The Myanmar delegation led by the State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi left Nay Pyi Taw for The Hague, the Netherlands, by a special flight yesterday morning to contest the case filed by Gambia at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

The oral proceedings on the Gambia’s report for the indication of provisional measures will take place at the ICJ on 10, 11 and 12 December 2019, respectively. The State Counsellor, in her capacity as the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs will contest this case to defend the national interest of Myanmar at the Court.

The State Counsellor and her delegation were seen off at the Nay Pyi Taw international Airport by Union Minister U Min Thu, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman De Myo Aung and wife, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo, Ambassador of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Myanmar Mr Wouter Jurgens and officials.
FROM PAGE 1

Our Union Government has been marching forward on the path of reform and reconstruction, in accordance with people-centered principles, for the emergence of a sustainable, modern, developed, peaceful and stable Democratic Federal Union by working for national reconciliation, the peace process and the economic policies of the State.

Our Government understands that the problem of corruption which has taken root and been thriving for many years is a major obstacle; that is why we have been making strenuous efforts continuously with strong political fervor to create a society free from corruption.

Myanmar ratified the UN Convention against Corruption in 2012 and enacted the Anti-Corruption Law in 2013. The Anti-Corruption Commission was established in 2014. For fighting corruption more effectively the commission was reorganized in 2017. The 2018 Anti-Corruption Law was amended for the fourth time to combat corruption as a national duty, to establish a clean government with a good administrative system, for a higher sense of integrity and willingness to take responsibility in government departments, to eliminate loss of government property and funds, and to ensure that the rights of citizens are not harmed.

Now that the legal system has become stronger, the Anti-Corruption Commission has been able to work with strenuous efforts with more freedom in wider areas to reduce incidents of accepting/giving bribes and also to reduce the loss of government funds and destruction of government property.

The Anti-Corruption campaign is being carried out in three programs. These are education, prevention and investigation and punishment. As part of the education program, distribution of brochures to promote straight forwardness and integrity in Basic Education, and also to reduce the loss of government funds and destruction of government property.

Apart from efforts made by individual countries, by the collective efforts of many countries we will be able to combat transnational corruption and crimes.

By combating corruption with heart and soul, we may encourage the emergence of a culture of rule of law rather than a corruption free culture.

Among the international conventions, the UN Convention against Corruption is among the conventions that had received ratification at the quickest pace; at present of the 186 member countries almost all have given ratification thus achieving the status of Universal Ratification; thus we can say that the whole world supports the campaign to combat corruption. From efforts made by individual countries, by the collective efforts of many countries we will be able to combat transnational corruption and crimes.

By combating corruption with heart and soul, we may encourage the emergence of a culture of rule of law rather than a corruption free culture. Furthermore, as we will be promoting the emergence of institutions built on the principles of responsibility and accountability, everyone will be able to enjoy their rights and live a healthy and happy life.

Out of the 17 goals of the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals, goal number 16 has described clearly the importance of combating corruption. In this regard, countries need to work for promotion of inclusive and peaceful societies, work for access to justice, establishment of institutions where all levels practice responsibility and accountability, reduction of illegal flows of money, strengthening of systems to get back state owned properties, reduction of bribery and corruption, establishing institutions which practice responsibility and accountability and are effective, inclusive and transparent. This is how we need to move forward.

The Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, 2018 – 2030, has been linked to the global Sustainable Development Goals, to enable us to implement our national development programmes. Therefore, I wish to urge everyone to cooperate with us in combating corruption so that we could work towards the achievement of good governance and improvement of decision making capabilities of organizations at all levels; this is what has been outlined under pillar (1) of the MSDP under the strategy for peace and stability.

On this auspicious day as we celebrate the 16th Anniversary of the UN Convention against Corruption and the International Anti-Corruption Day, I wish to reaffirm our country’s commitment and pledges to the aims and basic principles of the Convention. Therefore, I send this Message of Greetings to all persons working in the executive, legislative and judicial branches, responsible officials, government service personnel, private sector organizations, civil society organizations, media and people, and all citizens to work in unity to continue combating corruption, in accordance with the slogan “Let us all stand united against corruption”. This is my solemn request to you all.

By combatting corruption with heart and soul, we may encourage the emergence of a culture of rule of law rather than a corruption free culture.

Garment workers receive occupational competency certificates

THE Aung Myin Hmu Consortium launched its second phase training programme and certification ceremony for outstanding trainees and the garment factories with the best performance.

Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe delivered a speech at the launching ceremony held at the Melia Hotel in Yangon yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, the Union Minister said that Myanmar garment industry has been rewarded the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) since 2013, and that the industry could employ the largest number of workers in the country.

Over 90 percent of internal migrants from rural to cities are the women working in garment factories, according to the Myanmar Annual Labour Force Survey Report from February to April in 2018.

Myanmar fetched US$2.3 billion from the garment industry in 2017, and the amount doubled in the following year with $4.6 billion. The thriving industry could also attract more foreign investors.

The Aung Myin Hmu Consortium has established a Garment Skills Training Centre in North Dagon, Yangon, in collaboration with MOLIP to provide training for the garment industry.

The MOLIP and the CARE International extended an MOU for the period from July 2019 to June 2012.

At the ceremony, 10 excellent sewing machine operators and 16 factories with the best performance received certificates.

