

NATIONAL

CBM to issue one thousand kyats note with Bogyoke Aung San picturesque on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan

PAGE-10

NATIONAL

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Ha Long Bay in Viet Nam

PAGE-4

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Saturday, 21 December 2019

## National Social Protection Committee produces seven decisions at third meeting

**T**HE 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

SEE PAGE-3



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the speech at the third meeting of National Social Protection Committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Myanmar minister attends cross-border transport meeting for Greater Mekong Subregion

PAGE-3



NATIONAL

Yangon University's Myanmar Department reaches 78<sup>th</sup> year

PAGE-4



NATIONAL

Myanmar delegation led by Director-General of International Organizations and Economics Dept of MOFA meets with displaced persons at Cox's Bazar

PAGE-5



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

# Pyidaungsu Hluttaw concludes 14<sup>th</sup> session

THE Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 14<sup>th</sup> regular session held its final day meeting the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning.

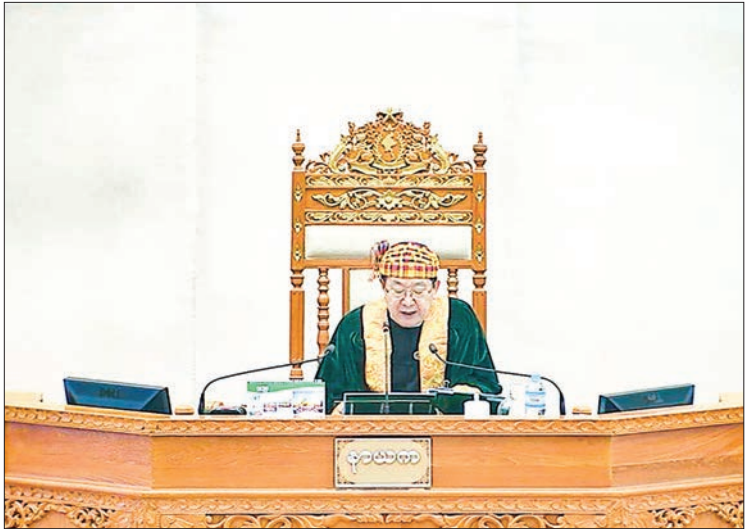
**5<sup>th</sup> amendment bills on Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, State/Region Election Laws**

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 the comment and remark of the President. The motion was discussed by U Soe Thein (a) U Maung Soe of



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

Taninthayi Region constituency 10 and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker obtained the comments of Ministry of Commerce and Joint Bill Committee and then the decision of the Hluttaw and announced the Hluttaw's approval.

Following this, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced further on sending the bill to Prevent an Increased Quantity of Import to the President.

**Controversial Rural Development Bill between the two Hluttaws**

Joint Bill Committee member U Zaw Win then proposed the Hluttaw to approve by clause the Rural Development Bill disagreed by the two Hluttaws. Hluttaw representatives discussed the matter and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's approval of the bill after obtaining the comments of Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and Joint Bill Committee



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee joint secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe. PHOTO: MNA

and 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.



MP U Soe Thein (a) U Maung Soe. PHOTO: MNA



MP U Nay Myo Tun. PHOTO: MNA

of the Hluttaw and announced the Hluttaw's approval of the bill.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker also announced further of the bill to be handled according to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw law and rules.

**Conclusion remark**

In his conclusion remark, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat first thanked the Hluttaw representatives

After his concluding remark, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the successful completion of 15<sup>th</sup>-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 14<sup>th</sup> regular session as well as the successful conclusion of the 14<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

(Translated by Zaw Min)

## 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 I20 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 TTN)

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung attends the meeting of the Committee for Supporting Peace and Stability in Rakhine State in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA





# National Social Protection Committee produces seven...

FROM PAGE-1

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 loan.

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 pro-

cesses may seem to have high expenses, they are essential to reducing social protection repercussions, 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 briefing 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)

## Myanmar minister attends cross border transport meeting for Greater Mekong Subregion

THE Joint Committee for the Greater Mekong Subregion Cross Border Transport Agreement held a meeting at Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 18 December, and attended by Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung.

The Union Minister discussed the cargoless trial on 30 October, 2019, in accord with the MoU on cross-border transport between Myanmar and Thailand, cross-border transport started on 1 November; issuance of permits for cross-border transportation, the status of Myawady-Kawka-reik-Zarthapyin-Malawmyine

and Myawady-Kawka-reik-Eindu-Hpa-an-Thaton-Bago-Thilawa roads permitted for cross-border entry, construction of new bridges and explained the necessities of processes. The Union Minister also discussed implementation of cross-border transport with China and Laos through MoUs, which have been produced in draft forms, and future plans.

Similarly, the Union Minister attended a gala dinner hosted by the Cambodian Ministry of Public Works and Transport on 17 December. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung poses for a photo with Ministers from other countries at the Joint Committee for the Greater Mekong Subregion Cross Border Transport Agreement in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 18 December. PHOTO: MNA

## 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 crowded 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 Ishin will be shown at 1:30 pm. In the movie, Shunnosuke Katagiri (Gen Hoshino) is a samurai and a bookworm. He receives a mission to help a daimyo move. With the assistance of Genemon Takamu-



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

ra (Issey Takahashi) and Oran (Mitsuki Takahata), Shunnosuke Katagiri carries out his mission.

At 4:30 pm, "Masquerade Hotel" by Director Suzuki Masayuki

will be shown. The plot synopsis is: three murder cases take place in Tokyo. Numbers are left at the murder scenes, possibly hinting at where the next murder will

take place. An investigation begins of the serial killer and Detective Kosuke Nitta (Takuya Kimura) works on the case. He believes the next murder will take place at Hotel Koruteshia Tokyo. To catch the killer, Kosuke Nitta goes undercover and begins working at the front desk of the hotel.

