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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## President U Win Myint welcomes Vietnamese Prime Minister



President U Win Myint holds talk with Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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

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

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

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

They also held a meeting at the Credentials Hall on the topics about en-

hancement of bilateral friendship and ties between the two countries, bilateral cooperation in regional and international arenas for the interest of the two countries, exchange visits of high level delegation visits to mark the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties, improvement of trade and investments, promotion of tourism sector, multi-sector cooperation and partnership relations.

The meeting was also attended by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Sein Win, U Min Thu, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, U Thaug Tun, Myanmar Ambassador to Viet Nam U Kyaw Soe Win, Vietnamese Ambassador Dr Luan Thuy Duong and officials.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## State Counsellor holds press conference with Vietnamese PM after high-level talks



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talk with Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

**S**TATE Counsellor received Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

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

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

The meeting focused on bilateral cooperation in economy, trade, investments, banking, agriculture, electricity and energy, forestry and natural resources, construction, technologies, cultural

exchange, support of Myanmar to Vietnam as rotating chair of ASEAN in 2020, ASEAN affairs, close cooperation with international organizations including the United Nations and the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Myanmar-VietNam diplomatic relations.

The meeting was also attended by Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, U Min Thu, Dr Aung Thu, U Ohn Win, U Win Khaing, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, U Soe Win, U Thaug Tun, Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Deputy Minister U Tha Oo, Myanmar Ambassador to Viet Nam U Kyaw Soe Win, his counterpart Dr. Luan Thuy Duong and senior government officials of the two countries.

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## Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 14<sup>th</sup> regular session holds 14<sup>th</sup> day meeting

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



MP U Stephen. PHOTO: MNA



MP Daw Ohn Kyi. PHOTO: MNA



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

Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the matter to register their names.

### Union Auditor General Report

In the next agenda of the day, Union Auditor General U Maw Than read and explained to the Hluttaw a Union Auditor General report for the six month period from 2018 April to September.

Later, the Joint Public Accounts Committee Vice Chairman U Aung Min read committee report first volume 16/2019 on the committee's findings and comments on the Union Auditor General report and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss report 16/2019 to register their names.

### National Education Policy Commission Report

In the same way, National Education Policy Commission (NEPC) Chairman Dr Myo Kywe explained to the Hluttaw the NEPC work report for the six month period 10 April 2019 to 9 October and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the report to register their names.

The 15<sup>th</sup> day meeting the 14<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is scheduled to be held on 20 December.—Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

(Translated by Zaw Min)

### Report on bill to Prevent an Increased Quantity of Import

The meeting started with Joint Bill Committee member U Stephen reading the findings and comments report of the committee on a bill to Prevent an Increased Quantity of Import sent with comments by the President.

Afterwards Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss a motion to register their names.

### Report on Rural Development Bill

Next, Joint Bill Committee member U Zaw Win read the findings and comments report of the committee on controversial Rural Development Bill between the two Hluttaws.

Afterwards Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to table and discuss amendment motion to register their names.

### Report on National Records and Archives Bill

Similarly, Joint Bill Committee member Daw Ohn Kyi

read the findings and comments report of the committee on controversial National Records and Archives Bill between the two Hluttaws and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to table and discuss amendment motion to register their names.

### Hluttaw approves report of Joint Committee on Scrutinizing the Constitution

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

The committee secretary said the committee has no separate explanation to make as the comments and suggestions of the majority of the joint commit-

tee members as well as separate comments and suggestion of three joint committee members were included in the report. The committee secretary requested the Hluttaw to approve the report.

Tatmadaw representative Lt-Col Myo Tun Aung then objected to the decision by vote on the matter and to handle the matter of all five amendment bills including the bill tabled by U Sai Than Naing according to the law.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker then informed the Hluttaw about the matter being handled according to the law and obtained the decision of the Hluttaw. As there were 357 for, 200 against and 7 abstaining, an announcement was made of the Hluttaw approving the report of the Joint Committee on Scrutinizing the second bill amending the Constitution.

### Import of six bullet proof Toyota Landcruiser cars

The next agenda of the meeting was exemption of spe-

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

### ODA loan Euro 50 million from Poland for waste recycle project

Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win also explained the technical and financial details of ODA loan Euro 50 million from Poland to implement a waste recycle project by Yangon Region government in Yangon City Development Committee area sent by the President.

Following the detailed technical and financial explanation by the Deputy Minister, Pyidaungsu

## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Vietnamese PM

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

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

Afterwards, U T Khun Myat

and Vietnamese PM Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc and party posed for documentary photo.

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



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



## President U Win Myint welcomes Vietnamese Prime Minister



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

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

**P**RESIDENT U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho hosted a luncheon in honor of a Viet Nam friendship delegation led by Prime Minister Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam at the Presidential Palace yesterday noon.

Present at the luncheon along with President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho were State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Vice President U Henry Van Thio and wife Dr. Shwe Hlwan, Union Ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Central

Bank of Myanmar Governor, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications, Myanmar Ambassador to Viet Nam and officials.

At the luncheon President U Win Myint and Prime Minister Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam delivered messages of greetings.

In his speech President U Win Myint said Myanmar-Viet Nam friendship and cooperation started during the period of striving for independence. Through friendship and close cooperation between the two governments, efforts were being made toward

development and flourishing of bilateral understanding and trust. Therefore, it was a pleasure to state that at the moment the bilateral friendship and cooperation between the two countries has been strengthened further than the past periods.

Myanmar and Viet Nam were member countries in many regional and international organizations. The two countries were supporting and assisting one another in organizations like ASEAN, GMS, CLMV and UN.

He said the Union government has been serving the country for more than three years and

during this period much progress has been achieved. At the same time, many obstacles were also encountered. He firmly believed these could be overcome with the understanding and support of regional and international friends.

He wish to express his deep appreciation to the government and people of Viet Nam on behalf of the government and the people of Myanmar for the support, understanding and for standing with Myanmar in the regional and international fronts throughout Myanmar's efforts towards socio-economic development.

Starting from 1975 when dip-

lomatic relation was established between the two countries, a true friendly relationship, close cooperation and mutual understandings were established and maintained. The two countries had similar traditions and cultures and were members of ASEAN. As such, the present bilateral cooperation is believed to develop and strengthen.

