President U Win Myint welcomes Vietnamese Prime Minister

President U Win Myint welcomed Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

PRESIDENT U Win Myint welcomed Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, who is making an official visit in Myanmar at the invitation of Myanmar President and First Lady, at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The Myanmar President greeted his Vietnamese counterpart on the lawn in front of the Presidential Palace.

They first took the salute of the Guard of Honour, and inspected it before they exchanged introductions of senior officials from both sides.

After the welcoming ceremony, the Vietnamese Prime Minister signed the visitors' book at the Presidential Palace.

They also held a meeting at the Credentials Hall on the topics about enhancement of bilateral friendship and ties between the two countries, bilateral cooperation in regional and international arenas for the interest of the two countries, exchange visits of high level delegation visits to mark the 45th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties, improvement of trade and investments, promotion of tourism sector, multi-sector cooperation and partnership relations.

The meeting was also attended by Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe and the Vietnamese Ambassador Dr. Luan Thuy Duong.

After the call, the State Counsellor and the Vietnamese Prime Minister attended a senior-level meeting of the two countries.

The meeting focused on bilateral cooperation in economy, trade, investments, banking, agriculture, electricity and energy, forestry and natural resources, construction, technologies, cultural exchange, support of Myanmar to Vietnam as rotating chair of ASEAN in 2020, ASEAN affairs, close cooperation with international organizations including the United Nations and the 45th anniversary celebration of Myanmar-Vietnam diplomatic relations.

The meeting was also attended by Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, U Min Thu, Dr Aung Thein Gyi, U Soe Win, U Thaung Tun, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Deputy Minister U Tha Oo, Myanmar Ambassador to Viet Nam U Kyaw Soe Win, his counterpart Dr. Luan Thuy Duong and senior government officials of the two countries.
Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 14th regular session holds 14th day meeting

AT the 14th day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s 14th regular session held yesterday a report of Joint Committee on Scrutinizing the second Bill Amending the Constitution and exemption of special commodity and commercial tax on import of six bullet proof Toyota Landcruiser cars were approved by the Hluttaw.

Report on bill to Prevent an Increased Quantity of Import

The meeting started with Joint Bill Committee member U Stephen reading the findings and comments report of the committee on a bill to Prevent an Increased Quantity of Import sent with comments by the President. Afterwards Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khan Myat announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to table and discuss amendment motion to register their names.

Hluttaw approves report of Joint Committee on Scrutinizing the Constitution

Following this, Dr Myat Nyana Soe, the Secretary of the Joint Committee on Scrutinizing Second Bill Amending the Constitution, responded to the discussion of Hluttaw representatives regarding the committee report on a bill amending the Constitution for the second time signed and submitted by 145 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives including U Sai Than Naing of Kayin State constituency 5.

The committee secretary said the committee has no separate explanation to make as the comments and suggestions of the majority of the joint committee members as well as separate comments and suggestion of three joint committee members were included in the report. The committee secretary requested the Hluttaw to approve the report.

Tatmadaw representative Lt-Col Myo Tun Aung then objected to the decision by vote on the matter and to handle the matter of all five amendment bills including the bill tabled by U Sai Than Naing according to the law. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker then informed the Hluttaw about the matter being handled according to the law and obtained the decision of the Hluttaw. As there were 357 for, 200 against and 7 abstaining, an announcement was made of the Hluttaw approving the report of the Joint Committee on Scrutinizing the second bill amending the Constitution.

Import of six bullet proof Toyota Landcruiser cars

The next agenda of the meeting was exemption of special commodity and commercial tax on import of six bullet proof Toyota Landcruiser cars sent by the President. Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win explained and discussed about the matter and when Hluttaw’s decision was obtained, there were 359 for, 188 against and 3 abstaining. Accordingly, an announcement was made of Hluttaw approving the matter.

MP U Stephen. PHOTO: MNA

MP Daw Ohn Kyi. PHOTO: MNA

Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Vietnamese PM

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khan Myat received Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc, the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they exchanged views and discussed promoting cooperation between the two parliaments for strengthening existing friendship between the two countries, promoting trade, investment and economic cooperation and for further closer cooperation for success of democratic politics and economic reforms.

Afterwards, U T Khan Myat and Vietnamese PM Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc and party posed for documentary photo.

The meeting was also attended by Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, chairmen of Pyithu Hluttaw committees U Khin Maung Win, U Aung Min, U Zaw Thein, Dr San Shwe Win, U Khin Aye and U Win Thein Zaw, Ambassador of Myanmar to Viet Nam U Kyaw Soe Win and officials of Pyithu Hluttaw Office while the Vietnamese PM was accompanied by Ambassador of Viet Nam to Myanmar Dr Luan Thuy Duong.

— MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khan Myat, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc and party pose for a documentary photo at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA
President U Win Myint welcomes Vietnamese Prime Minister

President, First Lady host luncheon for Prime Minister of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho attend the luncheon for Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

President U Win Myint and Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam inspect the Guard of Honour in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

President U Win Myint welcomes Vietnamese Prime Minister

President, First Lady host luncheon for Prime Minister of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho attend the luncheon for Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam yesterday. PHOTO: MNA
State Counsellor, Vietnamese PM hold press conference after high-level talks

FROM PAGE-1

After the meeting, the State Counsellor and the Vietnamese Prime Minister attended a signing ceremony of MoUs for agriculture and rural development and implementation of work plan (2019-2024) for partnership relations.

Both sides also agreed to extend the existing visa exemption period for ordinary passport holders from 14 days to 30 days.

During the press conference, the State Counsellor said preparations for celebrating the 45th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and its long-time friend Viet Nam, increasing cooperation between the two countries, constructive discussions at the senior level meeting, promoting cooperation in diplomatic, military and security areas, as well as in trade and investment.

