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## State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers statement at ICJ in connection with lawsuit filed by Gambia



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the statement at the International Court of Justice at The Hague, Netherlands, on 11 December. **PHOTO: MNA**

**T**HE International Court of Justice (ICJ) held the second day of oral hearings on the application submit-

ted by The Gambia. The State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her capacity as the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs ap-

peared as Agent for Myanmar and delivered the oral presentation at 10 am today at The Hague, the Netherlands. The Gambia

presented its oral arguments on the first day of oral observations on 10 December 2019.

The full text of the State

Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's statement is published separately.

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# Message from President U Win Myint sent to the opening of the 20<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference

(12 December, 2019)

I would like to extend my warmest greetings to Myanmar's traditional medicine practitioners across the country, and the delegates to the 20<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference, and wish all of you the best for their physical and mental well-being.

For this chapter of the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference, practitioners of traditional medicine from across the country have gathered together to amicably exchange views, with the goal of promoting the all-round standards of the Myanmar traditional medicine professional world, which has been in existence for over two thousand years, and is a national cultural heritage. Those in the profession seek to develop the quality of Myanmar's traditional medicine profession, boosting the quality and ethical integrity of Myanmar's traditional practitioners, and encourage cooperation between practitioners and organizations related to traditional medicines at home and abroad. They also seek to develop the traditional medicine profession and encourage cooperation from the private sector, along with the herbal gardens of the Traditional Medicine Department, as part of the efforts to ensure the sufficiency of herbal raw materials at home, and I am confident that this conference will bring about positive results.

While offering serious encouragement to the development of the Myanmar traditional medicine profession, the State has been enacted the Myanmar

Traditional Medicine Council Law on 25, January 2019, and I hope that the traditional medicine council, which the law will create, would make special efforts for the development of Myanmar traditional medicine.

I heard that the book, entitled "Milestones of Traditional Medicine in Myanmar", was published in August, 2019, with the cooperation of the Traditional Medicine Department of the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Traditional Medicine Council, the Traditional Medicine Advisory Board, Myanmar Traditional Medicine Manufacturers and the Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association.

The Union Government, for its part, has been working to promote the standard of the Myanmar traditional medicine profession and to raise the health care coverage of the people, by having access to traditional medicine practices. The government has included this as a policy in the national health programme, and it is highly satisfactory for the Union Government to know that the initial health care activities are being carried out in accordance with the fine traditions of the Myanmar traditional medicine profession in rural and urban areas, especially as priorities are given to the prevention of diseases due to the efforts of the traditional medicine profession.

It is heard that a qualified new generation of traditional medicine practitioners are being sent for local and foreign training and workshops, realizing that the development of human resources is an important sector for improving Myanmar traditional medicine,

to ensure it meets world standards.

To promote traditional medicine and penetrate the world, it is necessary to make collective efforts for publicizing the potency of herbal plants growing naturally, and to set their standards with the use of modern technology, and with the use of the perfect knowledge of the Myanmar traditional medicine profession based upon the Four Great Nayas, namely Desana naya, Bethistsa naya, Netkhata veda naya and Vissadara naya.

As the government of the State has been making strenuous efforts for building a peaceful and prosperous Federal Democratic Union, it is delighted for the government to know that the Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners are cooperating with western medicine practitioners in providing health care services to the people.

On this special occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference, I send this message and wish responsible officials of the Traditional Medicine Department of the Ministry of Health, the Traditional Medicine Council, the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Association, the Traditional Medicine Advisory Board, the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Manufacturers and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association, along with traditional practitioners across the country, to contribute their efforts to promote healthcare services to the people through traditional medicine by exchanging views at this conference.

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

# Pyidaungsu Hluttaw debates report on Second Bill Amending Constitution



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

THE 14<sup>th</sup> regular session of second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held its 13<sup>th</sup> day meeting at Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat sought approval of the Hluttaw for replacements of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Joint Committee on

ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly members for which MP Daw Pyone Kay Thi Naing from Kalaw constituency was substituted with MP U Htay Win Aung (a) U Pyone Cho from Dawbon constituency, and MP U Pe Tin from Mon State constituency 6 with U Jay Yaw Gu from Kachin State constituency 1.

MP U Soe Thein from Kayah State constituency 9 and MP U Bo Gyi from Chauk constituency discussed exemptions of special commodity tax and commercial tax on imports of six bullet proof Toyota Landcruiser cars.

[MP debates on Joint Scrutinizing Committee's report on Sec-](#)

[ond Bill to Amend Constitution](#)

Amyotha Hluttaw Tatmadaw MP Lt-Col Thant Swe objected the Joint Scrutinizing Committee' 75/2019 report on the Second Bill to Amend the Constitution as it should be discussed by all the members of Hluttaw instead of putting into the working process of the 45-member joint committee as the suggested articles and sub-articles in the report may not have negative impacts on social, economic and administrative sectors, as well as peace-making processes of the country.

MP U Maung Maung from Htigyaing constituency expressed his support to the report not to delay the amendment processes in accordance with the political will of public to emerge a constitution with the federal democratic norms.

MP U Thein Tun from Kyaunggon constituency suggested to handle the Second Bill to Amend the Constitution as per Chapter 12 of this charter.

MP U Aung Kyaw Kyaw

Oo from Hline constituency advised the needs of cooperation in constitution amendment to establish a Federal Democratic Union through mutual respect and recognition among Hluttaw representatives.

MP Daw Mar Mar Khaing from Thaton constituency supported the report as it was submitted by the Joint Scrutinizing Committee to be able to review all the collections of bills.

The report was also discussed by MP U Tin Aung Tun from Magway Region constituency 5, MP Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye from Kayin State constituency 6, Lt-Col Nyan Shwe of Amyotha Hluttaw Tatmadaw representatives, MP U Myo Win from Mon State constituency 8 and Major Zarni Htet Aung of Amyotha Hluttaw representative.

The Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 14<sup>th</sup> regular session will convene its 14<sup>th</sup> day meeting on 17 December.—Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant

(Translated by Aung Khin)

# State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers statement at ICJ in connection with lawsuit filed by Gambia



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends the second day of hearing at the UN's International Court of Justice at The Hague, The Netherlands on 11 December. PHOTO: THA BYAW

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At the oral observations, the counsels and advocates for Myanmar presented the following oral arguments: Professor William Schabas argued on the lack of a plausible claim; Dr Christopher Staker argued the

lack of prima facie jurisdiction of the court, the lack of prima facie standing of The Gambia, and inappropriateness of the provisional measures requested; and Professor Phoebe Okowa argued on the lack of real and imminent risk of irreparable prejudice to

the rights in dispute. Also in attendance at the oral observations were U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor and U Kyaw Tin, the Union Minister for International Cooperation; Myanmar Ambassador to the

At the oral observations, Professor William Schabas argued on the lack of a plausible claim; Dr. Christopher Staker argued the lack of prima facie jurisdiction of the court, the lack of prima facie standing of The Gambia, and inappropriateness of the provisional measures requested; Professor Phoebe Okowa argued on the lack of real and imminent risk of irreparable prejudice to the rights in dispute.



People participate in rally in support of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi during the second day at the International Court of Justice at The Hague, The Netherlands. PHOTO: MNA

Kingdoms of Belgium and the Netherlands U Soe Lynn Han; Myanmar delegates; local and foreign legal experts and their assistants. Today was the first day of oral observations for Myanmar.

Myanmar nationals and expatriates residing in the Netherlands and neighbouring countries gathered in front of the ICJ in a show of support for the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

## Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance-MECA issued a statement on 10 December. The following is the full text of the statement.

Statement from MECA

Date – 10 December, 2019

MYANMAR Evangelical Christian Alliance (MECA), a member of the Asia Evangelical Alliance (AEA) and World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), has issued the following statement.

(1) MECA first wishes the love, grace, serenity and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ upon all the people of Myanmar.

(2) The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is a nation of diverse ethnic races, living together with religious freedom, who all coexist in harmony. MECA offers its prayers to the State Counsellor, who is leading the case filed at the International Court of Justice, concerning some of the IDPs from Rakhine State, in order to produce a fair and just result.