Japan Film Festival is held annually in Myanmar since 2013. Eleven films will be shown in this festival, and three movies will be shown at Nay Pyi Taw Aung Thabyay Cinema on 20 and 21 December, 10 movies at Nay Pyi Taw, JCGV (Junction City) and Mingalar (Tamwe) cinemas in Yangon on 10 and 19 January, 2020, and six films at Win Laik Cinema in Mandalay from 31<sup>st</sup> January to 2 February. — Han Lynn Aung (FDC)



# 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 Ambassa-

dor 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



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and officials visit the Ha Long Bay in Cam Pha, Quang Ninh Province, Viet Nam, yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

# Yangon University's Myanmar Department reaches 78<sup>th</sup> 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 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Maung Khin Min (Danubyu), Maung Thar Cho, Shwe Dar



Former President U Htin Kyaw, Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi cut ribbon to open a statue of U Pe Maung Tin at Yangon University in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

Maung Lay Yee, Thu Lin Wai, 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 at his ministry 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 Ms 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**

Trade Mark Ads Call

Thin Thin May, 09251022355,09974424848



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 Vuian, 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.



The Myanmar Delegation, accompanied by ASEAN-ERAT members, brief the displaced persons on the Government’s efforts on repatriation process at the extension of Camp No 4 in Cox’s Bazar. PHOTO: MNA

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 delega-

tion 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 displaced Hindu communities, 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. The leader of the Myanmar delegation briefed them on the outcome of discussions with Muslims and Hindu displaced persons. They informally exchanged views on challenges faced in the repatriation process.

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.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Nay Pyi Taw  
Dated, 20 December 2019



The Myanmar Delegation briefs the displaced persons of Hindu Faith on Government’s efforts on repatriation process at the extension of Camp No 4 in Cox’s Bazar. PHOTO: MNA



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Mandalay Ortho hospital head, former clerk corruption charges

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has opened cases against the Medical Superintendent of Mandalay Orthopedic Hospital, Dr Kyi Lwin, and former Branch Clerk U Aung Kyaw Oo (currently staff officer (administration) of Mandalay Region's Department of Medical Services) for abusing their positions for personal gain.  
After extensive investigations, the ACC has discovered that Dr Kyi Lwin demanded

K3 million each from two businesspersons in return for guaranteeing the rights to the hospital's parking fees collection tender auction for 2017-2018 financial year and 2018-2019 FY.  
Furthermore, Dr Kyi Lwin was also found to have demanded K4 million from two other businesspersons for the same tender rights for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. The ACC found the doctor to have

obtained a total of K14 million by these illicit means and has filed charges under Section 56 of the Anti-Corruption Law against him.  
Regarding U Aung Kyaw Oo, the ACC discovered that he demanded K200,000 in return for tender rights to collect bicycle/motorcycle parking fees in Mandalay Orthopedic Hospital for 2017-2019 FY. He is also found to have demanded K300,000 as 'respecting fees'

for the tender selection committee, and a camera and laptop worth K700,000 combined from the tender winner. The ACC has filed charges under Section 57 of The Anti-Corruption Law against him.  
Both suspects' cases have been submitted to Police Station 11 of Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region, by the Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday. —MNA  
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Inspection shows over 2,000 taxis still need to be de-registered: YRTA

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 regulating taxi 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.

"There were 67,788 vehicles registered as city taxis in YRTA as of November, 2019. Now, we are checking together with RTAD. But, we have



Taxis running in downtown Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

found only 66,011 vehicles registered as city taxis with RTAD. So, we are checking the vehicles with their car numbers and the type of vehicles. There are two types of city taxis — the double alphabet (AA or BB) and single alphabet and number. We found that 2,175 vehicles, including 473 double alphabet vehicles and 1,702

single alphabet and number vehicles, 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, Thakayta 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, comics, 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.



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

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



Underground mining workers work in a tunnel. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

“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 \$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 mln from rice, broken rice exports in two months



Workers carrying sacks of rice at the Botahtaung Jetty in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

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, said an official from the Ministry of Commerce.

“Myanmar exported 690,000 tons of rice and broken rice, an increase of around 330,000 tons compared to the same period of last year. Last year, only 360,000 tons of rice and broken rice were exported. Myanmar earned \$199

million this year, up over \$80 million from export of rice and broken rice. Last year, Myanmar earned \$116 million from rice and broken rice exports,” said an official.

In the 2018-2019FY, Myanmar earned \$709.693 million from exports of 2.355 million tons of rice and broken rice, according to the MRF.

In the 2017-2018FY, Myanmar’s rice and broken rice exports hit a record high in nearly 50 years of almost 3.6 million tons.

The main challenges in the rice industry are scarcity of pedigree seeds, high input costs, high production costs, lack of proper technology, high transaction costs, and logistics problems, said an expert.

Rice is the chief export item among the country’s agricultural products exported. Seventy five per cent of the production is for domestic consumption while the remaining is exported. —Aye Cho (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 financial year, according to figures provided by the Ministry of Commerce.

The total border trade, as of 13 December in the current FY, 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 shares a border with Bangladesh, China, India, and Thailand. Myanmar has 17 border trade centers: Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw, Kanpikete, Kengtung, Techilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Nabule/Htikhi, Mawtaung, Maese, Sittwe, Maungdaw, Tamu, Reik, Htantalan, and Kenglap.