The State Counsellor also noted with appreciation for the 1.5 per cent annual decline of the poverty rate in Viet Nam, and to convey these experiences to the Myanmar people.

She concluded that Myanmar and Viet Nam need to promote exchanges in cultural sector and people to people relations.

The Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc also expressed thanks for the warm and gracious hospitality of the Myanmar government and people.

He remarked the senior-level talks were very productive in the spheres of bilateral friendly relations, trust and mutual understanding between the two countries as the two countries have seen excellent progress in relations through a comprehensive cooperative partnership.

The Prime Minister also confirmed a rapid development of the two countries in economy, trade and investment sectors, with expectations to meet the bilateral trade target of over US$1 billion in 2020, as Viet Nam is one of the leading investors with more than 20 nation projects in Myanmar.

He added senior officials discussed resolving difficulties in economic cooperation so as to boost fruitful development in this sphere, matters related to national security, defence and diplomacy, and participation of both countries in international arenas of mutual interests.

Regarding the South China Sea issue, the Prime Minister expressed his support to the common position of ASEAN in favour of peace and stability in that region, and called for all parties to act in accordance with international law.

He also confirmed Myanmar’s support to Viet Nam for the rotating Chairmanship of ASEAN and Viet Nam’s role as a non-permanent member of UN Security Council for the 2020-2021 term. He also suggested promoting greater exchange of high-level visits between the two countries, particularly in the year of Viet Nam’s ASEAN Chairmanship.

The Vietnamese Prime Minister expressed his country’s understanding about Myanmar’s efforts in the Rakhine issue, saying that, together with other ASEAN members, Viet Nam is a country which will work and support Myanmar to harmoniously resolve difficulties pertaining to this issue on the basis of peace and national reconciliation.

He finally said that his visit to Myanmar could contribute to promoting bilateral relations and to enhance traditional friendship and comprehensive and cooperative partnership.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)
Whatever we do, we must keep in mind the good of our Union

Our country is a union. A union is a nation comprised of many ethnic nationalities. Whatever we do, we must keep in mind the good of our Union. Whatever you do, please think for the good of our Union and the peoples of our Union. Further, please work to bring the peoples of our Union closer together, more bonded, more united.

(Extract from the opening speech given by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 3 August 2018 at Meeting No. 1/2018 of the National Tourism Development Central Committee.)

State Counsellor receives Vietnamese Ambassador

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Dr Luan Thuy Duong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to Myanmar who is leaving Myanmar after completion of her tour of duty in Myanmar at 2:00 pm on 17 December 2019 at the residence of the State Counsellor in Nay Pyi Taw. —MNA

Vietnamese Prime Minister arrives in Yangon

VIETNAMESE Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, accompanied by Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi and officials, left Nay Pyi Taw for Yangon yesterday afternoon by a special flight. They were welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, Security and Border Affairs Minister of Yangon Region Government Colonel Aung Soe Moe, Director-General U Aung Myo Myint from the Strategic Studies and Training Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials from the Vietnamese embassy.

The Prime Minister and party first visited the Vietnamese embassy, and held a meeting with embassy staff, Vietnamese businesspersons and invited guests.

In the afternoon, the Prime Minister and party en-joyed a dinner hosted by the Vietnamese Ambassador Dr. Luan Thuy Duong at the Melia Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)
### Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.

2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on drug-related offenses up to 14 December 2019 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

### Sr. No. | Nature of report | Details on seizure and legal action taken
--- | --- | ---
1 | Information received of Maung Sine who lives in Kanserrya Ward, Tanai Township, Kachin State, distributing and selling illegal drugs. | On 12 December 2019, police searched the house of Maung Sine (a) Maung Sai, 32, son of U Shwe Ba, who lives in Kanserrya Ward, Tanai Township. He run away and his wife Sue Sue Bi, 38, daughter of U Lon Joran Sin Wee Naw, Bie Thein (a) Thein Naing, 35, son of U Hway, who lives in the same ward, and Thu Kha (a) Than Hlaik Aung, 35, son of U Nay, who lives in Won Phon Khone were arrested together with low quality opium. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Tanai)MaYa(pa)45/2019 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

2 | Information received of Maung Lwin who lives in Hsingone Village, Kawlin Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs. | On 10 December 2019, police searched the house of Maung Lwin, 41, son of U Win Aung, who lives in Hsingone Village, Kawlin Township, and arrested him to honour with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kawlin)MaYa(pa)77/2019 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3 | Information received of Ni Tut who lives in Taku Village, Taninthayi Township, Taninthayi Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs. | On 8 December 2019, police searched the house of Ni Tut, 63, son of U Phoe Sia Gyi, who lives in Taku Village. Taninthayi Township, and arrested him but he was not in his house. Police found his wife Dow Khin Kyi (a) Khin Kyu, 63, daughter of U Aung Tin, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Tanthayi)MaYa(pa)30/2019 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

4 | Information received of Wei Yan Soe (a) Ngway Hla who lives in Mayingyi Village, Taninthayi Township, and distributing and selling illegal drugs. | On 9 December 2019, police searched the house of Wei Yan Soe (a) Ngway Hla, 32, son of U Pe Thin Kyu, who lives in Mayingyi Village, Taninthayi Township, and arrested him and Kyaw Min, 28, son of U Gwaw, who lives in Banlamut Village, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Taninthayi)MaYa(pa)30/2019 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

