The National Social Protection Committee held its third meeting at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Vice President U Myint Swe, who is chairman of the committee, delivered a speech at the meeting.

In his speech, the Vice President said this committee was formed with him in lead and twelve other members, assigned 11 duties, in order to facilitate effectiveness in the National Social Protection Strategic Plan and its related activities. He said they have formed working committees, technical support committees, monitoring and evaluating committees and also formed relevant subcommittees as needed.

The Vice President said that this committee’s first meeting was held on 15 June 2018 and the second meeting on 1 March 2019, where 24 decisions were made from both of these meetings. He said nine of them have been completed and fifteen are ongoing. He added that as social protection benefits all citizens the ongoing processes should have a designated time frame and should be completed swiftly.

The Vice President said the Union government has designed and is implementing the National Action Plan for Myanmar Social Protection and the Myanmar Social Protection Sector Mid-Term Project (2018-2023). He said social protection processes first began in the 2017-2018 FY, especially the Social Protection Monetary Support Programme saw the swift expansion of beneficiaries and implementation areas.

The Vice President said monetary assistance has also increased and will increase again in the next few years. He said this is why there is a need to establish a system for ensuring process implementation and administration, monitoring and evaluation, and accepting and resolving complaints.

The Vice President said long-term fund income is important for effective implementation of social protection. He said that looking at the source of the funding programmes, the social pension for senior citizens started in 2017-2018 FY, the Maternal and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) Programme in Rakhine, Kayin and...
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw concludes 14th session

The Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 14th regular session held its final day meeting the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning.

5th amendment bills on Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, State/Region Election Laws

First, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat informed the Hluttaw about Pyidaungsu Hluttaw receiving 5th amendment bills on Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, State/Region Election Laws approved by the two Hluttaws and the two bills being sent to the President to sign. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced further the three bills to be considered as approved and put on record by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Bill to Prevent an Increased Quantity of Import

Next, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee joint secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe tabled a motion to approve clause 7 of a bill to Prevent an Increased Quantity of Import sent with comments by the President and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker obtained the decision of the Hluttaw and approved the bill.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee joint secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe also tabled a motion to approve clause 5 sub-clause (g), clause 6 sub-clause (e), clause 14 and 48 according to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker the comments of Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and Joint Bill Committee and the decision of the Hluttaw and approved the bill.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat after obtaining the comments of Ministry of Commerce, Joint Bill Committee and the decision of the Hluttaw announced the Hluttaw's approval of the bill and announced the Hluttaw’s approval of the bill after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker also announced further of the bill to be handled according to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw law and rules Controversial National Records and Archives Bill between the two Hluttaws.

Similarly, Joint Bill Committee member U Nay Myo Tun proposed the Hluttaw to approve by clause a National Records and Archives Bill disagreed between the two Hluttaws and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw’s approval of the bill after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw.

Furthermore, motions to approve some clauses and sub-clauses were discussed by U Soe Thein (a) U Maung Soe of Taninthayi Region constituency 10 and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker obtained the comments of Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry and Joint Bill Committee, decision for their cooperation throughout the 14th regular session. Hluttaw. As 2020 schedule for Hluttaw regular session were already announced, Hluttaw representatives were expected to prepare necessary works individually and collectively.

In the same way, Hluttaw joint committees were to arrange and prepare to conduct future works according to priority. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker wished for the well being of all Hluttaw representatives and spoke of looking forward to see all again in 2020.

Committee for Supporting Peace and Stability in Rakhine State holds meeting

The Committee for Supporting Peace and Stability in Rakhine State held a meeting for revising its draft report compiled by the committee at the Amyotha Hluttaw Affairs hall 120 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was attended by committee Chairman Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Vice Chairman 1 Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Secretary Deputy Minister for Union Government Office U Tin Myint and Member Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)
Japan Film Festival launches in Nay Pyi Taw

JAPAN Film Festival launched at Aung Thabyay Cinema in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

The movie “Passage of Life” by Director Akio Fujimoto and the third product Japanese-Myanmar collaboration, is show at Aung Thabyay Cinema in Nay Pyi Taw, attracting crowned audience. The movie shows the real life of a Myanmar family in Tokyo around 2010. Two little brothers live a quiet life with their mother in an apartment in Tokyo. The mother has a hard time settling down in Japan and longs for her native Myanmar, while the father keeps looking for ways to survive in Tokyo. The children are more proficient in the Japanese language than their parents, and when the short-lived intimate home life begins to crumble on the boundary between the languages, the family finds itself in an uncertain situation.

At the opening ceremony of the film festival, Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department U Ye Naing, on behalf of the Union Minister for Information, delivered an opening address and Deputy Chief of Mission of Japanese Embassy Mr Maeda Toru also made remarks about the festival.

The Japan Film Festival will be at the cinema today with free entrance fee today. “Samurai Shifters” by Director Inudo Issey will be shown at 1:30 pm. In the movie, Shumosuke Katagiri (Gen Hoshino) is a samurai and a bookworm. He receives a mission to help a daimyo move. With the assistance of Genemon Takamurara (Issey Takahashi) and Oran (Mitsuki Takahata), Shumosuke Katagiri carries out his mission.

Deputy Chief of Mission of Japanese Embassy Mr Maeda Toru. PHOTO: MNA

Japan Film Festival launches in Nay Pyi Taw

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Kayah states and Naga Self-Administered Zone, and the Integrated Self-Help Group (ISHG) are supported from the national fund.