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)

Trade Mark Ads

Call Thín Thín May,

09251022355, 09974424848



# Democratic spirit

**R**EALIZING that development is sine qua non for achieving eternal peace, the incumbent government has adopted the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, which envisages peace and development that are all-inclusive. The success of the MSDP, with its three pillars and five goals, relies on sufficient electrification and smooth transportation.

But, at the same time, we need to understand that achieving eternal peace, which can quench the fires of more than seven decades of armed conflicts, is more important than electrification.

To ensure peace, stability, and development in Rakhine State, the Union Government formed the Central Committee for the Implementation of Peace and Development in Rakhine State, with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as its chairperson, two months after coming to power in 2016.

Benefits notwithstanding, only a region which has peace and stability can attract local and foreign investors. So, we must all keep in mind how important regional stability is for investment and development.

“Use of force and weapons is not bravery. Real bravery is the zeal and perseverance employed to reach your objectives, without resorting to violence.”

Faulty policies and weak management across successive governments have delayed development, and if armed conflicts continue and regional stability is not achieved then, never mind development, local residents will be too busy struggling to survive.

“Use of force and weapons is not bravery. Real bravery is the zeal and perseverance employed to reach your objectives, without resorting to violence. If you need weapons to be brave then remember that means you are nothing when you lose that weapon,” said the State Counsellor at the opening ceremony of the Manaung solar

power plant on Thursday.

The resolution to the country’s long-running armed conflicts is a federal system that is acceptable to all. Our goal is, therefore, the emergence of a democratic federal union based on democracy and federalism.

It is a responsibility that falls on all our shoulders. The energy, faith, and zeal that we put in towards achieving peace can serve as a beacon of light for our country, our Union, and all of our people. Whether this light will fade or brighten in the years ahead will determine Myanmar’s place in this world.

That is why the State Counsellor told local residents in Manaung, Rakhine State, at a meeting on Thursday that they can easily judge which actions improve their lives and which worsen them.

Local residents should ponder why some areas, which were once tranquil and good for working in, became filled with fear and contributed to the troubles of their parents, relatives, or kin. We need to carefully reconsider these matters.

We all need to question the need for waging armed struggles to get what one wants at a time when the country has a civilian government that respects the people, political dialogues that aim to establish a democratic federal Union, and a Hluttaw that represents the people.

# Government needs money for teachers and doctors – reforming mining tax can help

By Ko Ko Lwin, David Manley & Sebastian Sahla

**T**HE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MoNREC) wants to change how it taxes mining companies. If done well, these reforms could attract responsible investors and provide the government with the funds it needs for vital public services like health and education.

So far, informal small-scale mining and the vast jade mines in Kachin State have dominated Myanmar’s mining sector. While they employ thousands of people, their mining also pollutes without generating much money for the government. In fact, mineral mining (i.e., all mining except jade and gemstones) contributed less than one percent of total government revenues in the 2016-17 fiscal year, according to the Myanmar Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

Yet, there is some hope. One opportunity is the reopening of the Bawdwin mine in eastern Shan State. Myanmar Metals—the Australian company that will operate the mine—

expects to generate more revenue for the government than all the country’s existing mineral mines combined.

Unfortunately, Myanmar Metals is somewhat of an anomaly. Attracting large-scale foreign companies to Myanmar is difficult. Many investors see the country as a particularly risky place to do business because of ongoing conflicts, political uncertainty and perceived corruption. Accordingly, only a small number of mining companies are exploring here,

mar has very limited modern exploration data. This makes it all the more important that the government capitalizes on the recent positive momentum in the industry to encourage reputable companies to consider Myanmar as a jurisdiction in which to spend their exploration monies,” said Lachlan Foy, Group CEO of Valentis, a Yangon-based consultancy advising mining companies in Myanmar.

To attract more of this kind of investment, however, Myanmar

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.

despite the country’s strong geological promise.

“For a resource rich country with such potential for word-class discoveries, 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 terms 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 follow and would act as a clear statement of what international companies can expect in Myanmar.

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

A good model contract needs to be balanced: terms should be attractive to investors and generate enough revenue for the government. Finding this balance is difficult, but MoNREC can get there by consulting other government departments, civil society, experts and mining companies to get the best ideas and to receive broad acceptance.

However, there is a danger though that having written and endorsed the model contract, negotiators do not follow it during

their deal-making. That’s where transparency comes into play.

It is critical that the rules are followed consistently when

to change legislation and regulations. But for now, writing a new model contract is a commendable first step.

A good model contract needs to be balanced: terms should be attractive to investors and generate enough revenue for the government.

mining contracts are negotiated. To ensure this, regardless of who is in charge, MoNREC should disclose both the model contract and the contracts it negotiates 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.

In the longer term, MoNREC should follow other countries by setting out its mining tax objectives in a national minerals policy and using this

**Ko Ko Lwin is an Analyst with NRGi in Myanmar. David Manley is a Senior Economic Analyst in NRGi’s London office. Sebastian Sahla is a former Myanmar Associate at NRGi and now works as a consultant. NRGi’s recent briefing, Considerations for Taxing Myanmar’s Large-Scale Mining Companies, is available at [www.resource-governance.org](http://www.resource-governance.org).**

## MYANMAR GAZETTE

### Head of service organization confirmed

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Dr. L. Tu Meang Gaung, Director-General, Department of Protecting Ethnic Rights under the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs on the expiry of one-year probationary period.