Officials from the Aung Myin Hmu Consortium held a roundtable talk on reviewing the benefits of training, and Country Director of CARE International in Myanmar Mr Gary Mcgurk made a conclusion remark on the talks. — MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Minister U Thein Swe presents the Certificate of Recognition to the official from Shwe Sagar Company Limited. PHOTO: MNA
State Counsellor leaves for The Hague, Netherlands

The mass rally in Toungoo supports State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who will contest the case filed by Gambia at the International Court of Justice. PHOTO:MNA

A mass rally was held in Toungoo, Bago Region, yesterday to support State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who will contest the case filed by Gambia at the International Court of Justice-ICJ. Over 10,000 people comprised of local people from townships in Toungoo District, service personnel from government departments, Hluttaw representatives, teachers, representatives from organizations and philanthropic organizations participated in the rally. People took part in the rally holding placards and shouting slogans reading “We support the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who defends the national interest,” “The task to defend the interest of the State must be successful” and “Myanmar’s journey to democracy must be successful.” — Thura (Toungoo)

Press release on official visit of Mr Wang Yi, State Councillor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China, to Myanmar

(7-8 December 2019)

1. At the invitation of Her Excellency Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency Mr. Wang Yi, State Councillor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China, paid an official visit to Myanmar from 7 to 8 December, 2019.

2. The delegation led by His Excellency Mr. Wang Yi arrived at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport with China Airline Flight number MU2587 in the late afternoon of 7 December 2019.

3. During the visit, His Excellency Mr. Wang Yi and delegation paid a courtesy call on President His Excellency U Win Myint at the Credentials Hall. During the call, they discussed on matters pertaining to promoting bilateral relations and mutually beneficial cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, exchange of high level visits between the two countries and organising friendship activities and events to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Myanmar-China diplomatic relations in 2020.

4. Following the courtesy call, Her Excellency Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and His Excellency Mr. Wang Yi, State Councillor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China held a bilateral meeting at the Presidential Palace. At the meeting, they cordially exchanged views on strengthening “Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership Relations” based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence and existing “Pauk-Paw” friendship, promoting bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and China under the framework of Belt and Road Initiative, enhancing of socio-economic lives of the two peoples, providing continued assistance to Myanmar’s efforts for the peace and national reconciliation process, as well as for the repatriation process in the Rakhine State, continued cooperation between Myanmar and China at the United Nations and other international fora and promoting cooperation in various sectors and ongoing various activities and events to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of Myanmar-China diplomatic relations in 2020.

5. In the evening, H.E. U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for Office of State Counsellor and H.E. Mr. Wang Yi, State Councillor and Minister of Foreign Affairs witnessed the signing the letters of Exchange to provide the Government of Myanmar with 1000 sets of Assembled Board Houses for Rakhine State between H.E. U Han Zaw, Union Minister for Construction and H.E. Mr. Deng Boqing, Vice Chairman of China International Development Cooperation Agency. Then, His Excellency Mr. Wang Yi and delegation attended the dinner hosted by Union Minister for the Office of State Counsellor, His Excellency U Kyaw Tint Swe at the Shwe San Eain Hotel.


7. The delegation led by His Excellency Mr. Wang Yi left Mandalay for Kunming, China by Flight number 3U8708 in the late evening of 8 December 2019.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated: 9 December 2019

FROM PAGE-1

Toungoo holds mass rally to support State Counsellor

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomed by Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint Than, and officials at the Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Bangkok yesterday. PHOTO:MNA
Private Sector Development Committee holds 31st meeting with Myanmar entrepreneurs

UNION Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe attended the final and awards ceremony of 41st Police Chief Lethwei Championship Trophy at the Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The event was attended by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Deputy Minister Maj-General Aung Thu, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo, Directors-General of Ministry of Home Affairs and police officers, invited guests, members and families of Myanmar Police Force, judges members, coaches and administrators, athletes and lelthwei fans.

The Union Minister made closing remarks and the Police Chief Lethwei championship tourney was concluded.

At the awards ceremony, Deputy Police Chiefs (1) and (2) awarded the winners of lelthwei tournaments for the novice class.

The Chief of Myanmar Police Force awarded individual medals and cash prizes to the winners of lelthwei tournaments for open class.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe also awarded individual medals and cash prizes to the winners of the open class and champion trophy to crimi-
First Lady Daw Cho Cho organized a religious ritual for State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who left for The Hague in the Netherlands yesterday to defend Myanmar’s national interests before the International Court of Justice.

At the Sasana Beikmantaw of Eternal Peace Pagoda in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, the religious ritual was performed with recitations of Paritta Pali verses, Dhammacakkapavattana Sutta, chanting of Maha Pathana Pali, cultivation of Metta (Loving-kindness) and sharing merits.

The ceremony was aimed for success, protection and safety of the State Counsellor in her defence at the ICJ.

First Lady Daw Cho Cho lights candles in front of Buddha Image at the Eternal Peace Pagoda.

The ritual was attended by the wife of Union Election Commission, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, wives of Union Ministers, wife of Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and religious verses chanting groups of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture.

Before the ceremony, the First Lady paid homage to the Eternal Peace Pagoda and offered oil lights and water to the Buddha Image in the cave of pagoda.

