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State Counsellor attends ASEAN-ROK CEO Summit, Culture Innovation Summit

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended the opening ceremony of the ASEAN-ROK CEO Summit, and delivered keynote speeches at the ASEAN-ROK Culture Innovation Summit and the ASEAN-ROK CEO Summit (Session-3) in Busan, the Republic of Korea yesterday.

The opening ceremony of ASEAN-ROK CEO Summit was held at the Busan Exhibition and Convention Center 2 at 10:30 am local time.

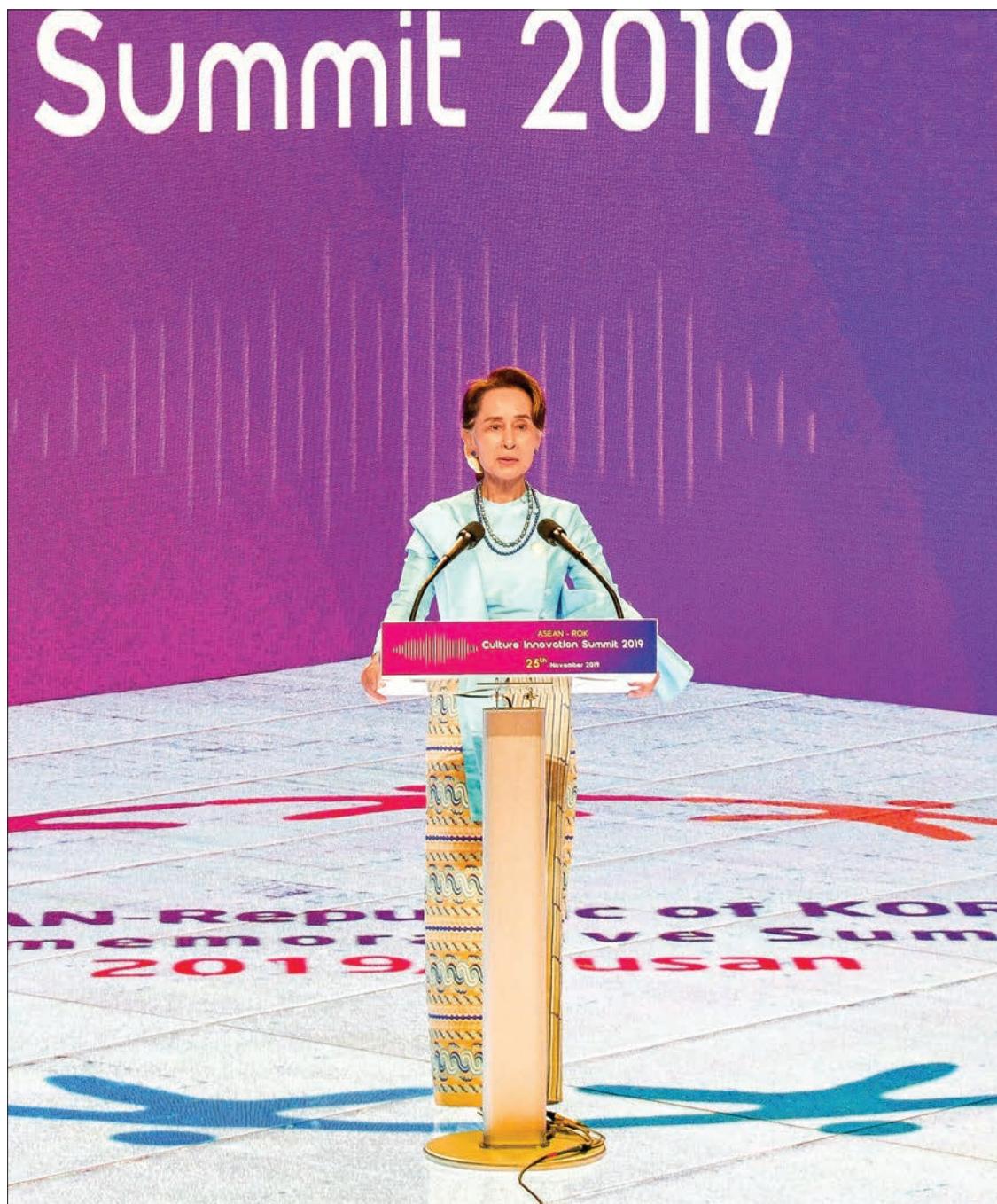
Before the opening ceremony, the State Counsellor had a documentary photo taken together with ROK President Mr Moon Jae-in, Prime Minister of Thailand (Retired) General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of Laos Mr Thongloun Sisoulith and CEO from the ASEAN and ROK.

Then, the State Counsellor attended the ASEAN-ROK Culture Innovation Summit. She also posed for a documentary photo with the President of ROK, the Prime Ministers of Thailand and Laos and officials from ASEAN and ROK cultural organizations.

At the summit, the State Counsellor made a keynote speech entitled 'Growing with Art'.

(Her speech is separately covered on Page-4.)

Then, the State Counsellor arrived at the Busan University of Foreign Studies and met with its President JeongGi-yeong and officials.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech at ASEAN-ROK Culture Innovation Summit in Busan, the Republic of Korea, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

After the meeting, the State Counsellor had documentary photos taken with them.

The State Counsellor greeted Myanmar students in ROK and students specializing in Myanmar language at the university.

At the meeting, she an-

swered questions on cultural affairs of common people and students, promotion of friendship relations, eradication of substance and drug abuse among students, learning of Myanmar language and independent, active, and non-aligned foreign policy of Myanmar. After the Q and A session, a documentary photo was taken.

The Busan University of Foreign Studies was established in 1982, and the Department of Myanmar was formed in 1992. The university is teaching 23 languages, and 120 Korean students are learning Myanmar language.

The State Counsellor then attended the ASEAN-ROK CEO Summit (Session-3) held at the Busan Exhibition and Convention Center 2. She also made a keynote speech entitled 'New Partnership for ASEAN and Korea Businesses'.

(Her speech is separately covered on page-5)

In the evening at the Hilton Hotel, the State Counsellor enjoyed a banquet organized by ROK President Mr Moon Jae-in and wife Kim Jung-sook for the state leaders of ASEAN member countries, heads of government, ministers, deputy ministers and senior officials who are attending the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-ROK Dialogue Relations in Busan.—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 14th regular session holds seventh-day meeting

AT the seventh-day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 14th regular session held yesterday morning, asterisk marked questions were raised and answered, a motion and a bill tabled and three reports read.

Asterisk marked questions

In the asterisk marked question and answer session, a question raised by U Pe Than of Myebon constituency on a village connecting road in Myebon Township was answered by Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo. A question by Dr Lin Lin Kyaw of Myittha constituency on drawing up and implementing work plan to prevent flooding and inundation in Myittha Town Buta Ward and Yway Village was also answered by Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo.

A question by U Win Win of Minbu constituency on plan to construct a bridge on a village connecting road in Minbu (Saku) Township was answered by Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin while questions raised by U Aung Kyaw Zan of Pauktaw constituency on the reason for the delay in constructing



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO: MNA

Kissapa Nadi (Kaladan) River crossing bridge; U Kyaw Min of Letpadan constituency on upgrading an embankment into a village connecting road in Letpadan Township; U Thein Tun of Kyaunggon constituency on upgrading a road in Kyaunggon Township into an all-weather road and U Moe Shwe of Putao constituency on a plan to construct the remaining portion of a road in Putao Township were answered by Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw.

Motion urging governmental departments to post particulars about tenders on website

Following the asterisk

marked question and answer session Daw Nan Kham Aye of Namtu constituency tabled and explained a motion urging Union, State/Region governmental departments to post particulars about tenders invited, tender winning company and the tender work conducted until completion. The motion was supported by U Sai Oo Kham of Hsenwi constituency. As the Hluttaw agreed to accept and discuss the motion, an announcement was made accordingly about it. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat then announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the motion to



Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo. PHOTO: MNA

register their names.

National Library bill

Next, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min tabled the National Library bill and Bill Committee member Daw Mar Mar Khine read the committee's report on the bill.

This was followed by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announcing for Hluttaw representatives who want to table amendment motions to register their names.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker also announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to table amendment motions to U Kyaw

Soe Lin of Pyididagun constituency's amendment proposal to Rule on Copying Case File sent by Union Supreme Court, U Kyaw Soe Lin of Pyididagun constituency's amendment proposal to Bar Council Election Rule sent by Union Supreme Court and Ethnic Affairs and Internal Peace Implementation Committee's amendment proposal to Ethnic National Rights Protection Rule sent by Ministry of Ethnic Affairs.

