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Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint on the anniversary celebrations of International Anti-Corruption Day.

(9 December 2019)

I WISH to extend my sincere good wishes on behalf of the Union of Myanmar to all of you who have come to celebrate the International Anti-Corruption Day and the 16th Anniversary of the UN Convention against Corruption which falls on 9th December.

I am very happy and honored that Myanmar has been able to celebrate the International Anti-Corruption Day with pomp and ceremony like other signatories of the UN Convention in the world community. This year we are able to celebrate on a far grander scale compared to previous years all over the country in the states and regions including the Nay Pyi Taw Council territory. This has given me greater encouragement and satisfaction.

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State Counsellor leaves for The Hague, Netherlands

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 Dr 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.



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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi being seen off by Union Minister U Min Thu, officials and Ambassador of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Myanmar Mr Wouter Jurgens at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint on the anniversary celebrations of International Anti-Corruption Day

(9 December 2019)

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 schools, and opening of youth camps at the university level for straight forwardness and integrity have been

carried out. To promote responsibility and accountability in government departments and economic enterprises, workshops are being held in all states and regions. As part of the program for prevention, Corruption Prevention Units (CPUs) have been formed in government departments; as for private sector economic enterprises, they are being instructed to write and abide by Code of Conduct to eliminate corruption. This method can bring benefits to the State in the long run as loop holes for corruption can be eliminated.

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.

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. 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 combatting 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 account-

ability, 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 combatting 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 combatting 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, news and media people, and all citizens to work in unity to continue combatting corruption, in accordance with the slogan "Let us all stand united against corruption". This is my solemn request to you all.

■ ■ ■

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

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 Interntational 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 partaining 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-Phaw” 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.
6. On 8 December 2019, His Excellency Mr. Wang Yi met with Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in Central Command, Mandalay. The delegation visited SPI Myanmar-China Oil and Gas Pipeline Projects, Mandalay Palace, Mandalay Hill and Kuthodaw Pagoda.
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

State Counsellor leaves for The
Hague, Netherlands



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

FROM PAGE-1

Her entourage includes Union Minister for the Office of State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe , Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and officials from

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of Union Attorney-General.
The State Counsellor and party arrived in Bangkok, Thailand, at 10:15 am local time. They were welcomed by Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U

Myo Myint Than and wife Daw San San Maw, Military Attaché (Army, Navy, Air) Brigadier General Khin Zaw, and officials from the Myanmar embassy and the military attaché office at the Suvarnabhumi International Airport.—MNA

Toungoo holds mass rally to support State Counsellor



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 governmental 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 defends the interest of the State must be successful” and “Myanmar’s journey to democracy must be successful.” — Thura (Toungoo)

Private Sector Development Committee holds 31st meeting with Myanmar entrepreneurs



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the 31st meeting with Myanmar entrepreneurs at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry office in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Private Sector Development Committee held the 31st meeting with Myanmar entrepreneurs at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) office in Yangon yesterday morning.

Vice President U Myint Swe presided over the meeting which was also attended Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Deputy Ministers U Aung Htoo, U Win Maw Tun and

U Maung Maung Win, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, chairpersons of five work committees, the vice chairpersons and officials, UMFCCI Chairman U Zaw Min Win, vice presidents and CEC members, permanent secretaries, directors-general, departmental heads, the representatives from Myanmar Livestock Federation, Muse - Namkham Border Trade Chamber of Commerce, Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association and officials.

At the meeting, Vice President U Myint Swe, in his capacity as the chairman of PSDC, said the five work committees of PSDC, which was formed three years ago, are implementing the tasks and instructions

of PSDC, and are also solving the challenges of private firms in coordination with the Union Ministers and the State/Region governments.

The trade volume of Myanmar in 2018-2019 financial year reached US\$35.02 billion, and the amount of trade in October alone was \$3.032 billion this 2019-2020 financial year in which the private sector contributed \$2.472 billion (82 per cent) in it.

The Vice President added that illegal trades through border areas have posed serious impacts on the local small and medium businesses, and that the PSDC formed special units to control illegal imports in nine States and Regions.

These units could prevent 1,065 illegal trades from September

2018 to October 2019, with a total value of K15.6482 billion.