After reciting Namosata three times, the First Lady and congregation took five precepts and conducted the religious ritual. The ceremony was concluded with the wishes for propagation of Buddha Sasana.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)
30,000 monks attend mass alms-giving in Mandalay

SUPERVISED by Mandalay Region Government, Myanmar well-wishers and Thailand’s Dhammakaya Foundation jointly organized third mass alms-giving for 30,000 monks at the Chanmyathazi Airport in Mandalay yesterday.

Present at the event were Union Ministers Dr Myo Thein Gyi and Nai Thet Lwin, Deputy Minister U Kyi Min, Mandalay Region Minister for Electricity, Energy and Construction U Zarni Aung on behalf of Mandalay Region Chief Minister, Mandalay Region Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Kyaw Oo and cabinet members, Hluttaw representatives, departmental officers, consuls general of the People’s Republic of China and the Republic of India, invited guests, social organizations, donors from Thailand and well-wishers.

Mandalay Region Minister U Zarni Aung and Deputy Minister U Kyi Min lighted candles, and representatives from Myanmar and Thailand offering flowers, the alms-giving ceremony was opened with the three-time recitation of “Namo tassa bhagavato arahato samma sambuddhassa.”

That was followed by the congregation receiving the Five Precepts from the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaw Thantyn Min Kyuang Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Candima Bhihuvmsa.

Afterwards, the audio message sent by Luang Por Dhammajayo, the patron of Dhammakaya Monastery in Thailand, was played and Members of Sangha recited parittas.

Six donors from Thailand led the recitation of offering the Four Requisites and donated offertories to the monks.

Supplicating the Members of Sangha at the event, patron of the alms-giving organizing committee Mandalay Region minister for Electricity, Energy and Construction U Zarni Aung on behalf of Mandalay Region Chief Minister expressed delights for getting opportunity for doing merits by peoples of Myanmar and Thailand.

Deputy Minister U Kyi Min supplicated religious matters, Thai donors expressed delights and followed by U Soe Lin, the chairman of the alms-giving event organizing committee, saying words of thanks.

The congregation listened to the sermon given by Mogok Nyaung Thone Bin Pariyatti Thamanyakw Monastery Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Tejosara Bhiyamsa and shared merits they gained.

The ceremony concluded after the congregation reciting “Buddha Sasanam Ciram Titthatu” three times.

The officials, donors and well-wishers led by Union Ministers Dr Myo Thein Gyi and Nai Thet Lwin donated K 30,000 each monk and offertories to the Members of Sangha.

Foods and soft drinks for congregation were also donated by well-wishers at the event. The first Myanmar-Thai friendship alms-giving ceremony was held for 10,000 monks on 20 September 2015 at the foot of the Mandalay Hill and the second was held for 20,000 monks on 21 January 2018 at the Chanmyathazi Airport. This was the third alms-giving in Mandalay and donated to 30,000 monks. —Min Htet Aung (Sub-Printing House) (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)
Myanmar-Japan JV KBZ MS Insurance starts operations

KBZ MS General Insurance, a joint venture between IKBZ, a major private non-life insurance company, and Japan’s Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance started operations yesterday.

The JV was launched with a ceremony as per the Ministry of Financial Institutions’ Supervisory Department, Vice Chairman of IKBZ Insurance U Nyo Myint, and Executive Managing Director of MSIG Mr. Tamaki Kawate delivering opening remarks at the ceremony.

With Myanmar allowing foreign-owned insurance companies to operate joint venture businesses with local insurers, IKBZ and MSIG have formed KBZ MS General Insurance.

IKBZ was the first private insurance company in Myanmar, and since its establishment, it has been one of the top 10 insurance companies globally.

Through the joint venture, KBZ MS would bring modern technology and international insurance expertise to Myanmar market and provide high-quality insurance services to the Myanmar people. —GNLM

Sino-Myanmar border trade up $332.6 mln as of 22 Nov

SINO-Myanmar border trade registered an increase of US$332.6 million between 1 October and 22 November in the current fiscal year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Data from the Ministry of Commerce shows the value of the Sino-Myanmar border trade touched $926 million in the current fiscal year from $593.47 million record in the year-ago period.

This FY, border trade values totaled $765.737 million at Muse, $11.28 million at Lweje, $96 million at Chinshwehaw, $251.4 million at Kanpiketee, and $1.6 million at Kengtung.

The Ministry of Commerce, the concerned government departments, and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry have been negotiating with their Chinese counterparts to lower trade barriers and offer relief to Myanmar traders using the border trade channel.

The two countries are making efforts to set up more border economic cooperation zones and promote border trade.

At present, border trade between Myanmar and China has returned to normal. Fighting in northern Shan State had brought about a temporary closure of trade. Additionally, the export of agricultural products has been halted often on account of China clamping down on illegal goods.

Myanmar merchants are facing difficulties in exporting goods to China through the legitimate channel as they find the tax levied by China too high. Therefore, rice confiscation and price manipulation occur often at the border.

Rice is currently being exported to China through a government-to-government (G2G) agreement and a barter system, in exchange for Chinese goods.

