BUILDING A DEMOCRACY REQUIRES SAME EFFORT AS STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE PAGE-8 (OPINION)

NATIONAL

Message from President U Win Myint, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Commemoration of the 72nd Independence Day

PAGE-2

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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HONOURING THE 72nd ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Equality of opportunity for all

To be a genuine democracy, it is not enough to be a "government of the people, by the people, for the people". The government must uplift the economic standard of our people to the point where there is equality of opportunity for all. Then only can we go forward towards genuine democracy.

(Extract from the speech given by General Aung San at the Jubilee Hall First Preparatory Conference held on 19 May 1947)

Message from President U Win Myint, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Commemoration of the 72nd Independence Day

4th January 2020

Dear Respectable Citizens,

On this occasion of the 72nd anniversary of the Independence Day, which is an auspicious day for the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, may I first of all wish all the national brethren who live in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar happily and unitedly "Mingalarbar".

Myanmar is a country standing in the world with great dignity and its own sovereignty since time immemorial. when colonialism was fully functioned the 19th century, Myanmar became a colony and lost its independence and its sovereignty.

The patriotic leaders of national races and all the national races led by our great national leader, Bogyoke Aung San, had sacrificed their lives, with patriotic and national spirit, to gain independence. As a result, Myanmar gained its independence and sovereignty on 4th January 1948.

Due to the divide and rule policy of the colonial government and various reasons, misunderstanding, doubts and diversity of religious beliefs among national brethren grew gradually, and there were a lot of armed conflicts soon after its independence. As there were no peaceful ways of negotiation and of solving these armed conflicts, such conflicts within the country have still existed for 70 years. Such conflicts have weakened the human and natural resources which are essential for the development of the nation.

Today is the time when all the national brethren have been striving with a strong union spirit to obtain eternal peace and to achieve mutual understanding and trust without doubts and conflicts while taking the lessons in the past. The Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong has been successfully held three times in order to obtain peace and national reconciliation and some agreements for building a democratic federal union have been reached. We have been undergoing the peace process in order to build a federal union all the national races have been craving for.

To be able to stand as a sovereign nation in the region as well as in the world with a positive image, all the national races must strive, with a strong union spirit, to preserve our three main national causes: the non-disintegration of the union and the non-disintegration of the national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty while taking the lessons in the past to achieve mutual understanding, mutual trust and mutual respect among our national races.

Moreover, we must also strive for the successful implementation of peace process, the emergence of a federal union, building complete mutual trust, and the amendment of the constitution which is relevant to the real situation of the nation and which is in line with the standards and fundamental principles of democracy and human rights.

With the prevalence of peace and the genuine democracy, all the national races can enjoy fairness, freedom and equality, which are deterrent principles of the world and the heart of the democracy, and build a new democratic nation which every national race has been craving for.

Only when the nation becomes peaceful, will we be able to focus on the well-balanced development of States and Regions, reduce the gap between urban and rural development, provide more job opportunities, alleviate the poverty of the nation, and enhance the socio-economic development of the nation.

As the economic development of each state and region is crucial for the development of the whole nation, we must endevour to promote the economic development of the regions and states. It is very important to effectively utilize the resources in the region and the state in collaboration with the local people. It is a must for us to explore the natural resources in the region and to provide all-round support for the development of the private economic sector in accordance with the market-oriented economic system.

In trying to promote the development of a nation, it is essential for every citizen to be strong and healthy as well as to be a good citizen. A long-term goal in education should be set in order to make all the national races become good citizens. In addition, as a national duty all the national races must actively participate in the eradication of narcotic drugs, which has a profound impact on the character and health of all the national races.

Today, we have witnessed the potentials for establishing a peaceful developed nation and it is time for all the national races to collaboratively and unitedly participate in the implementation of the peace process in the nation. We must put great efforts in the peace process and the transition process to democracy as we did in fighting for our independence and endevour to build a genuine, fully democratic nation and continue to work together for sustainable development of the nation.

Thus, while aiming for building a peaceful modern developed federal union with strong determination, the 72nd anniversary of Independence Day will be observed with the following national objectives:

- to safeguard the non-disintegration of the Union and the non-disintegration of the National Solidarity and Perpetuation of Sovereignty with the unity of all national races;
- to give priority in restoring the peace and stability of the nation and the development of the nation which are crucial for the prevalence of justice
- to endevour to successfully carry out the amendment of the Constitution which plays a vital role in building a democratic federal union
- to create the better environment in order to promote the capacity and accountability of the citizens, which is essential to build a democratic federal union;
- to build a peaceful democratic nation through Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (2018-2030)

That is why, I would like to urge all the national races to unitedly participate in our endevour to build a peaceful democratic federal union while bearing in mind the objectives of the 72nd anniversary of Independence Day.

■■■

Find solution based on discussions and negotiations

Our ethnic brothers and sisters must find a solution based on discussions and negotiations free from mistrust and firm in faith. From there, we can proceed in lasting solidarity for the emergence of a Constitution that is fitting for our country and in accordance with democratic practices and federal principles.

[Extract from Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint to the 71st Anniversary of Independence Day ceremony on 4 January 2019]

State Counsellor attends New Year Gathering with diplomatic corps

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Ambassador of Timor-Leste Mr Joao Freitas de Camara pose for a group photo together with diplomatic corps at the luncheon to commemorate New Year and the 72nd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 January 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar attended a luncheon hosted by Mr Joao Freitas de Camara, Ambassador of Timor-Leste to Myanmar, Dean of Diplomatic Corps on behalf of the resident ambassadors in Myanmar on 3 January 2020 at the Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw to commemorate the New Year and the 72nd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Before the luncheon, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Ambassador Mr Joao Freitas de Camara spoke words of thanks and extended cordial greetings.

The luncheon was attended by U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, Permanent Secretary and Directors-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ambassadors and chargé d' affaires accredited to Myanmar. —MNA

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by diplomatic corps at the luncheon to commemorate New Year Gathering and the 72nd Anniversary of the Independence Day hosted by Ambassador of Timor-Leste Mr Joao Freitas de Camara in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Win Myint

The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Heads of State / Government sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Win Myint, on the occasion of the 72nd Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From Xi Jinping
President
People's Republic of China
Your Excellency,

On the occasion of the 72nd anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the Chinese Government and people as well as in my own name, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to you, and through you to the Myanmar government and people.

With our deep Pauk-Phaw friendship and shared river, China and Myanmar are a community of shared future. This year marks the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Myanmar. I attach great importance to the development of China-Myanmar relations and wish to work with you to maintain high level contacts, promote practical cooperation, expand people-to-people exchanges, strengthen multilateral cooperation, thus expanding the dimension of China-Myanmar Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

May the Republic of the Union of Myanmar enjoy prosperity and her people happiness.

May China-Myanmar relations continue to consolidate and develop.

From Donald J. Trump
President of the United States of America
Dear Mr. President:

Please accept the warmest wishes of the American people as Myanmar commemorates the 72nd anniversary of its independence on January 4.

The United States remains committed to supporting the aspirations of the people of Myanmar to see their country become a more peaceful, inclusive, democratic, prosperous, and economically competitive nation that respects the human rights and inherent dignity of all its people.

My very best wishes to you and the people of Myanmar as you celebrate a most joyous independence day.

Sincerely,

From Ram Nath Kovind
President of India
Excellency,

I extend cordial greetings and felicitations on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I have warm memories of my visit to Myanmar in 2018 and I am looking forward to your State Visit to our country next year, so that we could work together and take forward the agenda of our bilateral cooperation. Let me also convey to Your Excellency, my deep appreciation for your visit to India in May 2019, for the swearing-in ceremony of our new Government.

Excellency, we attach high priority to our relations with Myanmar. Ours is a partnership characterized by mutual respect and trust. I am confident that our strong ties will be strengthened further over the coming years.

I take this opportunity to extend my best wishes for your personal well-being and the continued progress of the Myanmar nation, as a united and prosperous country.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From NARUHITO,
Emperor of Japan

His Excellency the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I have great pleasure in sending Your Excellency my heartfelt congratulations and sincere good wishes for Your happiness and for the prosperity of the people of Your country.