5 | Information received of Yan Naung Htwe who lives in Talinehain Ward, Dawbon Township, Taninthayi Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs. | On 10 December 2019, police searched the house of Ye Thaw (a) Ye Ye (a) Wetme, 24, son of U Maung Myint, who lives in Hteinhale Ward, Dawbon Township, and found him together with Ye Naing Htwe (a) Thin Mya, 23, son of U Khin Khaing, and Ma Kyaw Khaing, 29, daughter of U Thaung Aye, who lives in No 106 Ward, Gagon Myothit (south) Township. Police seized 'WY' stimulant tablets from them. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Yan Naung Htwe, 26, son of U Nyi Htwe, who lives in Ya dunar Street, Talinehain Ward, Dawbon Township, and arrested him together with instruments related narcotic drugs used. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Dawbon)MaYa(pa)67/2019 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

6 | Information received of Phoe Zan who lives in Latapan Village, Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs. | On 8 December 2019, police searched the tea house of Phoe Zan, 55, son of U Azi, who lives in Letpan Village, Kyaukse Township, and found him together with his wife, Daw Lai Tum Mee, 38, daughter of U Ngein Wet (a) Tetkho Ygi (a) Thek Ko Oo, 35, son of U Myint Ko, who lives in Dawin Ward, Kyaukse Township and Zaw Ye Myint (a) Zaw Ye, 38, son of U Hla Myint, who lives in Kan Oo Ward, Kyaukse Township. Police arrested them together with stimulant tablets and heroin. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Zaw Zaw, 56, son of U Kyaw Thein, who lives in Thihtyian Ward, and arrested him. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Kyaukse)MaYa(pa)48/2019 under Section 16(c), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

7 | Information received of Niy Lay who lives in Letpandine Village, Pyaywe Township, Mandalay Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs. | On 8 December 2019, police searched the house of Niy Lay, 53, son of U Pan Hmone, who lives in Letpandine Village, Pyaywe Township, and arrested him together with 'WY' and '88/1'stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with YaKaSa (Nyanggon)MaYa(pa)72/2019 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

8 | Information received of Tin Moe Lwin who lives in Yamonna 1 Ward, Dawbon Township, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs. | On 10 December 2019, police inspected Tin Moe Lwin (a) Tin Myo Lwin, 34, son of U Oh Oh Lwin, who lives in Yamonna 1 Ward, Dawbon Township and Phyo Maung Maung (a) Maung, 23, son of U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Myane, who lives in Yangpyaw Ward, Thakayta Township, at the corner of Aung Myat Myint Street and Myoma Street, Yamonna 1 Ward, Dawbon Township, and arrested them together with 'WY' stimulant tablets and marijuana. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Dawbon)MaYa(pa)52/2019 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

9 | Information received of groups of people using and selling illegal drugs in Pyaywe Ward, Namtu Township, northern Shan State. | On 9 December 2019, acting on a tip-off, police arrested Naing Kaung, 55, son of U Aik Ain, who lives in Panhike Ward, Namtu Township, and Aik Lu, 32, son of U Aik Kyaw, who lives in Nangaw Village, on the road of Panhike Ward, Namtu Township. Police found heroin from them. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa(Namtu)MaYa(pa)13/2019 under section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

10 | Information received of Win Bo who lives in Khatkon Village, Mabein Township, northern Shan State, distributing and selling illegal drugs. | On 11 December 2019, police searched the house of Win Bo, 42, son of U Phoe Kyaw, who lives in Khakkon Village, Mabein Township, and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Mabein)MaYa(pa)88/2019 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

11 | Information received of San Wei who lives in Baisin Village, Mabein Township, northern Shan State, distributing and selling illegal drugs. | On 13 December 2019, police searched the house of San Wei, 56, son of U Tun Khin, who lives in Bashin Village, Mabein Township, and arrested him and his wife Ma Khine, 42, daughter of U Bo Kyaw, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Mabein)MaYa(pa)100/2019 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

12 | Information received of Daw Delira who lives in Myo Oo Ward, Yawkeikaw Township, southern Shan State, distributing and selling illegal drugs. | On 14 December 2019, police searched the house of Daw Delira, 49, daughter of U Bahar Du, who lives in Myo Oo Ward, Yawkeikaw Township, and arrested her together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa(Yawkeikaw)MaYa(pa)71/2019 under Section 19(a) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

### Note
3. Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 896 cases have been opened files as of 14 December 2019. A total of 1,579 people, including 1,152 men and 227 women had been arrested with 7,611.294 g of heroin, 1,347.32 g of ICE, 39,999.61 g of opium, 404.96 g of low-quality opium, 53236.76 g of speciosa powder, 12097.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 liters of liquid speciosa, 449.971 g of stimulant tablets, 8,757.92 g of garment, 19,156 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 35.16 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 19 firearms, different kinds of 257 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.

4. To seize further drugs and to arrest drug offenders, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

**Contacts:**
- Landline No. ➔ 067-590209
- Fax Phone No. ➔ 067-590233
- Email Address ➔ anticnarotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm
President, First Lady host luncheon for Prime Minister of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

FROM PAGE 3

Cooperation in bilateral trade and investment sectors were achieving momentum. It was a pleasure that Viet Nam had become Myanmar's ninth biggest trading partner country and the seventh biggest investing country in Myanmar. The discussions between the two countries this morning on all round cooperation in many sectors put the best foot forward of the two countries and its people was also a matter of great satisfaction. With regard to friendly relations on all round cooperation established in 2010, there was full and firm belief that bilateral relations and cooperation would be further strengthened.

He said that the Vietnamese Prime Minister's first visit to Myanmar was a milestone in the history of bilateral relations. The visit would significantly support the implementation of bilateral all round cooperation and aims of friendly relations.

In conclusion, Prime Minister U Win Myint expressed his good wishes for the good health and well-being of the Vietnamese Prime Minister and guests attending the luncheon. He expressed his wish for Myanmar-Viet Nam friendship to flourish and strengthen. He ended by saying that he wished to pray together with the visiting Prime Minister, the President, the country's prosperity to prosper and develop and for the happiness of the Vietnamese people.