The Vice President said Chin State’s MCCT is funded by the Livelihood and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) for the initial two years and four months. He said the MCCT programmes will be implemented in Shan State and Ayeyawady Region in this financial year and will be co-financed by the Union government and World Bank’s low-interest.

The Vice President said the Union SWRR Ministry receives a relatively low budget and it may be difficult to support the annually expanding social protection programmes and this needs to be put into consideration in preparing budget proposals. He said this is why the SWRR Ministry needs to make necessary discussions with the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry.

The Vice President said that while social protection processes may seem to have high expenses, they are essential to reducing social protection re-percussions, supporting development of human resources, and supplementing basic income. He said these processes have been in play for many years around the world and need to be implemented in Myanmar with the cooperation of all relevant ministries.

Next, Dr Win Myat Aye explained about the social protection processes in progress and his ministry’s Director-General Dr Daw San San Aye explained about the completed implementation of previous meetings’ decisions and the MCCT programmes for Shan State and Ayeyawady Region.

Next, SWRR Director U Kyaw Lin Htin gave a brief about the Social Management Information System, monitoring and evaluation, and electronic cash transfer. This was followed by the deputy ministers and other officials at the meeting participating in discussions about their relevant sectors on social protection.

The meeting produced seven decisions, after which Vice President U Myint Swe responded to the discussions and concluded the meeting with a closing speech.

Present at the meeting were committee vice-chairman (1) Union SWRR Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, committee members and deputy ministers Maj-Gen Aung Thu, U Tin Myint, U Win Maw Tun and U Soe Aung, permanent secretaries, directors-general and department heads. — MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)
C-in-C of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Ha Long Bay in Viet Nam

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who is visiting the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and party cruised in the Ha Long Bay in Cam Pha, Quang Ninh Province, Viet Nam, yesterday morning as part of their visit.

Accompanied by Ambassadors of Myanmar to Viet Nam U Kyaw Soe Win and Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Brig-Gen Aung Zeya and officials, enjoyed the scenic view with the lime stone mountains, caves and islands in the bay, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA

Yangon University’s Myanmar Department reaches 78th year

To celebrate the 78th anniversary of Yangon University’s Myanmar Department, a statue of U Pe Maung Tin, the first Burmese Rector and founder of the department, was erected in front of the department’s Toungoo Dormitory yesterday morning.

Former President U Htin Kyaw first delivered the opening address and Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi then spoke some remarks. Next, U Pe Maung Tin’s daughter Daw Tin Tin Myaing and Maung Khin Min (Danubyu) gave separate speeches.

Afterwards, the four of them cut ceremonial ribbons to unveil U Pe Maung Tin’s statue and observed the Myanmar literature museum within the department.

In honor of the Myanmar Department’s 78th anniversary, Maung Khin Min (Danubyu), Maung Thar Cho, Shwe Dar Lay Yee, Thu Lin Wai, and Moe Sint Thu (Myanmar Literature) gave commemorative speeches and poems. — MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye receives British Ambassador

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye received British Ambassador Mr Daniel Patrick Chugg in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed the postponement of ‘Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict International Conference’ to be held in Britain, coordination for resuming the conference, latest situation in Rakhine State and a British delegation’s observation tour to Myanmar to be done in January. — MNA (Translated by TTN)

Letter of Agreement signed between Shwe Minn Tha Foundation, KODDI

SHWE Minn Tha Foundation (Myanmar) and Korea Disabled People’s Development Institute-KODDI signed the Letter of Agreement for the project “Promoting Employment Opportunities of persons with Disabilities in Coffee and Bakery Industry” yesterday.

The agreement comes thanks to the cooperation of the Work Committee on Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The signing ceremony began with opening addresses by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung, Chairman of KODDI Ma Choi Kyung Suk.

 Afterwards, Chairman of Shwe Minn Tha Foundation (Myanmar) U Myat Thu Win detailed about the job opportunities for the persons with disabilities and signed the Letter of Agreement with KODDI.

Following the ceremony, completion certificates were presented to those who finished Professional Barista and Bakery Training. — MNA (Translated by GNLM)

A signing ceremony between Shwe Minn Tha Foundation (Myanmar) and Korea Disabled People’s Development Institute-KODDI held in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

A signing ceremony between Shwe Minn Tha Foundation (Myanmar) and Korea Disabled People’s Development Institute-KODDI held in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA
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.)

Press Release

The Myanmar Delegation led by the Director-General of the International Organizations and Economics Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs met with displaced persons at Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh

A NINE-MEMBER Myanmar delegation led by U Chan Aye, Director-General of the International Organizations and Economics Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs accompanied by the ASEAN-ERAT Team comprised of six officials from the ASEAN Secretariat and the AHA Centre visited Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh from 18 to 19 December 2019 to meet with displaced persons.

The Myanmar delegation and ASEAN ERAT Team left Dhaka for Cox’s Bazar by air on 18 December 2019 and met with some 50 representatives of displaced persons from various camps at the Office of the extension of Camp No. 4, Cox’s Bazar.

Present at the meeting were U Aung Kyaw Moe, Myanmar Ambassador-designate to the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, Mr. Md. Alauddin Haq, Director, Myanmar Wing, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh and Mr. Mahbub Alam Talukdar, Bangladesh Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner and responsible officials.