From HALIMAH YACOB
President of Singapore
Your Excellency,

On behalf of the people of Singapore, I extend my warmest congratulations to you and the people of Myanmar on the occasion of Myanmar's 72nd Independence Day.

Singapore and Myanmar enjoy close relations underpinned by regular high-level exchanges and strong people-to-people ties. Bilateral cooperation spans many different sectors. I look forward to continue working closely with you to deepen the cooperation between our two countries, both bilaterally and in ASEAN, for the mutual benefit of our peoples.

Please accept my best wishes for your good health and happiness, and for continued peace and prosperity to the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Yours Sincerely

From David Hurley
Governor-General of Australia
Your Excellency

On the occasion of the 72nd anniversary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar's independence, I wish to convey to you, the Government and the people of Myanmar my warmest wishes, together with those of the Australian Government and people.

Australia is, and will remain, a strong supporter of Myanmar's economic development and its democratic transition.

May I express my confidence that the friendly relations between our two countries will continue to prosper in the coming year.

Yours Sincerely

From Frank-Walter Steinmeier
President of the Federal Republic of Germany
Mr President,

On the occasion of your country's Independence Day, allow me to offer you and the people of Myanmar my sincere congratulations.

Democracy and freedom are good prerequisites for a country's peaceful development. In this context, the elections which will take place next year are an important milestone for Myanmar. I hope that your country will soon find domestic peace for all citizens.

Permit me to wish you all the best and every success for the tasks that lie ahead.

SEE PAGE-5

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to State Counsellor

The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Heads of State / Government sent to State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, on the occasion of the 72nd Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From Li Keqiang
Premier
People's Republic of China
Your Excellency,

On the occasion of the 72nd anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to you.

In recent years, Myanmar has been making new achievements in the peace process, economic and social development and improvement of people's livelihood. Taking the opportunity offered by the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Myanmar, the Chinese side is willing to work with the Myanmar side to further consolidate and deepen our friendly cooperation in all fields and promote China-Myanmar relations to make further progress.

May the Republic of the Union of Myanmar enjoy prosperity and her people happiness.

May China-Myanmar relations continue to consolidate and develop.

From Lee Hsien Loong
Prime Minister of Singapore
Dear State Counsellor,

Congratulations on Myanmar's 72nd Independence Day!

Singapore and Myanmar enjoy longstanding and warm relations. We cooperate across many sectors, including finance, legal, infrastructure, education and transport. The signing of the Bilateral Investment Treaty during the 7th Singpore-Myanmar Joint Ministerial Working Committee in September 2019 will promote greater investment flows between our countries. I look forward to the further strengthening of our ties, for the mutual benefit of our peoples and businesses.

I wish you good health and continued success.

Your Sincerely

From Andrej Babis
PM of the Czech Republic
Excellency,

I would like to sincerely congratulate you and the people of your country on the Independence Day of your country.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express my firm conviction that the friendly relations between our two countries will continue to develop and deepen in many areas.

I wish you and the people of Myanmar lots of success in the future.

From NGUYEN XUAN PHUC
Prime Minister
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

On the occasion of the 72nd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the Government and people of Viet Nam and in my own name, I would like to extend to Your Excellency, the Government and people of Myanmar the warmest felicitations.

SEE PAGE-5

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.]

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Win Myint

FROM PAGE-4

From Miloš Zeman
President of the Czech Republic
Excellency,

I would like to sincerely congratulate you and the people of your country on the Independence Day of your country.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express my firm conviction that the friendly relations between our two countries will continue to develop and deepen in many areas.

I wish you and the people of Myanmar lots of success in the future.

From Queen Elizabeth II
Queen of the United Kingdom

"I send Your Excellency my congratulations on the celebration of your Independence Day, together with my best wishes for all of the people of Myanmar in the coming year. Elizabeth R."

From Mr. Vladimir Putin
President of Russian Federation
Moscow, Kremlin
Dear Mr. President,

Please accept sincere greetings on the occasion of the national day of your country-the Independence Day.

Russia and Myanmar traditionally enjoy friendly relations. I am convinced that further development of constructive bilateral cooperation in different spheres meets the interests of our peoples for the benefit of strengthening security and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

I wish You good health and successes and to all citizens of Myanmar - peace and prosperity.

Respectfully Yours,

From (M.R.) Maha Vajiralongkorn R.
King of Thailand

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I take this opportunity to express to Your Excellency my sincerest congratulations and best wishes for your good health and happiness as well as for the success and prosperity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and her people.

I truly believe that the steadfast ties of friendship and wide-ranging cooperation between our two countries and peoples will assuredly continue to strengthen and thrive in the years to come.

From ABE Shinzo
Prime Minister of Japan
Your Excellency,

On the occasion of the 72nd anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I wish to extend my warmest congratulations to Your Excellency on behalf of the Government and people of Japan.

I am pleased to see that the exchange between Japan and Myanmar has been further expanding in the recent years.

Japan will continue to contribute to Myanmar's efforts for democratic nation-building and will further promote our bilateral friendship and cooperation.

Along with my wishes for your good health and peace and tranquility of Myanmar people, please accept, Your Excellency, my highest consideration.

From Andrzej Duda
President of the Republic of Poland
Excellency,

On behalf of the Polish Nation and my own I extend to Your Excellency the best wishes and congratulations on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

We wish the Republic of the Union of Myanmar further success in economic development and building a modern and democratic state. I hope that incoming years will bring the intensification of cooperation between our countries.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my respects and wishes of good health and for the People of Myanmar the wishes of prosperity.

With highest consideration,

SEE PAGE-6

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to State Counsellor

FROM PAGE-4

I wish to join the joyfulness of Myanmar people over important achievements gained during the past 7 decades and believe that they will record even greater success in their cause of national construction and development, turning Myanmar into a stable, peaceful and prosperous nation with an ever-increasing role and position in the region and the world.

The traditional friendship and Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership between our two countries have witnessed outstanding developments in 2019. I am convinced that the outcomes of recent high-level visits between our two countries will contribute greatly to the development of Viet Nam - Myanmar relations in a more substantial and effective manner, for the benefits of our two peoples, and for the sake of peace, stability, cooperation and development in the region and the world.

May I take this opportunity to wish Your Excellency the best of good health, happiness and success in your noble position.

From Moon Jae-in
President
Republic of Korea
Excellency,

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I wish to convey my warmest message of congratulations to Your Excellency and to the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

As we will be celebrating the 45th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Korea and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in 2020, I hope the friendly and cooperative ties that our two countries have cultivated thus far will bear plenty of fruits.

I also hope the agreement we had reached on a number of issues during the 2019 ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit and the 1st Mekong-ROK Summit will be fully implemented. I look forward to engaging in close cooperation with Your Excellency to this end.

Please accept, Your Excellency, my best wishes for your good health and continued success in all your endeavors as well as for the everlasting prosperity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From D. MEDVEDEV
Prime Minister of Russian Federation
MOSCOW
Dear Daw Aung San Suu Kyi,

On behalf of the Government of the Russian Federation and personally I send You greetings on the occasion of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Russia-Myanmar relations based on the principles of friendship and partnership are developed progressively. I am convinced that the further strengthening of cooperation in trade and economy, investments, as well as implementation of the perspective joint projects in energy, industry, science, culture and other fields meet in full measure the interests of the peoples of our countries.

I wish You, Dear Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, good health and success in Your responsible activities, the people of Myanmar well-being and prosperity.

Respectfully Yours,

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

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Win Myint

FROM PAGE-5

From Aleksandar Vučić
President of Serbia
Excellency,

On the occasion of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I extend to you, on behalf of the people of the Republic of Serbia and on my own, cordial felicitations and best wishes for the further prosperity and well-being of your country and its people.

The decades-long friendly relations between Serbia and Myanmar, based on the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement, have been characterized by a high level of mutual respect and appreciation. I am certain that our two states will continue to promote their bilateral relations and enhance the quality of cooperation, in all areas of mutual interest.

The Republic of Serbia and its people are highly appreciative of the principled position of Myanmar not to recognize the unilaterally declared independence of the so-called Kosovo. The position of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia you have maintained thus far we see not only as a demonstration of your consistent respect for the fundamental principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, but also as an affirmation of the traditionally good and friendly relations and solidarity existing between Serbia and Myanmar, even in the most difficult of times.