Reports of Pyithu Hluttaw Committees read

Finally Annual Report of Pyithu Hluttaw Rights Committee was read by Committee Secretary Dr Hla Moe and Annual Report of Pyithu Hluttaw Citizens' Fundamental Rights Committee was read by Committee member U Sai Pho Myat. Once each report was read, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the report to register their names. The eighth-day meeting of the 14th regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw will be held on 27 November.

— Aye Aye Thant ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw debates Industrial Zone Bill

THE Second Amyotha Hluttaw held its seventh-day meeting of 14th regular session yesterday where Industrial Zone Bill was debated. Earlier, asterisk marked questions raised by five Hluttaw representatives were answered by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw and Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Nyi Tun. After the debate on the bill, Hluttaw also debated a motion tabled by U Sa Kin Zaw Lin, Ayeyawady Region constituency 2.

Asterisk marked question**and answer session**

In the asterisk marked question and answer session questions raised U Kyaw Toke of Mandalay Region constituency 7 on plan to promote traditional lacquerware works; Dr Kyaw Than Tun (Canton) of Mandalay Region constituency 6 on a plan to upgrade Kachin State, Mohnyin Township, No. 1 Myoma market into a modern market and U Aung Thein of Bago Region constituency 12 on land grant application matter in Yangon Region were answered by Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Nyi Tun.

Chaung Village Tract, Kyaukpyu Township, Rakhine State were answered by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw.

Meanwhile, questions raised by U Min Swe Naing of Kachin State constituency 6 on a plan to relocate chicken farms in villages of Mandalay Region Pyin Oo Lwin Township and U Kyaw Than of Rakhine State constituency 10 on plan to construct an embankment to prevent intrusion of salt water in Pyin Wun Village, Te



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

Hluttaw debate Industrial Zone Bill

Next, Industrial Zone bill was debated by U Soe Thein (a) U Maung Soe of Taninthayi Region constituency 10, Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of Bago Region constituency 3 and U Mya Min Swe of Magway Region constituency 9.

Hluttaw debate reforestation motion

Afterwards a motion tabled

by U Sa Kin Zaw Lin suggesting the Union government to conduct training programmes, providing modern facilities and equipment for capacity building of forest staff in States/Regions promoting their ability and ethics with financial and technical assistance of international organizations such as World Bank, Asian Development Bank, World Wildlife Fund for reforestation in Myanmar were discussed by Tatmadaw representative Major Win Min Thant,

U Khin Win of Magway Region constituency 2, U San Myint of Ayeyawady Region constituency 3, U Khin Maung Win of Sagaing Region constituency 7, U Hla San of Magway Region constituency 1 and U Maung Maung Ohn of Ayeyawady Region constituency 5. The eighth-day meeting of the 14th regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw was scheduled to be held on 27 November.

— Aung Ye Thwin ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw. PHOTO: MNA



Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Nyi Tun. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor attends ASEAN-ROK CEO Summit, meets with BUFS students



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for documentary photo together with ROK President Mr Moon Jae-in, Prime Minister of Thailand (Retired) General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of Laos Mr Thongloun Sisoulith and business CEOs from the ASEAN and ROK before the opening ceremony of ASEAN-ROK CEO Summit in Busan yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with President of Busan University of Foreign Studies Jeong Gi-yeong in Busan. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Myanmar students and students from Busan University of Foreign Studies in Busan yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Joint Committee on Amending 2008 Constitution holds meeting 60/2019

MEETING 60/2019 of the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Committee Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Joint Committee secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe, joint secretary U Htay Win Aung (a) U Pyone Cho and members who were Hluttaw representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein attends the meeting 60/2019 of the Joint Committee on Amending the 2008 Constitution in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

The growing soft power of media, artists and influencers, and the creative industries have a huge role to play in promoting peace and resolving the pressing problems of today: State Counsellor

Keynote speech delivered by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the Culture Innovation Summit

Busan, 25 November 2019

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to meet with so many representatives from the cultural industry working at the intersection of Arts, Cultures and Technology.

The success of the Culture Industry is making a significant contribution to the global economy. This sector created global revenues amounting to 2,250 billion US\$ and 29.5 million jobs in 2014 while Korea's cultural exports reached 8.2 billion US\$ in 2017.

Although the share of developing countries in the cultural trade is growing, ASEAN countries largely remain at the consumption side of the value chain and have yet to be part of the success stories in this sector.

In this context, today's Summit on "Culture Innovation" is most relevant for fostering collaboration among the experts on cultural content and technology.

There are a few thoughts I would like to share with you today.

First, talent and technology as the drivers for cultural industry growth.

The Culture Industry, unlike other industries, is unique. Creativity and innovative novelty are central, and talent is the life blood of the industry.

The people working in this industry constantly need to find innovative ways, not only in content value creation, but also in extending audience reach and managing businesses.

Thus, talents needs in the industry are not limited to creative education and cultural skills. The industry needs a talent pool of skills in information technology, networking skills and management.

As growing internet penetration and mobile access create new patterns of cultural consumption, the industry needs to invest more in nurturing digital talent and technology.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me turn to my second point: the role of the Culture Industry in promoting peace and addressing 21st century issues.

The Culture Industry, with its far reaching influence on diverse societies, is in a key position to ensure wider and better balanced cultural exchanges throughout the world, guiding intercultural respect and fostering a culture of peace.

The pervasive nature of the issues of our day make a holistic, societal approach essential for achieving sustainable solutions. Governments need greater collaboration and support from society and industry.

The growing soft power of media, artists and influencers, and the creative industries have a huge role to play in promoting peace and resolving the pressing problems of today.

Climate Change is one such issue, where the Culture Industry can make valuable contributions. As growing threats from climate change can only be effectively mitigated by behavioural changes in individuals, we need to find innovative ways of ensuring that the changes move in the right direction.

In this regard, the recent initiative of a classical orchestra in Germany in making climate change audible by reworking Antonio Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons," using algorithms based on climate data, is very innovative and impactful. More of such initiatives are needed to raise climate change awareness, based on different cultural values and themes.

The issue of extremism is another area where cultural influencers can make positive contributions. Although it is tempting to see cultural factors as the cause of conflict and extremism, they are often mere pretexts for conflict. The root causes of conflict need to be sought deeper, and we must use cultural literacy and 'inter-cultural competencies' towards the appreciation, respect and value of diverse cultures, thus bringing together hearts and minds.

The cultural industry can also make a positive impact on inequality reduction.

Studies suggest that 'cultural production is young, inclusive and entrepreneurial', as the sector employs younger people, favours women, and is driven by small businesses and individuals.

Therefore, the creative industry is a powerful development tool offering economic opportunities for youth, women, and small enterprises, with a huge potential for narrowing social inequality, as well as the development gap, between nations and regions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My third points relates to strengthening Culture Industry collaboration.

With the ROK, a global cultural sector leader, as ASEAN's valued partner, there are vast opportunities for strengthening cooperation for co-prosperity.

The strong and diverse cultural heritage of the region offers great opportunities for co-creation, co-production and co-distribution of cultural values.

Co-production not only allows cost sharing, but also provides opportunities for securing larger markets and more diverse contents for the film and TV industries.

I am happy to see that we are starting the co-creation of Arts between Myanmar and Korean artists.

The co-production of three films, "A Winter Once upon a Time", "A Flower above the Clouds" and "My Music Teacher Mingalabar" by JBJ Entertainment and SBS Medianet of Korea, and Big 5 Film Production and Fortune TV of Myanmar, are positive steps towards future collaboration in the film industry.

The Myanmar film industry, in its golden days was the biggest and most vibrant in South East Asia. As our film industry will be celebrating its centenary in the coming year, I hope that it will build on its past glory to create a glowing future through greater collaboration with regional players.

In this regard, the convening of the ASEAN Cinema Week 2019 earlier this month in Busan, and ongoing efforts to establish the ASEAN-ROK Film Organization, are harbingers of fruitful future cooperation in this sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The prospects for music industry cooperation are also very encouraging. Music is a powerful tool for transcending barriers between different peoples and cultures.

The K Pop Girl Band, "Rose Quartz", a band comprising members from Myanmar, Thai, and Korea, is a clear symbol of friendship bonded by music.