The leader of the Myanmar Delegation briefed on the progress of the preparation work for the repatriation and resettlement of the displaced persons with PowerPoint. He also explained them on the matters pertaining to speeding up of citizenship application process in accordance with the laws, the Government’s efforts to address the justice and accountability including security measures to protect all communities in Rakhine State, benefits of holding NVC, implementation of Quick Impact Projects conducted by the UNHCR and UNDP, providing better access to education and health services, and execution of social cohesion among various communities.

The ASEAN-ERAT members also explained on the scope of their mandate to assist the repatriation process. On 19 December 2019, the Myanmar delegation and ASEAN-ERAT Team again went to the Office of extension of Camp No. 4 and met with the displaced persons. The Myanmar delegation again explained the nature of the 1982 Citizenship Law in details, recognition of ethnic groups based on the 1982 Citizenship Law, issuance of the National Registration Cards in Rakhine State and necessity of holding the NVCs for undocumented persons. Myanmar delegation also informed them of the recent adoption of IDP Camps Closure Strategy.

In the afternoon, the Myanmar Delegation separately met with Hindu displaced persons, who are currently residing in Cox’s Bazar’s camps. The Myanmar delegation coordinated with the Bangladeshi authorities for verification of these people and their expeditious repatriation.

In the evening, Myanmar delegation and ASEAN-ERAT Team met with officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh at the State Guest House PADMA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka.

This trip is the follow-up of the visit of the high-level Myanmar delegation led by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Cox’s Bazar in July 2019. The Myanmar delegation led by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had paid two field trips to Cox’s Bazar in October 2018 and July 2019.

Dated, 20 December 2019

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Mandalay Ortho hospital head, former clerk corruption charges

By Nyein Nyein

AN inspection of the city taxi list in Yangon has revealed that more than 2,000 vehicles still need to be de-registered in the region, said U Hla Aung, joint secretary of the YRTA.

The inspection was conducted by the Road Transportation Administration Department (RTAD) in cooperation with Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

City taxi registrations began in 2002 to bring transport services on par with Yangon’s image as a commercial hub, and for regulatory services. Currently, RTAD and YRTA are checking the city taxi numbers to see whether the number of city taxis operating in Yangon Region and the registration list match, said U Hla Aung, joint secretary of the YRTA.

“We have found that 67,788 vehicles registered as city taxis in YRTA as of November, 2019. Some vehicles running in downtown Yangon, must be de-registered,” said U Hla Aung. Moreover, we also found that 398 vehicles are not registered as city taxis, he added.

After checking the city taxi list, we will submit a report to the Yangon Region government. It will be more effective for implementation of the new city taxi transportation system.

The YRTA was formed on 8 July, 2016 by the Yangon Region government in order to ensure smooth transportation in Yangon region. The YRTA is conducting registration and de-registration of city taxis.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Big Bad Wolf book sale to be held in Myanmar in Jan

THE world’s largest book sale, Big Bad Wolf, will be held for the third time in Myanmar at the Fortune Plaza, Thakaya Township, Yangon.

The sale will be held from 10 to 20 January. Over 1 million brand new English books will be on sale at a special discount of 50 per cent to 90 per cent. Folk tales, quizzes, thick books, coloring books, cookbooks, and books on cooperative learning will also be available for kids at the sale. The sale will take place from 9 am to 12 midnight each day.

The director of Ready 2 Read Myanmar U Myo Aung, who is organizing the sale, said: “I decided to hold the book sale in Yangon for the second time because the book sales in Yangon and Mandalay held early this year were very successful. There were 250,000 people who came to the sales in Yangon and Mandalay.”

The sale aims to increase the reading appetite of people and to aid the developing culture of reading in Myanmar, he said.

Some books from the sale will be donated to public and school libraries, along with Save the Library Organization. — Aye Min Thu, Myo Myint Maung

(Translated by Bahtoo)
Large mining enterprises to be allowed to invest in 2020: DICA

By Nyein Nyein

LARGE mining enterprises will be allowed to invest in the country in 2020, said U Thant Sin Lwin, director-general of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

“The big players from the mining sector remain to be granted permission to invest in the last fiscal. When we grant permission to these mining enterprises, the related ministries need to make sure that they are eco-friendly and do not cause much waste,” he said.

“Next year, the mining enterprises will be granted permission to invest in Myanmar. We’ve already said that they must be from the mining sector. Related to this, the ministries concerned are scrutinizing the application process. It has taken more than two months to do so. We have permitted only one giant mining enterprise and it will make large investments involving astronomical figures. So, we are assuming that this sector will develop,” said U Thant Sin Lwin.

“Currently, the government is encouraging investments in the electricity sector. So, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy will grant permission to businesses related to natural gas to generate electricity. Nowadays, investments are flowing regularly into the construction and manufacturing sectors,” he added.

From 1988 to the 2019-2020 fiscal, investments of US$2.374 billion flowed into Myanmar through 16 projects in the mining sector, while over $15 billion was invested through 21 projects in the electricity sector, according to official statistics provided by the DICA.

“If the offshore oil and gas industry is granted permission to invest in Myanmar, more foreign direct investment (FDI) is likely to enter in this fiscal,” said U Thaung Tun, the Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, at the 30th regular meeting between the private sector development committee and entrepreneurs, held on 19 October at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry office.