Confident that our two states share a firm commitment to the further deepening of political dialogue and cooperation in all areas of common interest, I stand ready to personally engage, in my capacity as President, to the benefit of the peoples of our two countries.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Public Announcement for remonstration

THE Alliance of Myanmar's Worker and Farmer Party (A.M.W.F.P) headquartered at No. 2626, Inn Win (4) Street, Nandawyar Ward, Bago in Bago Region, submitted an application for registration as a political party in accord with the Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 19-12-2019. In their application, they mention that they will use the name, the flag and the emblem as described hereunder.

In accord with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules, it is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party's name, flag and emblem may submit a complaint along with the supporting evidence within seven days starting from the issuance of this announcement.

Union Election Commission

Flag of Alliance of Myanmar's Worker and Farmer Party (A.M.W.F.P)

Emblem of Alliance of Myanmar's Worker and Farmer Party (A.M.W.F.P)

Myanmar Motion Picture Museum to be opened in January

THE Myanmar Motion Picture Museum (MMPM) will be opened in January inside the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization (MMPO) compound on Wingabar Street, Yangon, according to the MMPO.

"Our MMPO is preparing the building for the MMPM. Currently, the upgrade work on the building is over 80-per cent complete, and we only need to finish the decoration. We have already informed the related ministry to open the MMPM in January. Actually, this building will showcase the history of the film industry. We are opening the museum not only for actors and actresses, but also to help film audiences learn about the history of the Myanma film industry. We are working with historical researchers for the emergence of the MMPM. Upon completion of the MMPM, actors and actresses and film lovers would be able to visit it," said U Aye Kyu Lay, vice chairman of the MMPO.

Now, the renovation of the MMPM building and historical research on the exhibits are almost complete under the management of the MMPO. The MMPM was initially opened in 1998. At the time, it was crowded with visitors. The museum was closed temporarily and will be reopened in this month, according to the MMPO.

There will be a total of six showrooms at the museum — silver jubilee (1920-1945), golden jubilee (1946-1970), diamond jubilee (1971-1995), 100th anniversary Myanmar movies, Myanma movies academy award presentation scenes from 1952 till today, and a filmmaking industry gallery.

The MMPM will showcase photos of famous actors and actresses from all periods, historical films, antique cameras, flashguns, and broadcasting devices for visitors to help widen their scope of knowledge about Myanmar movies, according to the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, Yangon.—Myint Maung Soe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Size and description of the new Bogyoke Aung San currency note

THE size and description of the new currency notes are as follows –

1. The size of the new currency note is 15 x 7 cm with the portrait of Bogyoke Aung San (in Myanmar national dress with a Gaungbaung) in the middle portion of the obverse side. The note bears a similar portrait of Bogyoke Aung San in watermark on the left-hand portion of the note. On the obverse side, a security thread, a dynamic colourshift with a 3D effect that can be seen from any tilting angle, changed from gold to green, is embedded upright in the note. On the obverse side, eleven short raised lines are printed for the visual impaired persons.
2. On the middle portion of the reverse side, the note bears the illustration of the building of Hluttaw, Nay Pyi taw. On the reverse side, at the lower portion of Hluttaw, the inscription ONE THOUSAND KYATS is printed.
3. On the obverse side, on the top of the inscription မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော် ဗဟိုဘဏ် is printed and on the reverse side, the inscription CENTRAL BANK OF MYANMAR is printed on the top. On both sides, on the three corners the value of the note is printed in numeral figures. Banknote numbers are printed horizontally in Myanmar and vertically in English. Myanmar Floral designs are printed at the lower portion of obverse side and at the lower and right-hand portion of the reverse side.
4. On the right-hand portion of the note of the obverse side, English letter "CBM" can be seen from 45° tilting angle. On the reverse side, upright Gold colour Myanmar Floral designs can been clearly seen in the middle of the note from 45° tilting angle.
5. Both the obverse and reverse sides of the new currency notes are printed in multicolour inks and the dominating colour is blue.
6. 1000 New Bogyoke Design banknotes will be circulated on 7th January 2020 and current 1000 King Lion and Lion Designs banknotes are continuously to be legal tender.

Central Bank of Myanmar

Gem, jade to be sold in open tender system

A TOTAL of 286 gem lots and 3695 jade lots will be sold in an open tender system for local merchants in Myanmar currency at gem emporium held in Nay Pyi Taw. The second day of the emporium continued at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall yesterday morning. Merchants examined the gems displayed in the emporium and submitted their proposal letters through the tender box.

The emporium will sell 286 gems lots in an open tender system on 4 January, lot No 1 to 1250 of jade on 5 January, lot No 1251 to 2500 of jade on 6 January and lot No 2501 to 3695 of jade on 7 January in the same system. —MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Merchants examine the jade lots displayed in the gem emporium in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Commercial tax exemption for foreign buyers at gem trade fair

By Nyein Nyein

IN a move aimed at attracting international buyers, the authorities have exempted commercial tax on the purchase of gems and jewellry at the Yangon International Gems and Jewellery Fair 2020 by foreign buyers, said Daw Nyunt Nyunt Khine, joint-treasurer (1), Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association (GJEA).

The 3rd Yangon International Gems and Jewellery Fair 2020 will be held at the Lotte hotel on Pyay Road, Yangon, from 10 to 13 January. At the expo, there will be no commercial tax for foreign buyers so they can take gems outside freely.

"Our gems traders levy a total tax of 10 per cent, including a five-per cent jewellery tax and another five-per cent commercial tax. The Yangon International Gems and Jewellery Fair 2020 is aimed at grabbing a share of the international market. The government has permitted tax exemption for foreign buyers at the trade show. So, we don't need to add any commercial tax for foreign buyers. They will just have to pay the jewellery tax on the sale of jewellery. Foreigners really love it that they are granted tax-free purchase of jewellery because they get this chance for only four days," said Daw Nyunt Nyunt Khine.

"We expect that most foreigners will visit the Yangon International Gems and Jewellery Fair 2020 because they will get a tax exemption. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also sent invites through Myanmar embassies in 41 countries for the fair," she added.

"Myanmar ambassadors and Myanmar Economic and Commercial Counselor have invited gems traders from their countries. Those traders have to come to Myanmar with the invitation cards and they aren't limited in the holding of US dollars that they can declare upon arrival. Normally, foreigners are allowed to bring only US$10,000. Foreigners will find it very easy to get a visa to visit Myanmar for the fair. Last year, over 700 merchants from 27 countries visited Myanmar. We expect we will receive more merchants this year," said Daw Nyunt Nyunt Khine.

While we have granted tax exemption to foreigners, there is no commercial tax for local buyers, according to the Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association (Yangon).

Moreover, we will keep some for the laboratory room in order to check the quality of the gems and jewellery, the association added.

The fair, which will have about 128 stalls, will be organized by the Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association of Yangon with the support of the Myanma Gems Enterprise and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

4 JANUARY 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Building a democracy requires same effort as struggle for independence

TODAY is the 72nd anniversary of our Independence Day. Our country existed as an independent and sovereign country throughout history, and we lost our independence in 1885 after being invaded by British colonialists in 1824, 1852, and 1885.

To regain independence, all our national races united under sharp-witted and patriotic leaders, and sacrificed their blood and sweat with untiring perseverance and diligence.

Since the attainment of independence in 1948, our country has maintained good relations with all countries of the world. This is something our country can be very proud of. Since regaining its freedom in January, 1948, our country, despite being a small one, and battling war-related damages, has always won international respect. Why? Our people have been resilient in the midst of unprecedented woe, showing their talents.

> We must bring an end to the decades of conflict that have blighted our country since independence, and work to secure the lasting peace that our people have longed for.

On this auspicious 72nd Independence Day, we would like to ask our country's people to remember our glorious past and make concerted efforts to maintain this level of international recognition.

In 1948, when our country became independent, we established a parliamentary democracy. At that time, we could say that we were one of the foremost countries in Asia to have adopted a parliamentary democracy.

Unfortunately, armed conflicts gripped our country after independence, and we lost the trust of our ethnic brethren, who had struggled with us for independence.

We must bring an end to the decades of conflict that have blighted our country since independence, and work to secure the lasting peace that our people have longed for.