Myanmar recently hosted an international percussion project called 'Gongs and Skins', bringing together performers and players from different ethnic groups in Myanmar as well as from Asia, Africa and Europe, promoting peaceful dialogue among different cultures in the region.

Project K, a Myanmar Boy Band, inspired by K-Pop, enjoys great popularity, and not just among our young : I count myself as one of their fans.

Recognizing the increasing cultural collaboration between ASEAN and the ROK, and the significant contribution of these cultural exchanges to the promotion of global peace and harmony, I would like to conclude by encouraging industry players to explore greater opportunities to work more closely to promote peace and prosperity not just between the peoples of our region, but throughout the whole world.

I wish you all an enjoyable and fruitful Summit.

Thank you.



Most importantly, this summit provides us with an opportunity to connect the dots between areas where progress has been made, and those where challenges remain: State Counsellor

Keynote Speech delivered by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the ASEAN-ROK CEO Summit

Busan, 25 November 2019



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech at the ASEAN-Republic of Korea CEO Summit (Session-3) in Busan, the Republic of Korea yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be with you at today's ASEAN-Republic of Korea CEO Summit, here in the bustling port city of Busan.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank His Excellency, Moon Jae-in, President of the Republic of Korea, for inviting us to participate in this event, and also for his recent visit to Myanmar, which brought our two countries closer together than ever.

President Moon has been a tireless supporter of a stronger, more prosperous, and more holistic ASEAN-Korea relationship, a relationship bound by economic and business ties, inspired by people-to-people connections, and emboldened by our unique sense of ASEAN solidarity.

Both President Moon and I have spoken often of our wish to nurture this relationship, which will include creating new and ambitious win-win partnerships with those of us who hail from the Mekong region.

We in Myanmar place much value on such win-win partnerships and are eager to work together to further the co-prosperity of our nations and our region. This view has been most clearly articulated within our new Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan.

I believe we can find much in common between Korea's own New Southern Policy and our own Sustainable Development Plan, two plans united in shared intent, that is to unleash freedom and prosperity for our people and our region.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today's summit takes place as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the special bond between Korea and the countries of ASEAN. Our countries understand all too well that development results are hard won, and yet what we have achieved together in just one generation is truly remarkable. That is why Myanmar has

always, and will continue to, welcome Korea's support for the achievement of our development ambitions.

Most importantly, this summit provides us with an opportunity to connect the dots between areas where progress has been made, and those where challenges remain. In today's interconnected world, we must avoid the tendency to address development issues in isolation. Solutions must be comprehensive, integrated and coordinated. From climate change to energy security, from food security to human development, addressing development challenges via partnerships offers the greatest chance of sustainable success.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Myanmar today is seeking to expand its investment and trading relationships, with a specific, but not exclusionary, focus on relationships with the rising economies of ASEAN, and Asia, more broadly.

The largest country in mainland South-East Asia, Myanmar is home to 53 million people, a majority of whom are of productive working age.

Growing between six and seven per cent annually, Myanmar is also amongst ASEAN's fastest-growing economies.

We offer a strategic land bridge that connects our region's two largest trans-national economies: the Greater Mekong Sub-region and the South Asia Sub-region.

With some 17 trillion cubic meters of natural gas, 3.2 billion barrels of crude oil, rare elements, metallic minerals and gemstones, and a vast range of agriculture and aquaculture products we are also resource rich.

We bring a range of complementary strengths vis-à-vis the Republic of Korea. However, to fully realize the peaceful, prosperous future to which we all aspire, we seek new business partnerships through which co-prosperity may spread.

Enhancing bilateral economic cooperation in this way requires not only the strengthening of business-to-business and people-to-people relationships, but also much greater attention to the institutional infrastructure and legal frameworks that underpin these relationships and allow them to flourish.

This is why we in Myanmar are fully committed to concluding the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations as early as possible.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Trade flows between Korea and ASEAN have increased twentyfold since formal relations were established, and over time we have become Korea's second-largest trade partner. Myanmar has no doubt benefitted, with our industry sector expanding rapidly in recent years (23.9% of GDP in 2017 compared with 19.7% in 2011).

This growth has been boosted by increased manufacturing output (supported by strong growth in garment exports) and construction sector growth with the start of many new strategic infrastructure projects, including the Myanmar-Korea Friendship Bridge to Dala, and the newly opened Korea-Myanmar Industrial Complex.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Myanmar's re-integration into the global economy presents us with a unique opportunity to leverage new partnerships in ways that reduce poverty, to promote shared prosperity, and to continue our pursuit of peace.

My sincere appreciation of your commitment to supporting Myanmar's development efforts and strengthening ASEAN-Korea relations.

I wish you all good health, and peace of mind.



VP U Myint Swe delivers speech at preparatory meeting for 20th MTMPC, seminar

VICE PRESIDENT U Myint Swe gave a speech at the steering committee and work committee meeting to organize the 20th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference (20th MTMPC) and Seminar at the Ministry of Health and Sports in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Vice President, in his capacity as the patron of steering committee, said the President's Office formed a steering committee on 22 November with eight members and six tasks for the successful holding of the 20th MTMPC.

A working committee and nine sub-committees will support the steering committee in relevant sectors.

Myanmar has successfully organized a total of 19 MTMPCs and seminars— six times in Yangon and 13 times in Nay Pyi Taw, with the assistance of relevant ministries to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Vice President U Myint Swe also called for the ministries to help in holding the upcoming event.

At the 20th MTMPC and Seminar, the President will send a message of greetings, and the Vice President will open the ceremony, followed by the conference and the dinner in the evening.

The second day of 20th MTMPC and Seminar is expected to be attended by 328 persons, including members of the Traditional Medicine Practitioners Council, regional representatives of the conference, local and foreign NGO. They would hold discussions at the conference.

The 20th MTMPC will be organized with the objectives of 'To



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the committee meeting to organize the 20th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference (20th MTMPC) and Seminar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

promote the standard of Myanmar traditional medicines and to develop quality of treatments in Myanmar traditional medicines; To promote skills and ethics of Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners; To coordinate with the related experts and organizations at home and abroad in developing traditional medicines; To acquire resources from herbal gardens and private sector for enough raw herbals from traditional medicines'.

The four objectives of seminar are also "To generate skillful traditional medicine practitioners to provide more effective traditional treatments to public; To expand research efforts in traditional medicines for producing safe and better quality traditional medicines; To invite participation

of traditional medicine practitioners with their effective treatments in providing basic healthcare services and knowledge of traditional medicines in the rural areas; To export and import of traditional medicines with ASEAN member countries in accordance with the changing trend of international economic policy".

The Vice President also provided advice to ensure coordination among the steering committee, work committee and sub-committees in implementing the plans adopted by the conference in respective sectors.

The 20th MTMPC will also include video shows of advanced traditional medication with magical power, introduction of traditional medicine books and online registration of traditional

medicines at the Department of Traditional Medicines.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, as the chairman of steering committee, explained implementation of resolutions made in the 19th MTMPC, overseas training programmes, others plans to develop traditional medicines, the expected budget to expand researches, educative programmes, to generate skillful traditional medicine practitioners and to form a Myanmar Traditional Medicine Council.

Dr Moe Swe, the Joint Secretary of steering committee and the Director General of Department of Traditional Medicine, presented preparations for organizing the 20th MTMPC.

Then, the members of work

committee and sub-committees briefed on the preparations of their committees.

Vice President U Myint Swe gave advice and comments to ensure coordination based on the discussions after which he gave his concluding remarks.

The meeting was also attended by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein, Pyithu Hluttaw Health and Sports Development Committee Chairman Dr San Shwe Win, Amyotha Hluttaw Health, Sports and Culture Affairs Committee Chairman Dr Zaw Lin Htut, members of the steering committee and work committee, and members of nine sub-committees.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Chief Justice attends 7th meeting of ASEAN Chief Justices Council in Thailand

UNION CHIEF JUSTICE U Htun Htun Oo attended the 7th Council of ASEAN Chief Justices Meeting in Phuket, Thailand, from 22 and 23 November.

The meeting held at the Phuket Marriott Resort & Spa Merlin Beach was attended by the chief justices from the 10-member nations, heads of legal affairs, members of delegations, and Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN. Together with members of CACJ, the Union Chief Justice also extended greetings at the meeting.

