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VP U Myint Swe addresses meeting on restoring pagodas in Bagan

CHAIRMAN of the Steering Committee for Restoration and Conservation of Pagodas in Bagan Vice President U Myint Swe addressed the fourth meeting of the committee held at the Bagan Archaeological Museum yesterday after inspecting the restoration and conservation works conducted on August 2016 earthquake-hit Bagan pagodas.

Earlier in the morning, the Vice President accompanied by Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Mandalay Region acting Chief Minister U Zarni Aung, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min, Region ministers, Region Hluttaw representatives, Permanent Secretaries, department heads, officials from Myanmar Engineering Society, Association of Myanmar Architects and advisory team inspected the restoration and conservation works conducted on the earthquake-hit Thatbyinnyu Temple where Archaeology and National Museum Department Director General U Kyaw Oo Lwin and assistant engineer Daw Thanda Aung provided necessary explanations.

Next the Vice President went to inspect the restoration and conservation works conducted on the Htilominlo Temple where Department of Buildings Deputy Director General U Ye Min Zaw provided necessary explanations.



Vice President U Myint Swe inspects the restoration and conservation efforts in Htilominlo Temple, Bagan yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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The Special Unit on International Criminal Justice held its first meeting

(29 November, Nay Pyi Taw)

THE first meeting of the Special Unit on International Criminal Justice was held at the Union Attorney General's Office at 10:30 a.m. today.

Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo attended the meeting and delivered the opening remarks. In his opening remarks, he mentioned that the President Office had formed the Special Unit on International Criminal Justice to effectively support the International Criminal Justice matters on 25-11-2019. This Special Unit was comprised of representatives from Union Attorney General's Office, the Office of Judge Advocate General, Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. International crimes mainly include war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. Regarding the functions of the Special Unit, he said that the Special Unit will make advice on international criminal laws, respective conventions, international criminal justice and court's procedures as well as relevant domestic laws.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Second Pyithu Hluttaw, 14th regular session holds 9th-day meeting

THE ninth-day meeting of the 14th regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held yesterday. MPs raised starred questions, an annual report was read and a separate report was debated by the assembly.

MP U Than Lin Lin of Meisei constituency raised a question on whether there were plans to open the BP-14 border gate in Hoesei Village, Meisei Township, and the border gate of Saung Hein Village in Thailand in order enable bilateral trade and travel between the two countries.

Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe replied that as there is already the BP-13 border gate, which is located in Meisei Sub-township and has better trade routes, the Ministry of Commerce has remarked there are no plans to open another border gate so close by.

Next, MP Dr Aung Naing of Thabeikkyin constituency raised a question on whether a permit for the self-reliant cottage hospital in Zayat Kwin Village, Ohn Zone Village-tract, Thabeikkyin Township, will be swiftly issued soon.

Union Minister for Health



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat.
PHOTO: MNA

and Sports Dr Myint Htwe replied that they have submitted the necessary documents for the cottage hospital's formation to his ministry's planning and formation review unit and once it is approved, will be further submitted to the Union Government to take the next step.

Following this, MP U Aung Tin Lin of Natmauk constituency raised a question on whether the 50-bed people's hospital in Natmauk Township will be upgraded to a 100-bed hospital.

Dr Myint Htwe replied that as the hospital has neither the

required land area nor the number of inpatients that calls for expansion, there are currently no plans to upgrade it.

The Q&A session continued with Union Minister U Thein Swe replying to whether there are plans to sign the ILO Convention No. 138 on the minimum age for admission to employment raised by MP U Myint Thein of Wetlet constituency.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe also replied to MP U Khun Than Htoo of Hsihseng constituency's question on appointing dentists to cottage hospitals,

MP Dr Than Win of North Okkalapa constituency's question on plans to reduce restrictions on Myanmar-born medical professionals with P.R. status in the country, and MP U Sai Ba Thein of Langkho constituency's question on whether a sports stadium will be constructed in Langkho Township.

Next, Bill Committee member U Zaw Win submitted the Rural Area Development Bill sent back from the Amyotha Hluttaw. He said there were 44 facts amended by the Amyotha Hluttaw that should be accepted, 32 facts further amended by the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee, and 4 facts amended by the Amyotha Hluttaw that should not be accepted and reverted back to the original verification made by the Pyithu Hluttaw.

Speaker U T Khun Myat gathered the opinion of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and acquired the approval of the Hluttaw.

Bill Committee Secretary U Kyaw Soe Lin then submitted the 36 points from the bill that are engaged in controversy between the two Hluttaws and moved to have a decision be made at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The Speaker announced the matter will be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Next, Secretary U In Htone of the Pyithu Hluttaw Ethnic Affairs and Internal Peace Implementation Committee read the annual report of the committee. The Speaker called for MPs interested in discussing the report to register their names.

This was followed by MPs U Myint Lwin of Twantay constituency, U Min Naung of Pinlebu constituency, U Myat Lay Oo of Htilin constituency, and U Mahn Nyunt Thein of Pantanaw constituency debating a report from the Pyithu Hluttaw Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee.

Afterwards, committee member U Myo Naing responded to the MPs' debate and fellow member Daw Khin Saw Wai moved for the assembly to approve the report. The Speaker gathered the deliberation of the Hluttaw and approved it.

The tenth-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 14th regular session will be held on 2 December.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Amyotha Hluttaw

Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 14th regular session holds ninth-day meeting

THE Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 14th regular session held its ninth-day meeting at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning where asterisk marked questions raised were answered, a bill discussed, a motion discussed and approved.

Asterisk marked questions

Asterisk marked questions raised by U Kyaw Ni Naing of Shan State constituency 11 on a plan to appoint district police head level covering Kokang Self-Administered Zone, U Khin Zaw Oo of Mon State constituency 3 on a plan to construct a new staff houses for police station and police post in Mon State Kyaikmaraw Township and U Myo Htet (a) Salai Myo Htike of Chin State constituency 2 on plan to construct a prison in Chin State Haka Town were answered by Deputy Min-



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than.
PHOTO: MNA

ister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu.

Hluttaw discusses Vehicle Safety and Management Bill

Next, Vehicle Safety and Management Bill was dis-

cussed by U San Myint of Ayeyawady Region constituency 3 and Tatmadaw representative Major Soe Ko Ko.

Hluttaw discusses and approves motion on a reforestation programme

Afterwards a motion tabled by U Sa Khin Zaw Lin of Ayeyawady Region Constituency 2 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 was discussed by Tatmadaw representative Major Htat Lin, Dr. Win Myint of Bago Region constituency 11, Naw Chris Tun (a) Dr. Arkar Moe of Kayin State constituency 7, U Kyaw Toke of Mandalay Region Constituency 7 and Dr Khun Win Thaug of Kachin State constituency 11.

In discussing the motion Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Ye Myint Swe

said capacity building of forest staff and provision of modern facilities and equipment were important for the ministry to conduct its work and even though the ministry conducting such matters through supports and assistance of international organization, governments and non-governments organizations, there are still requirements for the ministry that had only a little more than 50 per cent of required personnel. The Deputy Minister discussed in support of the Hluttaw approving the motion.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than then announced the Hluttaw's approval of the motion after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw.

The Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 14th regular session will hold its tenth-day meeting on 2 December.—Aung Ye Thwin (Translated by Zaw Min)

VP U Myint Swe addresses meeting on restoring pagodas in Bagan



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the speech at the fourth meeting of Steering Committee for Restoration and Conservation of Pagodas in Bagan yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Afterwards, the Vice President inspected the Payathonzu Temple where Archaeology and National Museum Department Director U Aung Aung Kyaw explained about restoration and conservation works conducted there.

From there, the Vice President went to inspect restoration and conservation works conducted on the Nan Paya Temple where Director General U Kyaw Oo Lwin, German Bagan Stone Conservation Project Director Prof. Dr Hans Leisen and Dr Esther von Plehwe-Leisen provided necessary explanations.

While inspecting the tem-

ples, the Vice President stressed the need to follow the suggestions of experts in conducting restoration and conservation works, retain the original forms and styles and to ensure that the structures would be able to withstand future natural disasters.

After inspecting the restoration and conservation works conducted on the temples, the Vice President visited the Bagan Archaeological Museum where museum official Deputy Director U Nyi Mon provided necessary explanations.

Later, the Vice President addressed the fourth meeting of the Steering Committee for Restoration and Conservation of Pagodas in Bagan held at the

Bagan Archaeological Museum.

In his address the Vice President said that the Bagan cultural region was a place where invaluable thousand years old ancient pagodas and temples can be seen. Due to the participation of the entire country, the Bagan region had become a world heritage site. It was not only an outstanding region in Myanmar but also a region that attracts international interests.

A total of 389 pagodas were damaged by a 6.8 magnitude earthquake on 24 August 2016. The Steering Committee for Restoration and Conservation of Pagodas in Bagan was formed and necessary work commit-

tees, sub-committees, Advisory Team, Technical Expert Team and international cooperation committee were also formed.