In his speech Prime Minis- ter Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc said Myanmar had a long history and cultural heritages while possessing a beautiful and scenic land. It had ancient pagodas constructed by great monarchs and kings and was becoming a beautiful and scenic land. It was a pleasure to note that the relations was upgraded to all round friendly cooperation level in 2017. In the year 2020, ceremonies will be held to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the establishment of Myanmar-Viet Nam diplomatic relations. During the past years, Myanmar-Viet Nam relationship had developed with great momentum and it was a pleasure to note that the relations was upgraded to all round friendly cooperation level in 2017. In the year 2019 the bilateral trade reached US$1.05 billion and compared to 2010, it was a 6.5 fold increase. In 2020, the bilateral trade already surpassed the target of US$1.5 billion. More than 220 Viet Nam businesses had entered the Myanmar market and Viet Nam had become Myanmar’s seventh biggest investor country. Viet Nam projects implemented in Myanmar totals nearly US$2.2 billion and the most obvious was a successful joint venture for mutual benefit of Viet Nam’s communication company Viettel with Myanmar’s joint venture company. The joint venture Mytel now had more than 7 million subscribers making it the third biggest mobile service provider. It was a pleasure to know that Mytel’s internet service was upgraded to 5G level on August 5. Utilizing such high technology was an opportunity to increase the development momentum during the fourth industrial revolution era.

It was a pleasure and of a great satisfaction to meet and discuss with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in bilateral meeting and with President U Win Myint. It was firmly believed that with the aims set by the leaders of the two countries, cooperation of the people and firm decisions made, Myanmar-Viet Nam all round cooperation and friendly relationship would strengthen on a new foundation and beneficial and effective progress and development would continue.

In his toast the Vietnamese Prime Minister expressed his wish for a beautiful future for the people of the two countries. He also prayed for the prosperity and development of Myanmar and for the people to be happy and in good health. He prayed for all round cooperation and friendly relations between Myanmar-Viet Nam to be long and strong. Lastly, he prayed for the good health and happiness of President U Win Myint, the State Counsellor, and Myanmar leaders; after this he prayed for the good health and happiness of all the guests present at the luncheon.

Afterwards, President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Prime Minis- ter Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and invited guests had lunch together.

After the luncheon President U Win Myint presented State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi with the photograph album containing photographs taken during the visit. — MNA

State Counsellor to broadcast her experiences of oral proceedings at ICJ

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will present her experiences of oral proceedings at the International Court of Justice to the country through the state-owned television MRTV and radio. The programme will be broadcast at 8 pm tonight. — MNA

9 displaced persons return to Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre in Maungtaw

A total of 9 persons, four men and five women, compris- ing two families returned on their own volition to Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre in Maungtaw on 17 December. PHOTO: MNA

Four men and five women return on their own volition to Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre in Maungtaw on 17 December. PHOTO: MNA

The two countries were achieving momentum. It was a successful joint venture for mutual benefit of Viet Nam’s communication company Viettel with Myanmar’s joint venture company. The joint venture Mytel now had more than 7 million subscribers making it the third biggest mobile service provider. It was a pleasure to know that Mytel’s internet service was upgraded to 5G level on August 5. Utilizing such high technology was an opportunity to increase the development momentum during the fourth industrial revolution era.

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**OPINION**

### Invest in equitable development

ACCORDING to a survey on urbanization, the population in Myanmar’s cities and towns is expected to increase from 15.4 million to 38 per cent of the coun- try’s total in 2030. The research states that Myanmar will need to invest US$146 billion over 20 years to develop its cities, with annual spending on development-related projects reaching US$1 billion.

The current situation shows that Myanmar is still far from realizing its plans for urban management, public services, dwelling, and safety of the people in a rapidly changing environment.

Like Myanmar, other countries in the world are also facing problems caused by insufficient infrastructures, such as a lack of sufficient water supply, electricity, roads, drainage, and garbage systems. Squatting and unsystematic expansion of urban areas are especially problematic at risk of natural disasters.

The current situation shows that Myanmar is still far from realizing its plans for urban management, public services, dwelling, and safety of the people in a rapidly changing environment.

For systematic urbanization in Myanmar, we need to enact laws related to urbanization. Only the urbanization policies can help establish good networks between urban and rural areas.

Myanmar is still in an early phase of urbanization. This brings many opportunities to achieve sustainable economic growth and for poverty reduction. An inclusive approach will help ensure that urban cities grow in a manner which can bring significant benefits for peace and stability.

On the path to urbanization in Myanmar, it is necessary to assure that in adequate planning and a lack of investment in infrastructure and provision of basic services can lead to inequality in terms of job opportunities and income, which internally can undermine the benefits that urbanization typically brings as it can create or worsen social divisions and contribute to rising crime and violence in cities.

This accentuates the urgent need to focus attention on investing equally in urban development.

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**SUNDAY 15th and Mon- day 16th December, 2019
Council of Europe’s ‘Cities for Migrants’ Meeting.** What might seem like a rather bureaucratic acronym, actually is a politically highly rele- vant event for our continent. I had the pleasure to host this meeting in our capital, Vienna.

I was still in foreign Minister of Spain and now I will be chairing it as EU High Repre- sentative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. It underlines my personal interest in the last meet- ing event that is Asia today. ASEAN brings together 13 partners made up of the 22 EU Member States, Norway, Swit- zerland and the EU, and on the Asia side, 21 countries and the ASEAN Secretariat. Together we represent 55% of global trade 68% of global GDP 69% of the global population.