On the first day of the meeting, the chief justices and delegation members discussed the ASEAN Judiciaries Portal (AJP), the Facilitating Service of Civil Processes within ASEAN, the

Case Management and Court Technology, the Judicial Education and Training, the ASEAN Cross-Border Disputes Involving Children, ASEAN+ Meeting, the Study Group on the Future Work of the CACJ and other submitted issue to the council. During the discussion, the Union Chief Justice presented the activities of Myanmar in these issues.

The meeting also agreed the Charter of CACJ which has been approved as an Entity Associated with ASEAN since January 2017, and they also discussed to issue the Bangkok Declaration.

On 23 November afternoon, the Union Chief Justice attended the signing ceremony of the Bangkok Declaration held at the



Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo poses for a group photo with Chief Justices from other countries at the 7th Council of ASEAN Chief Justices Meeting in Thailand. **PHOTO: MNA**

Supreme Court of Thailand. He also enjoyed a dinner hosted by President of Supreme Court Slai-

kate Wattanapan at the Supreme Court of Thailand. Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo and party

arrived back to Yangon on 24 November afternoon.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

VP U Henry Van Thio presents victory flag to Myanmar contingent participating in 30th SEA Games

VICE PRESIDENT U Henry Van Thio addressed a ceremony to present the victory flag to the Myanmar contingent participating in the 30th SEA Games held at Wunna Theikdi sports stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

First, the Vice President was introduced to Myanmar sports teams participating in the 30th SEA Games.

In his address the Vice President said the sports personnel were at the mental and physical peak to use all their capabilities developed during the long training period.

Although the competition will be in 56 types of sports, Myanmar will be participating in 31 types with 351 sports personnel, 127 coaches and 43 administrators. A stiff competition must be put up to put on record the intense physical and mental preparations made. A new historical record for Myanmar sports will be made if this sporting contingent can achieve more awards than the past contingents.

All sports personnel, coaches and administrators should note that it would be an opportunity and honor to represent the country in an international sporting event and to raise the honor of the country by achieving sporting success. As achieving success was related to honor and pride of the country and the people, a national duty will be placed on the shoulders of everyone in the Myanmar sports contingent.

The Mother land has been



Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses the ceremony to present victory flag to Myanmar contingent of 30th SEA Games at Wunna Theikdi sports stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

striving towards reaching international level in all sectors. Systematic arrangements were made and implemented in the sports sector. Accomplishment of these aims was to be shown with individual and team wise capabilities in the forthcoming competition by achieving successes.

The flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar presented to the Myanmar sports contingent going to the 30th SEA Games represents the country and the national duty. This should be borne in mind and maximum efforts should be put into all events with sporting and national spirit for the flag to fly high with pride.

Special appreciation was owed to donors, business persons, well-wishers and sports enthusiasts who had provided all round support and assistance to compete in the 30th SEA Games.

The country's selected sports personnel representing the country and competing in the international event no doubt will have technical expertise, sporting spirit and high capability. All are urged to base on these with love for the country and the people and do their utmost.

All members of the Myanmar sport contingent are to compete with national determination to raise the honor of the country and the people. During the competition, help one another with team and family spirit. Accept the leadership and guidance and be a disciplined group. Keep up the tradition of Myanmar culture and habits. Put up strong competition. Strive towards achieving many awards. Take good experience and lessons from this SEA Games competition. Compete fairly and show high standard. Be the good sports ambassa-

dors who promote existing friendship between Southeast Asia brothers and sisters. Be the sports heroes who raise the flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

After delivering the speech, Vice President U Henry Van Thio presented the victory flag to the Union Minister for Health and Sports.

Next, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe explained the preparation status of Myanmar sports contingent competing in the 30th SEA Games.

Afterwards, donors presented cash donations for the Myanmar sports contingent competing in the 30th SEA Games that was received by Union Ministers Dr Myint Htwe, Lt-Gen Sein Win and U Ohn Win who presented certificates of honor in return.

Later, Vice President U Henry Van Thio greeted the Myanmar sports contingent com-

peting in the 30th SEA Games and observed the displayed sports equipment.

The 30th SEA Games will be held in the Philippines from 30 November to 11 December 2019.

The ceremony was attended by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Sein Win, U Ohn Win and Dr Myint Htwe, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Union Auditor General U Maw Than, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Thu, U Khin Maung Tin, U Aung Hla Tun, U Tin Myint, U Tha Oo, U Win Maw Tun, Dr Mya Lay Sein, U Kyaw Lin, U Soe Aung and U Hla Maw Oo, Myanmar Olympic Council members, Permanent Secretaries, directors general, chairpersons and secretaries of Myanmar sports federations, invited guests, donors, sports contingent heads, coaches, sports persons and officials.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Commerce Minister receives Chinese Vice Governor

UNION Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint received Vice Governor of Shanxi Provincial People's Government Mr Wang Yixin from the People's Republic of China yesterday morning.

The meeting at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw focused closer co-operation between businesses of the two countries, more investments from China in potential business sectors, and technical cooperation in the sectors of charcoal, hydropower, energy, construction and pharmaceuticals, fulfilling the requirements in productions and logistics, establishing business centres

to support bilateral trades and investments between the two countries, providing assistance in upgrading quality of Myanmar agricultural products, bilateral invitations to the expos to promote trade. — MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint holds talks with Vice Governor of Shanxi Provincial People's Government Mr Wang Yixin in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



CBM Governor receives Chinese Ambassador, President of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Group



CBM Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and a delegation led by Chinese Ambassador Mr Chen Hai and President of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Group Mr Gu Shu on 22 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

GOVERNOR of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung received Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Chen Hai and President of In-

dustrial and Commercial Bank of China Group Mr Gu Shu and party on 22 November morning.

At the meeting, they discussed bilateral cooperation in

banking sector and payment methods at the border areas of two countries.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

TBS Television making documentary of Bagan ancient cultural region

A FILM team from Japan's TBS Television was making a documentary of Bagan ancient cultural region by filming scenes near Dhammayangyi Temple, Thatbyinnyu Temple, Tuyintaung pagoda, old temple ground and the old city wall yesterday.

Earlier in the morning

the team filmed scenes near Tantkyi Taung Pagoda and along the Ayeyawady River while from 20 to 24 November the team film scenes in Shwezigon Pagoda, Ananda Temple, Laymyethna Temple, sun rise and sun set from Min Nan Thu mound, dams and irrigation water distribution



in Kyaukse District.

Furthermore the team will film scenes at Lawkananda Pagoda, Tharabar Gate, Bu Pagoda, stages of making lacquerware works, junior monks from Shwegu Monastery going around for alms, interview

Japanese film crew from TBS Television shooting the old city wall in Dhammayangyi Temple in Bagan yesterday. **PHOTO: NI NI WIN (FDC)**

maintenance and renovation works in the temples up to 28 November. The films will be shown in a weekly "The World Heritage" program that TBS Television was broadcasting.— Ni Ni Win (FDC)

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Court-Martial Trial on Incident of Gutapyin Commences

THE Court of Inquiry chaired by Maj-Gen Myat Kyaw established in accordance with the Defence Services Act and the Defence Services Rules submitted its opinion that some incidents which happened in Gutapyin village should be tried by the Court-martial. With respect to such opinion, in carrying out the processes of Military Justice, the trial of the Summary General Court-Martial against the accused military personnel will commence at the local Regiment in Buthidaung on

26 November 2019. The Tatmadaw, on its part, is cooperating with the Independent Commission of Enquiry-ICOE. When the report of ICOE comes out, if such report mentioned that Tatmadaw members are involved in committing the offence, the investigation will be followed and action will be taken against them in accordance with the law, according to the Office of the Judge Advocate General, according to the Tatmadaw True News Information Team.—MNA

Trade Mark Ads

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Japanese film crew from TBS Television shooting scenes of Dhammayangyi Temple in Bagan yesterday. **PHOTO: NI NI WIN (FDC)**

Real estate sector pulls in highest FDI of over \$270 mln in Oct

THE real estate sector recorded the highest share of foreign fund inflows at US\$274.68 million in October, the first month of the current financial year, after Hong Kong-listed Amata Company invested in the development and operation of Smart and Eco City and related businesses on 2,000 acres of land near East and South Dagon townships.

In October, six other enterprises invested over \$10 million in the manufacturing sector, while two enterprises pumped in \$6.47 million into the other services sector, according to statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

So far, domestic investments from 87 enterprises in the real estate sector have reached K4,421 billion, according to the DICA.