(3) MECA states its belief that the Union Government of Myanmar will find the best solutions to all challenges the country is facing, and acknowledges their efforts.

(4) MECA implores the international community to acknowledge and understand the efforts of the Union Government, endeavoring to the best of their abilities during Myanmar's budding democratic period, and to support the growth of Myanmar and her citizens.

Rev. Dr. U Aye Min  
Chairman,  
Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance-MECA

Rev. Dr. U Maris Hlyanar  
General Secretary  
Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance-MECA

Statement by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi,  
State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of  
the Republic of the Union of Myanmar As Agent Before  
the International Court of Justice

The Hague, 11 December, 2019

1. Thank you, Mr. President and Members of the Court. It is an honour to appear as Agent of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in these proceedings, in my capacity as Union Minister for Foreign Affairs. For materially less resourceful countries like Myanmar, the World Court is a vital refuge of international justice. We look to the Court to establish conditions conducive to respect for obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law, one of the fundamental objectives of the United Nations Charter.
2. In the present case, Mr. President, the Court has been asked to apply the 1948 Genocide Convention, one of the most fundamental multilateral treaties of our time. Invoking the 1948 Genocide Convention is a matter of utmost gravity. This is the treaty that we made following the systematic killing of more than six million European Jews, and that my country whole-heartedly signed as early as 30 December 1949 and ratified on 14 March 1956. Genocide is the crime that the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda applied in response to the mass-killing of perhaps 70% of the Tutsis in Rwanda. It is the crime that was not applied by the Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia to the displacement of approximately one million residents of Kosovo in 1999. Neither was it applied by that Tribunal nor by this Court when deciding upon the exodus of the Serb population from Croatia in 1995. In both situations international justice resisted the temptation to use this strongest of legal classifications because the requisite specific intent to physically destroy the targeted group in whole or in part was not present.
3. Regrettably, The Gambia has placed before the Court an incomplete and misleading factual picture of the situation in Rakhine State in Myanmar. Yet, it is of the utmost importance that the Court assess the situation obtaining on the ground in Rakhine dispassionately and accurately.
4. The situation in Rakhine is complex and not easy to fathom. But one thing surely touches all of us equally: the sufferings of the many innocent people whose lives were torn apart as a consequence of the armed conflicts of 2016 and 2017, in particular those who have had to flee their homes and are now living in camps in Cox's Bazar.
5. Mr. President and Members of the



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the statement at the International Court of Justice at The Hague, the Netherlands on 11 December. PHOTO: MNA

Court, the troubles of Rakhine State and its population, whatever their background, go back into past centuries and have been particularly severe over the last few years. Currently, an internal armed conflict is going on there – between the Arakan Army, an organised Buddhist armed group with more than 5,000 fighters, and the regular Myanmar Defence Services. None regardless of their background.

6. Mr President, on 9 October 2016, approximately 400 fighters of the Arakan-Rohingya Salvation Army – known as ARSA – launched simultaneous attacks on three police posts in Maungdaw and Rathedaung Townships in northern Rakhine, near the border with Bangladesh. ARSA claimed responsibility for these attacks, which led to the death

in the Maungdaw, Buthidaung and Rathedaung Townships in northern Rakhine. It resorted to threats and intimidation against local villagers in order to gain support and allegiance, executing suspected informers. According to, among others, the International Crisis Group, ARSA received weapons- and explosives-training from Afghan and Pakistani militants.

8. In the early morning of 25 August 2017, several thousand ARSA fighters launched coordinated attacks on more than 30 police posts and villages, and an army base in northern Rakhine. Most of the attacks took place on the narrow Maungdaw plain, which is framed by densely forested hills to the east, and the border with Bangladesh to the west. Indications are that ARSA's objective was to seize Maungdaw Township.

9. It may aid the Court to briefly consider the historical significance of Maungdaw. When Britain made Burma a colonial entity separate from British India in 1937, the border between Burma and India was drawn along the river Naf, where we find today's border between Bangladesh and Myanmar. The historical Kingdom of Arakan had extended much further to the north than the river Naf, including most of what is today Chittagong District in Bangladesh. Members of some Rakhine communities therefore felt that the border drawn by the British was too far south; others,

Under its 2008 Constitution, Myanmar has a military justice system. Criminal cases against soldiers or officers for possible war crimes committed in Rakhine must be investigated and prosecuted by that system.

of the speakers yesterday made any reference to this. The Arakan Army seeks autonomy or independence for Rakhine – or Arakan as it was called – finding inspiration in the memory of the historic Kingdom of Arakan. This conflict has led to the displacement of thousands of civilians in Rakhine. Standard security restrictions – such as curfew and check-points – are in place at present in the conflict zone and affect the situation of civilians there, of nine police officers, more than 100 dead or missing civilians, and the theft of 68 guns and more than 10,000 rounds of ammunition. This was the start of an internal armed conflict between ARSA and Myanmar's Defence Services which lasted until late 2017. The selective factual propositions contained in The Gambia's Application actually concern this conflict.

7. In the months following the 9 October 2016 attacks, ARSA grew in strength

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- that it was too far north.
- Myanmar has never challenged this border since independence in 1948.
10. Britain did not lose control over what is today Maungdaw Town-ship during World War II. From September 1942, a number of local Muslim families offered fighters to the British irregular V-Force set up to collect intelligence and to initially absorb any Japanese advance. Many Muslims gave their lives in combat against the Japanese in Rakhine. The sacrifices made by Muslim fighters motivated a call for the creation of an autonomous Muslim space in northern Rakhine, centred on Maungdaw. Whether or not this was encouraged by British officers, Britain rejected this call as soon as it had reoccupied Burma, before independence in 1948. The Muslim-Buddhist inter-communal violence of 1942 recurred in 1948 and several times after that. This cycle of violence has negatively affected life in northern Rakhine, making it the second poorest state in Myanmar.
11. Mr. President and Members of the Court, may I go back to the situation in Rakhine on the morning of 25 August 2017. More than thirty police stations and villages, and one military base, had been attacked before sunrise in a highly coordinated fashion, by an organised armed group operating along a densely forested hill-range that provides ample opportunity to hide. Many of the ARSA fighters had been recruited from local villages in the weeks and months preceding the attack. Myanmar’s Defence Services responded to the attacks of ARSA fighters by the use of ground forces. There were armed incidents in more than 60 locations. The main clashes occurred in 12 places: In Min Gyi (TolaToli) village, Chut Pyin village, Maung Nu village, Gutar Pyin village, Alai Than Kyaw village, Myin Lut village, Inn Din village, Chein Kharli (KoetanKauk) village, MyoThugyi ward, Kyauk Pandu village, wards of Maungdaw Town, and southern Maungdaw.
12. Mr. President, allow me to clarify the use of the term ‘clearance operation’, naemyay shin linyeh in Myanmar. Its meaning has been distorted. As early as the 1950s, this term has been used during military operations against the Burma Communist Party in Bago Range. Since then, the military has used this expression in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations after attacks by insurgents or terrorists. In the Myanmar language, naemyay shin linyeh – literally ‘clearing of locality’ – simply means to clear an area of insurgents or terrorists.
13. It is still not easy to establish clear patterns of events in these 12 locations. Many ARSA fighters died. There may have been several hundred casualties in some of the 12 locations. There was

- some inter-communal violence. Buddhist and Hindu minority communities also feared for their security after the original ARSA attacks and many fled from their homes.
14. It may be worth noting that the use of air power in military operations was avoided as far as possible to minimise the risk of collateral damage. However, in one incident, in order to be able to extract a unit surrounded by hundreds of ARSA fighters, the use of a helicopter was required. There was shooting from the helicopter which resulted in fatalities, which may have included non-combatants.
15. Mr. President, it cannot be ruled out that disproportionate force was used by members of the Defence Services in some cases in disregard of international humanitarian law, or that they did not distinguish clearly enough between ARSA fighters and civilians. There may also have been failures to prevent civilians from looting or destroying property

- Rakhine allegations by the President of Myanmar, chaired by a former Deputy Foreign Minister from the Philippines, with three other members, including a former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations from Japan.
18. On 26 November 2019, this Commission announced that it had taken about 1,500 witness statements from all affected groups in Rakhine, and that it has interviewed 29 military personnel who were deployed to the affected townships in northern Rakhine during the military operations from 25 August 2017 to 5 September 2017, as well as 20 police personnel who were stationed at the police posts that were attacked on 25 August 2017. There is currently no other fact-finding body in the world that has garnered relevant first-hand information on what occurred in Rakhine in 2017 to the same extent as the Independent Commission of Enquiry and the Office of the Judge Advocate General in Myanmar.