Myanmar has formed the Illegal Trade Eradication Steering Committee to promote cooperation of state-level departments for implementing 13 tasks to address the rise of the Global Illicit Trade Environment Index contributed by the illegal trades of Myanmar.

During his recent visit to Taninthayi Region to attend the Taninthayi Region Investment Forum (2019), the Vice President arrived at Htikhee Border Trade Camp and the Mawtaung Border Trade Camp, and called for strict control of illegal trades, prevention for the micro, small and medium local businesses, collecting state revenue, prevention of bribery cases, ensuring fair competitiveness, practicing the carrot-and-stick approach in controlling illegal trades, and fighting against illegal-drug trafficking cases.

Vice President U Myint Swe concluded his speech with inviting written or verbal reports on difficulties of local entrepreneurs in trade sector.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein then briefed on measures related to development of agricultural sector and MSMEs, and the responsible persons from business organizations presented their difficulties in respective sectors.

The Vice President, the Yangon Region Chief Minister, deputy ministers and officials coordinated the discussions.

—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein. **PHOTO: MNA**



UMFCCI Chairman U Zaw Min Win. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Home Affairs Minister attends final, award ceremony of Police Chief Lethwei Championship Trophy

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 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 lethwei 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 lethwei tournaments for the novice class.

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

class and best lethwei fighters for novice class.

He also awarded the trophy to the Office of the head of security police force No.2 team, the champion team of the tournament for the novice class.

The Deputy Minister also awarded individual medals and cash prizes to the winners of the lethwei tourney for open class and trophy to criminal police department team, the champion team of the tourney for the open class.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw



Winners are awarded with trophy at the awarding ceremony.

PHOTO: MNA

Swe also awarded individual medals and cash prizes to the winners of the tourney for the open class and champion trophy to criminal

police department team, the champion team of the tourney for the open class. — MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun) ■

First Lady conducts religious ritual for State Counsellor's defence at ICJ

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.

kapavattana 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 strikes the Great Bell at the Eternal Peace Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



The congregation led by First Lady Daw Cho Cho hold the religious ritual at the Eternal Peace Pagoda. PHOTO: MNA



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, Dhammacak-

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 of-

fered 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)



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



30,000 monks attend mass alms-giving in Mandalay



Officials, donors and well-wishers led by Union Ministers Dr Myo Thein Gyi and Nai Thet Lwin attend the third mass alms-giving ceremony for 30,000 monks at the Chanmyathazi Airport in Mandalay yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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 Thanlyin Min Kyaung Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Candima Bhivumsa.

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



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin and officials donate offertories to the Sangha at the alms-giving ceremony. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin and officials donate offertories to the Members of Sangha at the alms-giving ceremony. **PHOTO: MNA**

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 Thamanaykyaw Monastery Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Tejosara Bhivamsa 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 Myanmar and Japan traditional customs at the Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon. Yangon Region Minister U Myint Thaung, Japanese Ambassador Mr. Ichiro Maruyama, Deputy Director-General of

the Ministry of Financial Institutions' Supervisory Department, Vice Chairman of IKBZ Insurance U Nyo Myint, and Executive Managing Director of MSIG Mr. Tamaki Kawate delivered 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 pri-

vate insurance company in Myanmar, and since its establishment, it has been one of the top 50 taxpayers for five years in a row. MSIG is the top insurer in Asia offering international insurance, and is listed among 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



Yangon Region Minister U Myint Thaung, Japanese Ambassador Mr Ichiro Maruyama and officials pose for a photo at the launching ceremony of KBZ MS General Insurance. **PHOTO: GNLM**

Advertisement

Long Qi Furniture holds grand opening ceremony



Yangon Region Hluttaw Representative U Win Maung and U Min Myat Thu, officials of Long Qi Furniture Co Ltd, film star Nay Toe, vocalists Chan Chan, Yadanar Maing and Jewel pose for a photo at the Long Qi Furniture opening ceremony. **PHOTO: NYIZAW MOE**

Long Qi Furniture held its grand opening ceremony at its showroom at the Nawaday Garden Housing in Hlinethaya yesterday.

The ceremony was formally opened by Yangon Region Hluttaw Representative U Win Maung and U Min Myat Thu, Chairman of Long Qi Furniture Co Ltd, film star Nay Toe, vocalists Chan Chan, Yadanar Maing and Jewel.