In financial year 2017-2018, about 300,000 international visitors visited the Bagan cultural region. In financial year 2018-2019, over 400,000 international visitors visited it. As this region had become a world heritage site, there would be more international visitors and the region needs to be continuously and systematically maintained.

Restoration and conservation works on earthquake-hit temples were started right after the earthquake occurred by local and foreign experts, related ministerial departments, region government, region authorities, locals and charity groups. Following the earthquake, local and foreign experts including UNESCO set priorities for renovation and restoration of damaged pagodas: 36 pagodas to be renovated as first priority, 53 as second priority and 76 the third priority, and minor restoration for 224 in all. During the three year period to date, 26 pagodas in the first priority, 43 in the second priority, 66 in the third priority and 224 minor restorations totaling 359 were restored and conserved. At the moment restoration and conservation works were underway on 19 while 11 remained to be worked on. He expressed special thanks to all who had cooperated and participated in the restoration and conservation works.

In carrying out restoration and conservation works a four-year plan was drawn up and year wise preventive works against possible future disasters were

conducted. Much emphasis needs to be placed towards restoring and conserving the temples to their original form. Restoring and conservation works on remaining 11 were to be conducted in the same way, said the Vice President. Related ministries were to provide support and assistance for materials used in restoration and conservation works to be carried out according to the ancient cultural heritage standards and norms. Local and foreign experts, departmental organizations, all were to continuously coordinate and work together. Restoration and conservation works were to be conducted systematically from the viewpoint of religious belief as well as according to the suggestions of the international cooperation committee.

Donation money received up to 31 October 2019 for the restoration and conservation works reached over K 6.5724 billion, about US\$ 1.1 million, Thai Baht 10820, Singapore \$ 7250, Japan Yen 30000 and other kinds of currencies. The Vice President also urged the authorities concerned to use the donations systematically under the supervision of the officially formed committee.

Following the address of the Vice President, meeting attendees explained about their respective works and discussed about future works.

Vice President U Myint Swe gave suggestions and comments to ensure coordination based on the explanations and discussions and the meeting came to a close after his concluding remarks. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Vice President U Myint Swe visits Bagan Ancient Cultural Museum in Bagan yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

VP U Henry Van Thio delivers address at Myanmar Statistics Forum 2019



Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers the opening address at the Myanmar Statistics Forum 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, Chairman of the Central Committee for Accurate and High Quality Statistics addressed the Myanmar Statistics Forum 2019 held at the Grand Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In addressing the forum, the Vice President said that the United Nations Statistical Commission declared 20 October as World Statistics Day and it was celebrated by countries of the world once every five years. Myanmar celebrated it for the first time in 2015. The Myanmar Statistic Forum 2018 was held with the aim of connecting statistics publishers and users, fulfill required statistics and for cooperation among beneficiaries.

The day's 2019 Forum was held under the theme "Our Statistics, Our Society: Promoting Statistical Literacy" with the aim of knowing the importance of cooperation across all sectors to publish quality statistics in Myanmar and to inform the public of the importance of statistics.

Additional aims of the day's

forum was to educate all level of society from urban to rural to understand the important role of the Statistics Law that came into effect on 22 January 2019, raise the quality of statistic through cooperation across sectors and departments and to raise practical usage of statistics among students by holding Statistics Quiz.

It is very important for both developing and developed countries to have accurate statistics. Consistent, timely, trustworthy and firm statistics are the basis for a country's development. The private sector especially needs statistics. The country's political, economic and social conditions are reflected only through quality statistics. Quality statistics are essential and vital to fulfill the requirements of the people, to set practical and firm policies and to identify priority sectors and regions for development.

Furthermore improvements on policies can be conducted. Businesses can conduct better Risk Management when investment decisions are based on correct facts and figures.

The National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS) Action Plan was kept as a Living Document to draw up Statistical Policy Brief, NSDS and NSDS Action Plan according to the Statistic Law and to implement as per the requirement of the time, era and the departments. Every country had established ethics for statistics publishers, users and related person. Myanmar was also striving towards establishing it and all need to abide by it.

Work processes were implemented to be in accord with the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP) 2018-2030 which has been formulated and adopted based on the development needs of the country. Ministries, departments, non-government organizations and development partners were also cooperating towards establishing a National Indicator Framework (NIF) to assess and monitor the implementation of MSDP.

As correct statistics were required in practical projects to raise the socio-economic standard of the people, each govern-

ment departments needs to cooperate and work together with private sector, research organizations, experts, civil society, development partner organizations and news media.

Connection and coordination between relevant ministerial departments, statistics publishers and users was required to publish correct and effective statistics. Therefore, there is a need for the processes of collecting, collating, evaluating, reporting and publishing to be effective and of full capacity.

Correct and quality statistics reflects the image of the country and increases trust between the government, the people and the international community. Statistics are the historical archives of a country.

For Myanmar to have quality statistics like other countries, the statistics sector needs to develop in accordance with the time and system. Surveys need to be conducted and it was important for the administrative records of departments to be complete, true and include details. Keeping of detailed and systematic records to conduct statistical evaluation should not be viewed as an additional work but viewed as very important work facilitating the smooth running of the government machinery. The Myanmar Statistic Forum is held annually so that a platform could be created to establish a Data Culture not only among the departments but also among the people and private organizations.

As Myanmar is a developing country it was important to invest and effectively use the limited time, money and human resources in the statistics sector. It was important to use quality and true statistics easily and in a timely manner to effectively set up strategies and policies, to

implement and monitor projects. For the people to know the importance of statistics according to the theme "Our Statistics, Our Society: Promoting Statistical Literacy" and for statistics to be true and of quality, central committee members, development partner organizations, work groups and stakeholders are urged to participate enthusiastically, said the Vice President.

Next, Central Committee Vice Chairman Union Minister U Soe Win delivered a message of greeting.

Afterwards Central Committee Chairman Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Vice Chairman Union Minister U Soe Win and Union Minister U Kyaw Tin presented awards to student group leaders who won the first, second and third prize in the Statistic Quiz.

The Vice President, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, states/regions planning and finance ministers, Hluttaw representatives, Permanent Secretaries, directors general, representatives from local and foreign development partner organizations, panel session participants and Statistic Quiz prize winners then took a commemorative group photo.

The forum was attended by Central Committee for Accurate and High Quality Statistics Vice Chairman Union Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Soe Win, Union Ministers U Thant Sin Maung, U Ohn Win, U Win Khaing and U Kyaw Tin, Central Bank of Myanmar Governor, Deputy Ministers, states/regions planning and finance ministers, MPs, governmental officials, statisticians, researchers, representatives from local and foreign development partner organizations. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Vice President U Henry Van Thio presents first prize to student group leader from Meiktila University of Economics at the Myanmar Statistics Forum 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Special Unit on International Criminal Justice held its first meeting

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In addition, the Special Unit will also have to evaluate development of international laws and its effort on the State. Then the Special Unit shall report their findings to the authorities concerned in a timely manner.

After that, members of the Special Unit on International Criminal Justice discussed on the responsibilities and programs of the Special Unit.

The Deputy Attorney General U Win Myint, the President Office's Advisor Ambassador U Maung Wai, Directors General, Deputy Directors General, Special Unit members and other invited persons attended the meeting. — MNA



Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo delivers the opening speech at the first meeting of the Special Unit on International Criminal Justice at the Union Attorney General's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Tamway Market to be upgraded into five-storey building

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein met with shopkeepers from Tamway Market yesterday to discuss plans for upgrading the market located in Tamway Township.

The Tamway Market will be established on 3.792 acres of land, and it will be a five-storey building with car parking and shop houses.

At the meeting, U Phyo Min Thein disclosed the government's plan to upgrade all existing markets in the region to shopping malls as part of efforts for increasing the earnings of the government.

He also explained the law pertaining to markets, stressing the need for shopkeepers and administrators to abide by

There are over 60,000 shops in the 183 markets of Yangon Region, and the YCDC rents out the shops to shopkeepers by the rental system.

it. There are over 180 markets in Yangon, and they are managed by the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

On behalf of the shopkeepers, five representatives asked the Yangon Region Government to start construction after an agreement is reached between the government and the current shopkeepers on the

architectural design of the new market.

They also submitted eight demands to the Yangon Region Government.

Afterwards, U Phyo Min Thein and YCDC officials replied to questions raised by the shopkeepers at the meeting.

The design for the market was drawn with inputs from the Myanmar Engineers Association, Myanmar Architectural Association, and Hluttaw representatives.

There are over 60,000 shops in the 183 markets of Yangon Region, and the YCDC rents out the shops to shopkeepers by the rental system.

Section 184 under Chapter 21 of the 2018 Yangon City Development Committee Law gives the committee the right to upgrade, renovate, expand, lease, and close the markets.