“The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations is inviting responsible investments as they can bring about national development. Therefore, the Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan (MIPP) has been formulated with the assistance of JICA. In the next 20 years, over US$200 billion in foreign investment is targeted to enter Myanmar under the MIPP,” said U Thaung Tun.

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) has set an FDI target of $5.8 billion for this financial year.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar earns nearly $200 ml from rice, broken rice exports in two months

Myanmar earned nearly US$200 million from export of 690,000 tons of rice and broken rice in two months (from 1 October to 6 December) of this fiscal year, according to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

“Currently, the government is encouraging investments in the electricity sector. So, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy will grant permission to businesses related to natural gas to generate electricity. Nowadays, investments are flowing regularly into the construction and manufacturing sectors,” he added.

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(Translated by Hay Mar)

Border trade up $605 mln in current FY

THE value of border trade reached US$2.26 billion from 1 October to 13 December, an increase of over $615 million from $1.66 billion registered in the same period of the previous fiscal year, according to figures provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

The total border trade, as of 13 December in the current fiscal year, included $1.62 billion in exports and $643 million in imports. Compared with the previous FY, the export earnings were up by more than $516 million, while the import value increased by $88 million.

During the period, border trade at the Muse checkpoint amounted to $1.21 billion, up over $444 million compared with the same period in the previous fiscal.


Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products, animal products, as well as forest products, minerals, fishery products, and manufactured goods, among other things, while it imports capital goods, raw industrial materials, and consumer products. —GNLM

(Translated by Hay Mar)
Democratic spirit

R EALIZING that development is one aim on for achieving eternal peace, the incumbent government has adopted the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, which envisages peace and development that are all-inclusive.

To attract more of this kind of investment, however, Myanmar needs better designed taxes. Myanmar needs a standardized rule-based approach to taxing mining companies.

By Ko Ko Lwin, David Manley & Sebastian Saha

The resolution to the country’s long-running armed conflicts is a federal system that is acceptable to all. Our goal is, therefore, to give priority and work for transformation of the constitutional rule and the contracts it governs with companies. This will allow others to scrutinize the model contract and the contracts it governs with companies. It is critical that the rules are followed consistently when mining contracts are negotiated. To ensure this, regardless of who is in charge, MoNREC should disclose both the model contract and the contracts it governs with companies. This will allow others to scrutinize the contracts and spot any deviations to ensure Myanmar has received a good deal in each negotiation.

A good model contract needs to be balanced: terms should be attractive to investors and generate enough revenue for the government. To attract more of this kind of investment, however, Myanmar needs better designed taxes. Myanmar needs a standardized rule-based approach to taxing mining companies. MoNREC recognizes this and has started writing new tax laws and plans to include them in a model contract for large-scale mines, which is a common practice in other countries. This would be the template which all deals with mining companies will follow and as a clear statement of how the national companies can expect to be treated.

To work well, the model contract should have clear tax terms that are aligned with international practices and applied consistently to all investors.

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CBM to issue one thousand kyats note with Bogyoke Aung San picturesque on 4th Jan, 2020

The Central Bank of Myanmar announced yesterday that it will issue one thousand kyats currency note on 4th January, 2020.

With the picturesque of Bogyoke Aung San, the banknote is 156 mm long and 70 mm wide. The prominent colour of the one thousand kyats currency note is blue, at the upper part of the note, the “CENTRAL BANK OF MYANMAR” is printed. On the front page of the banknote, the picturesque of Bogyoke Aung San is printed and the value of the note “1000 Kyats in Myanmar language” is inserted on the right side of the note. K 1000 is also printed in the remaining three corners of the note.

The value of the note in Myanmar is inserted in length and the value of the note in English is inserted in height. The note bears the watermark image of Bogyoke Aung San is inserted on its left side. The security string is inserted from top to bottom.

ACC delegation attends 8th session of Conference of states parties to UNCAC

The Myanmar delegation led by Anti-Corruption Commission Secretary U San Win attended the Eighth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption held at Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 16 to 20 December. The conference was attended by delegations from 156 signatories to UNCAC, civil societies and partner organizations.

At the conference, Secretary U San Win discussed development for legal framework for anti-corruption in Myanmar; ACC’s activities of prevention, awareness activities and investigations, drafting for whistle-blower protection bill, pursuant to UNCAC and cooperation in international arena.

The Myanmar delegation exchanged views on UNCAC signatories’ activities for anti-corruption, opinion, conduct and experiences. — MNA

Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (43/2019) concludes

THE Graduation Ceremony of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (43/2019), conducted by the Strategic Studies and Training Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was held at Wunzinminzar Hall of the Ministry at 10:00 am yesterday, with a closing address delivered by U Aung Myo Myint, Director-General of Strategic Studies and Training Department.

Present on the occasion were retired Myanmar Ambassadors, Directors-General and responsible officials of the departments under the Ministry, senior diplomats, professors and lecturers as well as trainees. On this occasion, retired Ambassadors, Directors-General and lecturers presented the certificates to trainees. The 12-week long course was attended by (200) trainees. The course comprised the subjects related to diplomacy, negotiation skills, international relations, international law, international conferencing, contemporary international affairs, economics, etc., and also the simulation exercises for some subjects.

Since 2000, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has conducted Basic Diplomatic Skills Courses for the public who are interested in diplomacy and international affairs. At present, there are 7,500 trainees graduated from the training programme.—MNA

Co-operative University, Thanlyin holds OBE Workshop for faculty members

As part of implementing quality assurance in education, Co-operative University, Thanlyin conducted four-days workshop on Outcome-based Education from 17th to 20th December, 2019. The workshop was conducted in co-operation with AUN-QA.