To mark the launching of the business, Long Qi Furniture Co Ltd donated K 3 million to MyoOo Pagoda in Hlinethaya Township, K3 million to the funds for erecting Bogyoke Bronze Statue in same township and K 1 million to the self-reliance pre-primary school of the Hlinethaya Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

At the ceremony,

Long Qi announced that it will sell its Mahawgani products at 50 per cent discount from 8 to 13 December; every products at 25 per cent discount from 8 to 10 December, at 20 per cent discount from 11 to 13 December. The Long Qi Furniture is established at the four-story building on the 3000 square metre in the Nawaday Garden Housing in Hlinethaya Township. —Nyi Zaw Moe

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 from \$593.47 million recorded

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 Kanpikete, 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 t

rade 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 2018-2019FY, 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, min-

erals, fishery, and finished industrial goods showed an increase, while shipments of livestock, forest products, and other exports declined.

The country's export sector relies more on the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. While export earnings from the CMP (cut, make, and pack) garment businesses are 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)

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Unity is our strength

THE Gambia, on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), has filed a case against Myanmar in the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Under the charter of the United Nations, all member states, including Myanmar, are bound by the statute of the ICJ. The case is an issue of national interest, affecting all nationals of Myanmar.

The State Counsellor, in her capacity as Union Minister for Foreign Affairs and the leader of the defense, left for the Netherlands yesterday to contest the case brought by the Gambia to the ICJ.

Myanmar has retained the services of top legal experts and a strong legal team has been formed. Apart from the legal

team, the country has to appoint an Agent to represent Myanmar before the ICJ.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, will act as our Agent. The State Counsellor is heading the defence team to show that she, as the leader of the country, takes responsibility and assumes accountability for the case. She will be there to defend our country's national interest. The case concerns Myanmar's integrity.

Secondly, we have the opportunity to deliver a speech or issue a press release on the opening day of the case. We can take the chance to show Myanmar's firm stance to the world.

It is heartening to see that people from all walks of life, those in the Union as well as those living abroad at present, are expressing strong support for the State

Counsellor and her leadership in the endeavor to contest the case at the ICJ. The issue before the ICJ is of national concern and affects the interests of all our people. Their support sustains us and their unity is the strength of the nation.

The Union Government has already announced that it will not cast aspersions on any nation, race, religion, or group, either directly or indirectly, as we defend our nation at the ICJ. This reflects that Myanmar will defend the case with full confidence just to make the world know the genuine situation on the ground.

The case at the ICJ is a challenge for us. However, we need to turn the case at The Hague into an opportunity, face the challenge with full confidence, and refute the allegations with strength derived from the unity of the people.



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Investment by Myanmar Citizens

By Lokethar

A RECENT news item in the Myanmar newspapers said that within the last two months (from 1st October to 30th 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 investments in bigger enterprises. It augurs well as far as the total Investments are concerned.

Of the 24 enterprises invested in, 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 have been more informative if the "types" of enterprises in each of the above sectors were identified.

Browsing the internet for further statistics on investments in Myanmar in the Agriculture, Livestock Breeding & Fishery Sectors, it was surprising to learn that up to now the total number of investments in the sectors were 17 establishments only while that in the Industry



Female workers sorting fish at a cold storage factory. PHOTO: MNA

Sector exceeded 800. 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. This in spite of the fact that the National Development Plans have prioritized development of the said

sectors.

One inescapable fact is that whatever happens where ever, Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fishery will always be the mainstay of Myanmar's economy. In fact the abundance of fertile land, large rivers with their wide valleys, the rolling green hills of the highlands, the wide grasslands, all blessed by the bountiful rain bearing Monsoon, the long rivers and of course, the

very long coastline facing the sea with its abundant aquatic resources, Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fishery has been Myanmar's life support throughout its 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 tech, 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 investing in Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fisheries, in spite of the availability of resources which Myanmar has been blessed with by Nature.

A related factor is Agricultural Statistics (call it Data if you will). It is necessary to know how the investments have increased production or services relating to Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fishery. It is important to know how much is being produced and how much can be allowed to 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 dissemination of statistics (data) relating to Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fishery sectors. It could perhaps publish occasionally statistics (data) relating to the sectors.

