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47-member leading committee of the 8th State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee holds its 3rd meeting at the Wizaya Mingalar Dhammathabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee holds 3rd plenary meeting

THE 8th 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee organized the first day of its third plenary meeting at the Wizaya Mingalar Dhammathabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday.

The first day of meeting was attended by Chairman Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Abhidhaja

Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa and the members of committee, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min and officials.

The meeting was chaired by Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa and Joint Executive Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sehtila.

In his opening address at the

meeting, the Bhamo Sayadaw delivered Ovada Kahta (Admonishing speech) to the ceremony, saying the organizing of Sangha meeting of different sects after building solidarity among them. The meeting agreed to serve for the affairs of Sangha by adopting principles and procedures to handle cases in Sangha community.

The Sayadaw also ex-

plained the objectives of forming Sangha organizations at various levels, with the objectives, including for propagation of Sasana, observing disciplinary rules, prevention of misleading talks and publications against the original version of Pariyatti Sasana, promoting meditation practices in accordance with the traditional texts, exercising either or both of learning

and practices, enjoying results from meditation practices, unity among any schools or members of Sangha.

The Sayadaw also advised to hold the religious exams in accordance with the rules and regulations, to adopt laws and rules for the emerging Buddhist universities.

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He finally emphasized the importance of unity in Sangha community.

The term of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee has entered 40 years, and the Committee could hold religious exams, establishments of monk universities and schools for pre-

siding monks.

On behalf of the Union Minister, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture supplicated the member of Sangha on the religious affairs, including plans for holding religious exams this year; census-taking process for Sangha with the assistance of Shine Hope Company for software, computers, printers and

copiers as the process is useful for enforcing monastic rules, elections of Sangha organizations and holding examinations.

Then, the senior members of committee presented their reports on activities of respective Sangha organizations before concluding the meeting in the afternoon. —MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Chairman Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar Hluttaw Strategic Plan (2019-2022) Launching Ceremony held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Myanmar Hluttaw Strategic Plan (2019-2022) Launching Ceremony took place at Thabin Hall of Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw, as the chairman of Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) on Hluttaw Development, U Tun Tun Hein delivered an opening remark at the ceremony.

He said that the JCC designed its second Myanmar Hluttaw Strategic Plan (2019-2022) based on the experiences of its predecessor and the guidelines of senior Hluttaw officials. It was aimed for the Hluttaw to take part in implementation of federal democratic system in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

It took six months to complete drawing the plan, with

holding meetings and workshops.

The strategic plan has focused on promoting effectiveness in the areas of Hluttaw meetings and committees, capacity of Hluttaw representatives in performing their duties, capacity of Hluttaw staff and their services and communication technologies and cooperation.

The goal one of strategic plan was explained by Amyotha Hluttaw MP Daw Naw Hla Hla Soe, the goal two by Amyotha Hluttaw MP U Naing Thiha, the goal three by Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Phyo Zeyar Thaw, the goal four by Pyithu Hluttaw MP Daw Wint Wah Tun.

The Directors-General Hluttaw Office replied to the queries on administration before the conclusion remark by the Deputy Speaker of Py-



Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Tun Tun Hein addresses the Myanmar Hluttaw Strategic Plan (2019-2022) Launching Ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

idaungsu Hluttaw.

The ceremony was also attended by MPs of Pyithu

Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, and Region / State Hluttaws, representatives of Hluttaw partner

and staff members of Hluttaw offices.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

99th National Victory Day ceremony held in No 2 BEHS, Dagon



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi delivers the speech at the ceremony to mark 99th National Victory Day in Dagon Township, Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

THE ceremony of 99th National Victory Day was held at U Ba Lwin Hall of No 2 Basic Ed-

ucation High School, Dagon Township, Yangon yesterday morning.

Students from No 2 BEHS, Dagon performed the song 'Pyi Myanmar' song, before Yangon

Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein read out the message of 99th National Victory Day sent by President U Win Myint.

This was followed by Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi's speech.

Our National Victory Day has been celebrated all over Myanmar every year, and this year marks the 99th celebration. Students must be trained to be good citizens, sharing 21st century's skills, nurturing all-round development, preparing for economic integration and coexistence in life.

Myanmar nationals must build the peaceful, all-round developed, Federal Democratic Union based on the essence of national unity of National Victory Day, he said.

U Tin Myint, alumnus of the school, delivered welcoming greeting speech.

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi presented awards to two students who passed with all distinctions in No2 BEHS, Dagon, in matriculation examination in 2019.

Daw Su Su Lwin, daughter of Sayagyi U Ba Lwin, awarded a scholarship to a student who got the highest marks in the exam.

Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun presented awards to students won in essays writing contests. The last programme of ceremony, students from No2 BEHS, Dagon, sung 'Zartimann' song.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)



VP U Henry Van Thio returns from Cambodia

VICE President U Henry Van Thio left Cambodia for Myanmar at 1:30 pm local time yesterday after attending the 2nd Asia-Pacific Summit in Phnom Penh.