The workshop is designed with the objective of equipping participants with the competencies to design, develop, implement and evaluate curriculum based on OBE Framework. The workshop focused on the topics such as PDCA approach to curriculum design, development, implementation, and evaluation, selecting appropriate strategies to engage stakeholders in curriculum design, the principles of constructive alignment, writing learning outcomes using revised Bloom’s Taxonomy, instructional and assessment method, designing marking scheme and rubrics to achieve learning outcomes, evaluating OBE programme for quality enhancement, and applying change management in implementing OBE.

Mr. Nguyen Thi My Ngoc, Lecturer, Accreditor in Viet Nam and AUN-QA Assessor facilitated the workshop to achieve its major objective. Totally 36 participants from Co-operative Universities and Colleges, Myanmar Maritime University, East Yangon University, Dagon University, and Lacquerware Technology College, were participated in this workshop.—MNA
China’s outbound investment falls 1.2 pct in first 11 months

BEIJING — China’s non-financial outbound direct investment (ODI) dropped 1.2 per cent year-on-year in the first 11 months of the year, official data showed Thursday.

Non-financial ODI in 166 countries and regions amounted to $60.31 billion yuan (about 98.76 billion US dollars) in the period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Chinese companies enhanced cooperation with countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative during the first 11 months, adding a total of $12.78 billion US dollars of new investment in 56 B&R countries, accounting for 12.9 per cent of the total ODI.

The structure of ODI continued to improve, with investment mainly going into sectors including leasing and business services, manufacturing, wholesale and retail, according to the ministry.

S Korea’s producer price falls on low chip price

SEOUL — Price for goods and services, traded among South Korean suppliers, fell last month amid a low semiconductor price, central bank data showed Friday.

The producer price index (PPI) shed 0.1 per cent in November from a month earlier, keeping a downward trend for the second consecutive month, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK).

It came amid the continued downturn of the global chip industry that led to lower semiconductor price.

Price for computer, electronic and optical devices declined 1.0 per cent in November from a month ago, continuing to slide for the third straight month.

Chemical product price dipped 0.5 per cent in the month, but prices for coal and oil product advanced 0.6 per cent.

Price for agricultural, livestock and fishery products gained 0.9 per cent last month on expensive fishery and livestock products.

Price for electricity, tap water and natural gas went down 0.2 per cent, while services price was unchanged.

From a year earlier, the PPI lost 0.1 per cent in November, maintaining a downward trend for the fifth straight month. —Xinhua

France Telecom bosses face verdict over wave of suicides

PARIS — A French court will rule on Friday whether the former CEO of France Telecom and other executives carried out “institutional harassment” that sparked a spate of suicides at the company.

Between 2008 to 2009, 35 employees of the former state-owned telecom giant, now called Orange, took their own lives as managers embarked on a vast restructuring plan that included cutting 22,000 jobs.

The episode became a rallying cry for critics demanding action against “moral harassment” by bosses focusing ruthlessly on the bottom line at the expense of employees’ well-being.

Prosecutors sought a one-year prison term for former chief Didier Lombard and the maximum fine of 15,000 euros ($16,700) during a trial that wrapped up in July. France Telecom itself was charged with “institutional harassment” and faces a fine of up to 75,000 euros.

The episode was wrapped up in July. France Telecom bosses face fine of up to 75,000 euros and a one-year jail term.

A fourth overseas Solaria Nishitetsu Hotel is scheduled to open in Taipei in the summer of 2023. —Kyodo News

Didier Lombard, the former chief executive of France Telecom, during his trial in Paris in July 2019 over a wave of suicides at the company. PHOTO: AFP

Nishi-Nippon Railroad to open 1st SE Asia hotel in Bangkok

HANOI — Nishi-Nippon Railroad Co., a widely diversified railway operator also involved in retail and property development, will open a 27-story hotel in Bangkok next May.

The Solaria Nishitetsu Hotel Bangkok in the Thai capital’s busy Sukhumvit district will feature 263 guest rooms and a rooftop pool and bar, the firm said in a statement released Wednesday.

The Fukuoka-based firm said NNR Hotels International (Thailand) Co., a subsidiary of the railway operator, will start accepting reservations on 24 January ahead of the hotel’s 30 May opening.

The hotel is the first opened by the firm in Southeast Asia and the third overseas after it opened two in South Korea, one in Seoul and the other in Busan.

A fourth overseas Solaria Nishitetsu Hotel is scheduled to open in Taipei in the summer of 2023. —Kyodo News

Exports being loaded at the GoSeong-gun port in South Korea. PHOTO: AFP

PHOTO: AFP
Croatia to pick a president in tight three-way race

ZAGREB — A nationalist folk singer and a leftist former premier are challenging Croatia’s conservative president in a Sunday election that could loosen her campaign hold on the EU’s newest member.

The Adriatic nation, which is set to host the EU’s rotating presidency in 2020, is a magnet for tourists but no paradise for locals, who are leaving in droves to escape a sluggish economy and widespread corruption.

While the presidency is a largely ceremonial post, incumbent Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic is a symbol of the status quo.

In office since 2015, the 51-year-old is backed by the centre-right HDZ who have dominated politics almost continuously since Croatia’s 1991 independence.