Can there be genocidal intent on the part of a state that actively investigates, prosecutes and punishes soldiers and officers who are accused of wrongdoing?

- after fighting or in abandoned villages. But these are determinations to be made in the due course of the criminal justice process, not by any individual in the Myanmar Government.
16. Please bear in mind this complex situation and the challenge to sovereignty and security in our country when you are assessing the intent of those who attempted to deal with the rebellion. Surely, under the circumstances, genocidal intent cannot be the only hypothesis.
17. Under its 2008 Constitution, Myanmar has a military justice system. Criminal cases against soldiers or officers for possible war crimes committed in Rakhine must be investigated and prosecuted by that system. On 25 November 2019, the Office of the Judge Advocate General announced the start of a court-martial for allegations linked to the Gutar Pyin village incident, one of the 12 main incidents referred to earlier. The Office also let it be known that there will be additional courts-martial if further incriminating evidence is brought by the Independent Commission of Enquiry. The ICOE is an independent special investigation procedure established for

19. This fact reinforces my sense that I should refrain from any action or statement that could undermine the integrity of these ongoing criminal justice processes in Myanmar. They must be allowed to run their course. It is never easy for armed forces to recognise self-interest in accountability for their members, and to implement a will to accountability through actual investigations and prosecutions. I respectfully invite the Members of the Court to consider for a moment the record of other countries. This is a common challenge, even in resource-rich countries.
20. Recent cases in the news headlines illustrate that even when military justice works, there can be reversals. This can also happen in Myanmar. As part of the overall efforts of the Myanmar Government to provide justice, a court-martial found that ten Muslim men had been summarily executed in Inn Din village, one of the 12 locations of serious incidents referred to earlier. It sentenced four officers and three soldiers each to ten years in prison with hard labour. After serving a part of their sentences, they were given a military pardon. Many of us in Myanmar were unhappy with

- this pardon.
21. Other cases are undertaken without controversy. In the Mansi case, for example, a court-martial sat close to the location in Kachin State where three internally displaced civilians were killed. It sentenced six soldiers, each to ten years in prison, in January 2018. Relatives of the victims and local civil society representatives were invited to the sentencing.
22. The Office of the Judge Advocate General in Myanmar is by our standards well-resourced, with more than 90 staff and a presence in all regional commands throughout the country. I am encouraged by the Gutar Pyin court-martial, and I expect the Office to continue its investigations and prosecutions based on reliable evidence collected in Rakhine and from persons who witnessed what happened there.
23. Can there be genocidal intent on the part of a state that actively investigates, prosecutes and punishes soldiers and officers who are accused of wrongdoing? Although the focus here is on members of the military, I can assure you that appropriate action will also be taken against civilian offenders, in line with due process. There will be no tolerance of human rights violations in the Rakhine, or elsewhere in Myanmar.
24. Mr. President, there are those who wish to externalise accountability for alleged war crimes committed in Rakhine, almost automatically, without proper reflection. Some of the United Nations human rights mandates relied upon in the Application presented by The Gambia have even suggested that there cannot be accountability through Myanmar’s military justice system. This not only contradicts Article 20(b) of the Constitution of Myanmar, it undercuts painstaking domestic efforts relevant to the establishing of co-operation between the military and the civilian government in Myanmar, in the context of a Constitution that needs to be amended to complete the process of democratization. That process is now underway at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Union Parliament.
25. The emerging system of international criminal justice rests on the principle of complementarity. Accountability through domestic criminal justice is the norm. Only if domestic accountability fails, may international justice come into play. It would be inconsistent with complementarity to require that domestic criminal justice should proceed much faster than international criminal justice. A rush to externalise accountability may undermine professionals in domestic criminal justice agencies. What does the appearance of competition between domestic and international accountability do to the

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public’s trust in the intentions of impatient international actors?

26. No stone should be left unturned to make domestic accountability work. It would not be helpful for the international legal order if the impression takes hold that only resource-rich countries can conduct adequate domestic investigations and prosecutions, and that the domestic justice of countries still striving to cope with the burden of unhappy legacies and present challenges is not good enough. The Gambia will also understand this challenge with which they too are confronted.

27. Mr. President and Members of the Court, these reflections are relevant to the present hearing because the Applicant has brought a case based on the Genocide Convention. We are, however, dealing with an internal armed conflict, started by coordinated and comprehensive attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), to which Myanmar’s Defence Services responded. Tragically, this armed conflict led to the exodus of several hundred thousand Muslims from the three northernmost townships of Rakhine into Bangladesh – just as the armed conflict in Croatia with which the Court had to deal led to the massive exodus of, first, ethnic Croats and later, ethnic Serbs.

28. As I have already stated, if war crimes have been committed by members of Myanmar’s Defence Services, they will be prosecuted through our military justice system, in accordance with Myanmar’s Constitution. It is a matter for the competent criminal justice authorities to assess whether, for example, there has been inadequate distinction between civilians and ARSA fighters, disproportionate use of force, violations of human rights, failure to prevent plundering or property destruction, or acts of forcible displacement of civilians. Such conduct, if proven, could be relevant under international humanitarian law or human rights conventions, but not under the 1948 Genocide Convention for reasons Professor William Schabas will elaborate in a moment.

29. Mr. President, allow me to share one further reflection in this Great Hall of

Justice. International law may well be our only global value system, and international justice a practice that affirms our common values. Leaders of States and relevant inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations should also be cognizant of their responsibility to express and affirm fundamental values. Feeding the flames of an extreme polarisation in the context of Rakhine, for example, can harm the values of peace and harmony in Myanmar. Aggravating the wounds of conflict can

planetary citizen” (p. 454). Encouraging this added layer of identity – a sense of planetary citizenship – is of fundamental importance for peaceful relations between nations as well as ethnic and religious groups.

32. A commitment to broadening the mindset must go hand in hand with practical steps to improve lives. Even before the events of 2016-2017, Muslim, Buddhist and other communities in Rakhine faced what the Kofi Annan Advisory Commission described as

citizenship, and social cohesion for all communities in Rakhine. Three IDP-camps have already been closed, and an IDP-camp closure strategy has been adopted. Myanmar is also committed to voluntary, safe and dignified repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine under the framework agreement reached between Bangladesh and Myanmar.

33. Mr. President, how can there be an ongoing genocide or genocidal intent when these concrete steps are being taken in Rakhine?

34. To conclude, Mr. President and Members of the Court, Rakhine today suffers an internal armed conflict between the Buddhist Arakan Army and Myanmar’s Defence Services. Muslims are not a party to this conflict, but may, like other civilians in the conflict area, be affected by security measures that are in place. We pray the Court to refrain from taking any action that might aggravate the ongoing armed conflict and peace and security in Rakhine. Right now, in Northern Rakhine an army base near Paletwa is under attack by a group of more than 400 Arakan Army fighters, and some 200 insurgents have surrounded a military column near Ann City in Rakhine.

35. Since Myanmar gained independence in 1948, our people have not known the security of sustainable development that is the fruit of peace and prosperity. Our greatest challenge is to address the roots of distrust and fear, prejudice and hate, that undermine the foundations of our Union. We shall adhere steadfastly to our commitment to non-violence, human rights, national reconciliation and rule of law, as we go forward to build the Democratic Federal Union to which our people have aspired for generations past. We look to justice as a champion of the reconciliation and harmony that will assure the security and rights of all peoples.