Hence, we must start looking at the expansion of urban areas by formulating a modern urbanization plan. The next steps would be to attract investments in infrastructure, and then ensure good governance as cities expand.

At present, smart city projects are being imple- mented in several big cities in Myanmar, Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, and Mandalay, with officially looking into the basic needs of the requirements of the cities. The Korea Myanmar Indus- trial Complex in Yangon, the New Mandalay City in Mandalay, and the Smart City Project are national projects that are being carried out in coop- eration with local and foreign developers.

On 9 July 2019, 50 rolls of tarpaulin with foods, relief items and cash assistance worth Kyat 861,590,791 were provided.

Between 1 January 2019 and 30 April 2019, 998 internally displaced persons were provided with food and non-food items worth Kyat 977,052,000.

Between 5 May 2019 and 30 August 2019, 83,438 internally displaced persons were provided with foods, relief items and cash assistance worth Kyat 5,850,791.

Between 1 January 2019 and 30 April 2019, 11 returns were provided with relief supplies (male and female longyis, T-shirts, blankets, soap), foods (rice, edible oil, salt, beans) for one month’s consumption and 3 sets of Kitchen utensils.

Between 1 January 2019 and 30 April 2019, 166 returns were provided with relief supplies (male and female longyis, T-shirts, blankets, soap), cash assistance for meals totaling Kyat 2,995,000, foods (rice, edible oil, salt, beans) for one month’s consumption and 3 sets of kitchen utensils.

Between 1 January 2019 and 30 April 2019, 12 boat people were provided with relief supplies (male and female longyis, T-shirts, blankets, soap), cash assistance for meals totaling Kyat 150,000, foods (rice, edible oil, salt, beans) for one month’s consumption and 3 sets of kitchen utensils.

Between 1 January 2019 and 30 April 2019, 2,986 boat people were provided with foods consisting of 486 bags of rice each containing 8-pyis, 486 litres of edible oil, 484 quarter-viss of salt, 484 edible oil 185 viss of chickpeas.

**UN Secretary-General Message on International Migrants Day 18 December 2019**

Migrants are integral members of society, contributing to mutual understanding and sustainable development in communities of both origin and destination. Hence, we must start looking at the expansion of urban areas by formulating a modern urbanization plan. The next steps would be to attract investments in infrastructure, and then ensure good governance as cities expand.

**To safeguard our planet and to promote sustainable development, cooperation with our Asian partners is key.**

The first Climate Neutrality Action Plan will be an important opportunity to further strengthen cooperation between big cities, which have over 200,000 residents, would double by 2030. The research states that Myanmar will need to invest US$146 billion over 20 years to develop its cities, with annual spending on development-related projects touching US$1 billion.

Among the five regions, Southeast Asia has the most rapid urban growth with 65% of its population living in cities.

In 2018 the EU invested 1.7 billion euros in a project to assist Myanmar in its urbanization efforts.

UN-ASEAN OECD Dialogue on Urbanization (51st Session) on 11-12 June 2019 in the New Mandalay Resort Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

ASEM has become increasing-ly relevant and strategic. This ASEM meeting will be an im-portant opportunity to further strengthen cooperation between big cities.

There are a clear willingness from ASEAN countries to engage in global issues and to take on more responsibility - from supporting sustainable develop-ment, to rules-based global trade, to information sharing on cross-border threats, to the pre-vention or peaceful resolution of conflicts. ASEAN has acquired a new scale and momentum as a key global player in order to promote rules-based, multilateral approaches. In the challenging world of today, this kind of co- operation and leadership is im-portant.

In recent years, sustainable connectivity has been a key theme of our discussions - and we will continue to do the same. Go for green for climate change mitigation. We adopted last week the EU Green Deal and made the ground-breaking commitment to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. Our ambitions should be global and we need collective action.

In addition, we cooperate on the most pressing issues on the international agenda. The situa-tion on the Korean Peninsula and in Afghanistan and Middle East - Peace Process, Iran, and the wider region, and efforts to bring peace to Afghanistan - to name a few. We also work on the need to address the ongoing human rights and security challenges, as well as promote gender equality and women empowerment.

**Statement of Myanmar Bar Association (MBA) Regarding The Gambia’s Filing of a Lawsuit Against the Republic of the Union of Myanmar before the International Court of Justice (ICJ)**

On 9 December 2019, the Gambia submitted its case to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for settlement of the dispute over the application of the Lockerbie Agreements between the two countries. The MBA, as one of the non-governmental organizations, has come forward with this case.

The MBA, as a responsible member of the ICJ, has decided to submit a written statement containing in Article 61 of the Convention of 1945 and that it did not commit genocide (Non-Ants Buses at Genocide).

We, the Myanmar Bar Association (MBA) will support from our legal and objective viewpoints.

Myanmar Bar Association (MBA)
20th Intake of DSMA holds graduation parade

MOHS holds stakeholders meeting to reformulate National Health Policy

Joint Committee on Amending Constitution holds 70/2019 meeting
Myanmar exports over 600,000 tons of rice worth $177 mn in current fiscal

THE volume of rice and broken rice exported between 1 October and 29 November in the 2019-2020 fiscal year has been estimated at over 615,592 metric tons, worth $177.138 million, according to an announcement from the Myanmar Rice Federation.

In the current financial year, Myanmar has shipped rice to 41 foreign markets. China, which accounts for more than 33 per cent of the total rice exports, is the main buyer of Myanmar rice, followed by Madagascar and Guinea.

Cameron is the fourth-largest buyer and Malaysia the fifth-largest buyer of Myanmar rice. The European Union countries account for 10.5 per cent of rice exports, while 38.28 per cent of rice grown in Myanmar goes to African countries.