At the moment, Viet Nam had become Asia's most transparent and economically fastest developing country. This accomplishment was commended with pride and happiness.

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



# State Counsellor, Vietnamese PM hold press conference after high-level talks



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam attend the senior-level meeting of the two countries. **PHOTO: MNA**

## FROM PAGE-1

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

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

During the press conference, the State Counsellor said preparations for celebrating the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and its-long-time friend Viet Nam, increasing cooperation between the two countries, constructive discus-

sions at the senior level meeting, promoting cooperation in diplomatic, military and security areas, as well as in trade and investment.

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

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

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

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

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

He added senior officials discussed resolving difficulties in economic cooperation so as

to boost fruitful development in this sphere, matters related to national security, defence and diplomacy, and participation of both countries in international arenas of mutual interests.

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

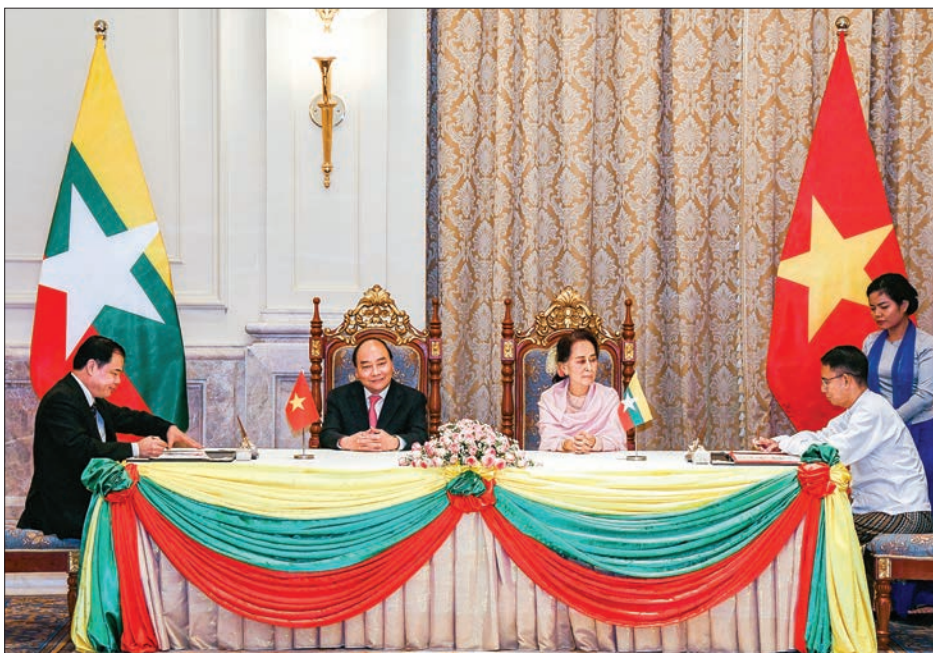
He also confirmed Myanmar's support to Viet Nam for the rotating Chairmanship of ASEAN and Viet Nam's role as a non-permanent member of UN Security Council for the 2020-2021 term. He also suggested promoting greater exchange

of high-level visits between the two countries, particularly in the year of Viet Nam's ASEAN Chairmanship.

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

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

(Translated by Aung Khin)



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam witness the signing ceremony of MoUs for agriculture, rural development and implementation of work plan for partnership relations. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hand with Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam at the press conference. **PHOTO: MNA**



### Whatever we do, we must keep in mind the good of our Union

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

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



## State Counsellor receives Vietnamese Ambassador

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

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talk with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to Myanmar, Dr Luan Thuy Duong in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



## Vietnamese Prime Minister arrives in Yangon

VIETNAMESE Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, accompanied by Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi and officials, left Nay Pyi Taw for Yangon yesterday afternoon by a special flight.

They were welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, Security and Border Affairs Minister of Yangon Region Government Colonel

Aung Soe Moe, Director-General U Aung Myo Myint from the Strategic Studies and Training Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials from the Vietnamese embassy.

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

In the afternoon, the Prime Minister and party en-



Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam delivers the speech at the Vietnamese Embassy in Myanmar yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

joyed a dinner hosted by the Vietnamese Ambassador Dr. Luan Thuy Duong at the Melia Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road.—MNA (Translated by Aung Khin)



## Republic of the Union of Myanmar

## Office of the President

## Press Release 46/2019

5<sup>th</sup> Waning of Nadaw, 1381 ME  
(16 December 2019)

## Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 14 December 2019 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