36. Mr. President and Members of the Court, I thank you for your kind attention and ask that you now call upon Professor William Schabas to continue the Myanmar submissions.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Date: 11 December 2019

Feeding the flames of an extreme polarisation in the context of Rakhine, for example, can harm the values of peace and harmony in Myanmar. Aggravating the wounds of conflict can undermine unity in Rakhine. Hate narratives are not simply confined to hate speech – language that contributes to extreme polarisation also amounts to hate narratives.

undermine unity in Rakhine. Hate narratives are not simply confined to hate speech – language that contributes to extreme polarisation also amounts to hate narratives.

30. Several international actors face a challenge here. But Myanmar could also have done more since the 1980s to emphasize the shared heritage and deeper layers of unity among the diverse peoples of our country. Cycles of inter-communal violence in Rakhine going back to the 1940s should be countered not just by practical measures aimed at sustainable development and rule of law, but also by nourishing a spiritual mindset of unity. It is a moral responsibility of leaders to guard the aspirations of people for harmony and peace.

31. U Thant, the third United Nations Secretary-General, had understood this. He wrote in his memoirs View From the UN published in 1974: “I even believe that the mark of the truly educated and imaginative person facing the twenty-first century is that he feels himself to be a

complex challenges of low development and poverty rooted in enduring social conflict between the communities. The Myanmar government is committed to addressing these challenges. Together with our partners, we are now striving to ensure that all communities enjoy the same fundamental rights. To expedite citizenship verification and application, a mobile team is already in operation. All children born in Rakhine, regardless of religious background, are issued with birth certificates. Arrangements have been made to enable more Muslim youth to attend classes at universities across Myanmar. With the support of international and local partners, scholarships will also be made available to students from all communities living in Rakhine. The government has started a social cohesion model project in Maungdaw Township, to promote social harmony among all communities. Inter-faith fora have been encouraged. These are some of the steps taken to improve livelihoods, security, access to education and health,

Eleven family members return to Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre in Maungtaw

Two families of 11 displaced persons returned on their own volition to Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State yesterday.

The in-charges of Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre have scrutinized the family members, and five of them, two men and three women, aged 10 years and above were issued NV cards by the immigration department. They were also provided with aids.

The camp in-charge Deputy Director U Soe

Tun handed them over to Hla Phoe Khaung transit camp where they were welcomed by in-charge of Hla Phoe Khaung camp Director U Soe Shwe Aung and officials, and provided with foods and other items including kitchen utensils.

The two families of 11 people were transported to their place of origin Nga Khu Ya village in Maungtaw together with village leader U Gaw Gyi Aung of Nga Khu Ya Village-tract in the evening. —U Zaw Zaw San, U Myint Khaing, U Thet Lwin Soe (IPRD) (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Immigration officers conducting to issue National Verification cards to the returnees at Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre. PHOTO: TIN SOE

# VP U Myint Swe calls for upscale countering of money laundering, financing of terrorism

THE Steering Committee on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism held a discussion at Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning and Committee Chairman Vice President U Myint Swe delivered a speech.

Present at the meeting were Steering Committee Vice Chairman Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Office of the Union Government U Min Thu, Union Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Central Bank of Myanmar Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Thu and Dr Sett Aung, CBM Deputy Governor U Soe Thein, Hluttaw representatives, Japanese Ambassador Mr Ichiro Maruyama, Chief of Myanmar Police Force, directors-general, diplomats from foreign embassies, representatives of UMFCCI, departmental officials and CSOs.

In his speech, the Vice President said this meeting is the Steering Committee's first meeting which aims for financial sector stability, sustainable development and reducing inflation. He said successive Myanmar governments have straightforwardly dealt with cases of money laundering and financing of terrorism, which it and the world view as serious crimes. He said countering both



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the speech at the event of Steering Committee on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

issues is one of the main aims of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Programme (MSDP).

The Vice President said they have handled 21 cases under the 2002 Control of Illicit Income Law and has confiscated K 23,16638 billion in illicit income and possession into the national treasury. He said they have handled 92 cases under the 2014 Abolishing Money Laundering Law from 2014 to the present, of which 24 cases have been filed, 34 are ongoing and 10 cases settled, resulting in the confiscation of K6,031 million into the national treasury.

The Vice President said illegal drug trade and transnational crimes are attempts to launder illicit money and preventing them from entering Myanmar's financial system and countering them requires the cooperation of all government departments, CSOs and the citizens. He said uncov-

ering the illicit money, properties and benefits created from transnational crime and confiscating them into the national treasury is a top priority.

The Vice President said Myanmar has participated in international cooperation such as joining the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) in 2006 and is endeavoring to implement 40 recommendations from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). He said they have signed MoUs with 15 nations to exchange news and information and for cooperation. He said APG member nations performed mutual evaluations in 2007-2008 and 2017-2018 and the second Mutual Evaluation Report (MER) was published in 2018.

In the 'National Risk Assessment Report on Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism', the threat of money laundering is

evident said the Vice President. He said this is why they must uncover cases of illegal drugs, bribery, corruption, illicit trading of wood and precious stones, and tax evasion.

The Vice President said action plans would involve issuing and amending laws, bylaws, regulations, directives, notifications and orders, setting AML/CFT policies, cooperating with domestic and foreign organizations, evaluating dangers of losses for each department, promoting international cooperation, and making preparations where necessary.

The Vice President concluded his speech by urging attendees to further the discussions for abolishing money laundering and countering financing of terrorism. He then took a documentary photo with all attendees.

Next, Working Committee

Chairman Deputy Planning, Finance and Industry Minister Dr Sett Aung explained processes for countering money laundering and financing of terrorism, Police Brig-Gen Kyaw Win Thein explained cooperation with banks and organizations and legal prevention, and IMF's Mr Neil Saker explained 'The Consequences of Greylisting and Next Steps for Myanmar'.

Next, Deputy Minister Dr Sett Aung led the panel discussion on 'Challenge for Improving AML/CFT in Myanmar' and was joined by Police Brig-Gen Kyaw Win Thein, CBM Director-General Daw Than Than Swe, UMFCCI Joint-Secretary Daw Khine Khine Nwe, and U Myo Nyi Nyi from Myanmar Banks Association.

Union Minister U Soe Win then closed the meeting with a concluding speech.—MNA  
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

## Union Minister U Thein Swe receives Japanese Justice Minister



Union Minister U Thein Swe holds talks with Japanese Justice Minister Ms Mori Masako at the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe received Japanese Justice Minister Ms Mori Masako and party at the former's office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed visas exemption for Japanese visitors in favour of friendly relations between the two countries, sending skilled workers to Japan, issuing licenses for 34 employment agencies, examinations for hotel jobs and other employments, and scrutinizing of Myanmar embassy in

Japan on demand letters submitted by the employment agencies.

Myanmar and Japan signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on 28 March to work together in basic framework for information exchange on systematic processes of managing human resources of skilled workers between Myanmar and Japan.

The Union Minister and the Japanese Justice Minister also exchanged views on preventing possible deceitful acts of some employment agencies.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

# Curbing money laundering, terror financing key to meeting global economic standards

**A**N international organization has warned that Myanmar has a high chance of falling back into the category of “high-risk” countries on an international money-laundering watchlist because of its failure so far to impose and enforce adequate safeguards.

It has warned that Myanmar’s likely return next year to the “grey list” of states compiled by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) could reduce the investment appetite of risk-averse international banks and give the US more leverage to re-impose financial restrictions.

In fighting money laundering, we need to ensure that the Monetary Intelligent Unit runs its operations independently and efficiently.

The Paris-based FATF, an intergovernmental organization, removed Myanmar from the list of states deemed weak in combating money laundering and terrorist financing in June, 2016, based on progress the country had made on those fronts.

Both the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Yangon-based Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business (MCRB) have also cautioned that the country needs to make significant progress by the end of this year to avoid returning to the grey list.

The caution has alerted us to the need for enforcing measures to fight against offenses related to terrorism and financing of terrorism, trafficking in humans and smuggling of migrants, illicit

trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, illicit drugs trafficking, trafficking of stolen and other illicit goods, corruption, fraud, counterfeit money, counterfeit goods, murder or causing grievous bodily harm, kidnapping, illegal restraint and hostage-taking, robbery or theft, smuggling, extortion, forgery, converting or transferring any money and property known, or believed, to have been obtained through the commission of an offence.