Myanmar exports rice, sugar, pulses, sesame seeds, corn, dried tea leaves, fishery products, minerals, and animal products to China, while it imports agricultural machinery, electrical appliances, iron and steel-related materials, raw industrial goods, and consumer goods from the neighboring country. — Htet Myat (Translated by EMM)

Public sector mineral exports up $361 mln in current fiscal

MYANMAR’S mineral exports were registered at US$574.24 million between 1 October and 22 November in the current fiscal year, with public sector exports showing a remarkable increase of $361.5 million against the previous fiscal, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce.

Both private and public sector mineral exports witnessed an increase in the current fiscal year.

The private sector exported minerals worth $212.6 million in the 2019-2020 financial year. In the 2018-2019PY, mineral exports by the public sector were worth less than a million dollars.

The total mineral export figure increased by $397.5 million from $176.6 million in the year-ago period.

Of the seven export groups, agriculture, minerals, fishery, and finished industrial goods showed an increase, while shipments of livestock, forest products, and other exports declined.

The country’s exportsector relies more on the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. While export earnings from the CMP (cut, make, and pack) garments business is rising, the country’s reliance on natural resources such as natural gas and jade has been lessening.

Exports of forest products and minerals dropped significantly in the previous fiscal as extraction of natural resources was limited. Permits for mining blocks had been suspended in 2016, but after two years, Myanmar’s mining sector has now been opened to local and foreign investors, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Export values stood at $473.89 million for agricultural products, $36.8 million for livestock, $150.65 million for fishery products, $574.24 million for minerals, $22.3 million for forest products, over $1.25 billion for manufactured goods, and $67.6 million for other goods. —GNLM (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)
Investment by Myanmar Citizens

By Lokethar

A RECENT news item in the Myanmar news papers said that with in the last two months, 12 enterprises (October to 31st November) of this Financial Year the total investment by Myanmar citizens approved by the Myanmar Investment Commission was more than the amount for the same period of the last financial year.

The investments were in 24 enterprises, and although there were 12 enterprises less than in the year before, the total amount invested was much more. This is an indication that there is investment in bigger enterprises. It augurs well as far as the total Investments are concerned.

Of the 24 enterprises involved, 12 were in the Industry sector, 4 in other enterprises, 3 in Hotel and Tourism Enterprises, 3 in Construction, 1 in Livestock Breeding and 1 in Agriculture. It would of course be more informative to know the “types” of enterprises in each of the above sectors were identified.

Breeding the interest for further statistics on investments in Myanmar, in the Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fishery Sectors, it was surprising to learn up to now the total number of investments in the sectors if it will be greater than that only in the Industry Sector exceeded 300. The biggest investments of course were in the Oil and Gas and the Energy and Construction Sectors.

What is dismaying about the investment figures is that investments in the number of establishments in Agriculture, Livestock Breeding & Fishery Sector is woefully low. It is as if the fact that the National Development Plans have prioritized development of the said sectors. One inconceivable fact is that whatever happens where ever, Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fishery will always be the backbone of Myanmar’s economy. In fact the abundance of fertile land, large rivers with their wide valleys, the rolling green hills of the hills, the wide grasslands, all blessed by the bountiful monsoon, Monsoon, the long rivers and of course, the very long coastline facing the sea with it’s abundant aquatic resources, Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fishery has been Myanmar’s life support throughout it’s long history. With the current world population crisis looming, the ups and downs as well as uncertainties of global trade and what not food security will become a need of the future world wide, as will be “natural” food production in spite of the many “artificial” food and nutrition aids being developed.

Hence at this juncture, with the uncertainties around further foreign investment in high value added production facilities in Industry and the other sectors, it would be well for Myanmar to develop further its Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fishery Sectors. It will not only ensure food security for the country but will find ready markets for the outputs in the region and beyond. It will also contribute to employment and further rural poverty reduction.

To this end we need to find out what is holding back more Myanmar Citizens from entering in Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fishery, in spite of the availability of resources which Myanmar has blessed with by Nature.

A related factor is Agricultural Statistics (call it Data) you will need. It is necessary to know how the investments have increased production or services related to Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fishery. It is important to know how much is being produced and how much can be exported so that market prices within the country remains relatively stable. Needless to say there must be an agency or committee charged with compiling and disseminating a statistics (data) relating to Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fishery sectors. It could perhaps publish occasionally statistics (data) relating to the sectors.

In regard to investments in the sectors relating to Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fishery, a Committee should perhaps be formed to determine what needs to be done to encourage such investment by both Myanmar Citizens and Foreigners.

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, essays, articles and short stories from young people for weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can download the Global New Light of Myanmar at no. 355, Sattley Street, Maymyo, Mandalay, Yangon, in person, or by email to jyothi@theglobalnewlightmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) a color photo within 4MB, (2) Full name and current address, (3) Date of birth (4) Contact information (5) Name of your School/College/University, (6) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted elsewhere to any other news or magazine publishing house, (7) A copy of your student ID, (8) Contact information (full address, mobile number etc.) – Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 30th December, 2019** Weather will be partly cloudy in Sagaing and Tanintharyi Regions, Kalay, Northern Shan, Chin and Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough seas are likely at Unicorn Delta, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong easterly winds may reach 30-35 mph. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-6) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (4-5) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Decrease of night temperatures in Naypyidaw, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Rangog Regions. Shan, Kayah, and Mon States.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 09th December, 2019:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR VANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA 10th December, 2019:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 09th December, 2019:** Generally fair weather.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, essays, articles and short stories from young people for weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can download the Global New Light of Myanmar at no. 355, Sattley Street, Maymyo, Mandalay, Yangon, in person, or by email to jyothi@theglobalnewlightmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) a color photo within 4MB, (2) Full name and current address, (3) Date of birth (4) Contact information (5) Name of your School/College/University, (6) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted elsewhere to any other news or magazine publishing house, (7) A copy of your student ID, (8) Contact information (full address, mobile number etc.) – Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is cloudy over the South Bay and a few cloud to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Began.