Sr	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal action taken
1	Information received of Maung Sine who lives in Kanserya Ward, Tanai Township, Kachin State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 12 December 2019, police searched the house of Maung Sine (a) Maung Sai, 32, son of U Shwe Ba, who lives in Kanserya Ward, Tanai Township. He run away and his wife Saw Sine Bu, 38, daughter of U Lon Joun Sin Wer Naw, Bo Thein (a) Thein Naing, 35, son of U Htay, who lives in the same ward, and Thu Kha (a) Than Htike Aung, 35, son of U Nay, who lives in Ponkhon Ward were arrested together with low quality opium. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Tanai)MaYa(pa)45/2019 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of Maung Lwin who lives in Hsingone Village, Kawlin Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 10 December 2019, police searched the house of Maung Lwin, 41, son of U Win Aung, who lives in Hsingone Village, Kawlin Township, and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kawlin)MaYa(pa)77/2019 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of Ni Tut who lives in Taku Village, Taninthayi Township, Taninthayi Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 8 December 2019, police searched the house of Ni Tut, 63, son of U Phoe Ba Gyi, who lives in Taku Village, Taninthayi Township, but he was not in his house. Police found his wife Daw Khin Kyi (a) Khin Kyu, 63, daughter of U Aung Tin, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Taninthayi)MaYa(pa)30/2019 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of Wei Yan Soe (a) Ngway Hla who lives in Mayingyi Village, Taninthayi Township, Taninthayi Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 9 December 2019, police searched the house of Wei Yan Soe (a) Ngway Hla, 32, son of U Pe Thin Kyu, who lives in Mayingyi Village, Taninthayi Township, and arrested him and Kyaw Min, 29, son of U Gwan, who lives in Banlamut Village, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Taninthayi) MaYa(pa)31/2019 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of Yan Naung Htwe who lives in Talinehtain Ward, Dawei Township, Taninthayi Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 10 December 2019, police searched the house of Ye Thway (a) Ye Ye (a) Wetme, 24, son of U Maung Myint, who lives in Hteinle Ward, Dawei Township, and found him together with Ye Naing Htwe (a) Thin Mya, 23, son of U Khin Maung Htwe, and Ma Kyaw Zin Lae (a) Wuthmone, 20, daughter of U Thaug Aye, who lives in No 106 Ward, Dagon Myothit (south) Township. Police seized 'WY' stimulant tablets from them. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Yan Naung Htwe, 26, son of U Nyi Htwe, who lives in Yadanar Street, Talinehtain Ward, Dawei Township, and arrested him together with instruments related narcotic drugs used. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Dawei)MaYa(pa)67/2019 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of Phoe Zan who lives in Latpan Village, Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 8 December 2019, police searched the tea house of Phoe Zan, 55, son of U Azit, who lives in Letpan Village, Kyaukse Township, and found him together with his wife, Daw Lai Tum Mee, 38, daughter of U Noe Too, Thet Gyi (a) Thet Ko Oo, 35, son of U Myat Ko, who lives in Daewun Ward, Chanayethazan Township and Zaw Ye Myint (a) Zaw Ye, 38, son of U Hla Myint, who lives in Kan Oo Ward, Kyaukse Township. Police arrested them together with stimulant tablets and heroin. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Zaw Zaw, 56, son of U Kyaw Thein, who lives in Thitgyitan Ward, and arrested him. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Kyaukse)MaYa(pa)48/2019 under Section 16(c), 20(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7	Information received of Nyi Lay who lives in Letpandine Village, Pyawbwe Township, Mandalay Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 8 December 2019, police searched the house of Nyi Lay, 53, son of U Pan Hmone, who lives in Letpandine Village, Pyawbwe Township, and arrested him together with 'WY' and '88/1' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with YaKaSa (Nyaunggon)MaYa(pa)2/2019 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8	Information received of Tin Moe Lwin who lives in Yamonna 1 Ward, Dawbon Township, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 10 December 2019, police inspected Tin Moe Lwin (a) Tin Myo Lwin, 34, son of U U Ohn Lwin, who lives in Yamonna 1 Ward, Dawbon Township and Phyo Maung Maung (a) Mayanthi, 23, son of U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Myaine, who lives in Yanpyay Ward, Thakayta Township, at the corner of Aung Myitta Street and Myoma Street, Yamonna 1 Ward, Dawbon Township, and arrested them together with 'WY' stimulant tablets and marijuana. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Dawbon)MaYa(pa)52/2019 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
9	Information received of groups of people using and selling illegal drugs in Panhike 8 Ward, Namtu Tsp, northern Shan State.	Police have opened 6 cases and arrested 6 men and 1 woman together with heroin and psychotropic tablets in the previous weeks. On 11 December 2019, acting on a tip off, police arrested Naing Kaung, 55, son of U Aik Hein, who lives in Panhike 8 Ward, Namtu Tsp, and Aik Lu, 52, son of U Aik Kyauk, who lives in Naungpa Village, on the road of Panhike 8 Ward, Namtu Tsp. Police found heroin from them. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa (Namtu) MaYa(pa)13/2019 under section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. At the same place, police arrested Ayu, 38, son of U Nyi Awun, who lives in the same ward, together with '88/1' stimulant tablets and heroin. A case has been opened him with MaMaSa (Namtu) MaYa(pa)14/2019 under section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
10	Information received of Win Bo who lives in Khatkon Village, Mabein Township, northern Shan State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 11 December 2019, police searched the house of Win Bo, 42, son of U Phoe Kywe, who lives in Khatkon Village, Mabein Township, and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Mabein)MaYa(pa)98/2019 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
11	Information received of San Wei who lives in Baibin Village, Mabein Township, northern Shan State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 13 December 2019, police searched the house of San Wei, 56, son of U Tun Khin, who lives in Baibin Village, Mabein Township, and arrested him and his wife Ma Khine, 42, daughter of U Bo Kay, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Mabein)MaYa(pa)100/2019 under Section 19(a) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
12	Information received of Daw Delira who lives in Myo Oo Ward, Yaksawk Township, southern Shan State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 14 December 2019, police searched the house of Daw Delira, 40, daughter of U Bahar Du, who lives in Myo Oo Ward, Yaksawk Township, and arrested her together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Yaksawk)MaYa(pa)71/2019 under Section 19(a) and 20 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 896 cases have been opened files as of 14 December 2019. A total of 1,379 people, including 1,152 men and 227 women had been arrested with 7161.2994 g of heroin, 1,347.32 g of ICE, 39,999.61 g of opium, 404.98 g of low-quality opium, 53230.76 g of speciosa powder, 12097.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 liters of liquid speciosa, 449,971 stimulant tablets, 8,757.92 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 520.28 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 36.15 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 19 firearms, different kinds of 257 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.

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

**Contacts:-**

Landline No. — 067-590200

Fax Phone No. — 067-590233

Email Address — [antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm](mailto:antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm)



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

FROM PAGE-3

Cooperation in bilateral trade and investment sectors were achieving momentum. It was a pleasure that Viet Nam had become Myanmar's ninth biggest trading partner country and the seventh biggest investing country in Myanmar. The discussions between the two countries this morning on all round cooperation in many sectors for the benefit of the two countries and its people was also a matter of great satisfaction. With regard to friendly relations on all round cooperation established in 2017, it was his full and firm belief that bilateral relations and cooperation would be further strengthened.

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

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

In his speech Prime Minister Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc said Myanmar had a long history and cultural heritages while possessing a beautiful and scenic land. It had ancient pagodas constructed by great monarchs and kings as well as having numerous architectural heritages.

Furthermore, it was a country that produced good leaders like father of Myanmar's independence Bogyoke Aung San and Asia's first UN Secretary General U Thant.