More than 22 per cent of domestic investments made by Myanmar citizens have flowed into the real estate sector, while investments have also

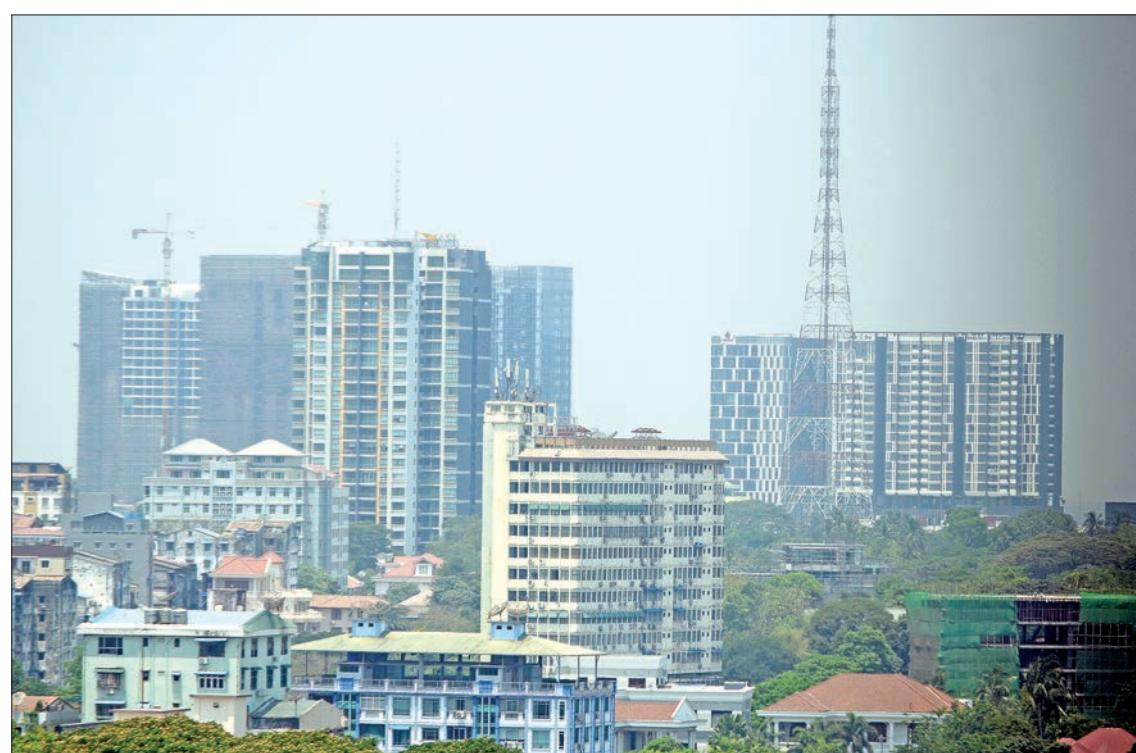
been made in manufacturing, hotels and tourism, construction, industrial estate, energy, mining, livestock and fisheries, agriculture, and other services sectors, according to the DICA.

Realtors are expecting the reduced income tax to stimulate the realty market, which has been cool for the last three years. They also anticipate the approval of a real estate service law, which would regulate informal deals and prevent buyers and sellers from being defrauded by unscrupulous realtors, according to real estate officials.

At present, buyers and sellers have been forced to avoid paying taxes, owing to high appraisal and tax rates. Most dealers are informally carrying out real estate deals using only the special and general power of attorney, said realtors.

The reduction in taxes is likely to persuade traders who evaded taxes in previous years to pay taxes and make changes in ownership, they added.

For the 2019-2020 financial



File photo shows an aerial view of downtown Yangon with high-rise buildings. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

year, the standard land price per square foot in Yangon's townships has been reduced by 10 per cent compared to the year-ago period, according to the Internal Revenue Depart-

ment. These prices are used for tax evaluations in real estate sales.

As per the Condominium Law, when a condominium project developed by a citizen or a

foreigner is completed, foreigners have the right to own up to 40 per cent of the units. – Pwin Thit Sar/Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

FDI crosses \$500 mln in one and a half months; up \$200 mln against previous fiscal

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR attracted over US\$500 million in foreign direct investments during the first one and a half months of the current fiscal, an increase of \$200 million compared with the corresponding period of the previous FY, said U Thant Sin Lwin, Director-General of the DICA.

Between 1 October and 16 November, FDI of \$514.882 million flowed into the country, including expansion of capital by existing enterprises. According to a press statement issued by the DICA, 35 foreign enterprises obtained permits from the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and endorsements from regional and state Investment Committees in the current fiscal, bringing in a capital of \$496.28 million.

"The FDI inflow is higher than last year, when investments of over \$300 million were recorded," said U Thant Sin Lwin.

"As large projects were allowed in the current fiscal, investments grew," he said.

"Infrastructure projects such as industrial parks and urban development projects are bringing

investments into the country," said U Thant Sin Lwin.

There is investment potential for large businesses, he added.

Moreover, once offshore oil and gas and mining projects are approved in the current FY, heavy enterprises will enter the country, said U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations at the 30th regular meeting of the Vice President U Myint Swe with private entrepreneurs, held on 19 October at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry office.

The ministry is inviting responsible businesses to the country. The Myanmar Investment Promotion Plan (MIPP) was drawn up with the assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and it is being implemented. As per the MIPP, Myanmar aims to reach its FDI target of \$200 billion in 20 years, said U Thaung Tun.

In the 2018-2019FY, investments in Myanmar totaled \$4.5 billion, and FDI fell short of the \$5.8-billion target by around \$1.3 billion.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

China demand falls as low-quality watermelons flood Muse gate

LOW-QUALITY watermelons and muskmelons have been flooding the Muse 105th mile trading zone, driving down demand from China, which has dropped compared to the corresponding period of last year, according to traders.

"The demand dropped in early and mid-November on account of the supply glut at Muse gate. The fruits are of low quality. The demand is expected to rise in end-November," said Sai Khin Maung from the watermelon and muskmelon growers group.

Normally, watermelons and muskmelons see strong

trade in December and January, ahead of the Chinese New Year Festival.

"Production of quality watermelons is required to maintain foreign market share. Trade of low-quality watermelons cannot even cover transportation costs," according to the fruit depot.

In addition, the market depends on security along the trade channel. In December, 2018, the closure of Kyin San Kyawt gate as part of security measures left hundreds of trucks stranded at the Muse trade zone, battering all stakeholders in the supply chain.

"Watermelon prices are ranging from 3,000 to 20,000 Yuan per 15 tons, depending on quality. Muskmelons are priced 2,200-3,000 Yuan per ton," according to the Khwar Nyo Trading Co. Ltd.

Watermelons and muskmelons top the list of fruits exported to China, and the export volume has been increasing significantly year over year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

"If growers follow GAP guidelines, they can get higher prices. But, a majority of them are still using pesticides," said officials. Myanmar currently exports around 800,000 tons of watermelons per year.

The volume of watermelon exports was estimated at 500,000 tons in the 2014-2015 financial year, over 560,000 tons in the 2015-2016FY, and over 170,000 tons in the 2018 mini-budget period (from April to September).

Watermelons and muskmelons are primarily grown in Mandalay and Sagaing regions and Shan State. Myanmar's watermelons and muskmelons have grabbed a large market share in China. — GNLM



Watermelon are seen ready to export to China. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

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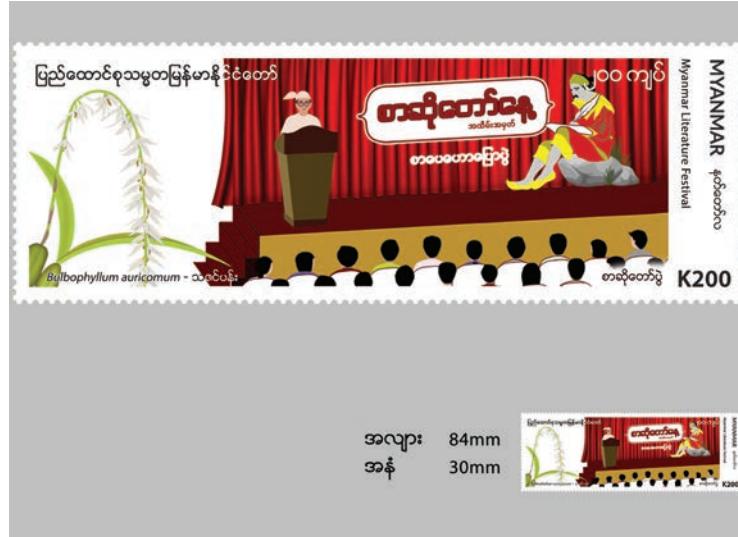
MP to issue new special postage stamps for month of Nattaw

THE MYANMAR Post (MP) under the Ministry of Transport and Communications will issue a special postage stamps for K200 denomination to mark the month of Nattaw portraying its symbol of Myanmar Literature Festival and Bulbophyllum auricomum (Thazin flower). The sale of the special stamp will be launched at post offices in states and regions starting

from 9:30 am on 27 November 2019 (1st Waxing of Nadaw 1381 ME).