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**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 09th December, 2019:** Generally fair weather.
Calendar launched as part of Myanmar motion picture centennial celebrations

A calendar with movie stars showing off fashion trends from four different eras was launched at an event organized on 8 December by the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, which will soon enter its 100th anniversary. The calendar features famous stars Nay Toe and Paing Phyo Hla Thun for the silver jubilee years (1929-1949), Aung Yo Lin and Watt Hmone Shwe Yi for the gold jubilee era (1945-1970), Daung and Aye Myat Thu for the diamond jubilee (1970-1995), and Myint Myat and El Chaw Po for the 100th anniversary (1995-2020). The stars have been captured showing off fashion trends and lifestyles from the four different eras for the calendar, according to the event.

The 30” x 30” calendar includes four pages and one cover page. It will be distributed at a cheap price to Myanmar movie lovers. The Myanmar Motion Picture Organization will mark its 100th anniversary on 13 October, 2020. The calendars are available through calendar distribution and poster distribution agents in Yangon and Mandalay. U Nyi Nyn Tun Lin, chair of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization and members, director U Thein Naing of the Myanmar Motion Picture Promotion Division of the Information and Public Relations Department, and officials attended the event. They also answered questions from the media at the press conference.—Myint Maung (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

THE annual Viet Nam Expo 2019 to be held on 19-22 Dec in Yangon

The four-day event is being organized by the Viet Nam Trade Promotion Agency under the Viet Nam Ministry of Industry and Trade, in cooperation with the Embassy of Vietnam in Myanmar and Myanmar’s Ministry of Commerce.

The expo has been held every year since 2009. The event aims to promote Vietnamese businesses and trademarks and expand the country’s distribution network in Myanmar. It also intends to promote trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

“Vietnam and Myanmar have strong trade relations. Goods from Viet Nam started to enter Myanmar’s market in 2003. The two countries have close economic, educational, social, and cultural links,” said U Myo Thant, joint secretary of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

About 80 exhibitors are expected to showcase products such as processed foods, consumer products, equipment and machines, electric home appliances, pharmaceuticals, and chemical products at the expo.

Viet Nam currently ranks 7th among the largest foreign investors in Myanmar with 25 enterprises bringing in $2.16 billion as of October this year, according to data from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.—Pwint Thitlar/ Ko Htet (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Police wipe out opium fields in four townships

POLICE destroyed nearly 24.2 acres of opium poppy plantations in Ngaphe, Loilim, Hsilseng and Hopong townships on 6 and 7 December, according to Myanmar Police Force.

On 6 December, a combined team including police from Ngaphe destroyed 0.4 acres of opium field located about six miles west of Boe Village, and also 3 acres located about three miles west of Ma Kau Village in Ngaphe Township in Magway Region.

Police destroying the opium plantations in Shan State.

PHOTO: MFF

Police destroying the opium plantations in Shan State.

PHOTO: MFF

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email us@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

Due to limitations of space we are only able to publish “Letters to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you present an article longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.
Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister visits Mandalay

A delegation from the People’s Republic of China led by State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of PRC Mr Wang Yi visited Mya-Nan-San-Kyaw Mandalay Royal Palace, and Maha Lawka Marazein Kuthodaw Pagoda yesterday.

In the morning, the delegation led by State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of PRC Mr Wang Yi met with Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing at the Yan Gyi Aung Villa of Central Command and cordially discussed the matters of promoting bilateral friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and China.

After the meeting, the State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of PRC Mr Wang Yi and party visited Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

The delegation also visited the UNESCO World Heritage Site The Maha Lawka Marazein Kuthodaw Pagoda, also known as, The World’s Largest Book, offered flowers, water and lights, and signed the pagoda’s guest book.

In the evening, the State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of PRC and party visited the Mandalay Hill, and enjoyed the sunset beauty from the hill.

Afterwards, the State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of PRC and party arrived at the briefing room of Myanmar-China petroleum pipeline project being carried out by China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) near the milepost No.363 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway where an official from CNPC explained the current conditions of the project.

The Chinese Foreign Minister and party left Mandalay International Airport for Kunming at night. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

3rd Myanmar-German Renewable Energies Symposium held in Yangon

THE 3rd Myanmar-German Renewable Energies Symposium was held at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Yangon on Friday.

The symposium had already been organized by the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Myanmar in 2017 and 2018, each time focusing on a different renewable energy topic.

The third symposium was opened by the German Ambassador to Myanmar Thomas Karl Neisinger and Dr. Jens Oeding, the Regional President Asia of CLAAS.

“Renewable energies like biomass are the solution to many problems. Converting waste to energy will increase the local welfare, create additional values and will be good for the environment.