Ever since gaining independence in 1948 it had achieved good development results. Taking opportunity of this moment, the President, the country's leaders and the Myanmar people are congratulated on achieving

such important and good results.

Under the outstanding efforts, vision and leadership of the President and the State Counsellor, Myanmar's reform work processes and economic development would achieve more success while possessing stability and prosperity.

As the two countries were Southeast Asia countries, they had many similarities in history, culture and traditions. During the period of striving for independence in the past to the present effort of national defence and development, the two countries have been supporting one another as well as cooperating closely together.

Even before official diplomatic relations were established in 1975, friendship between the two countries had developed on the firm foundation laid by national leader Bogyoke Aung San and President Mr. Ho Chi Minh.

The two countries were same in eating rice as a staple food as well as belief in Buddhism, cherishing freedom, peace and tranquillity. Direct flight connection between the two countries had resulted in about 100,000 people from the two countries visiting one another. The majority of the visitors were Buddhists who visited Shwedagon Pagoda, ancient cultural heritage region of Bagan and economic cities of Yangon and Mandalay.

In the year 2020, ceremonies will be held to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the establishment of Myanmar-Viet Nam diplomatic relations. During the past years, Myanmar-Viet Nam relationship had developed with great momentum and it was a pleasure to note that the relationship was upgraded to all round friendly cooperation level in 2017.

In 2019 the bilateral trade reached US\$ 1.05 billion and compared to 2010, it was a 6.5 fold increase. In 2020, the bilateral trade already surpassed the target of US\$ 1.5 billion. More than 220 Viet Nam businesses had entered the Myanmar market and Viet Nam had become Myanmar's seventh biggest investor country. 18 Viet Nam projects implemented in Myanmar totals nearly US\$ 2.2 billion and the

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

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

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

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

After the luncheon President U Win Myint presented Prime Minister Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam with a photo album containing photographs taken during the visit. — MNA  
(Translated by Zaw Min)

## State Counsellor to broadcast her experiences of oral proceedings at ICJ

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

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



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

A total of 9 persons, four men and five women, comprising two families returned on their own volition to Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State at 8: 15 am on 17 December morning.

Officials at the reception centre carried out review and acceptance procedures for them.

After completing security checkup and immigration procedures, national verification cards were issued for two men and four women above 10 years of age, and humanitarian assistances were given

to them.

Deputy Director U Soe Tun, the in-charge of Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre, handed over these returnees to Director U Soe Shwe Aung, the in-charge of Hla Pho Khaung Transit Centre which provided the returnees with foodstuffs such as rice, beans, oil and salt as well as household utensils.

These returnees are from West Myoma ward and Kyaut Chaung village, and the respective ward/village administrators accepted them at 1:30 pm.—District IPRD (Translated by Aung Khin)

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# Invest in equitable development

ACCORDING to a survey on urbanization, the population in Myanmar's cities and towns is expected to increase from 15.4 million, or 30 per cent of the country's total population, in 2014 to 20 million in 2030.

As per McKinsey Research, the population in Myanmar's big cities, which have over 200,000 residents, would double by 2030. The research states that Myanmar will need to invest US\$146 billion over 20 years to develop its cities, with annual spending on development-related projects touching US\$7 billion.

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

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

At present, smart city projects are being implemented in three big cities: Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, and Mandalay, with officials looking into the basic of requirements of the cities. The Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex in Yangon, the New Mandalay Resort City in Mandalay, and the Smart District Project are national projects that are being carried out in cooperation with local and foreign developers.

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

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

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

Myanmar is still in an early phase of urbanization. This brings many opportunities to shape cities for sustainable growth and for poverty reduction. An inclusive approach will help ensure that cities grow in an equitable way, which would bring significant benefits for peace and stability.

On the path to urbanization, we need to be aware that inadequate planning and a lack of investment in infrastructure and provision of basic services can lead to inequality in terms of job opportunities and incomes. Over time, inequality can undermine the benefits that urbanization typically brings as it can create or worsen social divisions and contribute to rising crime and violence in cities.

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

## It's time to translate Europe's and Asia's power into a real partnership

HRVP Josep Borrell

ON SUNDAY 15 and Monday 16 December, I chair ASEM, the "Asia-Europe Meeting". What might seem to be a rather bureaucratic acronym, actually is a politically highly relevant event for our continents. I had offered to host this meeting in Madrid when I was still Foreign Minister of Spain and now I will be chairing it as EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. It underlines my personal interest in the fast-moving continent that is Asia today.

ASEM brings together 53 partners made up of the 28 EU Member States, Norway, Switzerland and the EU, and on the Asia side, 21 countries and the ASEAN Secretariat. Together we represent:

- 55% of global trade
- 60% of global GDP
- 60% of the global population

• 75% of global tourism

Simply bringing countries together does not, of course, guarantee any results. But it creates opportunities. In recent years, ASEM has become increasingly relevant and strategic. This ASEM meeting will be an important opportunity to further strengthen cooperation between Europe and Asia.

There is a clear willingness from ASEM countries to engage on global issues and to take on more responsibility - from supporting sustainable development, to rules-based global trade, to information sharing on cross-border threats, to the prevention or peaceful resolution of conflicts. ASEM has acquired a new rationale and momentum as a key platform to uphold and promote rules-based, multilateral approaches. In the challenging

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

world of today, this kind of cooperation and leadership is imperative.

In recent years, sustainable connectivity has been a key theme of our discussions - and will continue to be so. The same goes for combatting climate change. We adopted last week the EU Green Deal and made the ground-breaking commitment to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. But our ambition must be global and we need collective action. To safeguard our planet

and women empowerment.

During my mandate as High Representative, I will conduct EU foreign policy with realism and a strong sense of partnership. And I want to work closer with our Asian partners on key priorities such as our partnership with Africa, the Western Balkans, finding a solution to the situation in Libya, or a peaceful resolution of the conflict in eastern Ukraine, on Iran and many more.