## 2020, 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Independence Day National Objectives

1. All National Ethnic Races to defend and protect with “collective strength” to ensure Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of the Unity of National Ethnic Races and Perpetuation of National Sovereignty.
2. To give priority and work for transformation of the rule of law and justice sector which is important for stability, peace and development of the State.
3. To work on amendment of the Constitution, which is the basic foundation for building a Democratic Federal Union.
4. To build and create conducive environments for Union citizens which can elevate their sense of duty and improve their capabilities while the Democratic Federal Union is being built.
5. Emergence of a peaceful and prosperous Democratic Federal Union by implementing the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan.

### Efficiency, Energy saving

Switch off your TV and audio players when no one watching and listening.



## Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

### Non-Formal and Lifelong Education

- Access to primary education was provided for a total of 882 students, consisting of 474 boys and 408 girls, from 52 camps in 10 townships under the non-formal primary education programme for the 2019-2020 academic year.

### Technical and Vocational Education Training

- There are 380 students at the Government Technical Institute (Kyaukphyu),
- 451 students at the Government Technical Institute (Thandwe) and
- 238 students at the Government Technical High School (Sittwe).

### Higher Education

- In the 2019 academic year, for students of Sittwe University (Distance Learning Classes) who had difficulty coming to Sittwe for admission registration, a registration counter was set up at the One Stop Shop (OSS) township offices, with 18 students using the admission services.
- The second part of the Primary Teacher Education Correspondence Course No. 37 for the 2018-2019 academic year was conducted at Kyaukphyu Education College from 19 April to 4 May 2019, with a total of 130 trainees, consisting of 12 male and 118 females. Thirteen female trainees from Thandwe Township who had difficulty joining the above course

received their training at Hlegu Education College in Yangon Region.

- There are a total of 542 teaching staff and 398 non-teaching staff at 5 universities, degree colleges and colleges in Rakhine State, where a total of 30,459 students including distance learning students are receiving their education.

### Progress of Construction Work at Sittwe University

- The construction of a 3-storey classroom building is 52% completed.
- The construction of a 7-unit canteen is 100% completed.
- The construction of a soccer field that includes a 400-meter track and a drainage system is 30% completed.



Construction of 3-Storey Classroom Building at Sittwe University



Construction of 7-Unit Canteen at Sittwe University



# CBM to issue one thousand kyats note with Bogyoke Aung San picturesque on 4<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2020

THE Central Bank of Myanmar announced yesterday that it will issue one thousand kyats currency note on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2020.

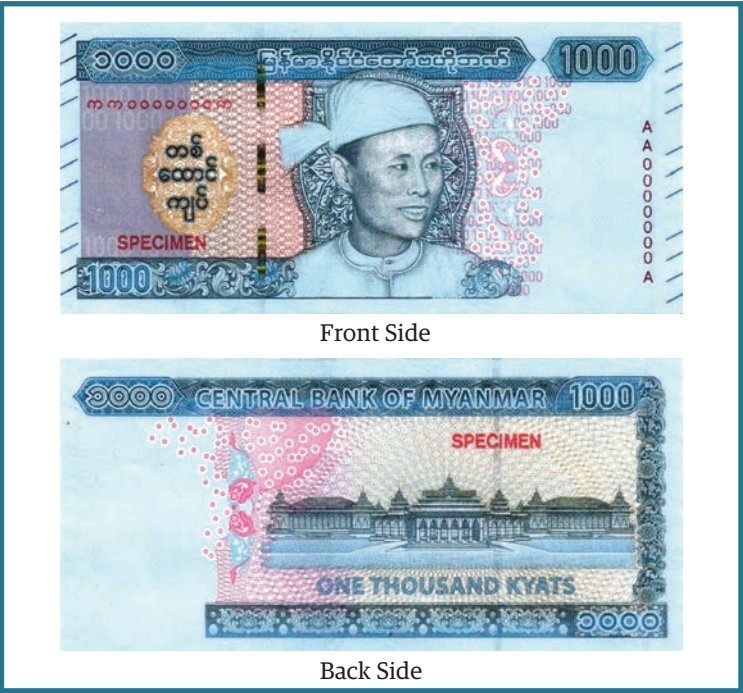
With the picturesque of Bogyoke Aung San, the banknote is 150 mm long and 70 mm wide. The prominent colour of the one thousand kyats currency note is blue, at the upper part of the note, the “CENTRAL BANK OF MYANMAR” is printed. On the front page of the banknote, the picturesque of Bogyoke Aung San is 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.

The bears the picturesque of the Hluttaw building on the obverse side of the note, and “CENTRAL BANK OF MYANMAR: is inserted on the top of the note and “ONE THOUSAND KYATS” is seen on the lower part of the note. At three corners of the note, the value of the currency note in the figure is mentioned.

The existing One Thousand Kyats note which is in circulation will continue to be legal tender currency.—MNA



## ACC delegation attends 8<sup>th</sup> 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 whistleblower 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

(Translated by TTN)



Anti-Corruption Commission Secretary U San Win attending the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in Abu Dhabi. **PHOTO: MNA**

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



Director-General of Strategic Studies and Training Department U Aung Myo Myint delivers the closing address at the graduation ceremony of certificate course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (43/2019). **PHOTO: MNA**

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 Wunzinminyarzar 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 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> 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. Johnson Ong Chee Bin, Founder and Principal Consultant of Education Quality International (Singapore) and Dr. Jenny 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 680.31 billion yuan (about 98.78 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.

No new ODI projects were reported in the sectors of real estate, sports and entertainment, the ministry said.