As a special programme, Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, Yangon and Mandalay post offices will stamp post mark and date on the commemorative stamps and First Day Covers bought on 27 November 2019. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)



Bagan lacquerware businesses trying to penetrate international markets



Lacquerware handicrafts displayed at a shop in Bagan. **HOTO: THAN HTIKE**

TRADITIONAL lacquerware businesses in Bagan are currently working towards exporting to foreign countries in order to promote their products in international markets.

The art of making lacquerware — decorative articles, typically made of wood or bamboo, that have been coated with lacquer — has been preserved in the area since the 11th century, with businesses still continuing

to practice it.

According to lacquerware businesses, the handicrafts are made using locally-sourced raw materials, and bamboos need to be trimmed into strips before making the designs. All kinds of lacquerware such as alm bowls, pickled tea leaves bowls, plates, mats, and baskets are being produced by hand. Nowadays, lacquerware arts are being used in consumer products and

foreigners are likely to buy lacquerware as souvenirs.

"At present, most lacquerware handicrafts are being produced for local markets, and some businesses are making customized designs for foreigners. The quality and price of products depends on the use of resin paste. If the lacquerware is coated with several layers of resin paste, it can be used for many years," said U Maung

Maung, who owns a lacquerware business in Pyitainghtaung.

"A number of tangible and intangible arts from the 11th century are still being preserved. Bagan lacquerware products are not able to enter the international market due to lack of stable demand," he added.

Bagan hosts a large number of international visitors every year and the high season is between November and April. During the high season, locals earn a good income. As tourist arrivals in Bagan remain normal, lacquerware businesses experience low demand.

It takes six to ten months to make lacquerware and businesses have to run for the whole year. In addition, most of the businesses in Bagan have to rely on the tourism sector.

The art of making lacquerware has been passed from generation to generation, and there are 10 such businesses in Bagan. Meanwhile, thousands of businesses in Myinkapar, Phwar Saw, Min Nan Thu, and Thahtaygon villages are also producing lacquerware on a manageable scale. —Than Htike

(Translated by La Wonn)

Black, white sesame markets open with high prices in Mandalay

WINTER black sesame from Bhamo, Katha, and Htigyaing townships and white sesame from Shwebo and Wetlet townships have fetched a good opening price in the Mandalay market, according to bean traders.

This winter season, good-quality white and black sesame have been harvested compared with the previous year. Although the rest of the rainy season sesame is fetching just

K250,000 per basket, the price of winter black sesame is pegged at K258,000 per basket, and that of white sesame has increased to K152,000 per basket in the Mandalay market, said U Soe Win Myint from the Mandalay depot.

"Black sesame from Bhamo and Katha townships is sent to the Mandalay market each winter season. Earlier, a basket of black sesame fetched K230,000, but now, the starting price is

higher at K258,000 per basket. Although the prices of other products have sloped downwards at the border gates, the market for black sesame is still stable.

Meanwhile, farmers are expecting a high demand for corn and paddy in 2020," he added.

Black sesame is mainly grown for the foreign market because of few consumers in the local market. China is the main buyer of black sesame, which

is used to make medicines and cosmetics. Black sesame is also exported to Japan.

While black sesame is mainly cultivated as a monsoon crop in Mandalay, Sagaing, and Magway regions, farmers in Kachin State cultivate the crop only in the winter season. —Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

(Translated by La Wonn)

IMF urges Japan to double consumption tax to 20% by 2050

TOKYO — The International Monetary Fund on Monday urged Japan to double its consumption tax rate to 20 per cent by 2050 to cover its ballooning social security costs due to the rapidly aging population.

The Japanese government just raised the rate to 10 per cent last month, a move that has stoked fears the policy will stifle the country's moderate growth. "From the perspective of the IMF, we believe that a gradual further increase of the consumption tax can help" Japan achieve its goal of fiscal consolidation by 2025, IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva said in Tokyo.

"Based on what other countries have done, we think there is more space, not immediately but over time, (for Japan) to rely more on consumption tax,"

the new IMF managing director told a press conference following the fund's annual consultation with the government.

In a statement released after the consultation, the Washington-based institution also called for Japan to extend a set of countermeasures to mitigate the negative impact on consumer spending from the 1 October tax hike from 8 per cent. Tokyo has already taken such measures as a reward points program for cashless payments and tax breaks on cars and houses. The IMF expects Japan's economy to grow by a real 0.8 per cent this year while projecting the pace would slow to 0.5 percent in 2020. Looking forward, the report pointed out that the world's third-largest economy faces a range of downside risks.—Kyodo News ■

Paytm raises \$1 billion from Softbank, Ant and other investors

NEW DELHI (India) — One97 Communications Ltd, the parent of digital payments company Paytm, said on Monday it has raised the latest equity fundraise from a group of investors including existing shareholders like Ant Financial, Softbank Vision Fund and new investors in-

cluding funds and accounts advised by T Rowe Price Associates Inc.

Discovery Capital, an existing shareholder, also participated in the round, the company said in a statement. It did not give the quantum of funding but various reports pegged it at about one billion dollars

(about Rs 7,200 crore). Paytm said it will invest Rs 10,000 crore over the next three years to bring financial inclusion to more underserved users in the country.

"At Paytm, we are committed to bringing half a billion Indians to the mainstream economy by

onboarding them in the formal financial ecosystem," said Founder and Chief Executive Officer Vijay Shekhar Sharma. "This new investment by our current and new investors is a reaffirmation of our commitment to serve Indians with new-age financial services," he said.—ANI



Embassy of India

Yangon

Celebrating Constitution Day of India

"Constitution is not a mere lawyer's document, it is a vehicle of life, and its spirit is always the spirit of age"- Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Architect of the Constitution of India)
The constitution of India is one of the biggest constitutions in the world. It was adopted by India on 26th November, 1949. Embassy of India will be celebrating the Constitution Day of India. Event is open to all.

Date - 26th November 2019

Time - 05:30 – 07:00 PM

Venue - Embassy Auditorium

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V HONG KONG SPIRIT

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V HONG KONG SPIRIT VOY. NO. (19159) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-4 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S GLOBAL MARS SHIPPING

Phone No: 2301928



Embassy of India, Yangon

Tender Notice

Supply of Baggage Scanner and Door Frame Metal Detector

The Embassy of India Yangon will purchase one Baggage Scanner and one Door Frame Metal Detector (walk through metal detector) for its office at 545-547, Merchant Street, Yangon. Interested suppliers are requested to visit Embassy's website <https://embassyofindiyangon.gov.in/> → Tender → Tender (Embassy's). The last date for submission is 12th Dec, 2019.

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Nippon Closures Co., Ltd., a company registered under the laws of Japan, which is located at 18-1, Higashi-Gotanda 2-chome, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo 141-8640, Japan, is the sole owner of the following trademark:

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Reg. Nos. 15788/2016, 24891/2019

In respect of Class 6: Industrial packaging containers of metal [not including "metal stoppers, lids and caps"]; metal stoppers [for industrial packaging containers]; metal lids and caps [for industrial packaging containers].

Nippon Closures Co., Ltd. claims the trademark rights and other relevant intellectual property rights for the mark as mentioned above. Nippon Closures Co., Ltd. reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its intellectual property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

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Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 26th November 2019

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OLYMPIA VOY. NO. (947W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OLYMPIA VOY. NO. (947W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P 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.

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Phone No: 2301185

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

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S UNIWIN MARINE LIMITED

Phone No: 2301928

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

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

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Germany's 'treasury chamber' museum in Dresden robbed

BERLIN (Germany) — A German state museum with one of the biggest collection of baroque treasures in Europe has been robbed, police said Monday, with media estimating losses of up to a billion euros.

The Green Vault at Dresden's Royal Palace, which is home to around 4,000 precious objects made of ivory, gold, silver and jewels, was broken into early Monday morning.