In the two months of the current fiscal, Myanmar exported broken rice mostly to Indonesia, followed by Senegal, Belgium, Mali, and Thailand. Broken rice was placed in 38 foreign markets.

Earlier, border trade was relatively high compared to sea trade in terms of rice exports. Since the previous financial year, border trade has dropped, and currently, it accounts for just 15.63 per cent of the total rice exports, while maritime trade constitutes 84.37 per cent.

Rice exports through the border gates have earned an estimated $25.37 million, whereas maritime trade generated an income of $151.759 million in the October-November period, data from the Commerce Ministry shows.

At present, rice is being exported to China through a government-to-government (G2G) agreement and a barter system, in exchange for Chinese goods.
UEC Chairman receives Indian Ambassador

CHAIRMAN of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein received Ambassador of India Mr Saurabh Kumar at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they discussed preparations for the 2020 general elections, conducting capacity building courses for staff of the UEC being conducted by the UEC and the India’s Election Commission, the Election Law and its rules, amending the Codes of Conduct for political parties and candidates, media ethics and security ethics for the general elections, plans for formation of security management committee for the general elections and negotiation committee and suggestions for using IT technology in future general elections.—MNA

Over 50,000 trees to be planted in dry zone this FY

A total of 56,125 trees will be planted at 14 townships in four districts in the dry zone of Sagaing Region in the 2019-2020 financial year, said U Ba Lwin Oo, director of the Sagaing Region Dry Zone Greening Department.

Under the special greening programme, three-foot tall trees will be planted in the dry zone. In the 2019-2020 financial year, 32,000 trees will be planted in six townships of Shwebo District, 2,500 trees in three townships of Mrauk U District, 4,025 trees in two townships of Yinhabin District, and 11,600 trees in three townships of Sagaing District. The trees will be planted in the monsoon season.—Win Oo (Zeyartine)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Mini marathon to be held in Mandalay on 4 January

THE Mandalay Mayor’s Mini Marathon 2020 will be held on 4 January in Mandalay to mark Myanmar’s 72nd Independence Day, according to the Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC).

The contest will include men’s and women’s open and amateur events. The marathon will start at 6:30 am from the MCDC office, located at the corner of 26 and 71 streets. The participants will pass through 26 street, 80 street, 12 street, 73 street, North Mandalay mountain roundabout, 10 street, 62 street, Ngushwewah street, 68 street, Mandalay Thiri sports ground, and finish at the end of the Mandalay Thiri east entrance sports ground.

The mini marathon will be organized with the aim of promoting physical fitness among Mandalayrians.

Prizes will be presented to outstanding athletes in the 13-mile marathon. The winner will be awarded K5 million, while the second place winner will get K4 million, and the third place winner will be given K3 million in both men’s and women’s open and amateur events.

Application forms would be available for K300 till 31 December between 9:30 am to 6:30 pm at the Townships municipal administration office, garden and sports grounds department, Sports and Physical Education Department (Ba Htoo stadium), and MCDC office, according to the MCDC.

Foreigners would be allowed to participate only in the open events. Winners, who finished first, second, and third earlier in the 10,000-meters states and regions’ contest, the Mandalay mayor’s mini marathon, and the Yangon mayor’s mini marathon would be permitted to take part only in the open mini marathon events, according to the contest organizing committee.—Than Zaw Min (IPRD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission Notification 236/2019
6th Waning of Nadaw, 1381 ME
17 December 2019
Permission to register as a political party

The Inn National League Party headquartered on Yonegyi Street, near Tatenan bridge, Kanthar Ward in Nyaungshwe Township, southern Shan State, has been permitted to register as a political party in accordance with Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law in 17 December 2019.

The registration number of the Inn National League Party is 124.

Sd:-
(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Application for registering as political party declared

IN keeping with the legal provisions governing the registration of political parties, the Union Election Commission (UEC) is scrutinizing the applications for registration. Kachin National Party came to UEC for registering as a political party on 17 December 2019. – MNA

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye receives UN-Habitat Director

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye receives Mr. Atsushi Koresawa, the Director for UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye receives UN-Habitat Director

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Mono mineral Inquiry.

INVIATION FOR OPEN TENDER
NO.1/2019-2020

1. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, No.(1) Mining Enterprise invites to submit the tender quotation sale open tender in the United State Dollars.

(a) Cathode Copper (9999)MT (18) Lot
Group (1) (1)Lot 100 Tonnes each, 5 Lot
Monywa, Mine Site
Group (2) (1)Lot 200 Tonnes each, 5 Lot II
Group (3) (1)Lot 300 Tonnes each, 5 Lot II
Group (4) (1)Lot 500 Tonnes each, 2 Lot II
Group (5) (1)Lot 1000 Tonnes each, 1 Lot II

(b) Base price of Cathode Copper shall be based on the London Metal Exchange Copper price on the date of tender opening. The highest proposal amount (Premium amount added to the L.M.E price and deduction of transportation and handling expenses) shall be winning tender.

(c) Antimony Ore 415 M/T Payathonzu
(d) Lead Ore and other mixed 5.80 M/T Namtu
(e) Lead Ore and other mixed 1.757 M/T Myeik
(f) Silicon Ore and other mixed 270 M/T Muse
(g) Petrified Wood Fossil &Quartz 3.327 M/T Mandalay/Lashio

2. Tender Closing Date and Time is 21th January, 2020 (14:00) hrs and Opening Tender (15:00)PM.

3. Tender document are available from the Procurement Department, No.(1) Mining Enterprise, Ministry of Natural Resources And Environmental Conservation, Office Building No.(19), Nay Pyi Taw and Details Can be asked to +95-(0)67-09251022355, 090974424848.