Regarding 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 increase such investment by both Myanmar Citizens and Foreigners.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 8th December, 2019)

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 Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 09th December, 2019: Weather will be partly cloudy in Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, 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 times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong easterly winds may reach (30-35)m.p.h. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (7-9) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and about (3-6) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

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

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

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

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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
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People-Centred Project

A People-Centred Project is being implemented with the support and assistance of the World Bank in 349 villages in Gwa and Ponnakyun Townships.

- ➔ In 156 villages of Gwa Township in 33 village tracts, 104 sub-projects were planned, of which 56 roads and bridges, 1 school, 2 village halls, 9 water supply systems, 1 electricity supply system and 1 other sub-project, altogether 70 sub-projects have been completed.



Pond Maintenance and Construction of Water Pumping Station in Hsinkoo Village of Taungpauk Village Tract in Gwa Township

- ➔ In 193 villages of Ponnakyun Township in 92 village tracts, 60 sub-projects were planned, of which 30 roads and bridges and 1 other sub-project in 57 villages of 38 village tracts, altogether 31 sub-projects have been completed.



Raising the Earth Embankment of the Pond and Installing Fencing in Thayetcho Village in Ponnakyun Township

Agricultural machinery to replace agricultural labour



Harvesting and Threshing of Monsoon Paddy in Daungtaungyoe Village in Kyauktaw Township



Sale of Walking Tractors to Farmers in Hsarpayin Village in Taunggok Township

During the reporting period, department-owned farm machinery was used to plough 21,887 acres of monsoon paddy and department-owned combine harvester-threshers were used to provide support and assistance in harvesting 2272 acres.

No.	Period	Monsoon Paddy Acreage	Harvesting and Threshing Acreage
1	1 May - 31 Aug 2018	13532	-
2	1 Sep - 31 Dec 2018	6095	4790
3	1 Jan - 30 Apr 2019	6790	2272
4	1 May - 31 Aug 2019	15097	-

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

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 Thu for the silver jubilee years (1920-1945), Aung Ye Lin and Wutt 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 Ei 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 20” 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



Officials hold the meeting to launch calendar with movie stars showing off fashion trends from four different eras. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG**

available through calendar distribution and poster distribution agents in Yangon and Mandalay. U Nyi Nyin Tun Lwin, chair of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organ-

ization 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*)

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

THE annual Viet Nam Expo 2019 will take place from 19 to 22 December at the Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall 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.

“Myanmar and Viet Nam 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.

Myanmar- Viet Nam bilateral trade has grown rapidly and steadily, reaching US\$852.2

million in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, as per data provided by the Commerce Ministry.

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 Thitsar/ Ko Htet

(*Translated by Ei Myat Mon*)



Police destroying the opium plantations in Shan State. **PHOTO: MPF**

Police wipe out opium fields in four townships

POLICE destroyed nearly 24.2 acres of opium poppy plantations in Ngaphe, Loilem, Hsihseng 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 Kan Village in Ngaphe Township in Magway Region.

On 7 December, Shan

State’s separate combined teams comprised of related townships’ police and authorities destroyed 2.8 acres of opium plantation located about 3 furlongs west of Naung Taung Village in Loilem Township, 12 acres situated about 2.5 miles west of Naung Ta Pan Village in Hsihseng Township, and nearly 6 acres about 2 miles west of Ban Sauk Village in Hopong Township in Shan State.—GNLM

(*Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun*)