"This morning there was a break-in at the Green Vault," police in Saxony state confirmed on Twitter, adding that an estimate of the damages was "not yet possible".

Bild newspaper reported meanwhile that "antique jewellery worth around a billion euros has been stolen" in what it called "probably the biggest art theft since World War Two".

One of the oldest museums in Europe, the Green Vault holds treasures including a 63.8-centimetre figure of a Moor studded with emeralds and a 547.71-carat sapphire gifted by Tsar Peter I of Russia. Bild said the criminals



Bild newspaper said the stolen items could be worth up to a billion euros.

PHOTO: AFP

had broken into the well-protected palace by attacking a nearby power distributor and climbing through a window. They then proceeded to target smaller items of jewellery, leaving larger, bulkier items behind, Bild claimed, without citing sources.

'Hard-earned' treasures

Founded by August the Strong, Elector of Saxony in

1723, the Green Vault is one of 12 museums which make up the famous Dresden State Art Collections.

Its historic section, which contains around three quarters of the museum's treasures, was the one broken into on Monday.

With a strict limit on the amount of daily visitors, entrance to the historic vault can only be reserved in advance.

Exhibits are arranged into nine rooms, including an ivory room, a silver gilt room and the central "Hall of Treasures".

One of its most valuable pieces, the green diamond, is currently on loan to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, where it is a headline attraction in the temporary exhibition "Making Marvels: Science and Splendor at the Courts of

Europe".

After the Royal Palace suffered severe damage in World War Two, the Green Vault remained closed for decades before it was restored and re-opened in 2006.

For Saxony's state premier, the heist went beyond the value of the artefacts stolen.

"The treasures that are found in the Green Vault and the Dresden Royal palace were hard-earned by the people of Saxony over many centuries," said Michael Kretschmer.

"One cannot understand the history of our country, our state without the Green Vault and Saxony's State Art Collections."

In 2010, the museum hosted a meeting between Chancellor Angela Merkel and then President of the United States Barack Obama, on the latter's first state visit to Germany.

Monday's theft is the second high-profile heist in Germany in recent years, after a 100kg, 24-carat giant gold coin was stolen from Berlin's Bode Museum in 2017. —AFP ■

Center-right victory on hold as Uruguay vote too close to call

MONTEVIDEO (Uruguay) — Uruguay's presidential election is too close to call and the result will not be known for several days pending a recount, the South American country's electoral court said late Sunday.

"The court is not going to give a winner tonight," Electoral Court president Jose Arocena told reporters after a night of drama in Montevideo.

The announcement came after unofficial results showed center-right candidate Luis Lacalle Pou only around 30,000 votes ahead of the ruling party's Daniel Martinez — turning opinion poll predictions of a comfortable victory on their head.

The court said the number of provisional or contested ballots — around 35,000 — exceeded the margin between the two candidates.

The recount of ballots, which could take two or three days, will begin Tuesday, meaning the result may not be known before Friday.

Lacalle Pou said he was confident his victory would be confirmed, however.



Uruguay's center-right candidate Luis Lacalle Pou (l) is in a tight race with Daniel Martinez (r), who represents the ruling leftist coalition government. PHOTO: AFP

Opinion polls since last month's first round had indicated the 46-year-old former senator would comfortably win the run off.

But with almost all the votes counted, his lead over Martinez, a 62-year-old former Montevideo mayor, was just over 1.0 percent.

If confirmed, the result would mean defeat for the long-dominant leftist ruling Broad Front coalition after 15 years in power.

"They tried to bury us, but what we didn't know is that we are seeds," Martinez told his

supporters.

Thousands of flag-waving Lacalle Pou supporters massed around the headquarters of his conservative National Party had earlier been ordered to hold back on celebrations as it became clear the result was on a knife-edge.

"Everybody knows it and they don't accept it," Lacalle Pou said when he addressed them after midnight, saying Martinez "has not called me and has not conceded a result that we believe irreversible." —AFP ■

Ship with 14,600 sheep aboard capsizes off Romania

BUCHAREST (Romania) — Rescuers were struggling Sunday to save 14,600 sheep loaded on a cargo ship that capsized in the Black Sea off the coast of Romania, they said.

The Queen Hind bound for Saudi Arabia overturned for yet unknown reasons shortly after leaving Romania's Midia port.

The crew of 20 Syrians and one Lebanese were rescued, together with 32 sheep, two of which were pulled from the water, said Ana-Maria Stoica, a spokeswoman for the rescue services.

"The rescue operation is ongoing... We hope that the sheep inside the ship's hold are still alive," she told AFP.

Rescuers supported by the military, police and divers were trying to right the Palau-flagged ship and pull it to the port, she said.

Romania's main livestock breeder and exporter association, Acebop, called for an urgent investigation.

"Our association is shocked by the disaster," Acebop president Mary Pana said in a statement. "If we cannot protect

livestock during long-distance transports, we should outright ban them."

Gabriel Paun of NGO Animals International alleged that the ship had been overloaded. He added that the Queen Hind had already had engine problems last December.

"An investigation must be opened without delay," he told AFP Romania, which joined the EU in 2007, is one of its poorest members.

It is the bloc's third-largest sheep breeder, after Britain and Spain, and a top exporter, primarily to Middle Eastern markets.

Activists have labelled the livestock transport vessels -- about 100 of which leave Midia every year -- "death ships", saying sheep risk being cooked alive on board during the hot summer months.

In July, Vytenis Andriukaitis, then European commissioner in charge of health and food safety, demanded that Bucharest stop the transport of 70,000 sheep to the Gulf, citing animal welfare.

He has asked the European Commission to investigate Romania's practices.—AFP ■



Tens of thousands of people packed into the Tokyo Dome stadium for a Mass given by Pope Francis.

PHOTO: AFP

'A friendly hand': pope urges more help for Fukushima victims

TOKYO (Japan) — Pope Francis on Monday urged renewed help for victims of Japan's 2011 earthquake, tsunami and Fukushima disaster, warning "nobody can start over alone" as he noted "concern" over nuclear power.

On the penultimate day of his Japan trip, the pontiff heard the stories of those who survived the so-called "triple disaster" — a 9.1-magnitude earthquake that triggered a devastating tsunami and sent a nuclear plant into meltdown.

In an emotional meeting, he embraced 17-year-old Matsuki Kamoshita, who spoke powerfully

of his experience as an evacuee, saying he was so badly bullied he "wanted to die."

The 82-year-old Argentine paid tribute to those who rushed to help following the disaster, but warned that more was needed.

"No one 'rebuilds' by himself or herself; nobody can start over alone. We have to find a friendly and fraternal hand, capable of helping to raise not just a city, but also our horizon and our hope."

Some 18,500 were killed or are missing after the disaster. The waves swept away homes and farms, and engulfed the cooling systems at the Fukushima

Daiichi power plant, triggering the worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl. Nearly half a million people fled their homes in the first days after the quake and even today, roughly 50,000 remain in temporary housing.

Survivors shared painful memories of the disaster, with Toshiko Kato recalling finding her home had been swept away by the waves.

"I remember that when I stood in the rubble where my home had been, I was thankful for being given life, for being alive and for just being able to appreciate it," she told the pope. —AFP■

Bullying debate after death of K-pop star Goo Hara

SEOUL (South Korea) — Fans mourned and questions were asked Monday after K-pop star and revenge porn victim Goo Hara was found dead in a possible suicide, which would make her the second female singer in a month to take her own life in the high-pressure industry.

The body of Goo, a member of former girl group Kara, was discovered Sunday evening at her home in Cheongdam, one of Seoul's wealthiest neighbourhoods.

Police were still investigating her cause of death and Yonhap news agency reported they were "keeping the possibility of suicide in consideration".

In May, the 28-year-old star apologised to her fans after being hospitalised following a suspect-

ed suicide attempt, saying she had been "in agony over a number of issues".

Goo was abused by an ex-boyfriend last year who — after they split — blackmailed her over their sex videos.

The ex, hairdresser Choi Jong-bum, threatened "to end her entertainment career" by leaking the footage, and a CCTV clip of the couple showed the singer kneeling before him apparently begging him not to.

In the conservative South, women who appear in such videos often feel shame — despite being the victims — and face ostracism and social isolation if the images become public.

The man was convicted of multiple crimes including blackmail in August and was given a

suspended jail term, but the star had been targeted by abusive online comments since the incident.

Before her body was discovered on Sunday her Instagram account was flooded with hate comments about her appearance and her history with her ex.