We have many diverse ethnic groups, and a legacy of decades of mistrust. Yet, through political negotiations, held in the spirit of cooperation and compromise, we are confident that we can build a peaceful and prosperous democratic federal Union through mutual trust and cooperation and by strengthening national unity and national reconciliation, just like we gained our independence through successful negotiations by Bogyoke Aung San.

In his 72nd Independence Day message, our President, U Win Myint, said, "We must put great efforts in the peace process and the transition process to democracy as we did in fighting for our independence, and endeavor to build a genuine, fully democratic nation, and continue to work together for the sustainable development of the nation."

Hence, with the everlasting solidarity of all national races, we must work towards successfully carrying out the amendment to the Constitution, which will play a vital role in building a democratic federal Union.

■■■

Myanmar and the World

By Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt,
Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja Sithu

SINCE Myanmar exists in this world, Myanmar and the world always exist together. In addition, the environment, natural resources, terrestrial on ground, underground and aquatic inland and coastal and maritime abroad have made Myanmar a bountiful land of great attraction so much so that Myanmar has always been subjected to interactions and relations with her immediate and mediate neighbors as well as countries far and near thereby passing through the cycle of vicissitudes of life, the ups and downs since the time of the beginning of human kind upon this planet we call Earth. Till this planet Earth disappears together with humankind, Myanmar is bound to exist on this Earth.

A cursory glance at Myanmar history will enlighten us that Myanmar has her due share in the beginning of mankind through its long process of evolution. Planetology, geology, anthropology, archaeology and history of Myanmar provide abundance of strong evidences to account for the evolution of mankind from earliest to the stage of Anthropithecus Erectus (human walking erect on two legs) then passing through long periods of progress: Paleolithic Age (Old Stone Age), Mesolithic Age (Middle Stone Age), and Neolithic Age (New Stone Age). From food gathering stage of Old Stone Age to food producing stage of New Stone Age, early men of Myanmar advanced in culture and civilization. Many sites and places across the country are attractions of scientists and tourists. From cave dwellers of a settled agricultural life to village, township, district, city-states to kingdom and empire, peoples in Myanmar went passed through every phase and stage of evolution and progress of civilization and culture.

In the current context of geopolitics, so-called Southeast Asia has five insular and five peninsula countries. Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore are five insular countries or state, whereas Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Viet Nam and Myanmar are peninsular countries or states on the mainland. Of these ten, Indonesia is the largest size in terms of land and population and Myanmar comes next to Indonesia in territorial size only not in population. Roughly speaking, Myanmar possesses a land almost equal to the sizes of the United Kingdom, France and Belgium. But its population, according to latest census, is barely 50+ million.

The country's geographic location speaks volume for its geo-political and strategic importance. A country with a long borders and a long coastline is never isolated in its history.

At all times contact and relations and inter-actions with its neighbors and countries far and near. Myanmar is never an island (isolated) country.

Due to the geopolitical, strategic and natural factors described above, Myanmar has been subjected to the changes, political, economic, and socio-cultural at home and abroad. Peace, war, unity, disunity, conflicts, conciliation, sovereignty and subjection.

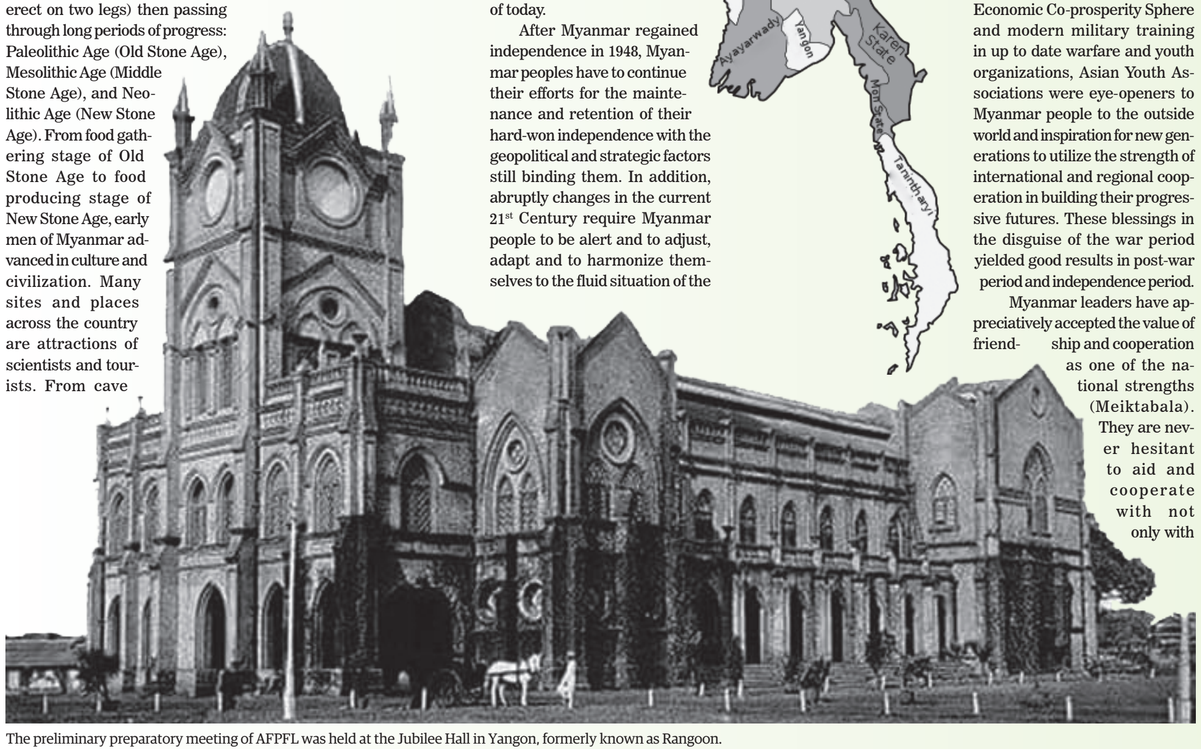
The British Colonial Rule of over a century, the Japanese Fascism of about half a decade 5 years of Japanese Occupation during the Second World War still live in the memories of Myanmar peoples of today.

After Myanmar regained independence in 1948, Myanmar peoples have to continue their efforts for the maintenance and retention of their hard-won independence with the geopolitical and strategic factors still binding them. In addition, abruptly changes in the current 21st Century require Myanmar people to be alert and to adjust, adapt and to harmonize themselves to the fluid situation of the time. The formative period of Myanmar's struggle for national freedom had a good lesson of gathering a friend or ally in the neighborhood and beyond. When Fascist Japan proved to be a new colonial power rather than the liberator of Myanmar, Myanmar people turned to the Western Alliance to repulse Japanese fascism, as Myanmar people were against the colonial rule not against the Western countries, they joined with Western Powers to defeat Japanese fascism. The lessons learnt in those war years were that other countries subjected to colonialism were struggling for national freedom. The Japanese war propaganda and slogans such as "Asia for the Asiatics" East Asia Economic Co-prosperity Sphere and modern military training in up to date warfare and youth organizations, Asian Youth Associations were eye-openers to Myanmar people to the outside world and inspiration for new generations to utilize the strength of international and regional cooperation in building their progressive futures. These blessings in the disguise of the war period yielded good results in post-war period and independence period.

