-registration of 112 city buses and three mini buses. Concerning those buses, we have conducted de-registration of CNG permits and are checking the vehicle’s punishment according to the procedures. Then, the de-registration process will be carried out,” said U Hla Aung.

Currently, the YRTA is scrutinizing about 156 buses, for which requests have been received for issue of import permits for family-use cars in return for de-registration. Then, a report will be submitted to the government for processing the applications as special cases, he added.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications has granted the Yangon Region government’s request to grant import slips and de-registration buses from the 1999 to 2003 model years, which are in poor condition in terms of energy efficiency and do not match the city’s features. Bus lines have been informed about this move. Currently, there are more than 700 YBS buses that were manufactured between 1999 and 2003. If the buses are de-registered and the owners are granted import slips, they will have to surrender their Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) purchase permits.

“CNG is being provided for cheaper transportation of passengers. So, they will have to surrender the CNG permits. And this has been practiced for a long time,” said U Hla Aung.

The Union government has been granting the de-registration of old vehicles since 2011. Only buses from the 1999 model year can be de-registered. For the de-registration of 20-year-old vehicles, import slips are being issued depending upon the type of vehicles. For example, if owners de-register buses, bus import permits are issued to them and if they de-register trucks, truck import permits are handed out. (Translated by Huy Mar)

Import slips to be issued to 115 bus owners for de-registering vehicles

THE ‘world’s biggest wood sculpture competition’ concluded with a presentation ceremony yesterday at the Shwe Pyi Resort in Bago.

The purpose behind holding the eighth edition of the competition was to encourage the next generation of wood sculptors and to improve the Myanmar sculpture industry, said the organizers. This year, 223 sculptors from 20 townships entered 227 wood sculptures for the competition.

The competition was launched in 2008 after KMA Foundation’s chairman U Khin Maung Aye and sculptors decided to make sculptures from trees uprooted by Cyclonic Storm Nargis.

Participants compete under two categories at the competition - original and modern. In the optional wood sculpture competition, U Pyae Sone Aung from Darpain Village, which is known for wood sculptors, emerged as the winner. The runners-up U Kyaw Swar and U Myo Zayar Aung were from the same village. Ten consolation prizes were awarded to other participants.

The winners and runners-up of the optional wood sculpture competition were awarded a half-lacal of gold each. The winner also received K10 million, the first runner-up K7.5 million, and the second runner-up K5 million. Ten consolation prize winners were awarded K1 million each.

In the modern wood sculpture competition, U Wai Lin Naing from Bago was declared the winner. The first runner-up was U Myo Myin Aung from North Okkalar (Shwe Paikan) and the second runner-up was U Zayar Hein from Bago. Five consolation prizes were awarded to other participants.

THE winners and runners-up of the modern wood sculpture competition were awarded a half-lacal of gold each. The winner also got K7.5 million, the first runner-up K5 million, and the second runner-up K3 million. The consolation prize winners were awarded K1 million each. — Aye Min Thu

Wood sculpture competition held

By Nyein Nyein

THE Mandalay Mahamuni Pagoda welcomed more than 93,000 tourists from July to November this year, according to statistics provided by the pagoda’s board of trustees. The pagoda collected an entrance fee from visitors from 1 July to 30 November.

“We sent Korean tourists to the Mandalay Mahamuni Pagoda. They offered flowers and prayers at the pagoda. Then, they looked around the pagoda. In the evenings, we send tour groups to Mandalay Mountain, Kyauktawgyi pagoda, Kuthodaw Pagoda, and Shwenandaw Kyaung. We also send them to some significant places in Mandalay. The tour groups enjoy visiting Mandalay,” said Daw Soe Nyunt Kyaung, a tour guide.