The Tamway Market Project is part of the Yangon Project Bank. — Min Thit



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and shopkeepers of the Tamway Market hold a meeting for upgrading the market in Tamway Township, yesterday. PHOTO: NAY LIN

Wave Money ties up with FlyMya for digital payments

By Nyein Nyein

MOBILE financial services provider Wave Money has tied up with FlyMya.com, one of the leading travel portals in the country, to allow digital payments on the travel website through the Wavepay application.

The collaboration would support ease of payment in the tourism sector, said Mr Brad Jones, chief executive officer (CEO) of Wave Money.

"We are very glad to cooperate with FlyMya, which is one of the new technology-based local businesses in Myanmar's tourism sector. We encourage businesses that leverage digital technology to create better living experiences," said Mr. Brad Jones.

As part of the collaboration, the Wavepay application will offer users the option of making digital payments on the FlyMya website without paying an extra charge.

According to Wave Money, its payments platform would not only make transactions easier for local and international tourists, but also

strengthen digital payments among the financial community.

According to Wave Money, Wavepay users would be able to purchase air tickets and car tickets more quickly and easily through the FlyMya website. Users would be able to use car rental services for trips and the airport shuttle service, it added.

FlyMya, wholly owned by a domestic firm, allows pre-purchase of local air and car tickets for over 20 destinations, and the new technology-based business offers one-stop travel and visa services.

According to FlyMya, its users can compare information of five local airlines, including on trips, timetables, and prices, through the website. Currently, the travel portal has tied up with more than 700 tour organizations. FlyMya was established in 2015, and it has been organizing both pleasure as well as business trips. FlyMya is also promoting Myanmar as a destination among global travelers.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe attends 13th AMMTC

UNION Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe attended 13th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime and its Related Meetings (13th AMMTC) held at Marriott Marquis Queen's Park Hotel in Bangkok from 25 to 29 November.

The 13th AMMTC was attended by ministers from the ten ASEAN member countries and dialogue partners China, Japan and South Korea, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN, high-level representatives from the respective countries. On the first day of the 13th AMMTC, Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe explained about his capacity as Chairman of the AMMTC, im-

plementation and outcomes of chairmanship role, and forthcoming works. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe handed over the chairmanship to Thai Deputy Minister of Defence General Chaichan Changmongkol.

The 13th AMMTC and Its Related Meetings were held from 25 to 28 November. During the meetings, they discussed and approved the matters related to work plans to tackle increasing violent extremism, trafficking in persons, cybercrime and anti-narcotic drugs, and strengthening cooperation on border management, using technology and capacity building for effective implementation for regional se-



Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe hands over the chairmanship to Thai Deputy Minister of Defence General Chaichan Changmongkol at the 13th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime and its Related Meetings (13th AMMTC) in Bangkok. PHOTO: MNA

curity and rule of law.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe discussed security and rule of law with Viet Nam's Minister

of Public Security Gen (Retd) To Lam and China's Deputy Minister of Public Security Mr Wang Xiaohong separately. Union Min-

ister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe arrived back Myanmar on 29 November.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko receives Thai Ambassador



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko meets with Thailand Ambassador Mrs Suphatra Srimaitrephithak. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko received Ambassador of Thailand Mrs Suphatra Srimaitrephithak at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed collaboration on religious and culture affairs and further cooperation between the two countries.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)

MoHS launch ceremony introduces e-Government related systems

THE Ministry of Health and Sports held a launching ceremony on its e-Government initiatives in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday and Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe delivered the opening address. In addition, the launch also concerned the paperless workshop system and electronic in-house memo transmission system.

In his address, the Union Minister said his ministry is working towards using modern information and communication technology to make their processes more efficient in tandem with the Union Government's emphasis on e-Government implementation. He said his ministry will soon begin using the electronic in-house memo transmission system.

The Union Minister said this will allow memos to be sent from anywhere in a short time. He said the ministry is also aiming for paperless workshops/meetings by uploading all related documents to a workshop or meeting on the ministry's website (www.event-mohs.gov.mm) for attendees to download instead of handing out printed material.

In addition, documents from previous meetings, workshops, conferences and training courses will also be uploaded to the same website for reference,

said the Union Minister. He said MoHS formed their e-Government implementation committee with 18 members and regularly uploads ministry processes, health knowledge, notifications, projects and other material on their main website.

The Union Minister said they have their own domain email at mail.mohs.gov.mm and are working to have universities under the ministry to have their own emails as well. He said they are beginning implementation of a web-based health manpower database and are using the logistics management information system in the public health and treatment department of Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union Minister said

the ministry opened a research capacity training center at the medical research department of PyinOoLwin. He said they will continue holding training courses to raise the critical thinking, analytical thinking and lateral thinking of department staff. He said they will hold competitions across the states and regions for the effective use of mobile tablets distributed to the basic health departments and confer appropriate prizes.

The Union Minister said they will select a suitable date for National Health Day and urged attendees to offer suggestions for better implementation of e-Government processes.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe delivers the address at the launching ceremony on e-Government initiatives in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

မေတ္တာတို့ကိုးသောကြီးအစိုးရအဖွဲ့၏ စီစဉ်မှုဖြင့် ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့်ပြည်သူ့ဆက်သွယ်ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာနမှ အခြေခံပညာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာနနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်သွယ်ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာနတို့ ပူးပေါင်းစီစဉ်ကျင်းပသော



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(လေးမျက်နှာမြို့)



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ဒုဋ္ဌတိုဆောင်ခန်းမ၊ အ.ထ.က၊ လေးမျက်နှာမြို့။

Eleven foreign, JV insurance companies granted licenses

THE Ministry of Planning and Finance on Thursday granted licenses to five foreign life insurance companies along with three joint venture life insurance companies with foreign partners and three non-life insurance companies, set up as joint ventures between local and foreign insurers.

The five foreign life insurers are AIA Myanmar Life Insurance Company Limited, Chubb Life Insurance Myanmar Limited, Dai-ichi Life Insurance Myanmar Ltd., Manulife Myanmar Life Insurance Company Limited, and Prudential Myanmar Life Insurance Limited.

The three joint ventures life insurance companies, set up as joint ventures between foreign and local partners, are CB Life Insurance Company Limited, Capital Taiyo Life Insurance Limited, and Grand Guardian Nippon Life Insurance Company Limited. And, the three non-life insurers, set up as joint ventures between foreign and local insurers, are AYA Sampo Insurance Company Limited, Grand Guardian Tokio Marine General Insurance Company Limited, and KBZ MS Gen-

eral Insurance Company Limited.

Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win and Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance and chairman of the Insurance Business Regulatory Board (IBRB) U Maung Maung Win presented the licenses to the companies. Union Minister U Soe Win delivered the opening remarks at the ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw. "I'm very pleased to render the licenses to the five successful 100-per cent subsidiary life insurers, three JV life insurers, and three JV non-life insurers," he said.

The first phase of liberalization of the Myanmar insurance sector started in 2013, when participation from the domestic private sector was permitted. Currently, the nation has state insurer Myanma Insurance, 11 private life insurers, and eight general insurers.

With the granting of licenses to foreign insurers to allow them to operate in Myanmar, the second phase of liberalization is now complete.

The licensed insurers would provide new insurance products,



Union Minister U Soe Win presents the license to AIA Myanmar CEO Mr Nhon Ly (Luc) during the Licence Awarding Ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

created by utilizing their expertise and technical know-how for the development of the Myanmar insurance sector, said the Union minister.

"I strongly believe that people will be able to enjoy more insurance coverage in near future and in turn, the flow of foreign di-

rect investment into Myanmar's financial sector will increase," U Soe Win added.

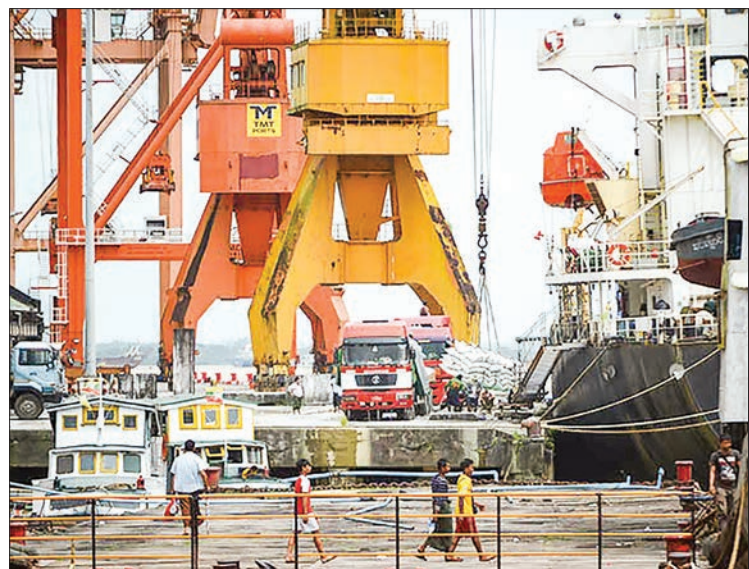
On behalf of the wholly-owned foreign life insurance companies, Mr. Hak Leh Tan, representing AIA Myanmar Life Insurance Company Limited, expressed words of thanks. This

was followed by two representatives, Mr. Yasuhiro Mori and U Nyo Myint from Capital Taiyo Life Insurance Company Limited and KBZ MS General Insurance Company Limited, giving words of thanks on behalf of the JV foreign life and non-life insurance companies.—MNA

Sea trade accounts for over 84 per cent of rice exports in current fiscal

MYANMAR'S maritime trade constituted 84.76 per cent of

rice exports and generated an estimated income of US\$108.65



A cargoship is loaded with rice for export to overseas market at the Port of Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

million as of 15 November in the current financial year, as per data from the Commerce Ministry.