All of these issues will be discussed at our political meeting. But the real Asia-Europe meeting happens every day:

- when students from our respective continents swap Europe for Asia, or vice-versa, to study at university;
- when business transactions take place between European and Asian companies - big or small;
- when we visit each others'

continents, either as tourists or as friends, to take in the best that Asia and Europe have to offer; and when researchers from our two continents put their minds together to work towards ground-breaking innovation.

At meetings like ASEM we create the environment and the conditions to enhance the connections we have between our societies and our citizens. This is the real goal of frameworks such as ASEM. I look forward to doing this with Europe's Asian partners and friends, during ASEM in Madrid, and in the years to come. It's time to translate Europe and Asia's power into a real partnership.

*(Josep Borrell is the new EU High Representative for Foreign and Security and Vice President of the European Commission.)*



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

Migrants are integral members of society, contributing to mutual understanding and sustainable development in communities of both origin and destination.

Safe, orderly and regular migration is in the interest of all. And national priorities on migration

are best achieved through international cooperation.

All migrants are entitled to equal protection of all their human rights.

These principles are enshrined in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Yet, we often hear narratives around migrants that are harmful and false.

And we often witness migrants facing unspeakable hardship as a result of policies shaped more by fear than by fact.

On this International Day, I urge leaders and people everywhere to bring the Global Compact to life, so that migration works for all.

*United Nations Information Centre, Yangon*

#### Humanitarian Assistance

- Between 1 January 2019 and 30 April 2019, 998 internally displaced persons were provided with food and non food items worth Kyat 6,375,060.
- Between 1 May 2019 and 30 August 2019, 83,438 internally displaced persons were provided with foods, relief items and cash assistance worth Kyat 861,590,791.
- Between 1 January 2019 and 30 April 2019, 11 returnees were provided with relief supplies (male and female longyis, T-shirts, blankets, soap), foods (rice, edible oil, salt, beans) for one month's consumption and 3 sets of kitchen utensils.
- Between 1 May 2019 and 30 August 2019, 66 returnees were provided with relief items (male and female longyis, T-shirts, blankets, soap), cash assistance for meals totaling Kyat 153,000, foods (rice, edible oil, salt, beans) for one month's consumption and 38 sets of kitchen utensils.
- Between 1 January 2019 and 30 April 2019, 11 boat people were provided with relief supplies (male and female longyis, T-shirts, blankets, soap), cash assistance for meals totaling Kyat 2,999,000, foods (rice, edible oil, salt, beans) for one month's consumption and 4 sets of kitchen utensils.
- Between 1 May 2019 and 30 August 2019, 486 boat people were provided with foods consisting of 486 bags of rice each containing 8-pyis, 486 litres of edible oil, 486 quarter-viss bags of salt, 486 1.5-viss bags of chickpea.

- On 9 July 2019, 50 rolls of tarpaulin sheets were provided to houses in the Taung Paw IDP camp and on 12 August 2019, 200 7-foot MEC corrugated iron sheets and 3 rolls of waterproof sheets were provided to houses in Kan Thar Htwet Wa Ward in Myay Pon Township.
- For 31 people in 11 families from Kha Maung Seik Village in Maungdaw Township, who are now in Sittwe, staple foods (rice, edible oil, salt, beans) worth Kyat 993,000 and cash assistance of Kyat 550,000 were provided.

#### Media Access

Access to Rakhine State for local and international news media



Media Access to Thechaung IDP Camp from 28 to 30 May 2019



Media Access to Shwezar Village from 29 to 31 August 2019

Local and international media tours were arranged as follows to Rakhine State for media access.

1 Jan - 30 Apr 2018		1 May - 31 Aug 2018		1 Sep - 31 Dec 2018		1 Jan - 30 Apr 2019		1 May - 31 Aug 2019	
Visits	Persons	Visits	Persons	Visits	Persons	Visits	Persons	Visits	Persons
3	42	7	95	3	44	1	17	2	28

### 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 Programme.

### U Myint Thu presents Credentials to Emperor of Japan

U MYINT THU, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Japan, presented his Credentials to His Majesty Emperor Naruhito, Emperor of Japan, on 12 December 2019 in Tokyo.—MNA

### U Ko Ko Shein presents Credentials to President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

U KO KO SHEIN, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Kazakhstan, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, on 10 December 2019 in Nur-Sultan.—MNA

### Statement of Myanmar Bar Association (MBA) Regarding The Gambia's Filing of a Lawsuit against the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the International Court of Justice (ICJ)

December 6, 2019

1. We learned about The Gambia's lawsuit at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which alleged that Myanmar either directly or indirectly has failed in its obligations under the "Genocide Convention of 1948" when it was officially notified to the Myanmar Government on November 11, 2019.
2. Myanmar, as a responsible member of the ICJ pursuant to its obligations under the United Nations Charter, will resolve this lawsuit by stating that it did not violate its commitments contained in Article III of the Genocide Convention of 1948 and that it did not commit Genocide (Non Actus Reus of Genocide).
3. We fully support the initiative of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in leading the delegation to respond and contest the lawsuit in furtherance of safeguarding the national interests of Myanmar and its citizens.
4. We, the Myanmar Bar Association (MBA) will support from our legal and objective viewpoints.

Myanmar Bar Association (MBA)



# 20<sup>th</sup> Intake of DSMA holds graduation parade



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing takes the salute of the cadet companies at the graduation parade of the 20<sup>th</sup> Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE graduation parade of the 20<sup>th</sup> Intake of Defence Services Medical Academy was staged at its parade ground in Yangon yesterday morning.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address at the ceremony which was also attended by his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Zeya Kyawhtin Tin Aung San, Commander-in-Chief (Air Force) General Zeya Kyawhtin Maung Maung Kyaw, senior mil-

itary officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, command commanders, the commandant of DSMA, senior military officers of Mingaladon Station, invited guests and parents and relatives of the graduate cadets.

First, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing took the salute of the cadet companies and inspected the company of the graduate cadets. Then, the cadet companies saluted the Senior General through slow-march and quick-march past.

Then, Senior General Min

Aung Hlaing presented awards to the outstanding cadets.

In his speech, the Senior General said that the DSMA is generating capable medical officers for the military. Out of over 4,000 officers, 2,136 personnel have received medical master degrees, 138 personnel doctorate degrees, 189 personnel post-graduate diplomas in medical subjects and 207 personnel post-graduate diploma medical teaching.