In addition, the sources of raw material such as rice straw are nearly unlimited especially in Myanmar”, declared Dr. Oeding in his opening remarks.

The event on 6th December centered around the topic of renewable energy, with a focus on biomass and waste-to-energy. 94 industry experts from several countries joined the event.—GNLM

Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Annual rising establishment of sub-power stations and transformers extended

3rd Myanmar-German Renewable Energies Symposium held in Yangon

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State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of PRC Mr Wang Yi and party visit the Mya-Nan-San-Kyaw Mandalay Royal Palace yesterday. PHOTO: MNA
France’s Macron to hold meeting on pensions as strike bites

PARIS—French President Emmanuel Macron will on Sunday meet ministers involved in his radical pension reform which has prompted a nationwide strike and brought key transport services to a standstill.

Transport in Paris remained paralysed Sunday, with only the two driverless lines of the Metro in operation while national rail operator SNCF warned just one in six high-speed trains would be running. The strikes, which began on Thursday over the plans for a single points-based pension scheme, recall the winter of 1995, when three weeks of huge stoppages forced a social policy U-turn by the then-government.

Prime Minister Edouard Philippe insisted his government would not abandon the plan. "If we do not make a far-reaching, serious and progressive reform today, someone else will make a really brutal one tomorrow," Philippe was quoted as saying by Le Journal du Dimanche. But the leader of the hardline CGT union, Philippe Martinez, told the paper "We will keep up until the withdrawal" of the reform plan. The prime minister is due to unveil full details of the reform to merge the 42 existing pension plans, which could spark more union anger. "We can provide extremely positive answers for many people who suffer injustices in the current system: women, farmers, and career-changers in particular," he said. Unions have vowed a second series of mass demonstrations nationwide on Tuesday and there is expected to be little easing of the transport freeze over the coming days. In a joint statement, the three main rail unions called for the strike to be stepped up on Monday.—AFP

Impact of UK polls to be ‘felt for decades’: PM Johnson

LONDON—British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Sunday that the impact of Thursday’s general election would be "felt for decades" as campaigning entered the final stages.

The prime minister is hoping to regain the majority that his Conservative Party lost in 2019, with a slew of polls released on Saturday suggesting he was narrowly on course to achieve his goal.

The stakes could barely be higher, with the fate of Brexit still to be settled.

“We’re fighting for every vote here... this is a critical moment for this country, the choice on Thursday is unbelievably stark,” he told Sky News.

He compared the election to other “historic elections” such as 1906, 1945 and 1979.

“The impact of this election will be felt for decades to come,” he wrote in an open letter.

A Conservative majority would almost certainly cement Britain’s departure from the European Union, but any other result could lead to a second referendum and the 2016 result being overturned.

The prime minister faced scrutiny over the fate of Brexit still to be settled.

The prime minister faced scrutiny over his claims appear to contradict a leaked government document revealed by Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn this week, which suggested that businesses would need to fill in paperwork when moving goods across the Irish Sea. Corbyn is banking on a late surge, as he achieved in 2017, to prevent Johnson from winning a majority.—AFP

Gunman at US military base showed mass shooting videos at party: report

MIAMI—The Saudi military student who carried out a deadly shooting spree at a US naval base showed videos of mass shootings at a dinner party the night before the attack, US media reported Saturday.

The shooting Friday in a classroom building at Naval Air Station Pensacola in Florida killed three sailors and wounded eight other people, including two responding sheriff’s deputies, before police shot dead the assailant. The dinner party revelation came as authorities probed whether the shooter had any accomplices.

“We’re finding out what took place, whether it’s one person or a number of people,” President Donald Trump told reporters. “We’ll get to the bottom of it very quickly. The FBI on Saturday formally identified the attacker as Mohammed Alshamrani, 21, a second lieutenant in the Royal Saudi Air Force and a student naval flight officer.

The SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadist media, said he had posted a short manifesto on Twitter prior to the attack that read: "I am against evil, and America as a whole has turned into a nation of evil."

"I hate you because every day you (are) supporting, funding and committing crimes not only against Muslims but also humanity.”

The Twitter account that posted the manifesto — which also condemned US support for Israel and included a quote from Al-Qaeda’s deceased leader Osama bin Laden — has been suspended.—AFP

No terror group immediately claimed the deadly attack carried out by a Saudi military trainee at Naval Air Station Pensacola in Florida. PHOTO:AFP
Iran unveils budget of ‘resistance’ against US sanctions

TEHRAN—Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani announced Sunday “a budget of resistance” against US sanctions targeting the country’s vital oil sector, backed by a $5 billion Russian investment. Rouhani said the aim was to reduce “hardships” in the Islamic republic where a sharp fuel price hike last month triggered nationwide demonstrations that turned deadly. The US sanctions imposed last year in a bitter dispute centred on Iran’s nuclear programme include an embargo on the oil sector whose sales Washington aims to reduce to zero in a campaign of “maximum pressure”. Iran has suffered a sharp economic downturn, with a plummeting currency sending inflation skyrocketing. PHOTO: AFP

The Islamic republic has suffered a sharp economic downturn this year, with a plummeting currency sending inflation skyrocketing and driving up import prices. Rouhani told parliament that the budget of 4,845 trillion rial, or $36 billion at the current street rate, was devised to help Iran’s people overcome difficulty. “We know that under the situation of sanctions and pressure, people are in hardship. We know people’s purchasing power has declined,” he said.—AFP ■

US opposition pushes trade court to brink of collapse

GENEVA—The World Trade Organization’s capacity to settle international disputes, a core function throughout the body’s 25-year history, is on the brink of collapse following relentless US opposition.