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 15.24 per cent of the total rice exports. Rice exports through the border gates have generated an estimated \$17.76 million in the current financial year.

The volume of rice and broken rice exported between 1 October and 15 November in the 2019-2020 financial year has been estimated at over 436,685

metric tons, worth \$126.4 million, according to an announcement from the Myanmar Rice Federation.

In the current financial year, Myanmar has shipped rice to 37 foreign markets.

China, which accounts for over 42.88 per cent of the total rice exports, is the main buyer of Myanmar rice, followed by Madagascar and Cameroon. Malaysia is the fourth-largest buyer and Mozambique the fifth-largest buyer of Myanmar rice.

The European Union countries account for over 10 per cent of rice exports, while 38.8 per cent of rice grown in Myanmar goes to African countries.

In the current fiscal, Myanmar has exported broken rice mostly to Senegal, followed by Indonesia, Belgium, Mali, and the Netherlands. Broken rice has been placed in 28 foreign markets.

Myanmar primarily exports rice to China through the border gates. However, trade in agricultural products has been halted on account of China clamping down on illegal trade.

At present, millers have held up processing rice, bringing down the supply of rice at the Bayintnaung market and Muse gate and cooling prices.—GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Local gold prices see sharp drop in November

WITH gold prices sliding in the global market, the price of the yellow metal in the domestic market plummeted yesterday to K1.173 million per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilograms) from K1.217 million listed on 1 November; a decline of around K450,000, according to gold

traders.

The domestic gold price is positively related to the global gold price. Global prices were pegged at over US\$1,500 per ounce on 1 November and then, they fell to \$1,456 on 28 November due to a drop in demand from China, according to the

gold market.

In early September, the price of pure gold crossed K1.3 million per tical in the domestic market, tracking global cues and rumors in the local banking industry. Then, it dropped to K1.2 million on 1 November and K1.17 million on 28 November as

gold prices in the global market dipped and the local currency was stable against the dollar in the internal forex market, according to Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

With global gold prices on the uptick, the domestic price hit fresh highs this year, reach-

ing K1,000,000 per tical between 17 January and 21 February, crossing K1,100,000 (22 June to 7 August), climbing to 1,200,000 (7 August-4 September), and then reaching a fresh peak of K1,300,000 on 5 September.—GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

A wake-up call

AN EARTHQUAKE measuring 4.1 on the Richter Scale shook Yangon on 13 November, rattling residents.

On 28 November, a 5.4-magnitude quake, with epicenter 23 miles northeast of Thabeikkyin, jolted Mandalay Region and caused some damage to homes, schools, and pagodas.

The Sagaing Fault is a major tectonic structure that cuts through Myanmar, dividing the country into two halves. The western half moves north with the Indian plate, and the eastern half is attached to the Eurasian plate. The Sagaing Fault produced a major earthquake in November, 2012, in the Thabeikkyin area, 100 km north of Mandalay.

The efforts of local governments to conduct earthquake drills and provide information about dealing with quakes are necessary and should be taken seriously.

that Myanmar is more likely to suffer from earthquakes than other natural disasters.

People living along the fault line should take these warnings seriously and make necessary preparations, like making their homes disaster-ready, and ensuring family members have the necessary information on how to respond when earthquakes strike.

The efforts of local governments to conduct earthquake drills and provide information about dealing with quakes are necessary and should be taken seriously.

It is not enough to simply educate people and spread awareness about earthquakes.

Local governments will have to take into consideration drills and scrutinize the seismic safety of buildings to limit the damage to infrastructure and buildings. Future developers should also take the seismic safety of buildings into account.

There is a growing concern that material standards and building codes are insufficient to protect against the damage from strong earthquakes.

Also, other issues that are not obviously related to earthquake preparedness, but will be huge obstacles to relief and recovery efforts — traffic congestion, shortage of medical facilities and personnel, and vulnerable communications infrastructure — must also be addressed more aggressively.

The time to act is now, before a catastrophic earthquake strikes.

A 6.8-magnitude earthquake struck Bagan on August 24, 2016, and damaged almost 400 of the area's 3,252 pagodas.

This year, several earthquakes have been reported across the country in November, which shows that the fault is active and poses seismic hazards, which could be triggered any time.

Earthquakes are unpredictable forces of nature and can strike anytime without warning.

People must be alerted to the risks of earthquakes although quakes are rare, unlike other natural disasters such as fires, floods, and storms, as experts have predicted

The restrictions will be relaxed for the diaspora of Myanmar-born doctors: Dr. Myint Htwe

DURING the seventh-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 14th regular session yesterday, the Union Minister for Health and Sports answered to a question raised by MP Dr Than Win of North Okkalapa constituency on whether there are plans to reduce restrictions of Myanmar-born doctors who have received the status of Permanent Resident (P.R.) in the country.

Speaker: Dr Than Win of North Okkalapa constituency will raise his question.

Dr Than Win: Honorable Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, I am Dr Than Win of North Okkalapa Constituency. Mr Speaker, between the years 1990 to 2010, ethnic medical specialists from Myanmar had to go work in foreign countries due to various reasons. This was a brain drain and loss to our nation.

But after the emergence of a government elected by the people and the reformation of parliaments, these ethnic medical specialists have decided to return to Myanmar and share their valu-



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe. PHOTO MNA

or the right to vote.

Mr Speaker, Myanmar-born medical specialists who have P.R. status have to pay license fees among others but are restricted as to what medical field they may practice, where and when. This is causing many difficulties to the medical specialists who are willing to share their valuable experience

question through the honorable Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: The Ministry of Health and Sports will be answering.

Dr Myint Htwe (Union Minister for Health and Sports): Honorable Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw and Hluttaw representatives. I will be answering to the question raised by Pyithu Hluttaw representative Dr Than Win of North Okkalapa Constituency, Yangon Region.

What the Hluttaw representative said is correct in some ways. Thus, I will answer as to whether there are plans to relax the restrictions Myanmar-born ethnic medical specialists with P.R. status face, in the same way it is done in other countries.

There are two types that come to our country. The first group consists of medical professionals who are citizens of other nations, such as American citizens and UK citizens. The second group are Myanmar citizens or American citizens. When they come to offer medical treatment, surgeries or training courses in line with the processes of the Ministry of Health and Sports, it is all free of charge.

However, if they come to stay at a private hospital for one, two or three months, then we can see fees being collected. There is a reason for collecting this small amount. We don't know if all the medical specialists who come here are



Dr Than Win of North Okkalapa Constituency. PHOTO: MNA

actually skillful or not over there. We scrutinize everything to see if they are genuinely skilled, up to their Good Standing Certificate.

The reason for this is to en-

ter with the Chairman of the Medical Council. We will absolutely reduce this. Why? The Medical Council is not a council that seeks income. It does not need to do so

The Medical Council is not a council that seeks income. It does not need to do so as it is a council for maintaining the rules, ethics and everything else concerned with medical professionals.

sure the public is able to enjoy qualified and effective healthcare assistance, as enacted in Chapter II, Section 3-a of the Myanmar Medical Council Law, to continually maintain the medical knowledge, quality of healthcare and standards of medical professionals, to enable medical education can be researched and taught in line with modern times, and so on.

We have to evaluate them based on these premises, whether they have genuine skills, calibre quality, and observe their Good Standing Certificate. But when we look back, what the Hluttaw representative said is true.

We collect K600,000 per month if the doctor is a foreign citizen, such as American or UK citizen. I have discussed this mat-

ter with the Chairman of the Medical Council. We will absolutely reduce this. Why? The Medical Council is not a council that seeks income. It does not need to do so

So, what we mean is we will collect only per month. If they come for a month, then they only have to pay a month's fees. We will collect a month's worth of fees in the least. We won't collect in weeks, only in months. One month's fees for a month, two month's if it's two, and three month's if it's three. We have discussed this.

We are trying to make it the most we can. If not, my report on this matter is, I have been instructed by higher officials. Attract the diaspora group of doctors from abroad. To do it. Just as the Hluttaw representative said, if they come then we will acquire the latest technology and treatment methods from foreign nations. And they will be able to teach our doctors, doctors-in-training and medical students. If they conduct workshops then there will be a lot for us. Only then will we know what is occurring around the world. Hence, the duty of attracting them to come here is ours. We have decided to make this happen the most.