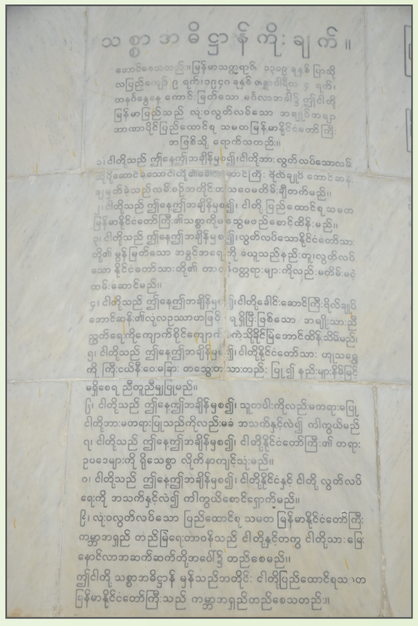
Myanmar leaders have appreciatively accepted the value of friend- ship and cooperation as one of the national strengths (Meiktabala). They are never hesitant to aid and cooperate with not only with immediate neighbor countries but also with mediate neighbors and far and near people who are also struggling for national freedom and rebuilding and rehabilitation. Myanmar was always at the front of such cooperation tasks. Bogyoke Aung San never failed to attend international gatherings for such kind of task and never hesitant to take share even though his own country was devastated by the colonial rule, Japanese Fascism and Second World War. Two outstanding Myanmar aids may be cited here. In struggling to liberate their country from the French colonialism, Vietnam (French Indochina) had to fight with arms, resulting in the division of the country — North Vietnam and South Vietnam which suffered much. Myanmar supported both by providing food, machinery, and clothing to the Vietnams. Myanmar kept diplomatic relations with both North and South Vietnam Governments, true to her neutral policy. Similarly, the East Indies (now Indonesia) struggled to liberate themselves from the Dutch East India Colonial Rule; Myanmar gave not only moral support and political backing in the UN General Assembly but also in its rehabilitation works. Myanmar donated Dakota aircrafts used during the war to the first Indonesian Airline "the Garuda". The Indonesian Government today is expressing their national thanks to Myanmar for that help when they were in badly need.

The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence or Pancha Sila of Banduong Conference and later much larger and wider movement called Non-Alignment Movement (NAM) can be traced to its origin in 1947, a year before Myanmar regained independence. The British Labor Government headed by Mr. Clement Atlee and British Parliament decided to grant independence to India and Myanmar peacefully. He invited Bogyoke Aung San and colleagues to London for talk in the British Parliament. In those days of post- World War period, aircrafts needed to stop on the way for refueling. So Bogyoke Aung San's aircraft had to stop at New Delhi Airport for refueling. Taking the opportunity of few hours in New Delhi, Bogyoke Aung San asked for a courtesy call on Mr. Pandit Nehru who obligingly accepted. During an hour and a half dialogue between the two leaders, they discussed topics of common interest.

SEE PAGE-10



The preliminary preparatory meeting of AFPFL was held at the Jubilee Hall in Yangon, formerly known as Rangoon.



The Union Jack is lowered on 4th January 1948 and Myanmar became an independent republic.

Myanmar and the World

The State flag is raised to celebrate at the ceremony to mark the 71st Independence Day in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

FROM PAGE-9

When Mr. Nehru asked Bogyoke Aung San what kind of foreign policy Independent Myanmar would adopt in the current international situation of bi-polarization (West Bloc led by Capitalist USA and East Bloc led by Communist Russia USSR.) Bogyoke Aung San replied that he would adopt neutral policy —not joining either bloc, remain friendly with all countries and devoting to internal matters of his country, national rehabilitation, reconstruction, national unification, economic and socio-cultural plannings. Without hesitation, Mr. Nehru said he was of the same thinking. Thus Neutralism became the favorite and role model for all Asian, African, Latin American colonies, liberated colonies to adopt because of its wisdom and pragmatism. The changing times, places and circumstances of the post-WWII period proved that neutralism was the right course.

In the years 1955-56, India and all liberated and about to be liberated countries in East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America held an international conference at the capital Bandung. At the time when the Cold War was in full swing, the holding of the Afro-Asian Conference in Indonesia was a great surprise to both East and West Blocs. They underestimated that conference saying that it would not succeed but it would collapse.

Contrary to their negative prediction, the conference did succeed, resulting in the unanimous agreement on Pancha Sila Five Moral Principles for all countries to abide by willingly. Though politically, economically, racially, religiously and culturally different, all countries, all mankind can live together peacefully and work together for their common wealth. Even leaders from the communist countries such as Prime Minister Mr. Chou En Lai of the People's Republic of China, Marshall Tito of national communist country Yugoslavia, attended the conference and signed the Agreement. Israel and Palestine, Egypt also joined.

Since then, there seemed to emerge another power bloc Neutral Bloc as a counterweight to stabilize the balance of power between West Bloc and East Bloc. But so -called Neutral Bloc is not a bloc in true sense of the term. It has no organization, no office, no constitution, and no media. Just coming together and giving vote together for common good in the UN General Assembly. Nevertheless, both East and West Blocs began paying serious attention to the Neutral Group in the UN and tried to win their friendship by all means.

There emerged criticism and condemnation in the western countries regarding neutralism of Bandung Conference participant countries. Well known among them was the Secretary of State of the US Government Mr. John Foster Dulles who vehemently criticized and condemned neutralism "Neutral countries are dangerous opportunists who take all advantages, aids, etc. from both East and West blocs, but doing nothing for the world. They are like tightrope walkers in the circus. As long as they can balance on the tight rope it is OK for the time being. But one moment they fall either this side or the other side. If they fall our side, that is good but if they fall other side, they are dangerous. So they are our future enemies. Sitting on the fence will never give you advantage, security or benefit. You are sure to get into trouble one side or another."

Because of that kind of criticism, Myanmar Government became more cautious in dealing with both blocs. Always alert and careful if aid, assistance and cooperation had any obligation (strings) attached. Myanmar's foreign policy is always active, cooperative and alert. In every international crisis, Myanmar participated and said and acted what Myanmar thought was right. But Myanmar never broke the UN Charter or Bandung Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence or International Law or International Organizations. To cite but a few cases, when as a result of Egypt's nationalization of Suez Canal the British, French and their allies bombed Cairo without formal declaration of War. When that crisis was put up in the UN General Assembly, Myanmar openly joined Afro-Asian votes condemning it as sheer aggression. Not long after that, when the Soviet Army invaded Hungary to put down the Hungarian rebellion, Myanmar condemned it as an aggression.

In the Middle East, Myanmar was of the first group of countries to recognize Israel also Myanmar gave sincere support to the formation of Palestine and internationalization of Jerusalem City.

Though Myanmar is only a medium size country with a comparatively small population and backward in many ways, it is actively taking its role in international affairs. Despite changes in political, economic and social systems, successive governments, military, semi-military or civilian, never deviate from its foreign policy, never interfering in domestic affairs of other countries, taking its obligations and commitments dutifully and sincerely. But in keeping with three national causes (1) Non-disintegration of the Federal Union; (2) Non-disintegration of the National Solidarity, and (3) Perpetuation of Sovereignty, Myanmar Government and peoples would defend their country tooth and nail. In her domestic matters and border affairs, Myanmar is dealing domestically or with the stake holder countries. Sincere international advice and cooperation are welcome. But in the guise of international cooperation, any attempt to promote ulterior motives a country, a community of countries, organization would be resisted. Realizing the sincere intention and healthy and right actions of Myanmar Government, countries, big and small organizations begin to stand by Myanmar side.

Everything changes, except the Law of Change. That is the permanent law. Rich or poor, Great or small, Strong or weak, Popular or notorious, they are not permanent, always subject to change. We Myanmar harbor no malice to all but charity to all. We believe in the ups and downs of a human life as well as the life of a country or a nation. But with Metta or Loving Kindness, we can also get a true friend when we are in need of him.

Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt,
Maha Saddhamma Jotika
Dhaja Sithu
Emeritus Professor, History, Political Science and IR Department, Member of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies

2020, 72nd 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.

New Year Dhamma ceremony ends with sermon by Sitagu Sayadaw

THE final day of the 2020 New Year Dhamma ceremony took place yesterday evening at the People's Park, near the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, with Sitagu Sayadaw Dr. Ashin Nyanissara delivering a sermon.

Among the congregation were Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and his wife, Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Tin Maung Tun, and Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, members of the Yangon Region cabinet, and departmental officials.

The last event of the three-day Dhamma ceremony attracted over 100,000 people.

The Yangon Region Government has held the Dhamma ceremony for four consecutive years.

"We have arranged ferry services for the people. This Dhamma ceremony is also being broadcast live for the entire country," said U Shein Win, chairman of the committee for holding the ceremony.

Devotees seen at the final day of the 2020 New Year Dhamma ceremony at the People's Park, near the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

Meanwhile, well-wishers donated food and private hospitals and clinics medical supplies for the congregation during the event. Yangon Region Government arranged public transportation for the event, and private taxi owners offered their free services.

"This is the first time for me to come to this Dhamma event. I am also delighted to listen to teachings of the Sayadaws and to see labour services of young people. I have gained knowledge and ways for life from this events," said Daw Moe Moe from South Okkalapa Township.