Goo made her debut in 2008 with Kara — for several years one of the two biggest K-pop girl groups — and pursued a solo career after the group broke up, completing a tour of Japan last week.

Her death sparked an online petition on the website of the South's presidential office calling for stronger punishments for cybercrimes and abusive online comments, which garnered more than 20,000 signatures in less than a day. —AFP■

Hong Kong leader vows to 'listen' as voters send sharp rebuke to Beijing

HONG KONG (China) — Hong Kong's deeply unpopular leader vowed Monday to "listen humbly" to voters after the pro-democracy camp scored a crushing victory in community-level elections that revealed broad public support for a protest movement that has stirred months of violence.

In a rout that stunned the semi-autonomous territory, candidates seeking to loosen control by China seized an overwhelming majority of the 452 elected seats in the city's 18 district councils, bodies that have historically been firmly in the grip of a Beijing-aligned establishment.

The result, the first vote to be held since protests engulfed the city, was a humiliating rebuke to Beijing and Chief Executive Carrie Lam.

She has stubbornly dismissed calls for political reform and repeatedly suggested that a silent majority supported her administration and opposed the protest movement.

"The government will certainly listen humbly to citizens' opinions and reflect on them seriously," Lam said in a statement issued by the government.

But she gave no specifics on the likely response. China's foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said Beijing "resolutely supports" the leader and backs the police and judiciary in Hong Kong in "punishing relevant violent and illegal behaviours".

Opponents quickly called on Lam to accede to a five-point

list of demands, including direct elections for the city's legislature and leadership and a probe into alleged police brutality against demonstrators.

"The government must squarely face public opinion," said Wu Chi-wai, the chairman of the Democratic Party, Hong Kong's largest anti-establishment party.

The Labour Party, another leading component of the pro-democracy bloc, attributed the election result to "the sweat, blood and tears" of protesters.

There has been no tear gas fired in Hong Kong for a week, rare respite for a city upturned by months of chaos and violence.

The lull follows some of the most intense clashes yet between police and protesters at the city centre PolyU campus.

Dozens of newly elected councillors marched on Monday evening on the campus urging police to allow the small number of hardcore protesters who remain holed-up inside to leave freely.

"The people of Hong Kong have spoken," Paul Zimmerman, a pro-democracy councillor re-elected in Sunday's poll, said in a speech outside PolyU.

"Now is time for the government to respond. Don't fail Hong Kong again."

Chatter on a popular web forum used to urge people to turn out for protests called for a march on Sunday to press the government to respond to the movement's demands. —AFP■



Crisis-hit Hong Kong's pro-democracy camp has scored a stunning victory in district council elections. PHOTO: AFP

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SEA Games 2019 men's football opener: Myanmar draw Malaysia 1-1

THE Myanmar U-22 national football team tied with the Malaysian U-22 team in the Group A match yesterday of the men's football tournament at the 2019 Southeast Asian Games at the Rizal Memorial Stadium in the Philippines.

The goal for Myanmar was scored by Soe Moe Kyaw at the 13th minute, and the goal for Malaysia was scored by Hadi at the 24th minute.

On the same day, host Philippines also tied with Cambodia 1-1 in another match of Group A, while Viet Nam beat Brunei 6-0 in their Group B match.

For the tournament, Myanmar has been placed in Group A with Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Timor-Leste, while Viet Nam, Thailand, Indonesia, Laos, Singapore, and Brunei have been put in Group B.

Myanmar will play against the Philippines on 27 November, Timor-Leste on 29 November, and Cambodia on 2 December.



Myanmar player (red) and Malaysian player (yellow) vie for the ball at the men's football tournament at the 2019 Southeast Asian Games at the Rizal Memorial Stadium in the Philippines on 25 November. **PHOTO: MFF**

Two teams each from the two groups will advance to the semifinals, which will be held on 7 December.

The match for the bronze and gold medals will be played on 10 December.

2017 Southeast Asian Games

Thailand was placed first in

the 2017 SEA Games, followed by Malaysia, with Indonesia in the third place and Myanmar in the fourth place.

Malaysia's Thanabalan Nadarajah, Myanmar's Aung Thu, and Viet Nam's Nguyen Cong Phuong, who scored four goals each, had been adjudged the top goal scorers. — Kyaw Khin

Mourinho rules out Zlatan signing for Spurs

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Jose Mourinho says there is "no chance" of Tottenham signing Zlatan Ibrahimovic after the veteran forward was linked with a move to the club following his exit from LA Galaxy.

Mourinho worked with Ibrahimovic at Inter Milan and Manchester United but said signing the 38-year-old would not make sense with Harry Kane at his disposal.

"You are right about the connection, we have more than a connection," Mourinho said when asked on Monday whether he would be trying to sign the Swede. "I would say also passion and understanding, an amazing player and an amazing guy, but I would say 'no'. No chance."

"We have the best striker in England, we have one of the top two or three strikers in the world, it doesn't make any sense for a striker of Zlatan's dimension, obviously in his late 30s, but still a striker that can play in any club in the world."

It has been a hectic first week for Mourinho at the Spurs helm following his appointment last

week.

After his unveiling to the media on Thursday, he had his first game 48 hours later at West Ham, which Spurs won 3-2, and is now preparing for a Champions League clash with Olympiakos on Tuesday.

Tottenham, who reached the Champions League final last season, would qualify for the knockout stages with a win or if they drew and Red Star failed to beat Bayern. Mourinho said he had not yet contacted his friend Mauricio Pochettino, who was sacked by Spurs last week.

"I needed that little bit of space to process things when I left previous clubs," said the former Chelsea and Manchester United boss. "It does not take just five or six days to be open again."

"You take a little bit of time to process things and understand and to think and rethink. You speak with people and in a couple of weeks he will be fine and I will call him."

Part of Mourinho's remit at Spurs is to do one thing that Pochettino could not do — win silverware.—AFP ■

Pre-match press meet held ahead of MFF Myanmar Futsal League

A pre-match press meet for the MFF Myanmar Futsal League 2019-2020 was held yesterday at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

MFF futsal committee chairman U Kyi Min Thein and officials from the Myanmar Football Federation, club officials, futsal players, and media personnel attended the meeting.

At the meeting, U Kyi Min Thein described the tournament and introduced each team before they posed for a commemorative photo.



Officials and players of futsal clubs that will take part in MFF Myanmar Futsal League 2019-2020 pose for a group photo at the pre-match press meet ahead of the league at the Thuwunna Stadium on 25 November. **PHOTO: MFF**

Press conference held for 19th Veterans Football Tournament

A press conference was held yesterday at the meeting hall of the Myanmar Football Federation ahead of a match between the national veterans teams of Myanmar and Macau, as part of the 19th Veterans Football Tournament.

At the event, MFF officials — U Bunny Tin Aung, U Aye Maung Gyi, U Tin Aung, U Soe Myint, and U Aung Soe Oo — answered queries raised by mediapersons.

Teams from Japan, South Korea, China PRC, Portugal, Chinese Taipei, and Hong Kong are also participating in the tournament.

At the invitation of the Macau Football Association, 22 players from team Myanmar and 10 officials from the Myanmar Football Federation will pay their first visit to Macau. The tourney will be held from 29 November to 1 December. — Kyaw Khin



Myanmar veteran footballers and MFF officials pose for a group photo at the press conference held for the 19th Veterans Football Tournament at the meeting hall of MFF on 25 November. **PHOTO: MFF**

tion time. "We will play our best in individual matches, combining players from the selection team and youth players. We hired foreign players, but they need to be trained," he said.

U Htai Lin Aung, the head coach of Let Wel Thone Nara F.C., said the team mostly had under-19 players. "As the players have a background in football, they need to learn futsal rules," he said.

Head coach of GV Futsal Club, U Kyaw Zin Nyunt, owner of Dream Team F.C., U Ye Naing, manager of Myoma JY F.C., U San Lin Aung, head coach of MFF U19 team, U Tin Maung Htay, head coach of On Doctor F.C., U Thet Ko Ko Oo, manager of VUC F.C., U Tun Tun Win, head coach of AMM F.C., U Zin Oo, and head coach of Winner F.C., U Kyaw Soe Moe, also made remarks at the meet.

The MFF Myanmar Futsal League 2019-20 will be held from 27 November to 15 February at the No.2 National Indoor Stadium, Yangon, according to the Myanmar Football Federation. — Kyaw Khin