This is because, there are three organizations for doctors in New York, Baltimore and L.A. if we go to America. They are large organizations and all three make the same complaints on these matters to them. They say it is too much and request to reduce it. They say they have to pay three months' fees even if they come for just one month, two days or a week.

In reality, this shouldn't be collected. Thus, we will make sure to do it precisely and I answer the question raised by Hluttaw representative Dr Than Win through the honorable Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker. Thank you, everyone.

Speaker: Esteemed Hluttaw representatives, the question raised by Dr Than Win of North Okkalapa constituency is beneficial to the nation. Therefore, as the question raised and the answer given are beneficial to the citizens of this nation in line with the 2013 Pyithu Hluttaw Bylaw 130, it is announced to the Hluttaw that it will be organized for the matter to be issued in the national gazette and displayed in the pages of the state-owned newspapers.

(Translated by Pen Dali)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President's Office
Order 49/2019
3rd Waxing of Nadaw, 1381 ME
(29 November 2019)
Resignation of Rakhine State High Court Judge approved

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 312 sub-section (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 49 sub-section (a) of the Union Judiciary Law, U Thein Aung, Judge of the Rakhine State High Court has been permitted to resign of his own volition from the position starting from 9 December 2019.

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

MYANMAR GAZETTE Heads of service organizations appointed

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) Dr Thet Tin Nyunt Deputy Director-General Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration Department Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation	Director-General Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration Department Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
(2) Dr Ni Ni Oo Pro-rector Myeik University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education	Rector Myeik University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
(3) Dr Kyaw Tun Pro-rector Lashio University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education	Rector Lashio University Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
(4) Dr Aung Win Pro-rector University of Technology (Yatanarpon Cyber City) Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education	Rector University of Technology (Yatanarpon Cyber City) Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
(5) Dr Khin Htike Htike Lwin Pro-rector Technological University (Kyaukse) Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education	Rector Technological University (Kyaukse) Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education
(6) Dr Thandar Thein Pro-rector University of Computer Studies (Maubin) Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education	Rector University of Computer Studies (Maubin) Department of Higher Education Ministry of Education

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

MIC approves 5 proposals; to create 1,000 jobs

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) yesterday approved five projects worth US\$503.940 million and K26,523 million, which are expected to create 1,101 job opportunities.

The projects are in the power, livestock and fisheries, and real estate sectors. At the end of October, the countries with the largest investments in Myanmar were Singapore,

the People's Republic of China, and Thailand.

The projects were approved at an MIC meeting (19/2019) in Yangon, which was attended by U Thaung Tun, chairman of the commission and eight members.

The oil and gas sector has attracted the largest share of foreign investment (27.29 per cent), followed by the power



Union Minister U Thaung Tun attends the Myanmar Investment Commission meeting (19/2019) in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

sector (25.77 per cent), and the manufacturing sector (14.04 per cent) in the current financial year. —MNA ■

Cooperation needed to stabilize market for locally bred fish: association

By Nyein Nyein

COOPERATION is necessary to stabilize the domestic market for locally produced fish such as rohu, striped catfish, and pomfret, said U Zaw Lin, Secretary of the Myanmar Fisheries Entrepreneurs Association.

"The fisheries market in Myanmar is weak in terms of stability and we need more cooperation from the government departments, technical teams, and other fellow organizations, including the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF)," he added.

"Today, we want to talk about this instability in the

market for the three main fish. Some are still talking about the unpredictable supply of fisheries resources, such as offshore or inshore and local fresh water fish. However, we need more cooperation from our federation, government departments, and the university providing the technology in order to develop our fisheries resources, boost production, and ensure high quality products," said U Zaw Lin.

"Although rohu, striped catfish, and pomfret are largely traded in the export market and for domestic consumption, their prices are changing daily

because of an unstable market. If we can exercise control over the market to ensure a stable market, there would be a higher potential for profit," he added.

"The prices of fish are good only on some days as a result of the instability in the market. Currently, rohu has a strong export market, while the market for striped catfish and pomfret is still weak. This week unreasonable prices were quoted for striped catfish and pomfret," said U Zaw Lin.

Moreover, the market for striped catfish is positively related to the local dried fish market. About 30 per cent of the local

dried fish market depends on the supply of striped catfish, according to the Myanmar Fisheries Entrepreneurs Association.

The rise in export markets would rely on the government departments, fish breeding entrepreneurs, technical teams, and the MFF, he added.

"Fisheries enterprises faced crises in 2015, 2016, and 2017. So, fisheries enterprises, including the MFF, should make all the necessary preparations this year," according to the Myanmar Fisheries Entrepreneurs Association.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Cherry ferry transporting around 26,000 passengers per day

THE Cherry ferry operating along the Pansodan-Dala route is providing transport services to about 26,000 passengers daily, according to Delta Division, Inland Water Transport (IWT).

"Our Pansodan-Dala route ferry service is operating from 5 am to 9:30 pm. The two ferries run 46 times a day and they transport passengers and goods. Usually, the ferries provide transport services to about 26,000 passengers on normal days. On some busy days, about 28,000 people use the ferry service," said U Thein Myint, Assistant General Manager, Delta Division, IWT.

Dala Township is close to Twantay, Kawhmu, and Kungyangon townships in the Southern District of Yangon Region. It is also close to Pyapon, Dedaye, Bogale, Kyaiklat, and Maubin town-



A ferry carries passengers across the Yangon River from Dala to downtown Yangon. PHOTO: PWINT THITSAR

ships in Ayeyawady Region.

To reduce heavy traffic in Yangon Region, Z-crafts are carrying vehicles from Wahdan jetty to Dala Township.

"The Z-crafts are operating from 6 am to 7 pm. If there are a large number of vehicles, they operate till 8 pm. The Z-crafts run a minimum of 14 routes to a maximum of 16 routes. They

transport about 670-700 vehicles daily. We have three Z-crafts. But only two Z-crafts are operating up and down. Currently, Z-craft operation is being done under the Dala bridge construction project. It will be safer for vehicles and passengers if the authorities build a Z-craft jetty in front of Wahdan jetty. We have already submitted a proposal

about this issue," he added.

"The Dala bridge construction project will take nearly three years. If we have a Z-craft jetty, the transportation of vehicles will be more convenient. The income of IWT will also increase nearly two times," according to the IWT.—Pwint Thitsar

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Rich nations must pay for climate damage: NGOs

PARIS — Climate negotiations opening next week in Madrid must prioritise funding for nations already dealing with the cost of drought, floods and superstorms made worse by rising temperatures, more than 150 environmental groups said Friday.

In an open letter to the president of the COP 25 talks, Chile's environment minister Carolina Schmidt, the organisations urged agreement on "the creation of a comprehensive financing facility, including debt relief, for developing countries experiencing such disasters."

They said money should come from wealthy nations — historically most responsible for planet-warming carbon emissions — in the form of tax on financial transactions, international air travel and fossil fuels.

The Madrid conference is

set to be dominated by discussions on so-called "loss and damage" funding, with a sharp divide between developing nations and richer polluters over how finance should be structured.

Green groups this week said the increased pace and intensity of climate disasters, such as the twin cyclones that devastated parts of Mozambique this year, means that funding needs boosting to keep track. They said the amount needed for loss and damage would top \$300 billion annually by 2030.

"Without finance to help countries cope with climate-induced loss and damage, the most vulnerable parts of the world will sink deeper into debt and poverty every time they are hit by climate disasters they did not cause," the letter said. —AFP ■



Storms in Mozambique displaced millions, destroyed homes and crops, inflicting an estimated \$3 billion in damages — roughly 20 per cent of the country's GDP. PHOTO: AFP

Russia gifts guns to Gabon to fight elephant poaching

MOSCOW — Russia's defence ministry has donated weapons to Gabon to help the central African nation battle poachers and protect elephants.

The ministry did not specify how many weapons were provided, saying only that the delivery consisted of "firearms aimed at helping the government in its fight against poaching and the protection of national parks. "Above all, this is about ensuring the protection of the country's forest elephant population," a defence ministry statement said overnight Thursday-Friday.

Much of Gabon is still covered by forests and home to nearly 60 per cent of Africa's forest elephants. Libreville has recently pursued a more aggressive conservation policy with water and forests minister Lee White saying in September that elephant poaching had been significantly curbed following China's decision to ban trade in ivory in 2017. Russia has been stepping up its efforts to gain influence in Africa, signing arms deals with a slew of countries and in October hosting dozens of African leaders for a summit in its southern city of Sochi. —AFP ■

In Antarctica, tourists swim among penguins

ANTARCTICA — "It's like getting stabbed," a tourist exclaims, as he plunges into the three-degree Celsius (37-Fahrenheit) water, all under the intrigued gaze of a group of penguins.