The DSMA has received the certificate of recognition from the World Federation for Medical Ed-

ucation, and pursuing the policies of the Myanmar Medical Council Accreditation Committee, while the academy is practicing quality medical education.

While the Tatmadaw is performing three main tasks of defence, training and public welfare, its mobile medical teams are providing free medical services across the country without discrimination against race and religion, including in the remote areas. In his concluding remarks the Senior General urged the military medical doctors to partici-

pate in healthcare services for the ethnic people. After the speech, the Senior General took the salute of cadet companies and left the parade ground. He met the outstanding cadets and their parents at the parlour of DSMA and gave a speech in honor of the cadets.

In the evening, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended the graduation dinner at the assembly hall of the convocation hall of DSMA, according to a report of Office of Commander in Chief.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## MOHS holds stakeholders meeting to reformulate National Health Policy

MINISTRY of Health and Sports organized a meeting of stakeholders to reformulate the 1993 version of National Health Policy yesterday.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe delivered a speech at the meeting in the Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union Minister said that the new version of this policy is aimed to suit the changing trends of health conditions, availability of budget and funds, modern medical technol-

ogies, equipment, human resources in the healthcare services, global trends and developing situations.

The meeting sought ideas and recommendations from veteran experts from health sector, service personnel, UN agencies, local and international NGOs, donor organizations, civil organizations and partner organizations of the ministry.

The new National Health Policy will include its objectives, goals, prioritized pillars, approaching meth-

ods and work strategy, implementation framework, cooperation framework, monitoring and analysis, research, accurate health information system and reasonable allocation of budgets.

Dr Htin Lin, Deputy Director General from Public Health Department, presented a summary of reformulating procedures and the members of National Health Policy Reformulating Work Committee made discussions.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



## Joint Committee on Amending Constitution holds 70/2019 meeting



The meeting of Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution being held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

JOINT Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution held its meeting 70/2019 at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was attended by Chairman of the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Vice Chairman of

the committee and Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung, Secretary of the Joint Committee Dr Myat Nyanna Soe, Joint-Secretary U Htay Win (a) U Pyone Cho and members of the joint committee representatives of the political parties and the Tatmadaw, and officials of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. At today's meeting, the joint committee discussed

“the Chapter 11 : Provisions on State of Emergency” of the 2008 Constitution.

The joint committee has completed the chapter-wise amending from the Preamble to the Chapter 9: Election, and the Chapter-10 Political Parties suggested by political parties and independent representatives.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



## Myanmar exports over 600,000 tons of rice worth \$177 mln in current fiscal

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

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

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

In the two months of the current fiscal, Myanmar ex-

ported broken rice mostly to Indonesia, followed by Senegal, Belgium, Mali, and Thailand. Broken rice was placed in 38 foreign markets.

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

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

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



Workers loading the truck with sacks of rice at Botataung Jetty in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Myanmar shipped 3.6 million tons of rice in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, which was an all-

time record in rice exports. The export volume plunged to 2.29 million metric tons, worth \$691

million, in the 2018-2019FY. — GNLM  
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## About 20,000-50,000 houses planned for Yangon squatters in current fiscal

By Nyein Nyein

TO tackle the issue of squatting, about 20,000 to 50,000 houses are expected to be constructed in the current fiscal year, said U Than, joint secretary of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

At present, the Yangon Region Government is developing 264 homes in the extended ward in Shwe Pyi Thar Township for Yangon squatters.

After constructing those homes, the government will build houses in Hlinethayar and four Dagon (Myothit) townships.

"Currently, more than 200 apartments are being constructed for squatters. In the current fiscal year, 20,000 to 50,000 houses are planned to be built," said U Than.

"The construction of 264 houses in Shwe Pyi Thar Township is nearly finished. Those authorized to settle in those houses can move there at the end of this month," according to the Yangon Region government.

"The houses measure 15x35 feet and are priced at K3 million. The government will offer a long-term instalment payment plan to squatters to

help them purchase the apartments," said U Than.

About 150,000 houses or apartment units are required for Yangon squatters. Therefore, plots of land in four Dagon townships have been selected to implement the affordable housing plan for squatters.

To construct low-cost housing, the Ministry of Construction and the Yangon City Development Committee are coordinating to obtain land authorization.

"The regional government will contribute land for the housing project with the aim of reducing the price of the apartments.

Moreover, the government is planning to offer a long-term installment payment scheme to make the apartments affordable for prospective buyers," said U Phyo Min Thein, the Chief Minister of Yangon Region.

"Those allowed to live in the apartments will be restricted from reselling them," said the Chief Minister.

In addition, expressions of interest (EOIs) have been invited to develop low-cost housing for civil service personnel and company staff.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Sino-Myanmar border trade up \$534.9 mln

SINO-MYANMAR border trade registered an increase of US\$534.9 million between 1 October and 6 December in the current fiscal year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Data from the ministry showed the value of Sino-Myanmar border trade rose to \$1.36 billion in the current fiscal from \$829 million recorded in the year-ago period.

In the current FY, border trade totaled \$1.14 billion at Muse, \$17 million at Lweje, \$122 million at Chinshwehaw, \$75 million at Kanpiketee, and \$1.94 million at Kengtung.

In a bid to lower trade barriers and offer relief to Myanmar traders using the border trade

channel, the Ministry of Commerce, the related departments, and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry have been negotiating with their Chinese counterparts.

The two countries are making efforts to set up more border economic cooperation zones and promote border trade.

The export of agricultural products has been halted often, on account of China clamping down on illegal goods. Myanmar merchants are facing difficulties in exporting goods to China through the legitimate channel as they find the tax levied by China too high. Therefore, rice confiscation and price manipulation are occurring

often at the border. At present, rice is being exported to China through a government-to-government (G2G) agreement and a barter system, in exchange for Chinese goods. Myanmar is exporting about 100,000 rice bags every week, with the Yunnan government's approval.