The appellate branch of the WTO’s Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), sometimes dubbed the supreme court of world trade, was a target of US criticism before President Donald Trump took office.

His predecessor Barack Obama’s administration began a policy of blocking the appointment of appeals judges over concerns that their rulings violated American interests.

Trump’s trade team has both extend- ed that policy and escalated the fight. Barring a shock breakthrough in the coming days, the court will cease functioning on Wednesday.

The WTO appellate branch normally counts seven judges but has just three left – the minimum required to hear an appeal. Two more judges are due to retire on Tuesday.

WTO Director General Roberto Azevedo warned on Friday that the organisation was facing a stark choice. “You could restore the impartial, ef- fective, efficient two-step review that most members say they want,” he said.

“Alternatively, your choices could open the door to more uncertainty, un- constrained unilateral retaliation — and less investment, less growth, and less job creation.”—AFP ■

Announcement of Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticides

Distribution of the following Pesticides registered by JINGBO AGROCHEMICALS TECHNOLOGY CO., LTD is transferring from MYANMAR GOLDEN BYTER CO., LTD to DIAMOND LIGHT INTERNATIONAL TRADING CO., LTD. Any objection regarding this transfer can notify at Joint. Secretary, Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, west Gyogone, Insein within two weeks.

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DIAMOND LIGHT INTERNATIONAL TRADING CO., LTD.
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Tel: 02-4061727, 09-20007577, 09-20005918

IMF and Ukraine reach tentative $5.5 bn aid deal

WASHINGTON—The International Monetary Fund said Saturday it had reached an agreement in principle with Ukraine on a new $6.5 billion, three-year aid program for the war-scarred country.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva welcomed the deal, adding it was subject to IMF management approval. Georgieva said she spoke by telephone on Saturday to President Volodymyr Zelen- sky and commended him on “impressive progress” on reforms and “sound economic policies.”

“The President and I agreed that Ukraine’s eco- nomic success depends crucially on strengthening the rule of law, enhancing the integrity of the judiciary, and reducing the role of vested interests,” she said.

She added that it was “paramount to safeguard the gains made in cleaning up the banking system and recover the large costs to the taxpayers from bank resolutions.” The IMF and other international donors have repeatedly pressed Kiev to attract much-needed investment by addressing pervasive corruption and reducing the power of oligarchs.

But bankers and analysts said they fear the cur- rent authorities are targeting former bankers who have helped clean up the market instead of the oligarch owners of banks that go bankrupt. Georgieva said that the effectiveness of the new program would be “conditional on the implementation of a set of prior actions.”—AFP ■
Chinese tourists to Mandalay Region up almost 70% this year

By Kyaw Htike Soe

Tourist arrivals to Mandalay Region reached over 550,000 during the period from January to October this year, with China being the biggest source of visitors, according to the statistics from Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (DOHT), under the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. The total number of international travelers rose around 50,000 when compared to the same period last year: Mandalay Region welcomed 490,000 foreigners in the same period of the previous year.

Most of the foreign visitors came from China, US, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Japan, South Korea, and Thailand. Majority of tourists travelled to Mandalay Region by flights, said U San Yu, Assistant Director from the DOHT.
“Arrival of Chinese visitors and travellers from some countries that Myanmar has given visa free entry saw a boost significantly,” he said. Arrival of Chinese tourists to Myanmar is up by nearly 70 per cent than previous year thanks to Myanmar’s visa-on-arrival allowance to visitors from six more countries commencing 1 October last year. Due to the sharp inflow of Chinese visitors to Myanmar this year, Myanmar authorities are exerting efforts to further expand travel routes and promote the tourism industry by attracting global airlines to the country.

About 20 international airlines expanded operations in Mandalay Region with new routes. “Now the number of Chinese airlines operating in Mandalay Region has increased to 16. In addition, other domestic airlines expanded flight operations in Mandalay Region. So the number of foreign visitors to Mandalay Region via TadaU International Airport grew by 102 percent when compared to the same period of previous year,” he added.

The regional government is trying its utmost to attract more tourists to the area by organizing international invitational sports events and showcasing cultural heritages and traditional food.

At the same time, the local government has been creating new destinations and ecotourism for globetrotters as well as conducting language proficiency courses and basic tour guide training courses for human resource development.

Myanmar offered visa free entry to Chinese visitors and tourists from some countries in an attempt to promote its tourism industry.

The Southeast Asian country is hoping to reach its target of attracting 7 million tourists by 2020. The local government also carried out conservation work for ancient cultural heritages and efforts to attract more tourists to the region.

The local government is much more interested in promoting the ecotourism in cooperation with private tour operators. In addition, the local government is planning to set up two tourism zones in the region. With the prevalence of peace and stability coupled with a variety of scenic beauties, ancient cultural heritages, and pagodas, tourist arrivals in Mandalay Region is expected to rise this year.