"I also brought my neighbours in my car to this event to receive the teachings of the Sayadaws. This event is held one time in a year," said Ko Than Htike from Insein Township.

The three-day event started on the New Year Day with a sermon delivered by Bhamo Saydaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa, Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

On the second Day, Rector Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Nanda Malar Bhivamsa delivered the sermon. —Zaw Gyi

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State holds 21st coord meeting

THE Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State held their 21st coordination meeting at the meeting room of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Present at the meeting were Committee Chairman Union SWRR Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, Vice Chairman and Deputy Minister for Office of the State Counsellor U Khin Maung Tin, Joint-Secretary and Deputy SWRR Minister U Soe Aung, Rakhine State Government Secretary and committee members who are also departmental permanent secretaries, directors-general, deputy directors-general, and other officials.

Firstly, Dr Win Myat Aye delivered a speech, in which he said relevant departments regularly implement the recommendations assigned to them. He said the committee reports its processes in a transparent manner to the public. He said the conflicts in Rakhine State were the result of underdevelopment and long-lasting losses, suspicion and misunderstandings between the different communities.

The Union Minister said the ministries and relevant committees are working hard to resolve these issues and there had been improvements. He said they prioritized recommendations from the previous 20th coordination meeting and drew action plans accordingly.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds the coordination meeting with members of the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Union Minister said if the benefits of these plans cannot be shown to be benefiting the public then it cannot be labeled as successful. He urged the ministerial committee members to keep themselves updated of the situation on the ground when drawing up plans and for the Rakhine government to work closely with currently implementing staff.

The Union Minister suggested each relevant department to set up monitoring and evaluation teams to be updated on the progress and challenges faced when implementing the recommendations. He said while conflicts slowed down processes it is still important to carry on with those that can still be implemented. He said in places with cohesiveness in society, processes that promote harmony should be established akin to friendly bazaars.

The Union Minister said the committee is providing support to IDPs in Rakhine State in line with the population list. He said the birth certificate issuing and citizenship verification processes are gaining momentum and it is important to continue them and also increase effective implementation of educational and health opportunities. He also said it is important to record these activities.

The Union Minister said it is important to motivate the public to increase their participation and cooperation in this endeavor. He said news of the committee's activities need to be short and concise in order to proliferate quickly at home and around the world. He said to do this, an effective news distribution methods need to uncovered in line with existing policies, laws, rules and regulations.

Next, Committee Vice Chairman U Khin Maung Tin discussed the effectiveness of employing mobile teams for citizenship verification and issuing birth certificates, conferring scholarships, and organizing discussions between technical working groups concerning medium-term projects.

Afterwards, other attendees engaged in relevant discussions and the Union Minister provided suggestions where needed before closing the meeting. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Deputy Commerce Minister receives Myanmar Consul to Chennai

Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo received Myanmar Consul in Chennai, India, Prof Ranganathan J and delegation at his ministry yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed promoting trade and investment between Myanmar and India, sustainably exporting various kinds of pea from Myanmar to India, organizing expos together to promote bilateral trade and closer cooperation between businesses and mutual invitations, cooperating on advancement of cross-border electronic trade, and expanding the travel sector in both nations. — MNA *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun receives Nepali Ambassador

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun meets with Ambassador of Nepal Mr Bhim K Udas in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun received Ambassador of Nepal Mr Bhim K Udas at the meeting hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters related to cooperation between the two countries in sectors of tourism, cultural and media.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Notification of JICA (ODA) SME Two-Step Loan

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) make up 99% of Myanmar's economy. Developing them will provide increased employment opportunities for local residents and increase individual income. Thus, MSME development is crucial for national economic development.

As a result, Myanmar Economic Bank (MEB)has acquired an ODA loan from JICA to support the development of Myanmar's MSMEs and is acting as the Executing Agency for the two-step loan.

Apart from the types of businesses outlined below, any MSME may apply for a loan in line with the 2015 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Law:-

(1) Farmers who do not meet sufficient criteria to acquire a loan from Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank

(2) Real estate agencies

(3) Banking and insurance businesses

(4) Precious metal companies

(5) Liquor stores and pubs

(6) Entertainment businesses (excluding foreign travel agencies)

(7) Firearm and gunpowder production and sales businesses

No.	Criteria for acquiring JICA SME two-step loan	
1	Possible loan amount for SMEs	K500 million maximum
2	Criteria for loan usage	Using at least 80% of loan as fixed capital
		Using a maximum 20% of loan as working capital
3	Loan interest rate	Depending on collateral provided, can range from minimum 8.5% to maximum 13%
4	Loan period	From 1 to 5 years

List of contactable banks to acquire Phase-1 of JICA SME Two-Step Loan

(1) Small and Medium Enterprise Development Bank (SMEDB)

(2) Myanmar Apex Bank (MAB)

(3) Ayeyawady Bank (AYA)

(4) Kanbawza Bank (KBZ)

(5) Cooperative Bank (CB)

Implementation process of Phase-1 of JICA SME Two-Step Loan

Currently, the six aforementioned banks have given out a total of K57,634.43 million in loans to 269 MSMEs. The amount repaid for these loans were deposited in the transferable fund which gives out further loans, of which K22,624.05 million in loans has been given out to 114 MSMEs as of November 2019. The remainder of the fund is being used to further assist MSMEs through the 6 aforementioned banks.

List of contactable banks to acquire Phase-2 of JICA SME Two-Step Loan

(1) Myanmar Citizen Bank (MCB)

(2) Kanbawza Bank (KBA)

(3) Myanmar Economic Bank (MEB)

(4) Cooperative Bank (CB)

(5) Ayeyawady Bank (AYA)

(6) First Private Bank (FPB)

(7) United Amara Bank (UAB)

(8) Small and Medium Enterprise Development Bank (SMEDB)

(9) Myanmar Oriental Bank (MOB)

(10) Myanmar Apex Bank (MAB)

(11) Naypyitaw Sibin Bank (NSB)

Implementation process of Phase-2 of JICA SME Two-Step Loan

In Phase-2 of the JICA SME Two-Step Loan, 10,500 Japanese Yen equal to K143,125 million has been acquired and given out as loans through the 11 aforementioned banks. As of November 2019, 489 MSMEs have taken out a combined K83,258 million in loans.

MSMEs in need of capital can contact the aforementioned banks to apply for loans.

Myanmar Economic Bank

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
Ministry of Construction

INVITATION FOR BID

1. The Government of the Union of Myanmar has received a loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of " Regional Development Project for Poverty Reduction Phase 2 MY-P17" . It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contracts for the construction of the pilot project listed below for "Regional Development Project for Poverty Reduction Phase 2 (MY-P17)".
2. The Department of Highway (DOH), Ministry of Construction now invites sealed Bids from eligilble Bidders for the construction and completion of the work below;

IFB No	Project ID	Works
DOH-04A	Taungoo-LeikTho-YarDo-Loikaw-HoPhone Road	9.02 kmx 5.5m wide Concrete Pavement Road, RC Bridge, Drainage structures and other miscellaneous structures
DOH-04B	Taungoo-LeikTho-YarDo-Loikaw-HoPhone Road	9.00 kmx 5.5m wide Concrete Pavement Road, RC Bridge, Drainage structures and other miscellaneous structures

3. Selling of Bid Documents ; (7-1-2020) to (14-1-2020)
4. Submission of Bids ; (12:00) noon on (20-2-2020)
5. Opening of Preliminary Examination Check for Bids; (13:30) hours on (20-2-2020)
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidder at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ; Fifty Thousands Myanmar Kyat (ks. 50000/-)
7. Interested eligible Bidder (The eligible country of the bidder is the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, only (i.e. Bidders shall be civil engineering firms registered in Myanmar)) may obtain further information from and inspect the Biddding Documents at the office of Project Inspection and Quality Control Department (Construction), Department of Highways, Ministry of construction, Building No. (11), Nay Pyi Taw.

Contact Person; Daw Khin San Nyunt Oo
Phone no; 09-5084576/ 09-257728844/ 09-450330580
E-mail address; pwhqairfield@gmail.com, dohjica.sector@gmail.com

A sushi chef serves a sushi plate at a restaurant. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Japan eyes adding culinary masters as "living national treasures"

TOKYO — Japan is considering designating highly skilled masters of Japanese cuisine and sake brewers as "living national treasures" currently limited to traditional art performers and fine craft makers, sources familiar with the matter said Friday.