During the period, big projects took the lion's share of the

value of new deals, as the number of newly signed overseas projects with a contract value exceeding 50 million dollars came in at 682, up 18 from the same period a year earlier.—Xinhua ■



Chinese companies enhanced cooperation with countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative during the first 11 months. Workers take down a panel outside the venue for the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing on 27 April. PHOTO: AFP

# 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.

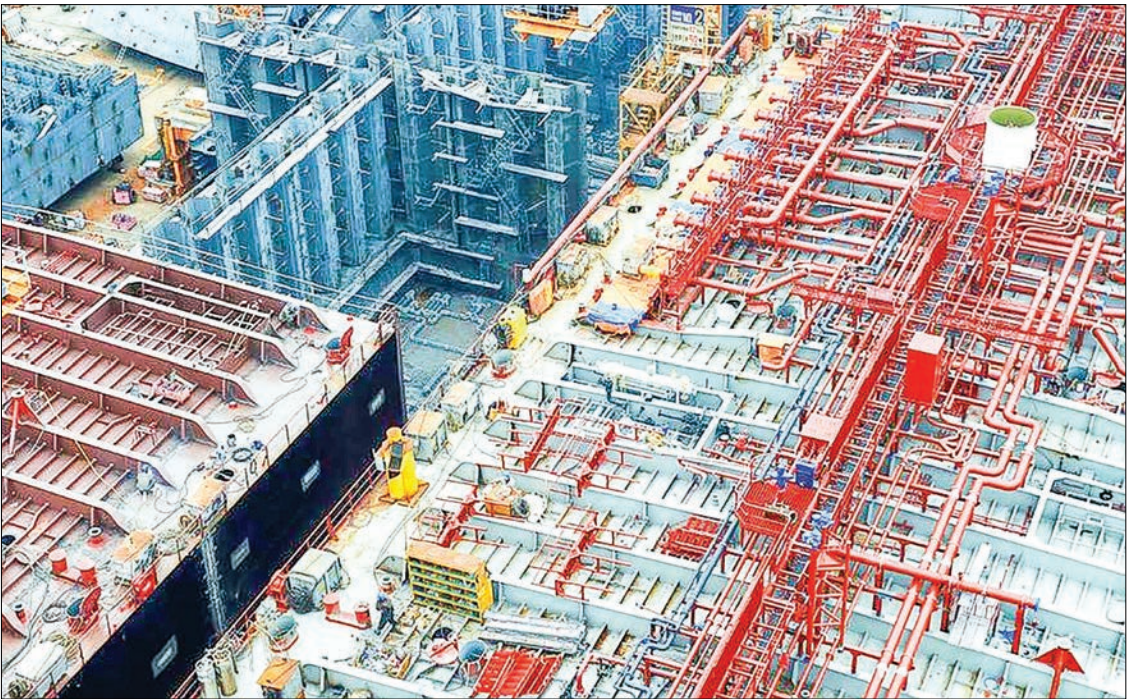
Chemical product price dipped 0.5 per cent in the month, but price for coal and oil product advanced 0.6 per cent.

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



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



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

# 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.

Lombard’s deputy and the human resources director could also face a year in pris-

on, while four other executives were charged with complicity in harassment, with prosecutors seeking eight-month terms and 10,000 euro fines.

“What is unacceptable is that harassment was a strategy in one of the country’s biggest companies,” prosecutor Brigitte Pesquie told the court.

Her colleague Francoise Benezech denounced an “obsession” with cutting 22,000 jobs out of 120,000 in three years as part of the strategic overhauls, saying it had become the company’s raison d’etre.

“You knew your methods were going to ruin working conditions,” she said.

Lombard denied that management bore any responsibility for the deaths, despite having told managers in 2006 that he would “get people to leave one way or another, either through the window or the door.”

“The transformations a business has to go through aren’t pleasant, that’s just the way it is, there’s nothing I could have done,” he told the court.—AFP ■

# Nishi-Nippon Railroad to open 1<sup>st</sup> 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 roof-top 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 Jan 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 ■



## Croatia to pick a president in tight three-way race



Incumbent Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic is Croatia's first female president. **PHOTO: AFP**

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.

Most notably, 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 over the mayor's supporters, the comments did little to inspire voters fed up with endemic graft.

The latest poll put 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

## 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" into 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 in front of them.

Gathered in the city centre, some share their experiences of discrimination in a country where women are paid 15 percent less than men on average and pay up to two-thirds more for private health insurance.—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 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. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

media.

"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 re-

gion 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 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 — Kyodo News ■

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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: M/S EVERGREEN MARINE  
(S'PORE) PTE.,LTD.

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV TRIESTE TRADER VOY.NO. (949S/951N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TRIESTE TRADER VOY.NO. (949S/951N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/TMT 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

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PACITA VOY.NO. (057W/E)

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: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES  
Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HAPPY VENTURE

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HAPPY VENTURE VOY.NO. (1911) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT 4 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW 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 Johnson 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 Conservatives a thumping majority in parliament, largely at the expense of the main opposition Labour party led by the Brexit-neutral Jeremy Corbyn.

It dispelled doubts over whether Britain would indeed



Corbyn (r, standing) raised the prospect of rat hairs in paprika and maggots in orange juice in a trade deal with Washington. PHOTO: AFP

become the first nation to leave the European Union, following the 2016 referendum vote to quit the bloc.

“Now is the time to act together as one reinvigorated nation, 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 unveiled 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 illegal migrants who were captured by the Turkish coast guard was 25,739. The force also reported the deaths of 34 migrants in the Aegean this year, noting that 79 suspected human traffickers had been detained across the country.— Xinhua ■

Invitation for Bids

Date:	23, December, 2019
Bid No. and Title:	40(T)/DPTSC(PTP)/2019-2020 Design, Supply, and Installation of 230kV Min Hla - Athoke Transmission Line (101) miles and 230 kV Switch Bay (3)Nos. Extension at Min Hla Substation and 230 kV Switch Bay (2) Nos. Extension at Athoke Substation
Deadline for Submission of Bids:	6, February, 2020, 13:00 hours (local time)

1. The Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC) has allocated the financing towards the cost of the project. DPTSC intends to apply a portion of the funds to eligible payments under the Contract for which the Bidding is issued.