Over 1,000 women take feminist anthem to Chile’s streets

SANTIAGO — More than a thousand women have taken the feminist anthem “A Rapist In Your Way” to the streets of Chile’s capital Santiago, performing the rallying cry sung in cities across the globe.

Created by Chilean feminist collective Las Tesis and first performed last month, the song slams violence against women and is accompanied by dance moves.

Those taking part often wear a black blindfold and a handkerchief tied around the neck.

“I am not the guilty one, not because of where I’m from or how I’m dressed,” goes part of the chant. “The rapist is you!” The women shout, flinging their arms forward to point at people in the crowd.

Now she is facing attacks from both sides in an election likely to be settled in a run-off on 5 January.

By then, Croatia will be host to the EU presidency for a six-month term expected to focus on new and old members, with the UK preparing for Brexit and Western Balkan states knocking at the door.

‘Cakes in prison’

Grabar-Kitarovic, Croatia’s first female president, began her campaign with a comfortable lead in the polls.

But she lost ground after a series of gaffes, with one notable, the president raised eyebrows in November after she sang at the birthday party of Zagreb’s scandal-hit mayor Milan Bandic and said she would “bring (him) cakes... in prison” if he is convicted of a slew of corruption charges.

An apparent effort to win back voters after a series of gaffes, the comments did little to inspire voters fed up with endemic graft.

The latest poll put Grabar-Kitarovic from Promocija Plus agency put her at 28 per cent, with Social Democrat prime minister Zoran Milanovic on her heels just two points behind.—AFP

Abe, Rouhani discuss US-Iran nuclear deal standoff

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held talks with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Friday to discuss the ongoing standoff between Tehran and Washington over the fate of a contentious 2015 nuclear deal.

Rouhani became the first Iranian leader to visit Japan since 2000 when he landed in Tokyo, his overnight stay seen as an effort to break the impasse over the nuclear accord that so riled US President Donald Trump and led to the launch of what he called a “maximum pressure” campaign.

“The nuclear deal is an extremely important agreement for Iran. That’s why we strongly condemn the United States’ one-sided and irrational withdrawal,” Rouhani said in the meeting with Abe at his office in Tokyo, part of which was open to the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (l) and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani shake hands ahead of their talks in New York on 24 September, 2019.

“We hope that Japan and other countries in the world will make efforts toward maintaining the accord,” Rouhani said.

Abe told Rouhani that Japan hopes to help reduce tensions in the Middle East, a critical region for the resource-poor country.

But he also urged Iran to play a “constructive” role in bringing peace and stability and to fully abide by the nuclear deal.

Iran is struggling under US oil and other US sanctions that have crippled the economy, with increased gasoline prices sparking widespread protests and adding to the country’s woes.

Experts say Tehran is hoping Japan will resume importing Iranian crude oil to strengthen economic ties. The last Iranian president to visit Japan was Mohammad Khatami in October 2000.

During the meeting with Rouhani, Abe is expected to express concern about Iranian moves since May to undermine the 2015 nuclear accord between Tehran and other world powers, Japanese officials said.—Kyodo News

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MV UNI ARISE VOY.NO. (0189-596N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UNI ARISE VOY. NO. (0189-596N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS EVERGREEN MARINE (S’PORE) PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301185

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACITA VOY. NO. (057W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT 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: MS NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HAPPY VENTURE

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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: MS NEW HIGHEST SHIPPING PTE LIMITED

Phone No: 2301928
Britain’s new parliament votes on Johnson’s Brexit deal

LONDON — Prime Minister Boris Johnson urged Britain’s newly-elected parliament to bury years of wrangling over Brexit by voting Friday for his EU divorce deal.

The lower House of Commons is all but certain to give its initial approval to the agreement, paving the way for John- son to deliver on his winning general election pledge to “get Brexit done” by 31 January.

But it will also push London and Brussels closer to another cliff edge on unfettered trade when the transition period shuts at the end of 2020.

A snap election last week gave Johnson’s pro-Brexit Conserva tives a thumping majority in parliament, largely at the expense of the main opposition Labour party led by the Brex it-neutral Jeremy Corbyn.

It dispelled doubts over whether Britain would indeed become the first nation to leave the European Union, following the 2016 referendum vote to quit the bloc.

“Now is the time to act to gether as one reinvigorated na
tion, one United Kingdom, filled with renewed confidence in our national destiny and determined at last to take advantage of the opportunities that now lie before us,” Johnson told MPs.

“It will be done. It will be over. The sorry story of the last three and a half years will be at an end and we will be able to move forward.” — AFP

Turkey intercepts 59,712 illegal migrants in 2019

ISTANBUL — The Turkish coast guard has caught a total of 59,712 illegal migrants trying to reach Europe via Turkey this year, the force reported on Friday.

The Aegean Sea remains the main route for illegal migrants, as 59,455 of them attempted to sneak into Greece with inflatable boats, according to figures released on the force’s website. The others either tried to cross the Evros River separating Turkey and Greece, or attempted to go to Bulgaria through the Black Sea.

Last year, the number of illeg al migrants who tried to get to Europe from Turkey was 17,093. But 26,161 migrants were turned back to their home countries of origin by the Turkish coast guard this year.

Of those who made direct attempts to reach Europe by sea, 30,420 were caught by the Turkish coast guard, while 11,815 others were prevented from boarding boats, the force said.