All around Half Moon Island, off the Antarctic Peninsula, blocks of ice of all sizes float by on a calm sea, their varying forms resembling weightless origami shapes.

To reach the Antarctic destination the 58-year-old Norwegian, Even Carlsen, travelled 14,000 kilometres (8,700 miles), and spent thousands of euros.

Mostly indifferent to the bipeds donning neon-coloured windbreakers, wildlife abounds in the deafening silence of the icy landscape.

The penguins are as awkward on land as they are agile in water, while massive and majestic whales slip through the waves, and sea lions and seals laze in the sun.



Tourism is the only commercial activity allowed, apart from fishing. PHOTO: AFP

Antarctica, a land of adventure without rulers, is "like the heart of the Earth," according to Marcelo Leppe, director of the Chilean Antarctic Institute.

He said it expands and contracts like a beating heart, while the mighty current which revolves around the continent is like a circulatory system absorb-

ing warm currents from other oceans and redistributing cold water.

But this long tongue of land that stretches towards South America is warming rapidly. Its glaciers are melting and its ecosystem has been invaded by microplastics carried by currents. —AFP ■

Building a better battery with machine learning and artificial intelligence

WASHINGTON — With the help of machine learning and artificial intelligence researchers are accelerating the power of batteries.

Researchers at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Argonne National Laboratory have turned to the power of machine learning and artificial intelligence to dramatically accelerate the process of battery discovery, according to the study published in *Chemical Science*. As described in two new papers, Argonne researchers first created a highly accurate database of roughly 133,000 small organic molecules

that could form the basis of battery electrolytes.

To do so, they used a computationally intensive model called G4MP2. This collection of molecules, however, represented only a small subset of 166 billion larger molecules that scientists wanted to probe for electrolyte candidates.

Because using G4MP2 to resolve each of the 166 billion molecules would have required an impossible amount of computing time and power, the research team used a machine-learning algorithm to relate the precisely

known structures from the smaller data set to much more coarsely modelled structures from the larger data set.

"When it comes to determining how these molecules work, there are big tradeoffs between accuracy and the time it takes to compute a result," said Ian Foster, Argonne Data Science and Learning division director and author of one of the papers. "We believe that machine learning represents a way to get a molecular picture that is nearly as precise at a fraction of the computational cost." —ANI ■



Elephants of Ivindo National Park, Gabon, May 2019. PHOTO: AFP

Barring US lawmakers may be Chinese response to Hong Kong law

BEIJING — China said Friday that “unwelcome” individuals might well be denied entry to the country, increasing speculation that China may be considering barring some US lawmakers from entering the country as a countermeasure to the US enactment of a Hong Kong human rights law.

“The Chinese government has the right to decide who is allowed to enter and who is not allowed to enter. Those who are unwelcome will be denied entry,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a regular press briefing.

The spokesman responded to a reporter’s question over whether China will make a no-entry list of US lawmakers involved in the legislation aimed at supporting



People wave American flags in a rally in Hong Kong on 14 October, 2019, calling for the US Congress to pass a Hong Kong human rights bill. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong. US President Donald Trump signed the bill into law on Wednesday, prompting a Chinese threat of countermeasures.

The Global Times, an influential tabloid affiliated

with the Chinese Communist Party, published an article on Thursday quoting a Chinese analyst as saying, “China could restrict some US politicians from entering the country, especially those who interfered in Hong Kong affairs.”

The article singled out House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Sen. Marco Rubio as U.S. lawmakers “who openly voiced support for Hong Kong rioters” and as possible candidates on the blacklist.—Kyodo News ■

Chinese envoy meets with Huawei CFO under house arrest in Vancouver

BEIJING — China’s embassy in Canada said Friday that its ambassador, Cong Peiwu, has met in Vancouver with the chief financial officer of Chinese tech giant Huawei Technologies Co., who remains under house arrest after her arrest late last year by Canadian authorities.

“The Chinese government’s determination to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese citizens and enterprises is unwavering,” the ambassador to Canada was quoted by the embassy as telling Meng Wanzhou on Thursday.

Beijing “will continue to call on Canada to correct its wrongdoing and take measures to resolve the issue as soon as possible,” Cong also said.

Meng, daughter of Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei, remains under house arrest in Vancouver after her release on bond. She could be extradited to the United States, where she faces charges related to Iran sanctions.

In December 2018, Canada arrested Meng at the request of the United States, which has accused her of helping Huawei evade US sanctions on Iran.—Kyodo News ■

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K-pop star jailed for six years for gang rape, spycam crimes

SEOUL — South Korean K-pop singer-songwriter Jung Joon-young was convicted Friday of gang rape, as well as secretly filming and distributing illicit sex videos of his partners, and jailed for six years.

Jung and Choi Jong-hoon, a former member of boy band F.T Island, were found guilty of gang-raping two different victims on two occasions in 2016.

Separately, 30-year-old Jung was also convicted of filming himself having sex with other women without their knowledge and sharing the footage 11 times without their consent.

It is the highest-profile example of an epidemic of spycam crimes in South Korea, which have prompted widespread anger and seen women

demonstrating in Seoul, chanting: “My life is not your porn”.

Jung distributed his videos in mobile chatrooms with recipients including fellow K-pop star Seungri of BIGBANG, who has been accused of illegal gambling in connection with a sex and drugs scandal.

Jung was jailed for six years and Choi, 29, for five,

Yonhap news agency cited the Seoul Central District Court as saying.

“Jung and Choi took part in gang rape of victims who were intoxicated and unable to resist,” the verdict said, rejecting the defendants’ claim the sex was consensual.

“It is hard to fathom the extent of suffering the victims must have gone through.”—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLUE LOTUS

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLUE LOTUS VOY. NO. (BL11) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(6) 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 BEN LINE AGENCIES
(SINGAPORE) PTE, LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PACITA VOY. NO. (055W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACITA VOY. NO. (055W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V EAST BANGKOK

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EAST BANGKOK VOY. NO. (1906) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T(2) 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 BEN LINE AGENCIES
SINGAPORE PTE, LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALAM SERI

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALAM SERI VOY. NO. (1906410) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of I.B.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 BEN LINE AGENCIES
(SINGAPORE) PTE, LTD

Phone No: 2301928

Trump visits troops in Afghanistan, says Taliban talks back on



US President Donald Trump speaks to the troops during a surprise Thanksgiving visit at Bagram Airfield, on 28 November, 2019 in Afghanistan. PHOTO: AFP

BAGRAM — President Donald Trump said Thursday the United States had resumed talks with Taliban insurgents as he made a surprise trip to Afghanistan to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with troops.

On a brief visit to Bagram Airfield outside the capital Kabul, Trump served turkey dinner to soldiers, posed for photographs and delivered a speech after meeting Afghan President Ashraf Ghani.

“The Taliban wants to make a deal and we’re meeting with them and we’re saying it has to be a ceasefire,” he told reporters.

About 13,000 US troops remain in Afghanistan, 18 years after the United States invaded following the 11 September, 2001 attacks. Trump said he planned to reduce the number to 8,600, and later added “we can go much further than that,” without giving details.

“There’s nowhere

I’d rather celebrate this Thanksgiving than right here with the toughest, strongest, best and bravest warriors on the face of the earth,” the president, who was making his first trip to the war-torn country, told the troops.

“I’ve just come from serving Thanksgiving dinner to some of you... and we had a good time.”

Trump joked that he had just started eating when he was called away, and didn’t even get to taste his turkey.—AFP ■

Iraq cleric urges cabinet change as protesters regroup after crackdown

KARBALA — Iraq’s top Shiite cleric on Friday urged parliament to replace the cabinet, after dozens of protesters were killed in one of the bloodiest days of anti-government rallies gripping the country.

Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani’s weekly sermon gave a major boost to Iraqi demonstrators who have been taking to the streets since early October against a ruling class deemed cor-

rupt and inefficient.

The grassroots movement is the largest Iraq has seen in decades but also the deadliest, with nearly 400 people dead and more than 15,000 wounded in the capital and Shiite-majority south, according to an AFP tally.

For weeks, Sistani has called for restraint in dealing with demonstrators and has urged political parties get “serious” about reform,

but he ramped up demands on Friday.

“The parliament, from which this current government is drawn, is asked to reconsider its choice in this regard,” he said in the sermon delivered by a representative.

Within minutes, MP and former premier Haider al-Abadi called on lawmakers to convene Saturday for a “special session for a vote of no-confidence and to form a new independent government”.

Lawmakers from parliament’s largest bloc, Saeeroun, said they would go to their offices on Friday, which is normally a day off, to plan an “immediate” no-confidence vote.