In fighting money laundering, we need to ensure that the Monetary Intelligent Unit runs its operations independently and efficiently.

With strong political will, the Union Government has committed to combating money laundering and countering financing of terrorism full-swing. Only then can Myanmar show the world that the country has established the political, economic, and social environment meeting international standards.

Hence, all departments concerned are responsible for laying down plans and implementing the National-level Strategy 2019-2023 on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Terrorism Financing until they meet with success.

At the same time, lawyers, notaries, legal professionals, and accountants engaging in transactions for their customers, or on their behalf, need to notify the Financial Intelligence Unit if they suspect a customer of wrongdoing and cooperate in any investigation run by the unit.

Whoever fails to comply with the Anti-Money Laundering Order issued on 14 November this year will be punished with a prison term in line with the provisions of the Anti-Money Laundering Law.

# Expanding and Strengthening Technical and Vocational Education and Training

By Lokethar

**A**T THE Technical and Vocational Education and Training Symposium held from 15 to 16 July 2016 in the Convention Centre 2 in Nay Pyi Taw, the State Counsellor HE Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in delivering her opening address, spoke about the need for promoting TVET. She said that TVET is considered by many parents and even the students themselves as being of lower stature than a University education. The State Counsellor pointed out that TVET is the type of education that provides greater opportunities for employment as well as full filling the needs of the economy for skilled technicians and workers. In most countries of the world it is a valued system of education. She said that in no way was TVET of lower stature than other forms of education. She called on those responsible to enhance the role of TVET. Subsequently, in later public talks and meetings, she reiterated the importance of TVET and called for its role in the education system to be enhanced.

In the “Foreword” of the Ministry of Education’s “National Education Strategic Plan (NESP) of 2016-21”, the summary of which was downloaded from the internet, the State Counsellor HE Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said with

regard to the TVET Sector; “We must continuously expand and strengthen the quality of technical and vocational education and training in the interest of sustained economic development”.

In the NESP, the TVET sector strategies, have been outlined in a simple language which any person would understand. The Transformational “shift” envisaged with regard to TVET is “More learners can access TVET and graduate from quality assured and labour market responsive TVET programs under a more effective TVET Management System”.

With reference to the NESP, relating to the area of TVET, the Strategies and some of their Program Components which are of relevance to occupational skills development, are presented below:

**Program Component 2:** Provide pedagogical and specific skills training for pre-service and in-service teachers.

**Program Component 5:** Establish a quality assurance system that comprises a TVET National Qualification Framework, national skills standards, a competency-based curricula and accreditation of institutions and individuals.

Regarding “Access to TVET” it is vital for the rural youth who are the majority of school dropouts, to be able to undergo occupational skills training which will enable them to systematically learn occupational skills to earn their livelihood.

Ministries including MOE, private sector organizations are represented, has approved Occupational Competency Standards for some 50 plus occupations.

The Occupational Competency Standards were drawn up by NSSA’s, fifteen “Occupational Sectorial Committees” (OSC) each comprising of MOE’s representatives, Ministry of Industry representatives, other relevant Ministries’ representatives, TVET school teachers and instructors from the public and private sectors, and occupational experts. The OSCs are Chaired by Professionals and Administrators from the various occupational fields. The standards have been in use by NSSA for the past three or more years to assess and certify skilled workers at different levels of skills of their occupations. The standards are to be revised from time to time in step with technological advances.

Regarding “Access to TVET” it is vital for the rural youth who are the majority of school dropouts, to be able to undergo occupational skills training which will enable them to systematically learn occupational skills to earn their livelihood.

The “private sector TVET Schools” are at present more or less located in or around the big

ESP) are the keywords of a quality assured expanded TVET System.

As the Private Vocational Training Law is still in the making, the TVET Council to be formed under the law will probably not emerge for quite some time. As far as National Skill Standards are concerned, the National Skilled Standards Authority (NSSA) formed under the Employment and Skills Development Law of 2013, in which all the relevant

- Pilot farms for research were set up, consisting of 1 pilot plot for winter peanut using seeds provided by the Department of Agriculture Research (DAR), 2 pilot plots for experimenting with the summer paddy planting techniques, 16 pilot plots for experimenting with the monsoon paddy techniques, 30 pilot plots for experimenting with the monsoon paddy cropping patterns, and 17 pilot plots for monsoon paddy using seeds provided by the Department of Agriculture Research (DAR).
- In terms of acreage, 511,416 acres of monsoon paddy, 3377 acres of sesame, 1737 acres of peanut, 65 acres of sugar cane for the production of sugar, 727 acres of pigeon pea were planted.
- Inspections of agricultural outlets were carried out with 145 inspections for fertilizer outlets, 145 inspections for pesticide outlets and 30 inspections for seed outlets.

### Dissemination of agricultural techniques

- Altogether 118 farmer education trainings were conducted attended by 6279 trainees, consisting of 4433 males and 1846 females.
- Altogether 63 capacity-building trainings were provided for agricultural staff, attended by 1355 trainees, consisting of 912 males and 443 females.
- One training for agricultural machinery operation was conducted with 30 trainees.
- Monsoon loans for 2019 totalling Kyat 72,003.600 million were provided to farmers in 17 townships.



Educational Talk for Farmers in Myaybon Township

- Loans with property as collateral totaling Kyat 3.138 billion were provided to 102 private entrepreneurs.
- Loans at 9% interest rate with repayment periods of 3 to 5 years totaling Kyat 38.900 million were provided to 10 farmer entrepreneurs.
- A loan of Kyat 50.00 million was provided to a farmer to set up a rice mill.
- Demonstration plots were organized: 25 demonstrations of monsoon paddy, 5 of summer paddy and 1 of winter crops as well as 3 demonstrations of fertilizer making and utilization.
- To disseminate agricultural techniques, 16,736 copies of educational bulletins were circulated.

### Construction and maintenance of dams, irrigation canals and embankments

During the reporting period, 63 out of 138 projects for the construction and maintenance of dams, irrigation canals and embankments in Rakhine State were completed.



Construction of Yotayoke Hillside Dam in Ponnakayun Township



Construction of 2 Concrete Sluice Gates in Minbya Township

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**Myanmar Daily Weather Report**  
(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2019)

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2019:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Magway and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Northern Shan, Chin and Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2019:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2019:** Generally fair weather.

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2019:** Generally fair weather.

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# NRPC holds talks with KNU on peacemaking process

DELEGATIONS of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) and the Karen National Union (KNU) held a meeting on peacemaking efforts at the headquarters in Yangon yesterday morning.

Dr Tin Myo Win, the Vice Chairman of NRPC and the Chairman of the Peace Commission, expressed thanks for the meeting to negotiate disputes in the peace-making process.

KNU's Vice Chairman P'doh Saw Kwe Htoo Win said his organization is implementing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement after they have signed it for the emergence of a Federal Democratic Union and called for serious discussions in peace talks to make a complete trust of people.

The meeting focused on the future peace-making plans, and it was attended by Vice Chairman of Peace Commission U Thein Zaw, its Secretary (retired) Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, and members of Peace Commission advisory board U Hla Maung Shwe and U Moe Zaw Oo, General Secretary of the KNU P'doh Saw Tah Doh Moo, P'doh Saw Sal Ge, P'doh Saw Klu Say and Saw Malar Thaw and Saw Nay Tha Balay.

During the press conference, U Hla Maung Shwe said "The government side discussed the remaining points for further discussions, and preparations for organizing a Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting. The government peace negotiator offered a meeting with the signatories of NCA-SEAO before 25 December, and a JICM after 4 January."

P'doh Saw Tah Doh Moo also said, "The meeting was very friendly and frankly. Especially, both sides discussed the future plans after the JICM as it is a crucial meeting for implementing NCA. The Union Peace Conference - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong is also a crucial step for NCA. And that we are completely focusing on these processes.— Ye Gaung Nyunt

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Representatives of National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) and Karen National Union (KNU) hold the meeting on peace process in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG



## Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye discusses socioeconomic, rehabilitation programmes in New Zealand

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye held a meeting with Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Mr Winston Peters at Wellington in New Zealand yesterday.