2. The Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC) (“the Employer”) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Design, Supply, and Installation of 230kV Min Hla - Athoke Transmission Line (101) miles and 230 kV Switch Bay (3)Nos Extension at Min Hla Substation and 230 kV Switch Bay (2) Nos Extension at Athoke Substation (“the Facilities”). The Facilities are all located within Bago and Ayeyarwady region.

3. The Eligible Nationality of the Bidder shall be Myanmar in the case of single contractor. In case of a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of lead partner is Myanmar and other partner shall be nationality from the eligible countries in section 5.

4. International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with [Single - Stage: Two-Envelope](#) bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.

5. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:

- Participation in at least two (2) contracts as main contractor that have been successfully completed within the last ten (10) years and that are transmission line & substation contract, where the value of the Bidder’s participation exceeds US\$50.0million.
- For the above or other contracts executed, a minimum experience within the last ten (10) years in the following key activities:

Overhead transmission line of 220kV or higher shall not be less than (120) km route length including Engineering, Procurement, Installation on Turnkey Basis in outside bidder country as main contractor that have been successfully completed.
- Minimum average annual turnover of US\$ 33 million calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last 3 years.

The qualification criteria are more completely described in the Bidding Document.

6. To obtain further information, inspect the bidding documents and submit the proposal, bidders should contact the following from 9:30-16:30 hours (local time) except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays:

Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC)  
Address: Material Planning Department (DPTSC), Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar  
Telephone: 95 67 8104286, 95 67 3410209  
Email: [dg.dptsc@moe.gov.mm](mailto:dg.dptsc@moe.gov.mm), [dd1ptp.dptsc@moe.gov.mm](mailto:dd1ptp.dptsc@moe.gov.mm), [dirdesign.ptp@gmail.com](mailto:dirdesign.ptp@gmail.com), [sedesignptp.mepe@gmail.com](mailto:sedesignptp.mepe@gmail.com),  
Fax: 95 67 8104286, 95 67 3410209

7. To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible bidders shall pay a nonrefundable fee of purchase order (bank draft) with 50,000 Myanmar Kyats.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before the deadline: 6 February, 2020 at 13:00 hours (local time) together with a Bid Security as described in the bidding documents.

9. Electronic Submission is not allowed.

10. Technical Bid will be opened in the presence of Bidder’s representatives, who choose to attend at the address above after 13:00 hr. (Local Time) on 6/02/2020.

11. Any request for the extension of Bid submission deadline shall not be allowed.

Tender Committee

Department of Power Transmission and System Control  
Ministry of Electricity and Energy  
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar  
Telephone 067-3410282, 3410209

Invitation for Bids

Date:	27, December, 2019
Bid No. and Title:	41(T)/DPTSC(PTP)/2019-2020 Design, Supply, and Installation of 132 kV Upper Kengtawng - Namsang Transmission Line (37) miles and 132 kV Switch Bay (1)No Extension at Namsang Substation
Deadline for Submission of Bids:	10, February, 2020, 13:00 hours (local time)

1. The Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC) has allocated the financing towards the cost of the project. DPTSC intends to apply a portion of the funds to eligible payments under the Contract for which the Bidding is issued.

2. The Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC) (“the Employer”) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Design, Supply, and Installation of 132kV Upper Kengtawng - Namsang Transmission Line (37) miles and 132 kV Switch Bay (1) No Extension at Namsang Substation (“the Facilities”). The Facilities are all located within Shan State.

3. The Eligible Nationality of the Bidder shall be Myanmar in the case of single contractor. In case of a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of lead partner is Myanmar and other partner shall be nationality from the eligible countries in section 5.

4. International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with [Single - Stage: Two-Envelope](#) bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.

5. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:

- Participation in at least two (2) contracts as main contractor that have been successfully completed within the last Ten (10) years and that are transmission line & substation contract, where the value of the Bidder’s participation exceeds US\$ 9.6 million.
- For the above or other contracts executed, a minimum experience within the last ten (10) years in the following key activities:

Overhead transmission line contract of 110 kV or higher shall not be less than (45)km route length including Engineering, Procurement, Installation on Turnkey Basis in outside bidder country as main contractor that have been successfully completed.
- Minimum average annual turnover of US\$ 10 million calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last 3 years.

The qualification criteria are more completely described in the Bidding Document.

6. To obtain further information, inspect the bidding documents and submit the proposal, bidders should contact the following from 9:30-16:30 hours (local time) except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays:

Department of Power Transmission and System Control (DPTSC)  
Address: Material Planning Department (DPTSC), Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar  
Telephone: 95 67 8104286, 95 67 3410209  
Email: [dg.dptsc@moe.gov.mm](mailto:dg.dptsc@moe.gov.mm), [dd1ptp.dptsc@moe.gov.mm](mailto:dd1ptp.dptsc@moe.gov.mm), [dirdesign.ptp@gmail.com](mailto:dirdesign.ptp@gmail.com), [sedesignptp.mepe@gmail.com](mailto:sedesignptp.mepe@gmail.com),  
Fax: 95 67 8104286, 95 67 3410209

7. To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible bidders shall pay a nonrefundable fee of purchase order (bank draft) with 50,000 Myanmar Kyats.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before the deadline: 10 February, 2020 at 13:00 hours (local time) together with a Bid Security as described in the bidding documents.