A total of 93,838 tourists visited the Mandalay Mahamuni pagoda in the last five months, including 16,348 in July, 19,020 in August, 14,736 in September, 17,531 in October, and 26,203 in November. — Than Zaw Min (IPRD) (Translated by Huy Mar)

Tourists visit Mahamuni Pagoda in Mandalay. PHOTO: THAN ZAW MIN (IPRD)

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The dollar exchange rate increased to K1,500 on a strong export market.

By Nyein Nyein

Myanmar attracted more than US$1.3 billion in foreign direct investments during the first two months of the current fiscal, an increase of $900 million compared with the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, said U Thant Sin Lwin, Director-General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Between 1 October and 30 November, FDI of $1.39 billion flowed into the country, including expansion of capital by existing enterprises. According to a press statement issued by the DICA, 41 foreign enterprises obtained permits from the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and endorsements from regional and state Investment Committees in the current fiscal, bringing in a capital of $1.35 billion.

In the year-ago period, the FDI inflow was recorded at just $465.9 million from 34 enterprises.

“The large projects were allowed in the current fiscal, investments grew,” said U Thant Sin Lwin.

“Infrastructure projects such as industrial parks and urban development projects are bringing investments into the country,” he said.

There is investment potential for large businesses, he added.

Moreover, once offshore oil and gas and mining projects are approved in the current fiscal, heavy enterprises will enter the country, said U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, at the 36th regular meeting of the Vice President U Myint Swe with private entrepreneurs, held on 19 October at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry office.

The ministry is inviting responsible businesses to the country.

The Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan (MIPP) was drawn up with the assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and it is being implemented. As per the MIPP, Myanmar aims to reach US$5.8 billion in 2020, said U Thaung Tun.

In the current fiscal, the MIC has set an FDI target of $5.8 billion.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Hong Kong firm to invest $350 mln in Mindama Complex project

By Nyein Nyein

Hong Kong’s Goldman Fortune International Limited will put in more than US$350 million in the Mindama Complex project, said U That Sin Lwin, Director-General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

“The Mindama Complex project includes commercial shops, serviced apartments, shopping malls, villas, office buildings, condominiums, and hotels. It will be implemented under a BOT system on 20 acres of land held by the Commander-in-Chief (Army), on Mindama Street in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region,” he said.

The project will be implemented as a joint venture between Hong Kong’s Goldman Fortune International Company and Myanmar-based Fortune International Company.

“The Myanmar Investment Commission granted permission for this huge real estate development project after scrutinizing the necessary documents as per the Myanmar Investment Law,” U Thant Sin Lwin added.

“We issued the permit only after tight scrutiny. We have asked for permission from the related departments. Moreover, we will review possible social, environmental, and cultural impacts of the project. Earlier, the MIC did not issue approval to certain business proposals which could potentially affect the environment and cultural heritage,” said U Thant Sin Lwin.

Hong Kong topped in the list of investors in the first two months of the current fiscal year, pumping in over $1 billion into real estate development, electricity, and garment businesses, according to data from the DICA.

The total foreign direct investment stood at $1.39 billion as of 29 November in the current fiscal year.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Singapore-based Green Urban Development Co to use 3% of profit for CSR activities

By Nyein Nyein

SINGAPORE-based Green Urban Development Company will spend three per cent of its profit on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities. But, Green Urban Development Company has declared that it will allocate three per cent for CSR activities. We will monitor whether the company follows through with the decision or not,” said U Thant Sin Lwin.

The Green Urban Development Company will invest US$424 million into Yangon urban development businesses, according to the DICA.

Foreign investors in Myanmar have come to prioritize CSR activities. CSR is a self-regulatory business model that involves philanthropic or voluntary activities such as donations for schools and roads.

Additionally, it helps a company be socially accountable to itself, its stakeholders, and the public.

“CSR also helps to produce a positive impact on society. We do not set the amount of contributions,” said U Thant Sin Lwin.