The Cultural Affairs Agency also plans to add local cuisine as "intangible cultural assets." By elevating culinary artisans and local cuisines, the government hopes to further attract foreign interest in Japan, boosting tourism and food exports.

The agency will set up a unit specialized in Japanese food culture in April, and start surveying Japan's food and drink landscape, as it seeks possible nominees among food and drink artisans with high skills, the sources said.

However, the prestigious designations for the culinary masters may take several years as the agency still needs to choose the necessary criteria, as it faces the challenge of determining how to evaluate the complex culinary world.

Once chosen, they will receive government subsidies to help develop their skills further and build up their successors. —Kyodo News

New law gives foreign investors teeth in bite of China market

BEIJING — In a world fraught with uncertainties, foreign firms in China have something certain to expect for 2020 and beyond: a more law-based business environment.

As a comprehensive and fundamental set of legal standards for foreign investment activities, the foreign investment law, passed by the country's top legislature in early 2019, took effect on Jan. 1, 2020 to better protect foreign investors' interests.

With unified provisions for the entry, promotion, protection and management of foreign investment, it is a new and fundamental law in this field that will address foreign firms' concerns and enhance their "sense of gain," said Zong Changqing, head of the foreign investment administration department of the Ministry of Commerce.

People visit the booth of GE at the Equipment exhibition area during the second China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, east China, 8 November, 2019. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

FACILITATION AND EASE

Previously, foreign investment in China was mainly regulated by three separate laws on Chinese-foreign equity joint ventures, wholly foreign-owned enterprises and Chinese-foreign contractual joint ventures. They had provided strong legal safeguards for foreign enterprises but were outgrown by the needs of reform and opening up in the new era.

There are fewer "regulations" and "limitations" under the new foreign investment law, said Wei Jianguo, vice chairman of the China Center for International Economic Exchanges. "The law could boil down to two words: 'facilitation' and 'ease.'"

With the law, foreign-invested enterprises will be granted access to government procurement markets through fair competition.

The law also bans using administrative licensing and penalties to force foreign investors and firms to transfer technology.— Xinhua ■

Request for Suggestion on the Transparency of the Company Registration Information

The Myanmar Companies Law (2017) came into effect on 1 August 2018. Since that time, in accordance with the Law, the Myanmar Companies Online (MyCO) registry has been used and the information on all registered companies is made available to the Public. Currently, the basic information on the registered companies can freely be available for the Public and the detailed company information can be accessed with the prescribed fees according to the Section 421 (e) of the Myanmar Companies Law.

With the aim of supporting to emerge the transparent, competitive and rule-based economic models and achieve the good governance and sustainable development, in exercise of the powers conferred under section 421 (b) of the Myanmar Companies Law, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration is preparing some information related to the company ownership to be available free of charge.

Furthermore, in accordance with the section 421 (f), the certificate of the incorporation of any company or certified true copy of the company incorporation certificate or extract of any other document or any part of any other document required by the Myanmar Companies Law to be filed with the Registrar and kept with the records of a company or extract of other documents will be made publicly available the prescribed fees.

The Public Companies are encouraged to register the company members in the MyCO system in line with the Notification No.59/2018 of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration for the Public information.

For managing to access the company ownership information related to the Private Companies registered in the MyCO system free of charge by the Public, it is hereby notified that the suggestions on the disclosure of ownership information of the Private Companies can be sent to the following emails or fax by 31 January 2020:

dica@mptmail.net.mm
dir.myco@dica.gov.mm
Fax- 01 658135.

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY.NO. (145 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY.NO. (145 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports for the supply of Medicines, Medical products and Consumables in the (2019-2020) Budget year.

Tender documents are available during office hours at the Procurement and Supplying Division, Department of Medical Services office No (4), Ministry of Health and Sports Commencing from (7.1.2020).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office, not later than(6-2-2020),12:00 noon, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraph/telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information please contact the Phone No.067-3411510, 067-3411544, Procurement and Supply Division Office, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports.

Procurement and Supply Division
Ministry of Health and Sports

Announcement For Distributor Changing

Myanmar Golden Byter CO., LTD was distributor of HEBEI RUIBAODE BIO-CHEMICAL CO., LIMITED the following product registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board. Now, Myanmar Golden Byter CO., LTD transfer the following product to FRIENDS HELPER CO., LTD.

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No
(1)	NX Strozole	Difenoconazole 10% + Pyraclostrobin 20% EC	Experimental	E2019-4681
(2)	NX Pymetro	Pymetrozine 25% WP	Experimental	E2019-4735

It is therefore announced to come and reject within two weeks to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West of Gyogone Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the changing distributor of Fungicide and insecticide.

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PHOTOS: MAUNG THA (ARCHEOLOGY)

Ancient Pinya city vs. three great caves

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

ANCIENT Pinya city established in 674 Myanmar era lasted for 51 years. Among six kings ruling the city, King Taseeshin Thihathu reign over the city from 1319 to 1322 AD, King Uzzana from 1322 to 1344, King Ngaseeshin Kyaw Swa from 1344 to 1350, King Kyaw Swa Nge from 1350 to 1359, King Narathu from 1359 to 1365 and King Uzzanapyaung three months in 1365. King Thadoeminphya occupied Pinya to end the Pinya dynasty.

Sagaing city was established by King Athinkhaya Saw Ywam in 1315 AD. Seven kings governed Sagaing during the 50-year period. King Athinkhaya Saw Ywam reigned over Sagaing from 1315 to 1327 AD, King Tayaphya from 1327 to 1336, King Shwe Taung Tet from 1336 to 1339, King Kya Swa from 1339 to 1348, King Nawrahta Min Ye seven months, King Hsinbyushin Tayaphyange from 1349 to 1352, and King Min Pyauk from 1352 to 1365. As King Thadoeminphya of Inwa occupied Sagaing in 1365, the Sagaing dynasty ended.

Pinya Shwezigon

Sagaing and Pinya, contemporary with Bagan, were established near Inwa. Sagaing and Inwa were located on each bank of Ayeyawady River but Pinya in southern part of Ayeyawady River was parallel to Inwa on same bank. Now, TadaU is located between Pinya and Inwa. TadaU and Pinya are situated on either side of Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.

Shwezigon Pagoda, three caves and NanU Pagoda were located as ancient buildings in 51 years lasting ancient Pinya city. The triangle shape walls of the city were not significant but it can be seen as a long mound. The length from the north to the south was shorter than that of from the east to the west.

Pinya Shwezigon Pagoda was based on triple terrace with the passage ladder and corner pagodas. Twinthin History mentioned that ancient Pinya city was established together with royal palace, city, moat, lake, inner monastery, golden cave and Shwezigon Pagoda in 1313 AD at the same time.

Some said King Thihathu passed away before finishing construction of Shwezigon Pagoda, so his son King Uzzana continued construction of the pagoda to finish. But, Cetiyakatha (Combined History) written by Monyway Abbot mentioned King Thihathu could build Shwezigon Pagoda and hoisted a gold umbrella atop it. King Uzzana enveloped the pagoda and hoisted the umbrella atop it. In the reign of King Sinku, the pagoda collapsed. When the pagoda was cracked, the structure of the pagoda built by King Thihathu was seen together with the gold umbrella. Although stupas and temples were not hoisted umbrellas in Bagan era, the pagodas in Pinya era were hoisted umbrellas.

After the Pinya era, Shwezigon Pagoda was gilt by King Swa Saw Ke and King Sanay of Inwa era and King Myedu in Konbaung era donated land plots for the pagoda. King Sinku, son of King Myedu, gilt the pagoda from spindle-shaped pieces to circumference in 1138 ME. On 20 October 1781, as the pagoda collapsed, King Sinku cleared old bricks to build the new pagoda.

Mural paintings depicting Buddhological events were expressed in a small temple,

Glazed plaques Depicting scenes from the Jatakas seen outside the cave temples.