During the meeting, the Union Minister talked about Myanmar government's efforts on the rights of all citizens, including ethnic minorities and especially persons with disabilities, the rights of PWDs, and future plans with the Social Development Ministry of New Zealand.

He also discussed cooperation with New Zealand in socioeconomic development and training programmes for agricultural and renewable energy sectors which are required for resettlement and rehabilitation works at the conflict zones, prevention of landmine risks, social harmony and peace.

The Union Minister met with the Health and Disability Commissioner to exchange views on disseminating knowledge and providing assistance to the PWDs.

He also held talks on the MoveAhead company to use its software for the mentally disabled children with diseases such as syndrome and autism.— MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Chief Minister inspects arrangements for youth development festival in Magway

THE Magway Region Chief Minister Dr Aung Moe Nyo inspected the preparations for all-round youth development festival (Magway) at the compound of Magway University in Magway yesterday.

The Chief Minister and party inspected the arrangements for the opening ceremony, talks shows exhibition, competition and booths, and instructed the requirements.— Han Lin Zay

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Magway Region Chief Minister Dr Aung Moe Nyo inspects the preparations for all-round youth development festival at the Magway University in Magway yesterday. PHOTO: THAN NAING OO (NGAPHE)



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# Japanese Princess arrives in Yangon, visits Shwedagon Pagoda

AT the invitation of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, a delegation led by Japanese Princess Yoko Mikasa arrived in Yangon yesterday.

The Japanese Princess and entourage were welcomed by Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Deputy Director-General of Strategic Studies and Training Department U Zaw Phyo Win, Deputy Director-General of the Protocol Department U Zaw Tun Oo, Jap-

anese Ambassador Mr Ichiro Maruyama and officials at the Yangon International Airport.

The Japanese Princess and entourage visited the Shwedagon Pagoda.

In the pagoda, she offered flowers, water, lights and incense sticks at the Tuesday corner and walked around the pagoda clockwise.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Japanese Princess Yoko Mikasa lights candles at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister U Ohn Win looks at pearls at the Myanmar Pearl Auction in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

# Myanmar Pearl Auction (December 2019) held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation is organizing the Myanmar Pearl Auction (December 2019) at the Myanma Gems Museum in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister U Ohn Win and officials looked around the sale of pearls which was crowded with local and foreign pearl merchants.

At the event, 270 pear

lots of the State, 85 lots of Myanmar Andaman Pearl Co., Ltd, 30 lots of Pyae Phyo Tun Co., Ltd, and 30 lots of Annawa Pearl Co., Ltd, totally 415 lots, with the floor price of Euro 1.95 million, will be sold for three days until 13 December.

The pearls will be sold to the local merchants in Myanmar kyat, and they need to make a deposit of K2.5 million, and their

foreign counterparts will have to pay a deposit of Euro 2,000.

The tender winner will also have to pay 5 percent commercial tax on the value of the pearl lots.

On the first day, a total of State-owned 100 pear lots were sold at Euro 593,990.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

# People rally in support of State Counsellor in towns

PEOPLE rallied nationwide yesterday in support of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who is contesting the case filed by Gambia at the International Court of Justice-ICJ.

Kawthoung

People in support of State Counsellor rallied near the traffic circle in Padauk Wah Ward in Kawthoung Town yesterday.

People holding placards reading “We Stand With Daw Aung San Suu Kyi,” “We Stand With Our Leader,” and “We Stand With the State Counsellor Of Myanmar” rallied near the traffic circle where the billboard poster reading “We Stand With Daw Aung San Suu Kyi” was unveiled by leader of Padauk Shwe Wah Ward U Kyaw Thet Naing by pressing a button.

At the rally, U Myint Oo read the statement related to ICJ released by the Union Government, and people sang the national anthem.

Similar billboard posters supporting State Counsellor were



People rally in Laymyethna in support of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who is contesting the case filed by Gambia at the International Court of Justice-ICJ. PHOTO: SHWE MOE IPRD

also unveiled in Aye Mya Tha Yar Ward and Thiri Myaing Ward in Kawthoung Town yesterday.

Shwebo

Over 20,000 people holding placards reading “We Stand With Our Leader” rallied at the Bogyoke Square at Yan Gyi Aung Park in Shwebo Town yesterday.

Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing, Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr

Zaw Win, State Auditor General U Myint Kyi, chairman U Khin Maung Shwe and members of NLD party in Shwebo Township, Hluttaw representatives, district departmental officials, teachers, philanthropic organizations, interfaith groups and local people attended the rally.

Kyunhla

About 500 people in Kyunhla Town also held rally in support of



People rally in Kawthoung in support of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who is contesting the case filed by Gambia at the International Court of Justice-ICJ. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the Shwe Kyuntha Hall in Kyunhla Town, Kanbalu District in Sagaing Region yesterday.

People holding placards reading “ We Stand With Daw Aung San Suu Kyi” and shouting the slogans of ‘ All people are together with Mother Suu,’ ‘May Mother Suu be healthy,’ ‘May the trip of Mother Suu be successful,’ and ‘Let’s us united as it is an important time’ marched towards

the Shwe Kyuntha Hall.

Laymyethna

People in Laymyethna also held a rally in support of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the Nga Wun playground in Laymyethna Town, Hinthada District, Ayeyawady Region.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung), Moe Thauk (Shebo), Myo Win Nyo (Kyunhla), Shwe Moe (IPRD) (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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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.

# Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives Israeli Ambassador

PYITHU Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein received a delegation led by Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Ronen Gilor at his office of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to promoting bilateral friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and Israel, Myanmar's electoral experiences and 2020 General Election, the works of Joint Committee on Amending 2008 Constitution, and exchanging technical experiences related to health, agriculture, livestock and utilization

of water resources sectors in Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee Chairman U Khin Maung Win, Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Rural Development Committee Chairman U Yan Lin, Secretary U Maung Maung Oo and officials from Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun )

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein meets with Israeli Ambassador Mr Ronen Gilor in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



## Union Attorney-General opens new law offices in Shan State



Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo and officials pose for a group photo at the opening ceremony of new law offices in Taunggyi, Shan State. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo attended the opening ceremonies of new law offices in Taunggyi, Pa-O

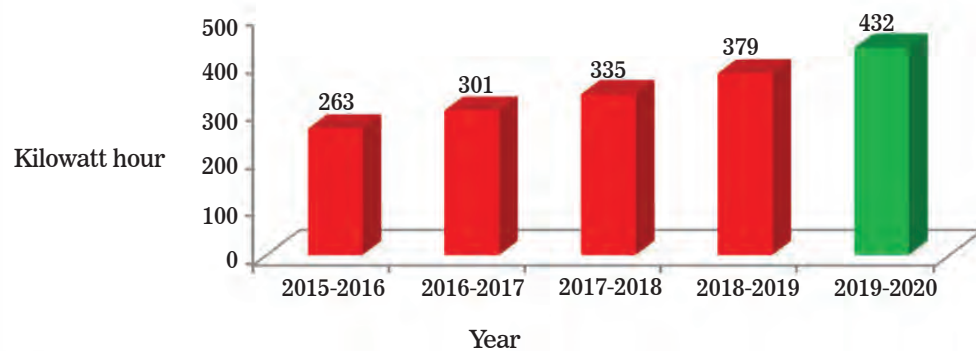
Self-Administered Zone and Danu Self-Administered Zone in Shan State on 9 and 10 December.

The Union Attorney-General attended the opening ceremony of a building for Taunggyi District law office, Township law

office and housing for governmental employees in Taunggyi in the morning of 9 December, and also attended the opening ceremony of law office in Pa-O Self-Administered Zone in the afternoon. U Tun Tun Oo also attended the opening ceremony of law office in Danu Self-Administered Zone on 10 December.