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) is scrutinizing investment proposals taking into consideration the rules and regulations, business responsibility, environmental impact, and social impact.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)
Head of Hluttaw advisory team receives UK international development delegate

DAW SU SU LWIN, the head of the Pyithu Hluttaw Affairs Capacity Building Advisory Group, received Dr Rurik Marsden, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) at the Hluttaw Building (I-1) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting focused on the capacity building of Hluttaw MPs, assistance in development of research and committees of the Hluttaws and the future cooperation plans.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee, legal entities discuss justice council election

THE Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee, Union Supreme Court Office, Union Attorney-General Office and the Union Legal Aid Board (ULAB) held a meeting at Zabuthiri Hall of the Pyithu Hluttaw, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee Chairman U Khin Maung Win first gave a few remarks and Union Supreme Court Justice U Mya Han, Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint and ULAB Secretary U Khin Zaw submitted facts and figures related to the council election and its related laws. Hluttaw representatives discussed the facts and U Khin Maung Win closed the meeting with a concluding speech afterwards.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Pyithu Hluttaw committee discusses farmer affairs

PYITHU Hluttaw Farmers and Labour Affairs Committee Chairman U Kyaw Myint received a group from Monsoon Rural Development Group led by Executive Director Dr U Thaung Tan at Hluttaw Hall I-6 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. They discussed facts to be added when amending laws related to farmers, lands, matters, difficulties farmers are facing, and assisting the hopes of cultivators. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (948W)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (948W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and services and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm at the Port of Yangon. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ALS SATSUKI VOY. NO. (012W/E)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SATSUKI VOY. NO. (012W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and services and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm at the Port of Yangon. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V FILOTIMO VOY. NO. (947S)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V FILOTIMO VOY. NO. (947S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.L.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and services and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm at the Port of Yangon. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE EXPORT MARKETING & MILLING DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

1. MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WILL SELL TEAK & HARDWOOD ROUND LOGS AND SAWN TIMBERS BY OPEN TENDERS IN US DOLLARS. PARTICULARS OF THE OPEN TENDER SALES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(a) DATE & TIME

- (15-12-2019) (09:00)A.M
- (20-12-2019) (09:00)A.M
- (23-12-2019) (12:00)noon

(b) COMMODITIES & VOLUME - TEAK LOGS: ABOUT (1496) TONS
- THIRD QUALITY & UP TEAK CONVERSION: ABOUT (134) TONS
- EXPORT MARKETING & MILLING DEPARTMENT
- PYNKADO, IN, KANYIN, SAGAWA, THADI: ABOUT (20025) TONS
- HARDWOOD LOGS: (INCLUDING 2016-2019 EXTRACTION YEAR)
- TAW WIN HALL, KYOGONE, INSEIN TOWNSHIP, YANGON.

(c) PLACE

1. FOR FURTHER DETAILED INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE HEAD OFFICE AND ALSO VISIT MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WEB-SITE (www.mte.com.mm).

Attachments:
- CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (948W)
- CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V ALS SATSUKI VOY. NO. (012W/E)
- CLAIMS DAY NOTICE M.V FILOTIMO VOY. NO. (947S)
**Made up: Japan cosmetic giant Shiseido gambles on ‘Made in Japan’**

TOKYO — JTB Corp. is making up for lost time in winter sports tourism by teaming up with China’s leading travel agency Trip.com Group, to develop and market winter sports programs in Japan for Chinese tourists. Under a partnership agreement signed Tuesday, the two will produce tour programs, such as ski certification trips and snowfight trips, initial in collaboration with about 10 ski resorts in Japan, the Chinese firm said.

JTB and Trip.com Group anticipate growing demand for winter trips to Japan as the Chinese government wants to increase its population of skiers and snowboarders to 50 million and that of winter sports practitioners to 100 million by 2025.

**Belting cash in on China’s online sticker craze**

BEIJING — When “Silly Piggy” appeared in China’s popular WeChat social media app, the sticker became an instant hit, with people sending it more than 30 million times in its first month to express their feelings in text messages.