The Aegean Sea is the main route for migrants from Turkey to Europe, with the number of people making the crossing climbing in recent years.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 125,000 migrants were intercepted at sea in the first half of 2019. Turkey is a key entry point for migrants trying to make their way into Europe. The visaEase project, which aims to make it easier for migrants to travel to Europe, has seen an increase in demand.

In 2019, the number of people who made direct attempts to reach Europe by sea was 30,420. The Turkish coast guard also caught 26,161 migrants who tried to reach Europe from Turkey last year.

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BAGAN region, a significant destination for local and foreign travellers, located on the bank of Ayeyawady River in Nyaung-U Township, Mandalay Region, is 13 kilometres in length and six kilometres in width.

The data of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum showed there were 2,217 temples and stupas in Bagan. With assistance of the UNESCO, French architectural expert Pierre Pichard counted 2,839 ancient temples and stupas in Bagan during the period from 1982 to 1991. After a powerful earthquake shook Bagan on 24 August 2016, as data on ancient pagodas, temples, stupas and ancient buildings in Bagan were collected, it proved there were 3,122 ancient edifices including mounds rebuilt in 1997-98 and unexcavated ones.

According to the statistics, there were 1,745 pagodas and temples, 431 brick buildings, 54 tunnels and ordination halls and 892 brick mounds in Bagan.

One- to four-storey cave pagodas, tunnels, one-storey temples, Pitakat chambers and ordinations, the buildings with cave and tunnel can be identified as Temples and those without cave and tunnel, as Stupas.

**Stupas and temples in early Bagan era**

New styles of stupas and temples in early Bagan era were slightly changed their forms from designs of stupas and temples in Sri Keatra era such as Bawbawgyi, Phayama and Phayagyi. Ngakywe Nataung Stupa in Bagan was similar to Bawbawgyi Stupa in Sri Keatra era.

Bawbawgyi Stupa was lack of the banana bud, inverted lotus flower, spreading lotus flower, high relief in circular decorative band and inverted bowl similar to current pagodas. Moreover, the pagoda was not hoisted the holly umbrella. Ngakywe Nataung Stupa, No. 1603 edifice in Bagan ancient region, was built with the use of glazed bricks. Some experts assumed Ngakywe Nataung Stupa was built in 11th century AD.

Likewise, four pagodas in series located near the police station in new Bagan town are similar to the pagodas with the works of Pyu. But, the former were decorated with flower-shaped diamonds on the terrace and concrete lotus flowers at the foot of the structure but these were not designed as the forms of pagodas in Pyu era.

Bu Pagoda, built in early Bagan era, fell into Ayeyawady River due to impacts of the earthquake which hit in 1975. The original Bu Pagoda was built on a terrace and the body of the pagoda was decorated with spindle-shaped pieces.

In excavating the foundation of Bu Pagoda to be rebuilt because of its damage in earthquake, Avalokitesuara statues of Bodisattha in Mahayana Buddhism and votive tablets with stretching hand postures were found in 16 feet deep underground area. Votive tablets and statues of spirits were of works in Pyu era.

The pagodas in Bagan built before 11th century AD were constructed as inverted bowl shapes on the terrace based on the circular foundation. These pagodas were simple with few decorations.

**Pagodas in Bagan in 11th century AD**

It was assumed that Lawkananda Pagoda, the third sacred tooth relic pagoda by King Anawrahta, was built in interim period between Pyu and Myanmar eras. It took samples in Myanmar handcrafts of Bawbawgyi Pagoda in Sri Kestra. It bore circular decorative bands with high relief. The foundation of the pagoda was in octagonal shape. Its structure was bell shaped one with circular decorative bands at its centre together with inverted and spreading lotus flowers and spindle-shaped pieces in harmony.

The architectural work of Shwezigon Pagoda built in mid-11th century AD was the best. The square shaped foundation of Shwezigon Pa-
Pagodas in Bagan in 12th and 13th centuries AD

Hsapada, Seinnyet Nyi-ama, Dhammarazika and Sint pagodas were well-known as significant pagodas constructed in 12th and 13th centuries. These pagodas bore architectural style of Sri Lanka. The inverted bowl shaped or bell shaped structure of the pagodas were built on the terrace. The relief chamber called Hami and the apex of architectural works were placed on the bell shaped one.

Five-dimension Dhammarazika Pagoda built by King Narapatisithu of Bagan was placed on the pentagonal foundation. Each dimension was facilitated with a ladder and a bronze chamber. Its circular decorative bands were slightly similar to Shwezigon Pagoda of 11th century AD.

Seinnyet Nyi-ama was one temple and another, stupa, were formed as the bell shaped structure, Hamika and circular decorative bands on triple terrace. The basic structures were formed on triple terraces with Sri Lankan style encircled pagodas at the corners.

Sint Pagoda, west of Alodawpyae Pagoda, has the structure built of glazed bricks similar to Ngakywe Nataung Stupa. Each dimension of the pagoda was facilitated with a ladder which can reach the third terrace.

Slightly high terraces were placed under the pagodas in Bagan in 12th century AD with different styles of those from Sri Lanka. The majority of pagodas in Bagan were built in 13th century AD. Among them, some experts assumed Soemindy Pagoda in 12th century in southern part of Myinkapa Village would be preliminary architectural works of Bagan’s pagodas in 13th century AD. The pagodas in 13th century were higher than those in 12th century. Mingala Pagoda took sample structures of Shwezigon Pagoda.