At the ceremonies, the Union Attorney-General was accompanied by State Chief Minister and State cabinet members, State Hluttaw representatives, State Advocate-General, Chief Justice, Auditor General, State level departmental officials, Danu Self-Administered Zone Leading Committee Chairman, Pa-O Self-Administered Zone Leading Committee Chairman and members and invited guests.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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# Study finds shortage of therapists to treat children with autism

WASHINGTON — A recent study has unveiled a shocking truth about the insufficient supply of certified applied behaviour analysis (ABA) providers to meet the needs of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in nearly every state.

The study has found that there is substantial variation across states and regions, for instance, the per capita supply of certified ABA providers is substantially higher in the Northeast than in any other region. The study was published in the journal *Psychiatric Services*. The rising prevalence of ASD underscores the importance of access to evidence-based interventions such as ABA. An estimated one in 59 children had ASD in 2014, up from one in 125 a decade earlier, according to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

ABA uses behavioural learning principles to help children with ASD increase positive behaviours and social interactions and decrease problematic behaviors.

It is the recommended treatment for children with autism and is supported by more than 30 years of research. ABA is most effective when it is started in early childhood and the therapy is provided between 20 and 40 hours per week.—ANI ■

# Germany on alert as swine fever nears border

BERLIN — Sniffer dogs, drones and electrified fences: Germany is deploying a full array of defences to stop boars from bringing swine fever into the country and avert a disaster for its thriving pork industry.

“The question is no longer if swine fever will come to Germany but when,” Torsten Reinwald, a spokesman for Germany’s hunting federation, told AFP.

The virus is not harmful to human health but can cause deadly bleeding in domestic pigs and boars.

The only way of getting rid of it is through mass culling at farms — a nightmare for German farmers.

Half of Germany’s pork production of five million tons a year goes to foreign markets, making it Europe’s biggest exporter of the meat. It is feared that even a single case could wreak havoc.

“The probability that countries like China impose a total import ban is very high,” said Sarah Dhem, a representative of Germany’s meat products association.

Dhem gave the example of a total Chinese import ban following a few outbreaks in Belgium last year. Losses could run into billions of euros and the European market would be flooded with cut-price pork.

Farmers first began to worry when swine fever was identified at a pig farm in western Poland in November.

**Drone patrols**

But it was the discovery of a boar with the fever near the town of Nowogrod Bobrzanski — just 40 kilometres (25 miles) from the German border — that really raised the alarm.

As a result, German regions are pulling out all the stops.—AFP ■

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V B TRADER VOY. NO. (947S/949N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V B TRADER VOY. NO. (947S/949N) 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/T.M.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.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE)  
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Dated 12 Dec 2019

**The GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR  
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS  
MYANMA RAILWAYS  
PROJECT ASSURANCE SERVICES COMPANY (PASC)  
FOR  
INTERNATIONAL HOTEL PROJECT AND LANDMARK PROJECT**

**Announcement**

MR has invited reputable local and/or international Project Assurance Services Companies (PASC) on (23.9.2019) to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) to assist PMU/PAC and to undertake Project Assurance activities for the Landmark Project and International Hotel Project.

Total of (12) twelve Companies EOI's received from potential local and/or international PASC on the closing date of (29.10.2019). MR has reviewed and evaluated all the submitted EOI's. On the basis of the information provided with EIO, MR has shortlisted (5) five Companies potential PASC who prove themselves to be capable enough to carry out the Project Assurance activities. MR is now inviting the shortlisted potential PASCs to prepare and submit Proposal with effect from (17.12.2019).

The shortlisted potential PASCs could obtain Request for Proposal (RFP), Instructions to Tenderer (ITT) and Terms of Reference (ToR) to provide Project Assurance Services for Landmark Project and International Hotel Project including an electronic copy (a CD ROM) form Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of 51<sup>st</sup> Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar, Phone +95 1 291985 or 291994 or 294352. Detail information has been sent out to the shortlisted potential PASCs.

The completed RFP Document are required to be submitted to the Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of 51<sup>st</sup> Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar, Phone +95 1 291985 or 291994 not later than 14:00 hrs, on (31.1.2020).

Additional information (if any) shall be communicated directly to the above stated address.

Managing Director  
Myanma Railways

# Broadcasting Governing Body meets with private media companies



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun delivers the speech at the meeting with the private broadcast media companies at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Broadcasting Governing Body held a meeting with the private broadcast media companies at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, in his capacity as the Chairman of BGB, presided over the 7/2019 coordination meeting of BGB with FM radio channels and broadcasting media groups to discuss their challenges and difficulties in this industry. At the meeting, the Deputy Minister highlighted the importance of media ethics, skills and knowledge, and the needs for development of the country's broadcasting media.

Deputy Director General of Myanmar Radio and Television and Member of BGB Supervisory Board U Myo Myint Aung briefed on the work plans of the governing body. U Saw Myint Zaw, the Director (Admini) from MRTV, presented completions on the resolutions of 6/2019 meeting, followed by presentations of officials from respective divisions.

The Deputy Minister coordinated the discussions before the meeting was concluded.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)

# Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs calls in Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar

U SOE HAN, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar called in H.E. Mr Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar, at 0930 hrs on 11 December 2019 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the Permanent Secretary and the Bangladeshi Ambassador discussed on matters pertaining to the forthcoming visit of a high level Myanmar Delegation, accompanied by ASEAN-ERAT representatives, to Bangladesh to carry out the Go-and-Tell Mission to explain the preparatory works implemented by the Myanmar Government for repatriation and resettlement of the displaced persons.

Moreover, the Permanent Secretary discussed the matter related to the visit of the Evidence Collection and Verification Team (ECVT) of the Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) to Bangladesh and handed over the letter to the Ambassador of Bangladesh, written by Mr Kenzo Oshima, Interim Chair of the Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE), addressed to Mr Md. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh.—MNA

# Deputy Commerce Minister attends opening ceremony of Myanmar-China border trade fair



The 18th China-Myanmar Border Economic and Trade Fair holds at the border city of Ruili in southwest China's Yunnan Province on 10th December. **PHOTO: THAN TIN AUNG**

DEPUTY Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo attended the opening ceremony of 18th China-Myanmar Border Economic and Trade Fair held at Ruili, China, yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, the Deputy Minister said that the trade fair has reflected friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries, while bilateral border trade volume is increasing year by year. He also added Myanmar is closely working with ASEAN member countries, and Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) countries, while working for trade promotion of the country.

He said the ministry is also exchanging information about rules for quality of commodities, trade procedures with China, and that people in border areas have secured jobs and enjoyed a better transportation.

The Union Minister also called for ending illegal trade between the two countries.

Then, Chinese officials from Yunnan Province also delivered speeches.

The trade fair was opened by the Deputy Minister and Chinese officials before they looked around the booths.

The Deputy Minister also discussed with Chinese officials about investments, trade and economic zones, and visited Youngon (Ruili) Clothing Co.,Ltd. in the afternoon.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)

# Myanmar displays 53 booths at border trade fair in Ruili

THE 18<sup>th</sup> China-Myanmar Border Economic and Trade Fair opened at the border city of Ruili, which is a county-level city of Dehong Prefecture, in southwest China's Yunnan Province on 10th December.

Myanmar is displaying its 53 booths at the three-day events, with local commodities, tourism services, traditional medicines, traditional handicrafts, agricultural items, fishery products, finished wood products, banking services.

China also exhibits industrial products, household items, furniture and commodities at over 450 booths.

U Aung Than Oo from Amay Htwar peanut oil production said, "We are displaying our export quality peanut oil for market promotion as the customers become interested in our products. We advise to set up a better management at border checkpoints for export of Myanmar commodities."

Daw Nang Mai from Hla Pyo Phyu Traditional Medicines also said, "We are displaying our six products at the trade fair. As the climate is cold in this area, the customers are interested in our traditional ointment."

A member of Northern Shan State Chambers of Commerce and Industry also said, "The trade fair is very supporting to Myanmar merchants. We can observe modern technologies for the foreign country at the fair."