Myanmar exports rice, sugar, pulses, sesame seeds, corn, dried tea leaves, fishery products, minerals, and animal products to China, while it imports agricultural machinery, electrical appliances, iron and steel-related materials, raw industrial goods, and consumer goods from the neighboring country. — Htet Myat

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Maritime trade up \$482.86 mln as of 6 Dec

THE value of Myanmar's maritime trade for the period between 1 October and 6 December in the 2019-2020 fiscal year totaled US\$4.86 billion, an increase of over \$482.86 million compared with the year-ago period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During the period, maritime exports were valued at \$2 billion, while imports were registered at \$2.85 billion.

Compared with the same period in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, imports rose by \$43.9 mil-

lion, while exports registered an increase of \$438.9 million.

During the same period, the value of trade through the border gates was estimated at over \$2 billion, an increase of \$496.7 million amid strict confiscation of illegal and untaxed goods by Myanmar's main trade partner, China.

Meanwhile, the country's total external trade reached \$6.88 billion, which was higher than the \$5.9 billion recorded in the year-ago period.

Myanmar exports ag-

ricultural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other products, while it imports capital goods, consumer goods, and raw industrial materials.

The country currently has nine ports involved in sea trade.

Yangon Port is the main gateway for Myanmar's maritime trade, and includes the Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port. — Mon Mon

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



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## UEC Chairman receives Indian Ambassador

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

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



Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein holds talk with Indian Ambassador Mr Saurabh Kumar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

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

A total of 50,125 trees will be planted at 14 townships in four districts in the dry zone of Sagaing Region in the 2019-2020 financial year, said U Ba Lwin Oo, director of the Sagaing

Region Dry Zone Greening Department.

Under the special greening programme, three-foot tall trees will be planted in the dry zone.

In the 2019-2020 financial

year, 32,000 trees will be planted in six townships of Shwebo District, 2,500 trees in three townships of Monywa District, 4,025 trees in two townships of Yinmabin District, and 11,600 trees

in three townships of Sagaing District. The trees will be planted in the monsoon season.— Win Oo (Zeyartine)

*(Translated by Hay Mar)*

## Mini marathon to be held in Mandalay on 4 January

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

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

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

Prizes will be presented to outstanding athletes in the 13-mile marathon. The winner will be awarded K6 million, while the second place winner will get K4 million, and the third place winner will be



Athletes competing in the previous version of the Mandalay Mayor's Mini Marathon in Mandalay. **PHOTO: THAN ZAW MIN (IPRD)**

given K3 million in both men's and women's open and amateur events.

Application forms would be available for K300 till 31 December between 9:30 am to 6:30 pm at the Township municipal administration office, garden and sports grounds department, Sports and

Physical Education Department (Ba Htoo stadium), and MCDC office, according to the MCDC.

Foreigners would be allowed to participate only in the open events. Winners, who finished first, second, and third earlier in the 10,000-meters states and regions \ contest, the Mandalay

mayor's mini marathon, and the Yangon mayor's mini marathon would be permitted to take part only in the open mini marathon events, according to the contest organizing committee.—Than Zaw Min (IPRD)

*(Translated by Hay Mar)*



# Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye receives UN-Habitat Director

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye received Mr Atsushi Koresawa, the Director for UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and party at the former's office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed technical and professional cooperation to reduce damages from natural disasters, and to develop resistance, getting information by using International Global Monitoring Aerospace System.

The meeting also focused on natural disaster management by using satellite technology and geographical



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

information, construction of buildings for the returnees to Rakhine State, resettlement programmes for IDPs, con-

flict-sensitive approach in accordance with the national-level procedures for closure of IDP camps, plans for harmo-

ny of communities and future programmes with the UN-Habitat.—MNA  
(Translated by Aung Khin)

## MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

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

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**M.V SINAR SOLO VOY. NO. (877N/S)**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR SOLO VOY. NO. (877N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE  
Phone No: 2301185**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**M.V ALVAN VOY. NO. (1083)**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALVAN VOY. NO. (1083) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND AND SEA  
INTERMODAL LOGISTICS SDN BHD LINE  
Phone No: 2301185**

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**M.V HARIS VOY. NO. (950N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HARIS VOY. NO. (950N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-12-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)  
PTE., LTD  
Phone No: 2301185**

Republic of the Union of  
Myanmar  
Union Election Commission  
Notification 236/2019  
6<sup>th</sup> Waning of Nadaw, 1381 ME  
17 December 2019

Permission to register as a political party

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

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

Sd/-  
(Hla Thein)  
Chairman  
Union Election Commission

## INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER NO.1/2019-2020

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

(a) Cathode Copper (5000)M/T (18) Lot  
Group (1) (1)Lot 100 Tonnes each, 5 Lot Monywa, Mine Site  
Group (2) (1)Lot 200 Tonnes each, 5 Lot II  
Group (3) (1)Lot 300 Tonnes each, 5 Lot II  
Group (4) (1)Lot 500 Tonnes each, 2 Lot II  
Group (5) (1)Lot 1000 Tonnes each, 1 Lot II

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

(c) Antimony Ore 115 M/T Payathonzu  
(d) Lead Ore and other mixed 5.80 M/T Namtu  
(e) Lead Ore and other mixed 1.757 M/T Myeik  
(f) Silicon Ore and other mixed 270 M/T Muse  
(g) Petrified Wood Fossil & Quartz 3.327 M/T Mandalay/Lashio

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

(3) Tender document are available from the Procurement Department, No.(1) Mining Enterprise, Ministry of Natural Resources And Environmental Conservation,, Office Building No.(19), Nay Pyi Taw and Details Can be asked to +95-(0)67-409012 and 409162 within the office hours.

Tender Committee  
No.(1) Mining Enterprise

## Application for registering as political party declared

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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



Call

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# Yoma Fleet promotes truck, trailer rentals for efficiency of Myanmar logistic industry

**Y**OMA Fleet, the largest truck and trailer rental company in Myanmar, has promoted its truck and trailer rentals to cover periods of peak demand with great flexibility and to reduce supply chain costs in the country.

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

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

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

Mr Davidson has more than 25 years of experience in the vehicle leasing and rental industry in Australia, Pupa New Guinea, New Zealand and Thailand.