Stickers like the mischievous cartoon pig and other quirky creatures are all the rage in China, giving the artists behind them a way to make money and win fans — as long as they stay within the bounds of censorship.

The creator of Silly Piggy, River Rui, was able to leave her office job with a design firm and set up as an independent artist thanks to the success of the character.

“Silly Piggy” is more like how I am in my little world, how I interact with my friends, it’s that ‘Silly Piggy’ kind of style, Rui told AFP.

The pig has many moos: he types furiously at his desk as tears stream down his face. He lays flat on the office floor as his spirit leaves his body.

“Basically anyone who has done overtime will have the same feelings as him,” said Rui as she doodled on a scrap of paper in a Shanghai cafe.

Unlike memes and animated GIFs popular outside China, instant messaging stickers are often original creations of local artists who can see their works go viral. These artists enjoy spectacular popularity among the country’s 847 million mobile internet users and spread offline through commercial licensing deals.

—AFP

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**INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER**

Sealed tenders are invited by Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports for the supply of Medical Equipment (Total items - 264) for New Yangon Specialist Hospital in the (2019-2020) Budget year.

For detail information please contact the Phone No.067-3411510, 067-3411544, Procurement and Supply Division Office, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports.

**NOTIFICATION**

This is to notify that the pilot test run of Risk Based System, utilizing Building Categorization Matrix (BCM) has been initialized in scrutinizing building construction application cases within YCDC area, replacing the current system, since June 2019, with an aim of speeding up the building construction permission procedure for businesses and investors alike. To make the risk based system more effective, pilot testing phase of Yangon Building Permit System, an online system based on internationally accepted ICT Technology, has been initiated on 1st July and over 600 architects and engineers have been trained on its use.

To ensure the smooth run of the system on full launch, at the beginning of 2020, the trained engineers and architects are expected to give the feedback on their use. As there are very few online applications in comparison to the number of the trained professionals, the trained professionals’ cooperation in utilization of the online submission system will be highly appreciated.

Head of Department (Deputy Director General) Engineering Department (Building) Building Control Authority Yangon City Development Committee
S Korea’s Moon requests China’s backing of denuclearization

SEOUL — South Korean President Moon Jae In requested China’s active support for denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a meeting Thursday with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

At the outset of the meeting at the presidential office, Moon said that the peace process has reached a “critical juncture” and asked for Beijing’s continued efforts for the peninsula to achieve “complete denuclearization” and a “permanent peace regime.”

The request comes amid a stalemate in the denuclearization talks between North Korea and the United States, with Pyongyang having set a year-end deadline for progress in the negotiations.

“I am very looking forward to deepening conversation and cooperation of the two countries through the holding of the tri-lateral summit with Japan this month,” added Moon.

China will host the three-way summit between Moon, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang in the southern city of Chengdu.

In response, Wang said that the goal of his visit to Seoul was to have “strategic communication” with South Korea, adding that there will be more room for improvement in bilateral ties as China continues to open up.

Indonesian airline boss to be fired for smuggling Harley parts

JAKARTA — The Indonesian government decided Thursday to fire the head of national carrier PT Garuda Indonesia over his alleged role in the smuggling of Harley-Davidson motorcycle parts into Indonesia from France.

“As the state-owned enterprises minister, I will fire the Garuda president, but because it’s a public company, the process of his dismissal must pass through some procedures,” Erick Thohir told a press conference regarding President and CEO I Gusti Ngurah Ashkara Danadiputra, also known as Ari Ashkara.

The undeclared parts, which included a complete disassembled motorcycle, were reportedly carried onboard a brand new Airbus A330-900 that departed Nov. 16 from the French city of Toulouse, where it was manufactured, and landed Nov. 17 at Jakarta’s Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, where customs officers found them.

In the same press conference, Finance Minister Sri Mulyani said the smuggling of the parts, along with two Brompton foldable bicycles, may have potentially caused state losses up to 1.5 billion rupiah ($107,000).