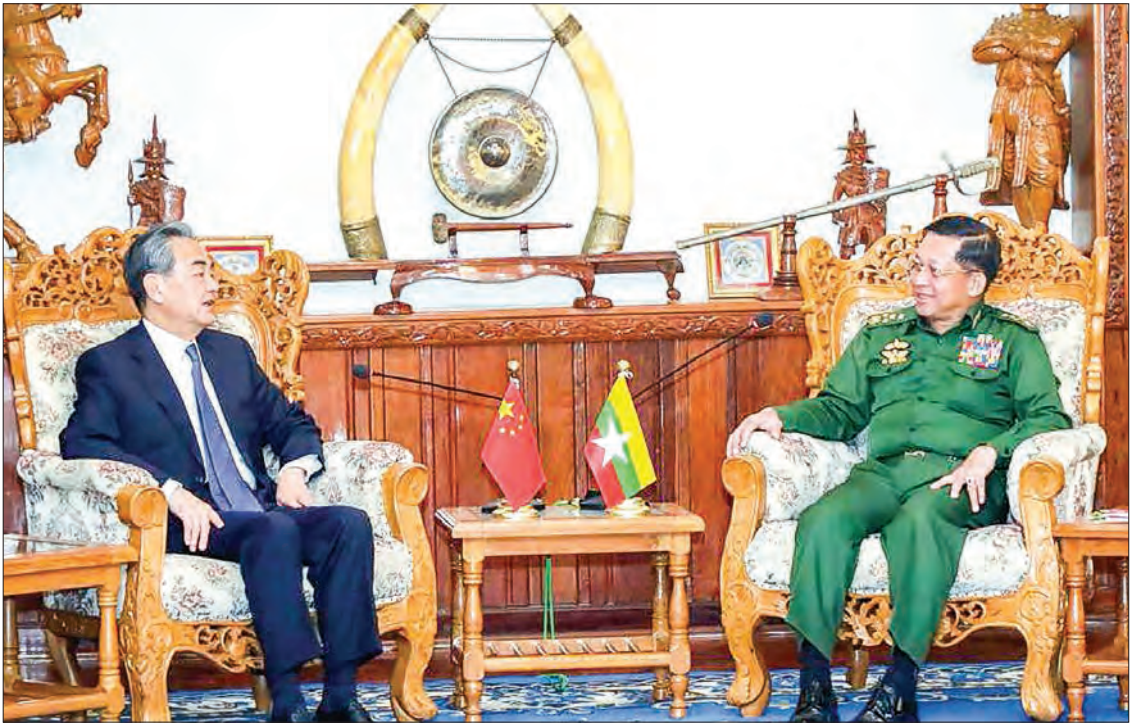
Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister visits Mandalay

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 holds talk with State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of PRC Mr Wang Yi. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**



Mya-Nan-San-Kyaw Mandalay Royal Palace.

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 Coun-

cilor 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)

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**

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.

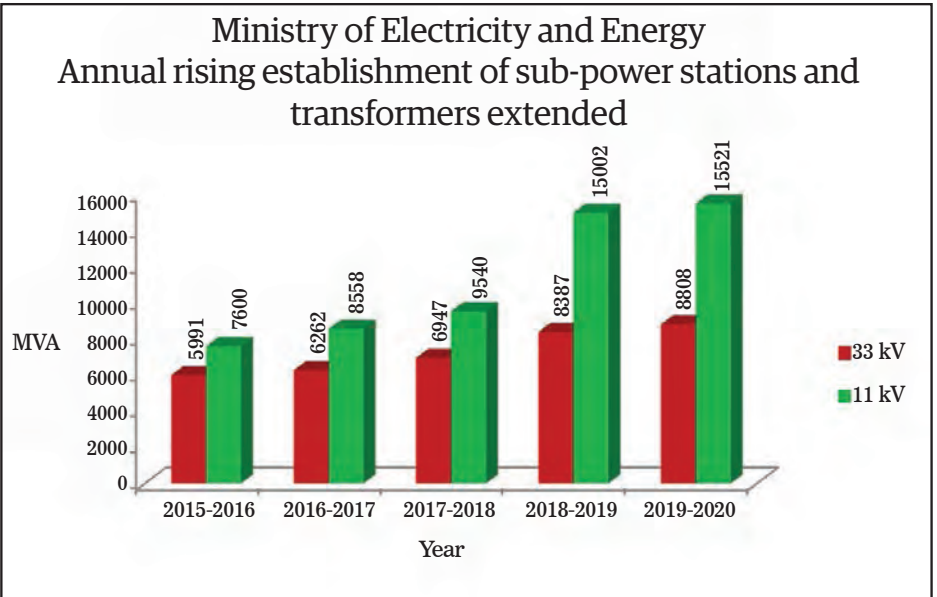
“Renewable energies like biomass are the solution to many problems. Converting waste to energy will increase the local welfare, create additional values and will be good for the environment.