9. Electronic Submission is not allowed.

10. Technical Bid will be opened in the presence of Bidder’s representatives, who choose to attend at the address above after 13:00 hr. (Local Time) on 10/02/2020.

11. Any request for the extension of Bid submission deadline shall not be allowed.

Tender Committee

Department of Power Transmission and System Control  
Ministry of Electricity and Energy  
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar  
Telephone 067-3410282, 3410209



**B**AGAN 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.

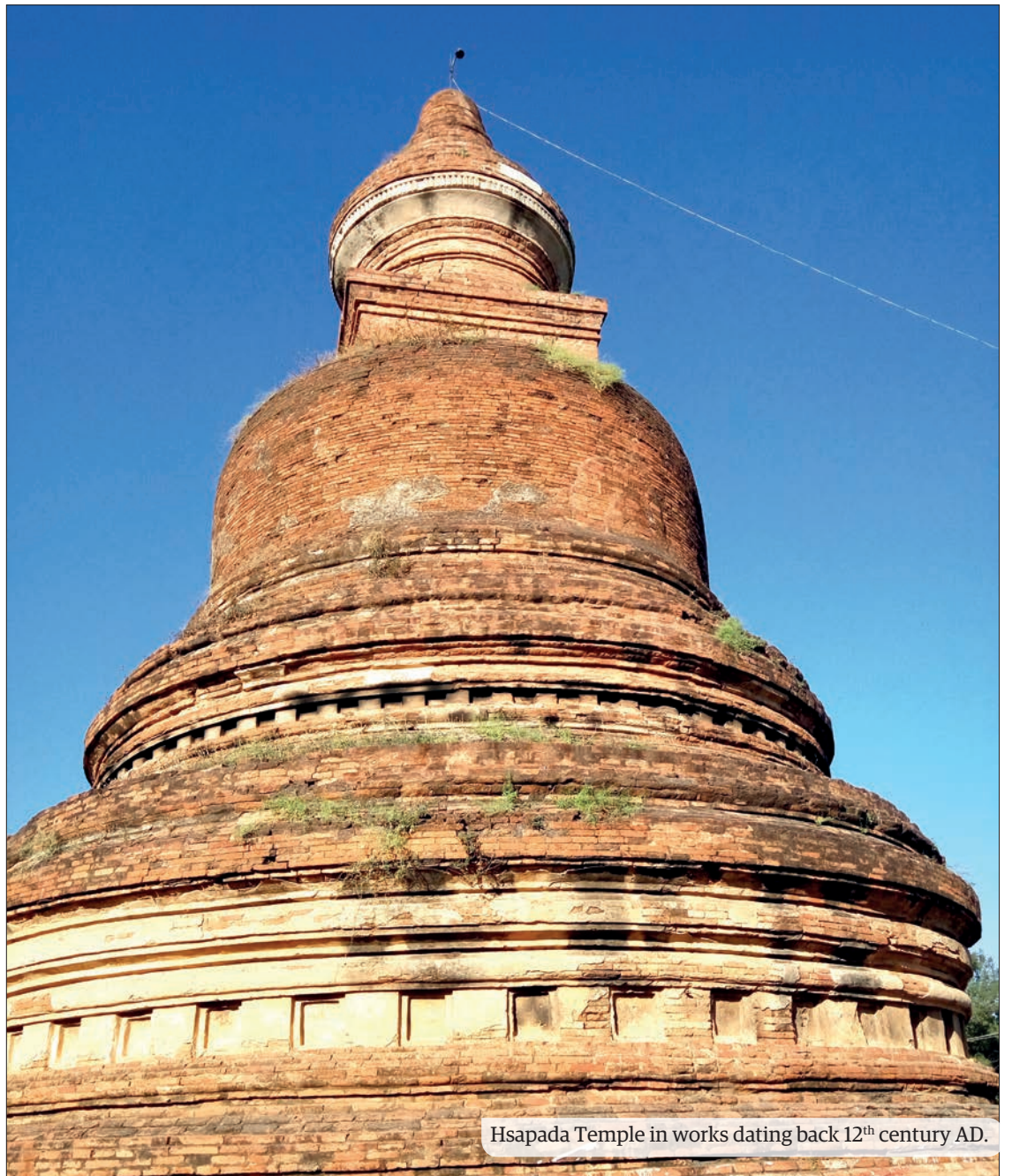
The data of the Department of Archaeology and National Museum showed there were 2,217 temples and stupas in Bagan. With assistance of the UNESCO, French architectural expert Pierre Pichard counted 2,839 ancient temples and stupas in Bagan during the period from 1982 to 1991. After a powerful earthquake 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



Hsapada Temple in works dating back 12<sup>th</sup> century AD.

# Temples and stupas in Bagan in successive eras

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)



PHOTOS: MAUNG THA

Bawbawgyi, Phayama and Phayagi. Ngakywe Nataung Stupa in Bagan was similar to Bawbawgyi Stupa in Sri Kestra 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 formers 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 foun-

dation. 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-



goda was decorated with the pigeon houses in harmony with the bell shaped pagoda structure. The pagoda having five terraces was built on the top octagonal terrace. Four sides of the pagoda were installed with ladders, and four corners of terrace were encircled by small pagodas.

Pagodas built in Bagan in early 11th century AD were in bell shape based on octagonal terraces. These pagodas were in the style of harmonized decorations in 11th century AD with circular decorative bands, inverted and spreading lotus flowers and spindle-shaped pieces.