And Qais al-Khazaali, head of the powerful paramilitary faction Asaib Ahl al-Haq, tweeted: “Your commands will be ours, too.” —AFP ■



An Iraqi man mourns his brother during a funeral procession for anti-government demonstrators killed during protests a day earlier, in the shrine city of Najaf. PHOTO: AFP

Almost 50 dead, more than 5,000 displaced in Albania quake

TIRANA — Albania’s prime minister said the country had been “wounded” by the violent earthquake this week that killed whole families and pulverised buildings, as he gave a new toll on Friday of 49 dead and 5,000 displaced.

The 6.4 magnitude quake that jolted Albania before dawn on Tuesday

was the most deadly and destructive in decades.

Entire families were crushed by their homes while they were sleeping.

“We have all been touched and wounded” by the tragedy, said Prime Minister Edi Rama, his voice strained as he mentioned the death of a close friend of his son, a medical

student whose body was found in the rubble with her brother and two parents.

The damage was most concentrated near the Adriatic coast in the port city of Durres and the town of Thumane, where scores of people were trapped beneath the wreckage of toppled apartments and hotels.—AFP ■

Kyoung Lim Myanmar Company Limited (In Members’ Voluntary Liquidation)

According to the Special General Meeting of the Members of Kyoung Lim Myanmar Company Limited held the Board of Directors Meeting on November 8, 2019 when the following “Special Resolutions” were passed;

1. The Shareholders approved to voluntarily liquidate the Company effective as of November 30, 2019, and
2. The Shareholders approved to appoint Daw Tint Tint [BSc (Zoo), DA], NRC 12/Ma Ga Da (N) 074888] to act as the liquidator for winding up the Company.

All creditors of Kyoung Lim Myanmar Company Limited are, therefore, requested to submit details of their claims together with any documentary evidence to the liquidator at the address given no later than (15-12-2019).

Mr. Han Jung Han
Managing Director

Daw Tint Tint [BSc (Zoo), DA]
Liquidator

INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION OF THE TRANSMISSION LINE FOR THE 388 MW COMBINED CYCLE POWER PLANT (AHLONE)

TTCL Power Myanmar Company Limited (TPMC) is planning to build a 388 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant supplied in Natural Gas. The project consists of three main components, which includes a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) power plant in Ahlone, a LNG receiving facility in Dala, and a natural gas (NG) pipeline in Dala and Seikgyikanaungto, as well as a 24km Electric Transmission Line as associated facility in Twantay and Hlaingtharyar Townships.

TPMC, Environmental Resources Management (ERM), and Sustainable Environment Myanmar (SEM) have prepared an Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) study for the proposed activity, and have submitted the study to the Environmental Conservation Department (ECD), on 18 November 2019. Hard copies of the IEE study are publically available at Seikgyi Kanaungto, Hlaingtharyar, and Twantay Township GAD, and at TPMC’s office in Yangon. Electronic copies of the study are publically available on TPMC’s website as follows:

<https://ttcl.com/news/activities>.

TPMC Office Address: 16B, 16th Floor, Centre Point Tower, No. 65, Corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticides

Distribution and registration processes of pesticides produced by LIMIN CHEMICAL CO., LTD. are transferring from LIMIN CHEMICAL (MYANMAR) CO., LTD. to LUCKY GREAT CO., LTD So, any objection regarding to this transfer can notify to this address: Co-Secretary, Pesticides Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Gyogone (West), Insein. for the following Pesticide within (14) days from this announcement.

Sr. No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg Type	Reg No.
1.	FARMERIMID 10WP	Imidacloprid 10%WP	Provisional	P2017-4030

Address: LIMIN CHEMICAL (MYANMAR) CO., LTD.
No. 156, 1st Floor, Mahabandoola Road, Pazundaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Ph: +86-15852290297, Email: wuyaodong@chinalimin.com

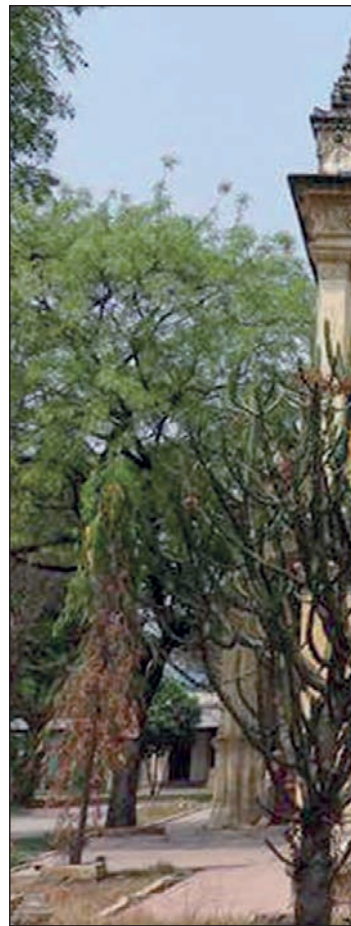
It was assumed that housings for humans were built in early Pyu era in Myanmar history. So, we can see religious edifices and walls built by Pyu people till today but not for buildings made of wood and bamboo.

Religious monuments were built of stones and bricks in Bagan era but the royal palace and houses were made of wood and bamboo. In passing many years, there remained the buildings made of stones and bricks but did not remain wooden- and bamboo-made buildings.

However, Myanmar handicrafts can be seen at some wooden and brick buildings built in Yadanabon era thanks to successive preservation. Among them, observation can be made at two monasteries namely Thakawun monastery and Yawmingyi brick monastery built in mixed styles of Myanmar and architectural



Thakawun Monastery. PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)



Mandalay's **two monasteries** in **European style**



PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)

works in Mandalay till today because of doing conservation in successive eras. Thakawun wooden monastery was built by Kinwun Mingyi U Kaung and Yawmingyi brick monastery by Yaw Atwinwun U Boe Hlaing.

Thakawun monastery

Impacts of wars and climatic conditions as well as weakness in preservation caused damage to disappearing some monasteries. However, famous monasteries decorated with Myanmar handicrafts in Myanmar such as Thakawun monastery, Yawmingyi brick monastery, Golden Palace Monastery, Thingaza monastery, Shweinpin monastery, Maha Minhtin monastery, Yamethin monastery, Moegaung monastery and Kyemyin monastery are under preservation in Mandalay to date.

Thakawun monastery is located in the precinct of Kinwun Mingyi Monastery at the corner of 86th and 38th streets in Kokkosu Ward, Mahaaungmye Township of Mandalay. Visitors can enter the monastery from the side of 86th street along the stairway from the east to the west. Locals in successive eras said the monastery was named Thakawun because of thriving teak plants around the monas-

tery and building the monastery of teak.

Thakawun monastery is seemed as a grand house in works of colonial era, and its triangle shape gable ends, spiral stairs and square teak posts might take designs of royal palaces from European countries such as France and England.

The foundation of the monastery facing northern ward was in square shape. The downstairs was formed with 12 teak posts square shape of thickness in its length and nine posts in width. Ten teak posts in length of the 108-post monastery and seven in width were fenced with timber sheets at the downstairs.

Constructional works of Thakawun monastery

Northern brick ladder was the largest among others at the monastery. Four sides of roofs were built of gable ends and corners of the triangle blocks decorated with wooden eagle statues in European style.

Tops of the posts were carved as Myanmar traditional arts and crafts. To prevent state of decay, the foot of outer posts were covered with concrete in new era. But, bases of inner posts can be seen in the ground as original style. The original roof

of the monastery was convex. The strong winds in Mandalay destroyed the roofs and two tier-roofed buildings of the monastery in 1899. Layman U Hlay of Abbot U Dhammabhi, adopted son of Kinwun Mingyi, spent K80,000 on renewing the roof of the building.

As steel fixtures were installed at the outer door to the corridor from the northern ladder, there were not original but these were installed later with the purpose of security measures. The main building of the monastery was rounded with corridor, and ten doors were decorated with floral arabesques. The whole main building was decorated with wooden crafts. As such, the ceiling and posts were beautified with traditional arts and crafts as well as floral works.

Upstairs hall was dull due to weak lighting from the northern windows but adequate lighting could be given to the hall from opening of door. The hall was rounded with five small rooms, with a mezzanine with the height which was higher than that of a man. A wooden spiral stairs was installed to the mezzanine. The abbot from Thakawun monastery explained the cylinder shape hall was the venue of Kinwun Mingyi to take meditation. Any one can-



Yawmingyi Brick Monastery. PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)

Yaw Atwinwun U Boe Hlaing

Maung Boe Hlaing was born of Governor of Yenangyoung Town, Yintaw Minister Thadoe Minhla Kyawhtin and wife Mei Nyein on 10th waxing of Hnaung Tagu, 1191 ME (2 April 1830) in Ywapale of Myingyan. He was initiated into novice at the monastery in Kyapoh Village.

When he was appointed as governor of Yaw Town at 23 years old, he was famous as Yawmingyi. He married to Khin Phyu, daughter of Magway Minister in 1215 ME. In his service term, he was severally demoted. The statue of Yawmingyi and mausoleum were built on 22nd Street between 90th and 91st streets in Aungmyethazan Township.