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



PHOTO: KYAW ZEYA



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NEWS
In BRIEF

Russia to resume gas supplies to Ukraine if both reach deal: Russian PM

MOSCOW—Russia will not reopen its gas supplies to Ukraine until both sides agree on all essential points of a gas deal, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said in a television interview.

“We need to agree on all the essential points of this deal. And then we can resume cooperation, including our gas supplies to Ukrainian territory. And this, by the way, will really be beneficial for Ukrainian citizens,” Medvedev said the interview which was aired on Saturday. The prime minister said that Ukraine has been actively incorporating European legislation in the gas sector, and Russia stands ready to work under European law.—AFP ■

Pro-poll regime trolls counter Algeria protest activists

TUNIS—Social networks set alight the months-long protest movement against Algeria’s establishment, but as a contentious presidential poll looms, bots and trolls are staging an online comeback to bolster the regime.

The protests which erupted in February forced the resignation of veteran president Abdelaziz Bouteflika within six weeks.

Activists, who have made savvy use of social media, vowed to continue their struggle following Bouteflika’s departure and have staged mass protests against a December 12 election they see as an elite attempt to cling to power.

Arabic and French hashtags including #FreeDemocraticAlgeria and #TheyMustAllResign have gone viral online, echoing chants in the streets as protesters urge a boycott of the presidential poll.—AFP ■

France’s Macron to hold meeting on pensions as strike bites



Commuters will struggle to get to work on Monday and more giant nationwide protests are planned for Tuesday. **PHOTO: AFP**

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 pen-

sion 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 and... 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 promises there would be no checks on goods moving between Northern Ireland and main-

land Britain as part of his Brexit deal with Brussels.

“There’s no question of there being checks,” he told Sky, adding “why would we put checks on goods going from NI to GB or GB to NI? It doesn’t make sense.”

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’m 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 plum-



The Islamic republic has suffered a sharp economic downturn this year, with a plummeting currency sending inflation skyrocketing. **PHOTO: AFP**

meting 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 ■

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 \$5.5 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 Zelensky and commended him on “impressive progress” on reforms and “sound economic policies.”

“The President and I agreed that Ukraine’s economic 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 current 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 ■

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 extended 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, effective, efficient two-step review that most members say they want,” he said.

“Alternatively, your choices could open the door to more uncertainty, unconstrained 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 INTERNATINAL 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.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No
1.	Soy Pro 250 SL	Fomesafen 250g/L SL	Provisional	P 2019-4587
2.	Multi-Healing 500 WDG	Azoxystrobin 50% WDG	Provisional	P 2019-4584

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Tel: 02-4061727, 09-2007577,09-2005918

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (074N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (074N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO. (1112 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO. (1112 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY. NO. (658 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BINTAN VOY. NO. (658 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

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 be-



Chinese tourists seen at a pagoda in Mandalay. **PHOTO MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**

ing 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.



Tourists enjoy in sunset at the Bagan. **PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)**



Thatbyinnyu Phaya. PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)



Tourists visit an ancient Kuthodaw Pagoda in Mandalay. PHOTO THAN MIN ZAW (IPRD)



Tourists visit an ancient pagoda in Bagan. PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)



Chinese tourists pose for photo at Thatbyinnyu Pagoda. PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)

“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

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

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

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.

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



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**

A late goal scored by Yee Yee Oo, 10 minutes before the final whistle, helped Myanmar de-

feat host Philippines by 2-1 in yesterday’s match for the third place in the women’s football

event at the South East Asian Games, held at the Rizal Memorial Stadium in Manila, the

Philippines.
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 Myanma 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.
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

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 vs Tran Leanh Tuan and Phone Myint Kyaw vs 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**

2019 Southeast Asian Games medal tally updated					
COUNTRY		GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
	PHILIPPINES	111	86	87	284
	INDONESIA	65	61	79	205
	VIETNAM	65	59	78	202
	THAILAND	59	75	80	214
	SINGAPORE	43	34	49	126
	MALAYSIA	39	42	54	135
	MYANMAR	3	16	39	58
	CAMBODIA	3	6	21	30
	BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	1	5	6	12
	LAO PDR	0	5	19	24
	TIMOR-LESTE	0	0	1	1

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

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 Malawaan 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 Malawaan 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) ■