Architectural works at Myinkapa Pagoda in south of Gupyaugyi Pagoda and Inn Pagoda in north of Dhammayangyi Pagoda were built in 11th century AD. (The UNESCO expert mentioned Inn Pagoda as works in 12th century AD.)

**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 Hamika 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, one was 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 Soemingyi 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. Ngamyethna (five-faced) Pagoda, northeast of Mingala Pagoda, is a temple with two spiral stairs.

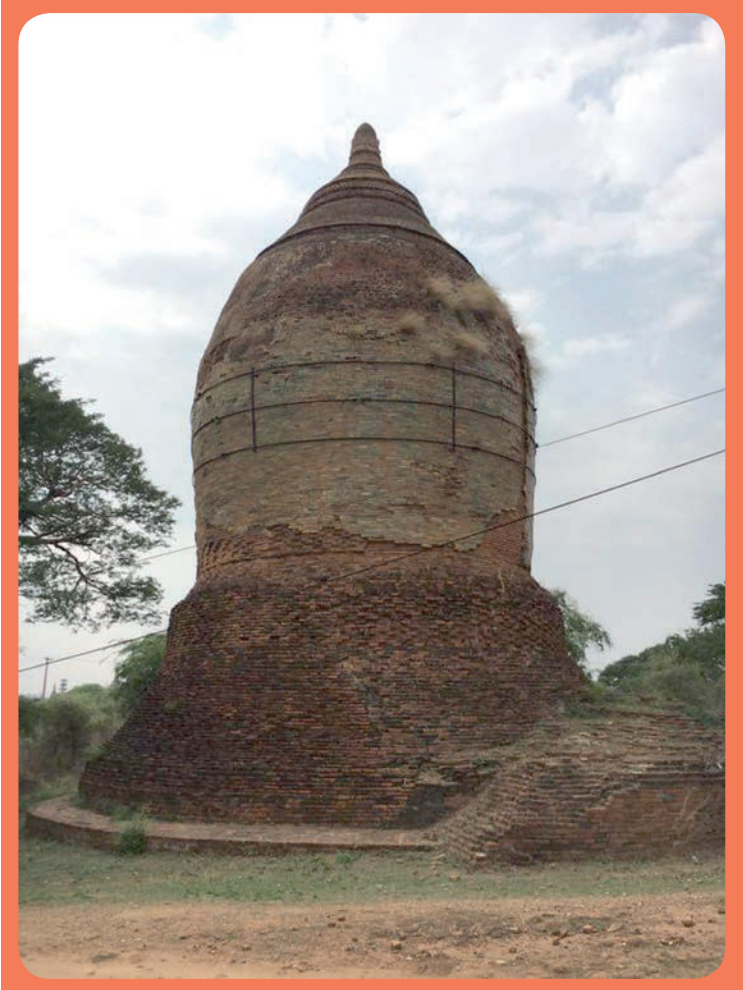
**Temples in Bagan**

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

Temples in Bagan in 11th century AD were Ananda, Pahtothammyar, Apei Yadana, Nagayon, Myinkappa and



Seinnyet Nyi-ama Temple built in 12<sup>th</sup> century AD.



Ngakywe Nataung Stupa.

Gupyaugyi. Generally, these temples were constructed with a single entrance. The pivot was rounded with the inner circular road in the Gandakuti Chamber.

Among 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 Thabbyinnyu, Dhammayangyi, Culamani, Lawkahteikpan, Seinnyet Nyi-ama, Kheminga and Myebontha with arrangements of lighting for the interior parts. Small temples such as Lawkahteikpan were not built with the pivot but the main buildings were formed as Gandakuti chambers.

The foundation of Seinny-

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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 had least lighting. The temples built in 12th century AD were facilitated a single archway. However, the temples built in late-12th century AD were built with side doors and windows for more 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 Wetgyi-inn Gupyaugyi 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:  
*Guide to Research in Bagan* (U Bo Kay)  
*Architectural works in Bagan era* (Minbu Aung Kyaing)  
*Temples and Stupas in Bagan* (Information Ministry)  
*Architectural works and fine arts at temples and stupas in Bagan* (U Myo Nyunt)



## Week-8 matches of the MFF Myanmar Futsal League 2019-2020 to be held today

WEEK-8 matches of the MFF Myanmar Futsal League 2019-2020 will be held at the National Indoor Stadium 2 (Hline) at 8:30 am on 21 December.

Every match of this year's Futsal League has caught the attention of the fans.

Sporting events like Winner FC, the new team but the best team so far, and GV FC meet and Myoma JY and VUC meet will appeal to the audience.

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. — Lynn Thit (Tgi)

MFF Myanmar FUTSAL LEAGUE			
WEEK - 8			
21-12-2019   NIS-2			
FIXTURE (FIRST ROUND)	Dream Team FC	Vs	MFF U19 Team 8:30
	AMM Brothers FC	Vs	Futsal Chit Thu FC 10:00
	Winner FC	Vs	GV FC 11:30
	Myoma JY	Vs	VUC FC 13:00
	Let Wel Thone Nara	Vs	MIU FC 14:30
	OnDoctor FC	Vs	Do Do Ko Ko FC 16:00

## 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.

Organisers have also unveiled a series of countermeasures against the heat and humidity, including water mist sprays and special heat-absorbing paint on roads -- all of which cost money.

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



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

## Leicester carry title fight to Liverpool

MANCHESTER— Leicester may never again scale the heights of shocking the world to win the Premier League four seasons ago, but the Foxes are upsetting 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 have won five of the 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 Tottenham 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



Leicester's Jamie Vardy is the Premier League's top scorer with 16 goals. PHOTO: AFP

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