Buddha statue in the cave. **PHOTO: MAUNG THA** (ARCHAEOLOGY)

southeast corner of Shwezigon Pagoda. Although a picture of lotus flowers with hundreds of petals could be seen in the ceiling inside, mural paintings were damaged at the temple. There remain many mural paintings in a small cave in northern part of east stairway of the pagoda.

Three great caves in Pinya

Locals said there were three temples in the walls of ancient Pinya city located in west of TadaU-Kyaukse road. So, these temples were famous as three great caves in Pinya. According to the oral history, southern temple of the three was built by King Thihathu.

Two stone plaques between the middle and northern temples mentioned that King Uzzana donated the land plots for the temples. As stone inscriptions mentioned land plots were donated after building three caves, some said King Uzzana built these caves. Due to the fact that stone inscription mentioning that King Uzzana built the cave in Einneint Ward in 712 ME, writer Bo Shake reviewed Einneintkan Village was located, more than three miles southeast of ancient Pinya city. Princes lived there before ascending the thrones. So, anyone cannot know whether Einneint Ward mentioned in the stone inscription was Einneintkan Village or venue of three great caves.

Moreover, it is not sure to know whether stone plaques were posted near the temples as original or not because the stone plaque chamber was built in current era. So also, it is not sure whether these stone plaques were moved from other places.

Three great temples were in same form. They were located 120 feet to each other. The middle temple was the largest, and two others were formed with cave circular roads and ladders up to the temples.

Four dimensions of three temples had arches where Buddha images were kept. These temples can be assessed as the works after Bagan era. There remains concrete works in the southern temple. Mural paintings at the southern temple disappeared. The places of glazed cups can be seen at the temples but there was no glazed cup.

NanU Pagoda

Pinya NanU Pagoda was built in the paddy field, north of three great caves but the pagoda can be seen as the brick mound. The royal palace site of Pinya city was located in west of NanU Pagoda. Although donor for NanU Pagoda was not mentioned exactly, many assumed well-wisher might be King Thihathu because NanU Pagoda was included on the list of seven structures for establishment of Pinya city.

Collapsed NanU Pagoda can be seen as just square foundation. As a marble Buddha image in Nyaungyan era was found from the pagoda, it was assumed that the pagoda might be renovated in Nyaungyan era. Such Buddha image is displayed at Inwa Museum.

The Department of Archaeology and National Museum excavated Pinya royal place mound, west of NanU Pagoda, from July to September 1994 and fenced it with barbed wires. More than 120,000 square feet Pinya royal palace facing the south was formed with ground tier-roofed hall, Zetawun Hall, Baungdaw Hall, South Samok Hall and North Samok Hall.

According to the evidences found in excavation, the royal palace of Pinya city was destroyed by outbreak of fire. Bricks of the palace were 18 inches in length, nine inches in width and three inches in thickness. Some bricks were impressed with paddy husks.

The Department of Archaeology and National Museum has been preserving 20 buildings including the triangle shaped royal palace, brick walls, three great caves, Pinya Shwezigon Pagoda, post shoe and NanU Pagoda.

Places of seven champac monasteries assumed as built by King Uzzana were one of historic venues in ancient Pinya city. These monasteries were made of champac timber. Writer Bo Shake noted one of champac monasteries was located on a mound west of Mingun Pagoda and Saka-in Village. The precinct of the monastery can be seen there clearly. There remains a ladder made of shale. It was assumed such place might be middle one of champac monasteries.

End of Pinya

After assassinating Pinya King Min Pyauk and Sagaing King Uzzanapyaung, King Thadoeminphya temporarily came onto the throne in Pinya. Sagaing broke down in May 1364 AD and Pinya in June the same year. King Thadoeminphya also ruled Pinya and Sagaing. He assumed Pinya was not in good condition to attack enemy and then established Inwa on 26 January 1364.

King Saw Mon Nit, last king of Bagan dynasty, ruled Bagan at a time when Pinya and Sagaing had broken down but King Thadoeminphya established Inwa with large strength. So, King Saw Mon Nit surrendered to the Inwa King in 1368 AD. That was why Bagan, Pinya and Sagaing eras came to an end. Ancient Inwa city established by King Thadoeminphya lasted for about 400 years from 1364 to 1751 AD, and Inwa became royal palace four times.

Six kings ruled Pinya in its era, seven in Sagaing and 31 in Inwa. Whatever it maybe, Pinya became an ancient city with Myanmar cultural heritages between Bagan and Inwa eras.

Translated by Than Tun Aung

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Myanmar climbs 13 places in FIFA ranking in 10 years

THE Myanmar men's national football team rose 13 places in FIFA ranking within a period of ten years, according to an official statement issued by FIFA.

The FIFA ranking of the Myanmar national football team was 149 in 2010, and the team's rank up to the end of 2019 until now has been 136. Hence, team Myanmar has been recognized as the third most developed team in ASEAN.

In 2013, team Myanmar's FIFA ranking had jumped to 130 and then declined to 159 in 2016, and again rose to 136 in 2019.

The Viet Nam men's football team has been recognized as the most developed team in ASEAN, having jumped 43 places from 137 to 94 within a 10-year period.

Meanwhile, the Philippines team is the second most developed team, having jumped 25 places in FIFA ranking from 149 to 124, while the Thailand team is the fourth most developed team, having climbed up 8 positions in FIFA ranking from 121 to 113.

At the same time, the FIFA ranking of the Indonesian men's football team has slid by 46 positions to 173 from 127 in ten years.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

The Myanmar men's national football team seen before an international football match. **HOTO: MFF**

MFF Charity Cup 2020: Press meet held ahead of football giants' face-off

Shan United head coach, U Aung Naing (left), Shan United captain Thiha Sithu (second from the left), Yangon United captain Kyaw Zin Htet (second from the right), Yangon United head coach U Tin Maung Tun (right) hold the MFF Charity Cup. **PHOTO: MFF**

A press conference was held yesterday at the conference hall of the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon ahead of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) Charity Cup 2020 match between national league defending champions Shan United and General Aung San Shield defending champions Yangon United.

The press meet was attended by Shan United head coach U Aung Naing, captain and goalkeeper of Shan United Thiha Sithu, Yangon United head coach U Tin Maung Tun, and captain and goalkeeper of Yangon United Kyaw Zin Htet.

During the conference, the coaches and the players spoke about the upcoming match.

Shan United head coach U Aung Naing said, "I will use the most suitable players except from the injured player list. Though the stadium we have to play in is an artificial turf, there will be no problem. Foreign players in the team are also okay with the national league playing style. We will focus on a good start from this match."

Shan United goalkeeper Thiha Sithu said, "We will try for a good result in the opening season match. I want my junior keepers to participate in the upcoming season matches according to the permission of head coach and their abilities."

Yangon United head coach U Tin Maung Tun said, "Though we are playing in our home stadium, we have to take care of Shan United as they did well in the previous season. Now, my team has strong new players, not only for the domestic league, but also for international tourneys like the AFC Cup Championship."

Yangon United goalkeeper Kyaw Zin Htet said, "I want a win at the start. The entrance fee collected for the match will be donated to those in need. Now, I am feeling confident with my team's form."

The match is scheduled to take place at the Yangon United Sports Complex on 5 January, and will be streamed live on MySports' Facebook page and broadcast live on MRTV, according to the MFF.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Magwe FC prepares for Myanmar National League 2020 season

THE Magwe Football Club is preparing for the next season of the Myanmar National League with new players, according to a statement issued by the club.

The newly recruited players are defender Thein Zaw and midfielder Yan Lin Aung from Yangon United FC, midfielders Nyi Nyi Tun and Sitt Mhone from Zwekapin United FC, midfielders Nyi Nyi Min and Zaw Lwin Oo from Dagon FC, defender Ko Ko Hein from Ayeyawady United FC, goalkeeper Aung Bo Bo Zaw from Ayeyawady United U-21 FC, and defender Kyaw Thet Oo from Yadanarbon FC.

Magwe FC will use 30 local players, most of them youth stars, in the upcoming season of the Myanmar National League, according to the football federation.

Two players — Zeyyar Naing and Kyaw Thu Tun — from the Myanmar U-22 men's football team have been injured and they are likely to miss the upcoming season matches, said a source with the football federation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Players from Magwe FC seen during a training session. **PHOTO: MGW FC**