Chinese visitors account for 48 per cent of overall tourist arrivals in Mandalay Region. 385,031 globetrotters toured Mandalay Region in 2016, 483,784 foreigners travelled to the region in 2017 and 492,097 tourists visited the region in 2018.

The local government set a target to receive 500,000 tourists this year but the number of international visitors to the region has surpassed the mark.
A late goal scored by Yee Yee Oo, 10 minutes before the final whistle, helped Myanmar defeat host Philippines by 2-1 in yesterday’s match for the third place at the Rizal Memorial Stadium in Manila, the Philippines.

Meanwhile, in the men’s 9-ball pool singles, Myanmar billiards star Phone Myint Kyaw will compete against Duong Quoc Hoang of Viet Nam at 8.30 a.m. today. The matches featuring Nay Thway Oo versus Tran Leanh Tuan and Phone Myint Kyaw versus Duong Quoc Hoang will be streamed live on Eleven Broadcasting’s Face-book page, according to a statement from the Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Myanmar’s Yee Yee Oo (No. 20) celebrates the team’s victory after scoring the winning goal in the match for the third place against the Philippines team yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Stadium in Manila, the Philippines. PHOTO: MFF

The bronze medal is meant for Myanmar. With the 2-1 victory, Myanmar secured the third place and the bronze medal in the women’s football competition at the SEA Games.

Speaking about the match, Myanmar head coach U Win Thu Moe said: “The match was difficult though my team got a victory. Team Philippines is improving and underwent much preparation for the SEA Games. The bronze medal is meant for my players’ efforts. I want to express my thanks to my team and the team’s supporters.” In the final match, Viet Nam took the gold medal by beating Thailand by 0-1. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

SEA Games: Nay Thway Oo reaches finals in English billiard singles

Meanwhile, in the men’s 9-ball pool singles, Myanmar billiards star Phone Myint Kyaw will compete against Duong Quoc Hoang of Viet Nam at 8.30 a.m. today. The matches featuring Nay Thway Oo versus Tran Leanh Tuan and Phone Myint Kyaw versus Duong Quoc Hoang will be streamed live on Eleven Broadcasting’s Facebook page, according to a statement from the Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Myanmar billiards icon Nay Thway Oo competing against Viet Nam’s Tran Leanh Tuan in the semifinal of the English billiard singles at the 30th South East Asian Games yesterday at the Manila Hotel Tent, the Philippines. PHOTO: SPED

Myanmar secured one silver medal and two bronze medals in rowing and boat race competitions at the 30th South East Asian Games on 8 December at Malawakan Park in Subic City, the Philippines. Team Myanmar won the bronze medal in the 500-meter men’s four-player rowing event, while it won the silver medal in the 1,000-meter men’s and women’s mixed-22-player rowing event. Meanwhile, Myanmar’s Shwe Zin Latt and Ni Lar Win won another bronze medal in the women’s doubles international boat race event. Earlier, team Myanmar had won a gold medal in the 200-meter women’s traditional boat race at the 30th South East Asian Games, held on 7 December at the Malawakan Park. So far, Myanmar’s boat race and rowing teams have secured one gold medal, three silver medals, and four bronze medals at the 2019 SEA Games. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

2019 Southeast Asian Games medal tally updated

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30th SEA Games: Myanmar rowing team wins one silver, two bronze medals

**SEA Games women’s football: Yee Yee Oo’s late goal helps Myanmar win bronze**

Myanmar lined up with Mya Phoo Ngon, Aye Aye Moe, Khin Than Wai, Chit Chit, Khaing Thazin, Nge Nge Htwe, Khin Mo Mo Tun, Captain Khin Marlar Tun, Yee Yee Oo, Nu Nu, and July Kyaw. Team Myanmar were slow to act in the first half, and that helped Philippines create goal chances, but they could not convert, and the first half ended with a scoreless result.

The Philippines team fared better in the second half, with Quinley Quezada scoring the opening goal at 57 minutes. The goal prompted Myanmar to redouble their efforts to score, with July Kyaw scoring the equalizer at 78 minutes with a header off a free-kick assist.

With the tally at 1-1, Myanmar did not reduce their tempo, and Myanmar veteran player Yee Yee Oo netted another goal for the team at 80 minutes by taking advantage of an error in Philippines defense.

There were no more goals in the remaining ten minutes, and the match ended with a win for Myanmar. With the 2-1 victory, Myanmar secured the third place and the bronze medal in the women’s football competition at the SEA Games.

**SEA Games: Nay Thway Oo reaches finals in English billiard singles**

Myanmar billiards star and current Asian Billiards Champion Nay Thway Oo entered the finals of the English billiard singles at the 30th South East Asian Games by beating Viet Nam’s Tran Leanh Tuan by a decisive 3-0 in the semifinal yesterday at the Manila Hotel Tent, the Philippines.

Nay Thway Oo will meet Singapore’s Peter Gilchrist in the final, which is scheduled to take place at 11.30 a.m. today.

Meanwhile, in the men’s 9-ball pool singles, Myanmar billiards star Phone Myint Kyaw will compete against Duong Quoc Hoang of Viet Nam at 8.30 a.m. today. The matches featuring Nay Thway Oo versus Tran Leanh Tuan and Phone Myint Kyaw versus Duong Quoc Hoang will be streamed live on Eleven Broadcasting’s Facebook page, according to a statement from the Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)