Kinwun Mingyi and Yaw Atwinwun built their monasteries without formation of the tier-roofed building, Sanu hall, Zaytawun hall and Bawga hall as styles of Myanmar monasteries but took European designs

By Maung Tha
(Archaeology)

not know whether the venue was not for preventing high temperature or for hiding somebody in significant event. It was seemed that the one-door venue built with small gutters might be the chamber of Buddha image.

European-style monastery was built by carpenters and sculptors in Yadanabon era. Although Kinwun Mingyi managed construction of the building for his accommodation, some assumed that as it was very good for him, he donated it as monastery.

Kinwun Mingyi U Kaung spent more than K50,000 on construction of the monastery in 1241 ME and donated it to Pahtamakyaw, first lecturer and treatise compiler Salin Sayadaw U Paññasiha by sharing merits gained.

Kinwun Mingyi

The childhood name of Kinwun Mingyi, who was the most famous king's counsellor in Yadanabon era, was Maung Chin born of U Hmo and Daw Mei Si on 3 February 1822 in Montaingpin Village in Hsinshin Township of Monywa District. Maung Chin was novitiated at 10 years old. In 1849, he started his service term at Prince Mindon.

He became the treasurer

at 30 years old. In 1866, he was appointed as minister for guards. After being appointed as king's counsellor in 1871, he led the goodwill diplomatic delegation to France, Italy and England and compiled the records on travels.

As he saw fortresses in Portsmouth in England, he arranged construction of the fortresses along the bank of Ayeyawady River. Among them, Asaykhan, Hsinkyon and Thabyetan fortresses were wellknown ones. Likewise, he created architectural works from European countries he visited at construction of Thakawun monastery.

Yawmingyi brick monastery

Yawmingyi brick building was decorated with Italian architectural works, located in Upoktaw Ward, west of Mandalay Hill. It was called Eikhtakayama Yawmingyi brick monastery. All wooden parts of the monastery were damaged in outbreak of fire caused by bomb blasts in the Second World War. In 1998, well-wishers and the government rebuilt it.

As Yaw Atwinwun U Boe Hlaing spent K90,000 on construction of the brick monastery in 1228 ME, (1866 AD), King Mindon contributed K10,000 to the fund of construction.

The brick building was formed with the main hall, the lecture hall and the chamber of Buddha image including a roofless balcony. Construction style took western architectural designs mixed with Myanmar ones, which were different from other brick monasteries in Mandalay. Indian technicians were assigned



European style spiral stairs. PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)

to build the monastery. It can be said the brick posts of the monastery were decorated with the crafts in Asoka era of India.

The monastery was roofed with brick tiles on sal beams. However, bomb blasts in the Second World War destroyed roofs, wooden works and masonry crafts except four main walls of the monastery.

The abbot taking responsibilities for maintaining the monastery explained the upstairs of the two-storey monastery had 113 windows and ventilated holes. Rainwater from the roof was taken by pipelines to flow it into the lake at the northeast corner of the precinct.

Masonry crafts at the mon-

astery showed western and eastern architectural works. European style spiral stairs, convex hall, portico, Myanmar traditional arts and crafts on the concrete wall and lion statue-based posts attract all visitors.

As Yawmingyi supplicated on completion of Eikhtakayama monastery on 11 waning of Tagu, 1233 ME (1871 AD), King Mindon ordered him to donate the monastery to Maha Bo Sayadaw.

According to the royal order, Yawmingyi supplicated Maha Bo Sayadaw at Maha Bo Tawya in Shwebo to accept the monastery as his donation. Maha Bo Sayadaw accepted it in a short period but handed it over to Maha Withokdayon Sayadaw.

mixed with Myanmar arts and crafts. Hence, the two were significant among the monasteries built in Yadanabon era.

Whatever it maybe, the two monasteries built in last 150 years showing European designs are famous among local and foreign travellers. So, it needs to maintain these monasteries as Myanmar cultural heritages for long term existence.

Reference:
Maha Withokdayon Sayadaw (U Manitasiribhivamsa)
Myanmar's ancient monasteries (Natmauk Tun Shein)
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Translated by Than Tun Aung



Gold medalist San Mai Nu (second from the left), silver medalist Seng Lat Aung (middle), gold medalist Ja La (second from the right), and officials pose for a photo at the World Karate tourney in Tokyo, Japan.

PHOTO: IKO MYANMAR

Myanmar wins two gold, one silver medals in World Karate Tournament 2019

THREE young Myanmar athletes participated in the World Youth Karate Elite Tournament 2019, which was held from 22 to 24 November in Tokyo, Japan, and secured two gold and one silver medals.

Ja La, who represented Myanmar in the 8-year-old boys' category, won a gold medal.

San Mai Nu, who represented Myanmar in the 7-year-old girls' category, also secured a gold medal.

Meanwhile, Seng Lat Aung, who represented Myanmar in the 7-year-old boys' category, claimed the silver medal.

The three young athletes

are from the International Karate Organisation (IKO) Myanmar, and they were led by Karate Master Sayagyi U Min Lwin Oo.

The three children trained very hard and were coached by Sempai Ying Bawm, official dojo operator of IKO Myanmar, said a source with IKO Myanmar.

The Karate Championship is a one of the most prestigious Kyokushin Karate events for youths in the world, and this was the 12th edition of the tournament. Young athletes from several nations, including Japan and Russia, participated in the tourney, according to IKO Myanmar.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

30th SEA Games men's football tourney: Myanmar beat Timor Leste 3-1

THE Myanmar U-22 men's national football team beat the Timor Leste U-22 team by two goals in the Group A match of the men's Football competition at the 30th South East Asian Games, held yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Stadium in Manila, the Philippines.

Myanmar lined up with goalkeeper Sann Sat Naing, Win Moe Kyaw, Ye Yint Aung, Ye Min Thu, Aung Wunna Soe, Aung Naing Win, Lwin Moe Aung, Captain Hlaing Bo Bo, Myat Kaung Khant, Htet Phyto Wai, and Aung Kaung Mann.

Aung Kaung Mann scored the first goal at 10 minutes over an assist from Htet Phyto Wai in one-touch play.

Showing his football skills, Htet Phyto Wai again scored the second goal for Myanmar at 36 minutes, kicking the ball over the Timor Leste goalkeeper and directly into the net.

Timor Leste took advantage of a breach in Myanmar's

defense to score their lone goal in the match at 40 minutes. The goal was scored by Ximenes Mesquita, who took the ball past two Myanmar defenders and then kicked it straight over Myanmar keeper San Satt Naing.

At 45 minutes, Myanmar missed a goal chance when Captain Hlaing Bo Bo kicked the ball towards the net over an assist from midfielder Lwin Moe Moe Aung, but failed to get it past the Timor Leste keeper.

The second half saw better performance from team Myanmar, with back heel and back passes from strikers and midfielders.

A header from Hlaing Bo Bo off a corner kick by Myat Kaung Khant at 54 minutes secured the third goal for Myanmar.

Myanmar did not reduce their power play for the remainder of the match and launched continuous attacks on Timor Leste. Team Timor also shifted into attack mode and kept My-

anmar defenders busy.

There were no more goals till the final whistle, and Myanmar claimed victory, bagging three points.

In another Group A match yesterday, host Philippines beat

Malaysia by 1-0 to secure four points. Cambodia is currently trailing Myanmar with the same points as the Philippines, but with a goal difference.

Malaysia is in the fourth place with one point, while Timor

Leste is in the fifth place with no points.

With the win Myanmar has secured 7 points from two wins and one draw, and the team is still leading in Group A.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Myanmar star player Hlaing Bo Bo (No 6) celebrates after landing the third goal for Myanmar during the match against Timor Leste in the men's football tourney of the 30th SEA Games, which was held yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Stadium in Manila, the Philippines. PHOTO: MFF

MFF to hand out free tickets for team Myanmar matches in Philippines

OFFICIALS from the Myanmar Football Federation have arranged to distribute free tickets to Myanmar fans for the team's matches in the South East Asian Games in the Philippines, according to a statement issued by the MFF. The MFF officials would buy

the tickets from the Philippines SEA Games organizing committee and the free tickets would be delivered at the entrance of football stadiums in the Philippines an hour ahead of team Myanmar matches, officials said.

Myanmar football fans who

have traveled to the Philippines have been invited to watch the matches and encourage team Myanmar by raising a huge Myanmar National Flag at the ordinary stand in the football stadiums for every Myanmar match, the MFF stated.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

30th SEA Games opening ceremony to be broadcast live on MRTV

THE opening ceremony of the 30th South East Asian (SEA) Games, which is scheduled to be held at 5:30 pm (Myanmar Standard Time) today in Bacoque, the Philippines, will be broadcast live on MRTV and MRTV Sports Channel and

aired live on Myanmar Radio from 5:25 pm.

The 8:00 pm news on MRTV will be shown after the SEA Games opening ceremony.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)