Tender Committee No.(1) Mining Enterprise

FYI:

- CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
- M/S Sinar Solo VOY. NO. (877N/S)
- Consignees of cargo carried on M/V Sinar Solo VOY. NO. (877N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-12-2019 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 Samudera Shipping Line

- Phone No: 2301185

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouse and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 25th DECEMBER 2019 (Christmas day), 26th DECEMBER 2019 (Karin New Year day), 31st DECEMBER 2019 to 1st JANUARY 2020 (New Year Holiday) and 4th JANUARY 2020 (Independence day) and 6th JANUARY 2020, (Alternative Holiday of Independence day) Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment at Holiday Fees.

- CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
- M/V Alvan VOY. NO. (1083)
- Consignees of cargo carried on M/V Alvan VOY. NO. (1083) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 Land and Sea Intermodal Logistics SDN BHD LINE

- Phone No: 2301185

- CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
- M/V Harris VOY. NO. (950N)
- Consignees of cargo carried on M/V Harris VOY. NO. (950N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 MCC Transport (S’PORE) PTE., LTD

- Phone No: 2301185
Yoma Fleet, the largest truck and trailer rental company in Myanmar, has promoted its truck and trailer rentals to cover periods of peak demand with great flexibility and to reduce supply chain costs in the country.

The company believes that this new step could help the country’s logistic industry which is still decades behind in the region.

Mr Allan Davidson, the Head of Vehicle Rental and Leasing at the Yoma Fleet, said the company’s truck and trailer rental services are aimed for better commodity flows, including border trade, of the country.

During an exclusive interview with the Global New Light of Myanmar, Mr Davidson said the company’s new step could save time and money of customers as a truck and trailer rental fleet will be available at rental hubs Mandalay, Yangon, and Myanmar border town Myawady in Kayin State. He added that Muse will also be added soon.

Mr Davidson has more than 25 years of experience in the vehicle leasing and rental industry in Australia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and Thailand. During his eight years in Thailand, he could develop the Budget Rent A Car franchise into a market leading position with more than 1,450 vehicles across 25 locations.

With vast experiences in global car rental industry, he also remarked that Myanmar has a lot of potential in rental vehicle industry as the country is located in geographically strategic locations in the region. He is now carrying his international logistic industry experiences into Myanmar. The Yoma Fleet has developed a website https://www.yomarentals.asia/for information about its rental trucks and trailers, and the user can log on to the site to open an account for reservations of these heavy vehicles.

This competitive one-way rental solution is an advantage of this rental service, as a customer can make reservation online, and drag trailers from the nearest hub of the Yoma Fleet, and drop it at the convenient rental hubs, without requiring to take it back to the original place.

The Yoma Fleet has researched the current issues that challenge the logistics industry in Myanmar.

Their belief is that low tractor head utilization is the biggest issue facing the logistics industry. Currently the average distance a tractor head travels on long distance hauls is estimated at about 70,000 km each year due to congestion at warehouses and border facilities.

Through the use of additional trailers, Yoma’s rental service could allow the tractor
South-East Asia’s GDP growth to remain at 4.5% in 2020, dampened by risks of re-escalation in trade tensions

ECONOMIC growth across the South-East Asia (SEA) region, including Myanmar, is expected to slow from 5.1% in 2018 to 4.5% in 2019 and remain unchanged in 2020, amid high risks of a re-escalation in trade tensions, according to ICAEW’s latest Economic Insight: South-East Asia report on 11 December, 2019. As a result, the outlook for exports and private investment will remain challenging and continue to dampen regional GDP growth.

Regional growth has slowed since 2018 and remained sluggish in Q3 2019, with GDP growth across the SEA region rising only 4.5% year-on-year from 4.4% in Q2 2019. Even though the World Bank reported recently that the Myanmar economy is projected to grow by 6.6% percent in 2020, with the US-China trade conflict has been a key driver for this continuous slowdown in growth, with trade uncertainty remaining a key drag on manufacturing, exports and investment.

Export-oriented economies have been the most impacted by the ongoing trade tensions, with Singapore only narrowly avoiding a technical recession in Q3 2019.

The exception has been Viet Nam, which has benefited from some trade diversion effects caused by the trade war. Nonetheless, momentum in Viet Nam is expected to ease to 6.0% in 2020, from 7% in 2019, given weaker Chinese import demand and increased trade protectionism.

Sian Fenner, ICAEW Economic Advisor and Oxford Economics Lead Asia Economist said, “Although there has been some progress in the talks between the US and China, friction between the two countries remains high and the bulk of imposed tariffs are unlikely to be lifted anytime soon.

Alongside slower Chinese domestic demand, we are cautious that the outlook for regional exports and private investment will remain challenging. As such, we expect South-East Asia’s GDP growth to moderate to 4.5% in 2020, remaining unchanged from 2019.”

Increased fiscal stimulus to complement accommodative monetary policy

Alongside a more dovish US Federal Reserve, low inflation and a deteriorating economic outlook, regional central banks have shifted to a more accommodative stance.

The Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia are expected to reduce interest rates by a further 25 basis points (bp) over the coming quarters, followed by an extended pause with fiscal stimulus to complement central bank efforts in cushioning the economic slowdown.

However, the room for fiscal manoeuvring will differ across the region. Most South-East Asian economies such as Thailand and the Philippines are expected to roll out stronger fiscal impulses. After running a series of fiscal surpluses, Singapore has the most fiscal room to ease policy.

Given the highly uncertain trade environment, Singapore’s government is likely to announce measures such as cash handouts and funding support for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in next year’s budget.

In contrast, both Viet Nam and Malaysia are constrained, given current levels of public debt.