Typhoon Kammuri death toll hits 13 in Philippines

MANILA — The number of people killed by Typhoon Kammuri’s pounding of the Philippines this week has hit 13, officials said Thursday, as authorities confirmed reports of storm-related deaths.

Kammuri’s fierce winds toppled trees and flattened flimsy homes across a swathe of the nation’s north on Tuesday, forcing a rare 12-hour shutdown of the nation’s north on Tuesday, and hundreds of thousands were rescued.

Hundreds of thousands of people living in exposed low-lying areas were evacuated from their homes before Kammuri made landfall late Monday, which authorities said had saved lives.

Still the storm damaged 135 ports on the ground are verified. But the death toll could rise as reports in the hardest hit areas estimated to reach nearly $16 million.

The Philippines is hit by an average of 20 storms and typhoons each year, killing hundreds and putting people in disaster-prone areas in a state of constant poverty.

Japanese magazine ridiculed for ‘Socrates’ dating advice

TOKYO — A Japanese magazine that advised women to compliment men on their intelligence by saying “You sound like Socrates” has been ridiculed in the country ranked one of the world’s worst for gender parity.

“IT,” a major fashion magazine targeted at young women, encouraged readers to compare men to the classical Greek philosopher when they say something complicated.

A picture of the page sparked mirth when it was shared on Twitter — with some users noting that Socrates did not live happily ever after, as he was sentenced to death by drinking poison.

Users of both genders pored scorn on the technique to attract men, with one saying: “If a woman told me I sound like Socrates, I would wonder if she’s sane.”—AFP

India urges countries to act against ‘Kashmir cells’ set up by Pak in its foreign missions

NEW DELHI — India has urged international community to take up action against the so-called ‘Kashmir Desks’ or ‘Kashmir cells’ set up by Pakistan at its embassies and diplomatic missions in different countries to spread falsehood and radicalise the local population.

Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan said on Wednesday: “The purpose of the initiative is to incite the local population and radicalise them by spreading falsehood.

“The government has urged foreign countries to realise the dangers posed by these Kashmir cells and take appropriate action in this regard,” the statement read.—ANI
Third general strike keeps pressure on Colombia’s Duque

BOGOTA — Thousands of protesters took part in anti-government demonstrations in Colombia’s capital Bogota and other cities Wednesday during the country’s third general strike in two weeks. Strike leaders say they intend to maintain pressure on right-wing President Ivan Duque’s government, after brushing aside his appeals to cancel the strike on the grounds its effects were crippling the economy.

But crowds were smaller than previous demonstrations as protests took place for a 14th consecutive day.

Some roads were blocked in the capital and in the northeastern city of Cali, but many businesses remained open.

Around 250,000 people took part in the first demonstration against Duque’s 15-month-old government on 21 November, when the initial general strike brought the country to a standstill. Interior Minister Nancy Patricia Gutiérrez estimated that 40,000 people took part in demonstrations across the country on Wednesday, but organizers said the number of participants was much higher.

“The Colombian people have woken up!” shouted Paola Jiminéz, a 41-year-old lawyer taking part in a pot-banging “cacerolazo” demonstration in Bogota. “Colombians are finding it more and more difficult financially,” she said.—AFP

Stay or go? Four scenarios as Merkel partners debate future

In 2017, Chancellor Angela Merkel’s fragile coalition government was saved from its third consecutive election failure. The ‘groko’ (CDU-CSU-Green) and the Social Democrats were unable to agree on a new coalition on their own and had to turn to the left-wing Alternative for Germany (AfD) for help. The AfD failed to break the Bundestag’s 25% limit, and the new panel could not find a way to work together.

Now, the SPD is divided and the CDU has no other options. With a majority government no longer possible, the CDU-CSU-green government must be maintained or a new government must be created. But the chances of this are low. The current government is weak and unstable. The CDU-CSU-green government is losing votes and support and has no chance of winning the next election.