Border trade fairs and meetings of trade coordination committee are alternatively held in both country since 2011.—Han Linn Naing

(Translated by Aung Khin)

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Myanmar-Korea Agriculture and Rural Development Forum held in Yezin

THE Myanmar-Korea Agriculture and Rural Development Forum was held at Yezin Agriculture Education and Rural Development School in Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

At the opening ceremony of the forum, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu said the Saemaul Undong (New Village Movement) of Korea has resulted in lasting friendship relations between the two countries, with the infrastructural developments in village roads and bridges, and supply of drinking water and electrification. The project could also develop mindsets and views of local people and strengthen cooperation.

He also confirmed that the ministry will adopt guidelines, policies and strategies for ensuring sustainable results of the project together with the development of other villages.

Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lee Sang-hwa and Director-General of De-

partment of Agriculture Dr Ye Tint Tun extended greetings at the forum.

The Union Minister also presented gifts to the Ambassador, the Chief Representative of KOICA Ms Lee Youn Soo and Saemaul Undong Project Manager Mr Lee Song Woo.

Development of project, implementation of project and the future plans were discussed by the project manager, the village leaders and the project director.

A KOICA official also handed over computers and office equipment to the Director General of DOA in honour of establishing 26 modal village under the New Village Movement with the funds of States/Regions in 2019-2020 financial year in Sagaing, Mandalay, Rakhine and Shan.

During the afternoon session of the forum, officials discussed rural development policies, rural fund managements beyond the project period, the role of Yezin Agriculture Education and Rural Development



Union Minister Dr Aung Thu delivers the opening speech at the Myanmar-Korea Agriculture and Rural Development Forum at Yezin Agriculture Education and Rural Development School in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

School, cooperation between the ongoing Emerald Project and the Saemaul Undong project, and collecting surveys on the latter's results.

The KOICA and the DOA have signed a bilateral agreement on 29 November 2019 to implement the Capacity Building Project for Myanmar

Agricultural Education in 27 townships of 10 States/Regions from 2019 to 2023. —MNA  
*(Translated by Aung Khin)*



Singaporean film crew shooting the documentary about the opening ceremony of a new building at Basic Education Middle school in Ye Kyi Chaung Village, Nyaunglaybin Township, Bago Region yesterday. **PHOTO: KYAW SWAR THEIN (FDC)**

Singaporean film crew makes documentary of firefly mission project

A Singaporean film crew made the documentary about the donation and hand-over ceremony of a school building in Kinmon Khar Village on the other bank of the Bagan cultural region yesterday.

On 10 December, they documented the donation and hand-over ceremony of a RC one-storey building at the Basic Education Middle

School in Ye Kyi Chaung Village, Nyaunglebin Township in Bago Region to the Ministry of Education and the donation of school accessories to the Maha Beikhman monastic school.

On 12 and 13 December, they will document the Htantabin Village in New Bagan, the hand-over and opening ceremony of a new school in

Ywartha Village which is located on the other bank of Bagan region, and the scenes of Inle region.

They are the members of "Poe Sone Kyue" (firefly) philanthropic organization who were running "firefly mission" project since 2008, and documented their activities. — Kyaw Swar Thein (FDC) *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

Japanese film team makes documentary of general manager's lifestyle in Yangon

A Japanese film crew of Churun Company Ltd took the documentary about the lifestyle of a general manager in Yangon at Fujita Cooperation, Shwedagon Pagoda and O' Thentic Brasserie Restaurant yesterday.

They also documented the daily routines of a general manager from Fujita Corporation Office at YCP Project area on

Shwedagon Pagoda Road and the lifestyles of the people in Yangon at Win Restaurant in 19<sup>th</sup> Street on 10 December.

The documentary will be showed in the time of staff employment at Fujita Cooperation and its human resources development department. — Myo Win Aung (FDC) *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*



Japanese film crew shooting the lifestyle of a General Manager at Fujita Corporation Office in Yangon. **PHOTO: MYO WIN AUNG (FDC)**

## Myanmar medalists return from SEA Games

WITH the sports events of the 30<sup>th</sup> South East Asian Games finishing on 10 December, Myanmar athletes came back home from the Philippines on 11 December.

The athletes, including silver and bronze medalists in taekwondo, karate, archery, yachting and sailing, billiards, and track and field, arrived at the Yangon International Airport yesterday.

The athletes were wel-

comed by officials from the Department of Sports and Physical Education, officials from the Myanmar Taekwondo Federation, Myanmar Karate Federation, Myanmar Archery Federation, Myanmar Yachting Federation, Myanmar Billiards Federation, and Myanmar Track and Field Federation, and students from the Institute of Sports and Physical Education and the athletes' families.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



The Myanmar national sailing team are greeted by their families and officials. **PHOTO: MYF**



Champions of the Myanmar National League, Shan United FC. **PHOTO: SUFC**

## AFC Cup 2020: Myanmar's Shan United placed in Group H

SHAN UNITED FC, which is representing Myanmar in the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Cup 2020, has been placed in Group H for the tourney, according to the drawing ceremony held on Tuesday by the AFC at its headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The 48 participating teams have been divided into nine groups, which have been further divided according to five zones: West Zone, Central

Zone, South Zone, ASEAN Zone, and East Zone.

Shan United FC has been placed in the ASEAN Zone of Group H with the Philippines' Kaya FC, and Singapore's Tampines Rovers FC, Geylang International FC, Indonesian PSM Makassar FC and Timor Leste's Lalenok United FC.

The preliminary stage of the 2020 season of the AFC Cup matches will start on 22 January.

Before entering the AFC Cup, Shan United, the defending champions of the Myanmar National League, will also compete in the Asian Champion League qualifiers, starting 14 January.

Shan United will play against Ceres Negros FC in the preliminary stage match, and if Shan United win the qualifiers, they will also enter the Asian Champion League, according to the AFC.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

## MIU, VUC teams score big in MFF Futsal League

THE Myanmar Imperial University (MIU) and Victoria University College (VUC) teams made big wins yesterday in Week-5 of the Myanmar Futsal League, which is being held under the supervision of the Myanmar Football Federation at the National Indoor Stadium II in Yangon.

The MIU team drubbed On Doctor team by 9-1, while the VUC team beat Dream Team by 8-1.

Meanwhile, GV athletics team defeated AMM Brothers by 6-1, and Do Do Ko Ko team beat Futsal Lovers team by 4-1.

The Myoma JY team also landed a 4-0 victory over Letwei Thonedaya team, while Winner Futsal F.C. beat MFF U-19 FC by 6-2.

After Week-5 of the tourney, three teams — MIU, VUC, and GV athletics — have secured the full 15 points and are leading the standing table.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Goalkeeper of the MFF U-19 team (violet) tries to clear the ball during a match against Winner FC. **PHOTO: MFF FUTSAL**

## FIFA to take legal action to recover 2 million Swiss francs from Platini

LAUSANNE (Switzerland) — FIFA is to take legal action by the end of the year to force Michel Platini to return two million Swiss francs (\$2 million, 1.84 million euros) he received during Sepp Blatter's reign at world football's governing body.

FIFA banned Platini, its then vice president, in 2015 over the payment he received, sparking

years of bitter recriminations from the Frenchman and a falling out with his former ally Blatter.

In a document seen by AFP on Wednesday, FIFA said it would take action "to recover the money illegally paid by the former President of FIFA to the former Vice President of FIFA." Platini declined to comment but his lawyer, Vincent Solari, called

the development "harassment" of his client. "It is obviously an announcement whose sole purpose is to continue to try to bring discredit on my client," Solari, who is based in Geneva, said in a statement. FIFA said it planned to sue Blatter at the same time and would be seeking "interest at the appropriate rate" and "disciplinary fines and costs... both

ordered but not paid." Blatter, who authorised the payment in 2011, dismissed FIFA's new claim.

"This affair has already been settled," he told AFP on Wednesday. He said that the outstanding fines and legal costs had already been paid.

The Swiss authorities started investigating in 2015 while FIFA's ethics investigators branded the

payment "disloyal" and banned Platini for six years.

The Frenchman subsequently appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), which reduced his suspension to four years while ruling that it "was not convinced by the legitimacy of the payment, which was only recognised by Mr Platini and Mr Blatter." — AFP ■