During his eight years in Thailand, he could develop the Budget Rent A Car franchise into a market leading position with more than 1,450 vehicles across 25



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

locations.

With vast experiences in global car rental industry, he also remarked that Myanmar has a lot of potential in rental vehicle industry as the coun-

try is located in geographically strategic locations in the region. He is now carrying his international logistic industry experiences into Myanmar.

The Yoma Fleet has devel-

oped a website <https://www.yomarentals.asia/> for information about its rental trucks and trailers, and the user can log on to the site to open an account for reservations of these heavy vehicles.

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

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

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

Through the use of additional trailers, Yoma's rental service could allow the tractor



PHOTO: SUPPLIED



## South-East Asia's GDP growth to remain at 4.5% in 2020, dampened by risks of re-escalation in trade tensions

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

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

Export-oriented economies

have been the most impacted by the ongoing trade tensions, with Singapore only narrowly avoiding a technical recession<sup>1</sup> in Q3 2019.

The exception has been Viet Nam, which has benefited from some trade diversion effects caused by the trade war. Nonetheless, momentum in Viet Nam is expected to ease to 6.6% in 2020, from 7% in 2019, given weaker Chinese import demand and increased trade protectionism.

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

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

unchanged from 2019."

Increased fiscal stimulus to complement accommodative monetary policy

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

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

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

Given the highly uncertain trade environment, Singapore's government is likely to announce measures such

as cash handouts and funding support for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) in next year's budget.

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

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

"We expect the ongoing trade tensions to continue weighing on the overall growth outlook for South-East Asian economies.

Against a weak global backdrop, supportive fiscal measures are expected to underpin an improvement in GDP growth across certain economies, albeit moderately. Overall, South-East Asia's GDP growth in 2019 and 2020 are still set to be below potential at 4.5%," said Mark Billington, ICAEW Regional Director, Greater China and South-East Asia. — ICAEW



heads to be used up to 200,000 km per annum. Fixed costs as a percentage of total costs will go down, leading to greater profitability from more economic use of assets.

The Yoma Fleet also assured that the company also puts emphasis on safety and insurance coverage to full international standards to make its service into the best practice.

It also believes Myanmar has a massive logistic opportunity wedged between five countries in Asia and part of China's old silk road, however, the country's logistics industry is not updated due to the problems of old equipment, poor fleet management and a lack of consistent equipment and limited access to finance to help upgrade all the above-mentioned issues.

The trailer fleet of Yoma will initially focus on skeleton trailers with a range of container options, including 45 ft and 40 ft ISO container, 40ft reefer containers fitted with Carrier Vector units (light weight diesel/electric units) and some curtain slide trailers.—GNLM

## Facebook partners with Httpool as Authorized Sales Partner in Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos

**F**ACEBOOK has selected Httpool as its Authorized Sales Partner in Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos. As the official partner for Facebook in these three countries, Httpool will provide support and regional expertise to local businesses across Facebook, Instagram, Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp.

Partnering with Facebook in the APAC region was a natural

transition for Httpool. The company is already Facebook's Authorized Sales partner in seven markets across Europe, and the Httpool team in APAC is committed to providing a first-rate service to Facebook's existing and new clients in the region.

"Following the successful expansion of our sales teams in Southeast Asia, we have appointed an Authorized Sales Partner to handle Myanmar, Cambodia

and Laos. At Facebook, we recognize that this is a prime opportunity to help local agencies and advertisers in these countries to reach greater audiences and to engage in meaningful conversations with people, and to help further the potential of local businesses in Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos," said Jordi Fornies, Director Emerging Markets APAC, Facebook.

"This partnership is further proof of Httpool's leading posi-

tion in the world as a partner of major social media platforms, and our overall success in the APAC region. We are excited to build on our experience from Europe and assist Facebook in introducing the latest advertising solutions to Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos, and provide brands and agencies first hand support at the highest execution level," said Sunny Nagpal, Co-founder & Managing Director of Httpool APAC—GNLM

Trade Mark Ads Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355, 09974424848



## AIA to co-sponsor Myanmar National League, domestic tourneys

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

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

The ceremony was attended by vice chairman of the Myanmar Football Federation and the Myanmar National League committee Dr. Sai Sam Htun.

The sponsorship will give AIA Myanmar significant co-branding opportunities in

the MNL, which also includes Myanmar National League-1 and Myanmar National League-2, as well as the MFF Charity Cup, General Aung San Shield, and the Myanmar National Youth League.

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

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



Myanmar star defender David Htan (second from the left) receiving the AIA jersey for Tottenham Hotspur FC at the sponsorship ceremony. **PHOTO: MFF**

## Major MNL teams to play friendly matches today

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

Shan United, the defending champion of the Myanmar National League, will play against Magwe F.C. at 8 a.m. today on the artificial turf of the Thuwunna Stadium, and Ayeyawady United will play against Southern Myanmar F.C. at the M3 Stadium at the same time.

Both Shan United and Ayeyawady United are preparing for the next season and have signed on new players with the aim of winning the championship, according to the MNL.

Shan United had won the



Shan United players (red jersey) seen at the match against Yangon United in the previous season of Myanmar National League. **PHOTO: SUFC**

2018-2019 season of the Myanmar National League with a no-loss result and Ayeyawady United had finished the season as the first runner-up, trailing Shan United by two points.

Ayeyawady United is be-

ing led by head coach U Myo Hlaing Win, a former Myanmar football star, and Shan United is being led by head coach U Aung Naing, who is also a former Myanmar football icon.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

## Pogba's recovery from injury hit by illness, says Solksjaer

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

The France World Cup winner has been sidelined for most of the season with an ankle injury, playing just six times for United after a summer of spec-

ulation following his statement that it could be time for a "new challenge".

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

Pogba, 26, had been due to resume first-team training this week but Solksjaer said: "Of all things he's struck down

ill now."

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

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

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

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

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

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

Democratic Tsunami, the

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

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

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

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



Real Madrid's French coach Zinedine Zidane arrives for a press conference at the Real Madrid City sports facilities in Madrid on December 17, 2019, on the eve of their Spanish League football match against Barcelona FC. **PHOTO: AFP**