Temples in Bagan

Bagan has plentiful of temples, and preliminary architectural works of temples in Bagan were based on that of Bebe, Yahanta and Ashayay temples in Sri Kestra.

Temples in Bagan in 11th century AD were Ananda, Pahtothanyar, Apei Yadana, Nagayon, Myinkappa and et Nyi-ama Temple was more than three feet high formed with four arch entrances. Some assumed such temple was built by Queen Seinnyet in 12th century AD. Considering the architectural works, experts assessed the temple was of works in 13th century AD, according to the book with the title of historical Bagan temples and stupas. The temple had a pivot at its centre, rounded by the corridor. The structure was formed with arabesque floral works in convex arches and prayer arches. Seinnyet Temple was based on triple terrace.

Sri Lankan style small pagodas were allotted on four corners of triple terrace at the betel vine shaped one-storey Seinnyet Temple. Exterior of the temple was decorated with concrete works in ornamental motif in stucco depicting ogres.

The temples built in 11th century AD, Ananda Temple was decorated with the best architectural works dubbed as the best detailed handicrafts. The two-storey temples built in the 12th century AD were Thabyinnyu, Dhammarazika, Tunyagyi and Chakrabatikpa, Seinnyet Nyi-ama temple had least lighting and ventilation inside the temples. The main buildings were formed as Gandakuti chambers without pivots. In 13th century AD, the temples were built as three-storey facilities.

In the 13th century AD, four-faced and five-faced temples and Wetygii-inn Gupyaung Temple become two-storey structures taking sample from Maha Bawdi Pagoda in Bodh Gaya of India.

Thousands of temples and stupas in Myanmar are different from architectural works except basic constructional systems in successive eras. These diverse temples and stupas in Bagan are famous as cultural heritages of Myanmar.

Reference:

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Translated by Than Tun Aung
Sport

21 December 2019

The national government will bear the cost of the new national stadium. The budget does not yet include extra costs including countermeasures against heat.

In addition, every team is better prepared for their position and every match will be a good one. Tickets are free of charge for the MFF Myanmar Futsal League 2019-2020 Tournament.

Tokyo 2020 Olympics unveil final budget of $12.6 billion

TOKYO — The Tokyo 2020 Olympics are expected to cost some 1.35 trillion yen ($12.6 billion), organisers said Friday, unveiling a final budget showing increased revenue balancing out extra costs including countermeasures against heat.

However, officials admitted the budget does not yet include an estimated three billion yen for moving the marathon and race walk north to Sapporo, as they wrangle with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) over who bears the cost.

Revenues from domestic sponsorship and robust ticket sales have increased income by 30 billion yen, according to the fourth and final version of the Olympic budget.

This equals out a rise in forecast expenditure for items such as transport and security – as well as the heat-busting measures.

The overall 1.35-trillion-yen budget for the Games is unchanged since the last version of the budget unveiled last year.

There is also a 27-billion-yen “contingency” pot to deal with possible emergencies such as natural disasters.

Organisers are still negotiating with the IOC over the cost of moving the marathon to the northern city of Sapporo due to the expected heat in the Tokyo summer.

“This is an unprecedented matter so there are no procedures,” explained Gakuji Ito, executive director for planning and finance at Tokyo 2020.

“We will go into it line-by-line and we will interact with the IOC on a daily basis,” he told reporters.

The IOC, wary that the ballooning cost of hosting the Games is putting some cities off, has urged Tokyo to make even more cuts. —AFP

Leicester carry title fight to Liverpool

MANCHESTER — Leicesters may never again scale the heights of shocking the world to win the Premier League four seasons ago, but the Foxes are upping the odds once more as the closest challengers to Liverpool at the top of the table.

Brendan Rodgers’s men travel to Manchester City on Saturday four points ahead of the champions as the side in need of the victory to keep the title race alive.

Liverpool’s absence from league duty this weekend to compete in the Club World Cup gives Leicester the chance to cut the gap at the top to seven points.

Win their next two games and Liverpool’s advantage will be down to four points as the European champions then visit the King Power on their return from Qatar on Boxing Day.

Back-to-back wins against a side that has lost just once in their last six domestic trophies in England and a Liverpool team that has lost just once in their last 56 league games is a massive ask.

But the fact Leicester now believe it is possible is testament to how far the club have come since Rodgers took charge in February.

When the Northern Irishman returned to the Premier League after two-and-a-half successful seasons at Celtic, Leicester were languishing in 12th.

Ten months on, they are well on course for a return to the Champions League next season.

Leicester have a 13-point cushion over fifth-placed Totten-
ham as they look to become the first club outside Liverpool, City, Tottenham, Chelsea, Manchester United and Arsenal to finish in the top four since they last did it as champions in 2015-16.

Silverware could also be just over two months away as Rodgers’s men booked their place in the semi-finals of the League Cup on Wednesday.

“Everyone wants to win trophies of course. We have to fight, we are not entitled to win,” said Rodgers.

“We just have to fight and work very hard at our game, and if we can do it great, but as long as we can make progress and develop, then that will be great.” —AFP

PHOTO: AFP

The national government will bear the cost of the new national stadium. PHOTO: AFP

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PHOTO: AFP

Leicester’s Jamie Vardy is the Premier League’s top scorer with 16 goals.