Two killed in shooting at Hawaii’s Pearl Harbor base

LOS ANGELES — A US sailor or fatally shot two people and wounded a third at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard in Hawaii on Wednesday before taking his own life, a senior Navy officer said.

The base was locked down for more than an hour after the shooting, according to a statement issued by the facility, while Navy officials said they were investigating what prompted the attack.

“I can confirm that there were three shooting victims. We have confirmed that two are deceased, one is in stable condition in a local hospital,” said Rear Admiral Robert Chadwick.

He added that the shooter—tentatively—identified as a sailor assigned to the USS Columbia, a Los Angeles-class attack submarine—had also died after “an apparent self-inflicted gun shot wound.” One witness told local media he was sitting at his computer when he heard shots fired and rushed to the window, where he saw three victims on the ground. The witness, who did not want to be identified, said he then saw the gunman, who was wearing a sailor’s uniform, shoot himself in the head.

White House spokesman Hogan Gidley said that US President Donald Trump had been briefed on the shooting and was monitoring the situation.—AFP

Floods kill 280 people, affect 2.8 mln others in East Africa: UN

NAIROBI — At least 280 people have been killed and more than 2.8 million others affected by floods which ordinarily last from mid-October to mid-November, the UN said Thursday.

The UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said homes, infrastructure and livelihoods have been destroyed and damaged in the hardest-hit areas, and the risk of communicable diseases, including cholera is rising.

Primarily driven by the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), the heavy rains are likely to persist into December and to intensify in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda,” OCHA said in its latest regional Flash Floods Update. The UN agency said the annual short rains which ordinarily last from October to December have been exceptionally heavy in Kenya and affected more than 150,000 people in 31 of the country’s 47 counties.—Xinhua
**Sea Games: Myanmar wins gold in men's billiards double**

Myanmar billiard stars Phone Myint Kyaw and Aung Moe Thu secured the gold medal after beating the Singapore team in the final match of the men's 9-ball pool doubles, held yesterday at the Manila Hotel, the Philippines.

Team Myanmar beat the Singapore team by a decisive 9-4 result in the final.

Currently, Myanmar is in the seventh place in the medal tally at the SEA Games, with two gold medals, eight silver medals, and 23 bronze medals. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

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**SEA Games women's football semifinal: Myanmar suffer 0-1 upset to Thailand**

The Myanmar women's national football team suffered a shock 0-1 loss against the Thailand team in the decisive semifinal of the women's football competition at the 30th SEA Games, held yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Stadium in Manila, the Philippines.

Myanmar launched an open attack from the start and also created goal chances thrice, but Myanmar striker Win Theingi Tun could not convert the chances into goals. The winning goal for Thailand was scored by Orapin at 78 minutes, and resulted in a heart-breaking loss for team Myanmar.

The single goal by team Thailand was enough for them to secure their entry in the final.

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**Myanmar to meet Indonesia in 30th SEA Games men's football semifinal**

The Myanmar U-22 men's football team will take on the Indonesian U-22 team in the semifinal of the 30th Southeast Asian Games in the Philippines.

Team Myanmar secured a place in the semifinal with 10 points from 3 wins and one draw in the Group A matches. Team Indonesia from Group B, which had a tough lineup of teams, came second in the group stage finals by beating Laos by 4-0 to secure a spot in the semifinals.

**30th SEA Games badminton: Thet Htar Thuzar secures place in quarter final**

Defending champion Thailand was eliminated from the 30th SEA Games men's football competition after conceding a 2-2 draw against Viet Nam in their final Group B tie on Thursday.

Thus, in the second semifinal, Group B winner Viet Nam will be meeting Group A runner-up Cambodia. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Myanmar's Thet Htar Thuzar seen at the match against Malaysia's Sonia Cheah in the women's singles event at the 30th SEA Games in the Philippines. PHOTO: SOE NYUNT