In Malaysia, despite the announcement of a mildly expansionary budget for 2020, the government’s continued emphasis on fiscal consolidation and the risks of fiscal slippage suggest limited room for further support.

“We expect the ongoing trade tensions to continue weighing on the overall growth outlook for South-East Asian economies. Against a weak global backdrop, supportive fiscal measures are expected to underpin an improvement in GDP growth across certain economies, albeit moderately. Overall, South-East Asia’s GDP growth in 2019 and 2020 are still set to be below potential at 4.5%,” said Mark Billington, ICAEW Regional Director, Greater China and South-East Asia. — ICAEW

FACEBOOK has select- ed HttPool as its Au- thorized Sales Partner in Myanmar, Cambod- dia and Laos. As the official part- ner for Facebook in these three countries, HttPool will provide support and regional expertise to local businesses across Facebook, Instagram, Facebook Messenge- r and WhatsApp.

Partnering with Facebook in the APAC region was a natural transition for HttPool. The company is already Facebook’s Au- thorized Sales partner in seven markets across Europe, and the HttPool team in APAC is comm- itted to providing a first-rate service to Facebook’s existing and new clients in the region.

“Following the successful expansion of our sales teams in Southeast Asia, we have appoint- ed an Authorized Sales Partner to handle Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos. At Facebook, we rec- ognize this is a prime oppor- tunity to help local agencies and advertisers in these countries to reach greater audiences and to engage in meaningful conver- sations with people, and to help further the potential of local busi- nesses in Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos,” said JordiForries, Director Emerging Markets APAC, Facebook.

“This partnership is further proof of HttPool’s leading posi- tion in the world as a partner of major social media platforms, and our overall success in the APAC region. We are excited to build on our experience from Eu- rope and assist Facebook in in- troducing the latest advertising solutions to Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos, and provide brands and agencies first hand support at the highest execution level,” said Sunny Nagpal, Co-founder & Managing Director of HttPool APAC — GNLM
Major MNL teams to play friendly matches today

MAJOR teams in the Myanmar National League — Shan United and Ayeyawady United — will play friendly matches with other teams today, as part of preparations for the upcoming season of the Myanmar National League.

Shan United, the defending champion of the Myanmar National League, will play against Magwe FC. at 11 a.m. today at the artificial turf of the Thuwunna Stadium, and Ayeyawady United will play against Southern Myanmar FC. at the M3 Stadium at the same time.

Both Shan United and Ayeyawady United are preparing for the next season and have signed on new players with the aim of winning the championship, according to the MNL. Shan United had won the 2018-2019 season of Myanmar National League.

Pogba’s recovery from injury hit by illness, says Solskjaer

LONDON — Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has a fresh Paul Pogba headache, revealing illness has delayed the midfielder’s return from injury ahead of Wednesday’s League Cup quarterfinal against giant-killers Colchester.

The France World Cup winner has been sidelined for most of the season with an ankle injury, playing just six times for United after a summer of speculation following his statement that it could be time for a “new challenge”.

But after the United manager spoke, videos appeared on social media of Pogba dancing and showing few ill effects at his brother Florentin’s wedding.

Pogba, 26, had been due to resume first-team training this week but Solskjaer said: “Of all things he’s struck down ill now.”

“He’s been off for two or three days, three days probably, so that’s not beneficial. That’s probably set him back quite a bit,” the Norwegian boss said, looking ahead to the meeting with fourth-tier Colchester.

“As I’ve said so many times, Paul’s a top, top player that we want to see playing his best football at Man United,” Solksjaer said. — AFP

Zidane says Real Madrid only focused on football amid fears of Clasico unrest

MADRID — Zinedine Zidane has said he is not worried about Wednesday’s Clasico between Real Madrid and Barcelona being overshadowed by Catalan independence protests.

The fixture was originally scheduled for October 26 but had to be postponed and there are renewed fears of unrest at Camp Nou, where Madrid and Barcelona will be playing for first place in La Liga. “I am not worried about anything,” said Zidane in a press conference on Tuesday.

“I am happy we are about to play a Clasico. It was the same when I was a player, these are the matches you live for, and you are focused only on what happens on the field.”

Democratic ‘Tsunami, the protest group in favour of Catalan independence, has called publicly for its supporters to gather at the stadium four hours before kick off at 1900 GMT.

A large-scale safety operation will be deployed around the match involving 3,000 security personnel while both teams have been instructed to travel to the stadium from the same hotel.

“It’s something different but the rules are the rules,” said Zidane. “They said we have to leave together so we’re leaving together.”

Zidane added: “We never thought this game would not go ahead. What we have to do is put all our energy into the match because the rest, we could spend a week talking about it.” — AFP

AIA to co-sponsor Myanmar National League, domestic tourneys

THE AIA Group Limited, known as AIA, the largest public-listed pan-Asian life insurance group, will sponsor the Myanmar National League along with the AYA Financial Group, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The ceremony to announce the AIA and AYA Financial Group sponsorship was held yesterday at the AIA Myanmar office at the Junction City Center in Yangon.

The ceremony was attended by vice chairman of the Myanmar Football Federation and the Myanmar National League committee Dr. Sai Sam Htun. The sponsorship will give AIA Myanmar significant co-branding opportunities in co-sponsoring Myanmar National League-1 and Myanmar National League-2, as well as the MFF Charity Cup, General Aung San Shield, and the Myanmar National Youth League.

The aim of the AIA is to provide the right impetus for the growth and development of Myanmar’s football standards, including upgrading among teams at the grassroots level, according to the football federation.

Also, AIA is an Official Shirt Partner of the Premier League Club Tottenham Hotspur Football Club. Tottenham Hotspur is one of the top-ranked teams in the English Premier League with millions of fans in Asia.— Lynn Thit (Tgi)

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