They were seen off at the Phnom Penh International Airport by Deputy Assistant Minister for the Office of the Council of Ministers Mr Thong Socheat, Myanmar Ambassador to Cam-

bodia U Thit Lin Ohn, Myanmar Military Attaché Brig-Gen Win Ko Ko, and officials from the Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché's Office in Cambodia.

The Myanmar delegation arrived at Suvarnabhumi International Airport at 2:50 pm local time, and landed at the Yangon International Airport in the afternoon.

They were welcomed back by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, the Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar and officials.—MNA

Vice President U Henry Van Thio welcomed back by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein at the Yangon International Airport on 21 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar School of Politics organizes 8th forum in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Union Election Commission (UEC) Chairman U Hla Thein addressed an opening ceremony of the Myanmar School of Politics (MySoP) 8th Alumni Forum held at Grand Amara Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Present at the ceremony were Ambassador of the Netherlands Mr Wouter Jurgens, Ambassador of Finland Mrs Riikka Laatu, officials from UEC Office, MySoP course attendees from election sub-commissions and political parties, NIMD/Demo Finland officials and MySoP officials.

First, UEC Chairman and officials took commemorative group photo with ceremony attendees.

In his speech delivered at the opening ceremony UEC Chairman said MySoP was a joint program of the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy

(NIMD) and Political Parties of Finland for Democracy (Demo Finland), working under an MoU with the UEC. It was a school that was assisting and supporting towards establishment and development of a democracy system in Myanmar. MySoP focuses on strengthening the democratic role of politicians & political parties at the region/state level, and enhances the practice of multi-party dialogues. At the moment about 250 had completed courses.

In the forum, election campaigning matters will be discussed. Code of Conduct (CoC) for political parties and Hluttaw candidates were practiced since 2015 and it was being amended to be in accord with the time and era. In addition to abiding by the CoC in the past election coordinating committees were formed resulting in reducing of conflicts and arguments. Emphasis must

be placed toward abiding by the laws and rules in discussing election campaigning matters. Political parties are to thrive in a democracy system and were to abide by the laws and rules enacted in order to do so. UEC

will conduct 2020 General Election according to the five norms of free, fair, transparent, credible and reflecting the will of the people said the UEC Chairman.

The ceremony came to a close after Ambassador of the

Netherlands to Myanmar, Ambassador of Finland to Myanmar and officials from NIMD/Demo Finland delivered speeches.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein addresses the opening ceremony of 8th Alumni Forum of MySoP (Myanmar School of Politics) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

IFC to provide technical assistance to cut water losses

By Nyein Nyein

THE International Finance Corporation (IFC) will offer technical assistance to reduce wastage in water distribution, which currently stands at 50 per cent, said Daw Thwe Naing Oo, deputy director of the Yangon City Development Committee's water distribution project. We will plug water losses with technical assistance from the IFC, she said.

At present, Hlawga, Gyobyu, Phu Gyi, and Nga Moe Yeik res-

ervoirs are the main sources of water supply in Yangon, providing over 205 million gallons of water every day. However, half the water supplied gets wasted, she said.

After expressions of interest (EOIs) were invited for water distribution through Public Private Partnership (PPP), 20 companies put their names forward to invest in the project, according to the YCDC's tender evaluation committee. "Currently, the EOIs are under scrutiny. Later, we will seek requests for proposal and contin-

ue the tendering process," Daw Thwe Naing Oo added.

Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe has urged Yangonites to systematically use water as half of the water supply is getting wasted amid an increase in Yangon's population.

"Regardless of new water resources, systematic use is a must. The IFC will help to cover water losses in the urban water distribution network," said U Maung Maung Soe. The YCDC decided to privatize water distribution to

deal with the problem of water loss and staff shortage.

Additionally, the current rates for water supply do not cover production costs.

"The water meter bills must reflect the charges for laying the pipe network and the water distribution cost. If we compare the water meter rates with the distribution cost, the existing bills are much lower than that, excluding the cost of the machines. This being so, the government is making a loss on running this, like power

supply," said U Maung Maung Soe.

However, there is no plan yet to increase the water rate for now, he said. At present, the Yangon authorities are raising awareness about systematic water meter installation, dealing with water pipe leakages, unsystematic water consumption, management of water loss in urban water distribution, and curbing illegal connections to the water pipe network, he added.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Senior General attends ADMM-Plus (VIP Program) in PRC

A Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who attended Defence & Security 2019 in Thailand, left Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Bangkok on the night of 19 November to attend the ADMM-Plus (VIP Program) that is to be held in People's Republic of China.

The Senior General and party arrived at the Nanning International Airport of China yesterday morning and flew on to the Guilin International Airport.

The Tatmadaw delegation led by the Senior General arrived at the Guilin International Airport at 4 am local standard time. They were welcomed by Assistant Chief of Staff Maj-Gen Chen Mintian of Southern Theater Command and officials.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, chiefs of armed forces and officials of defence ministries of 18 countries attended a joint counter-terrorism actual-troop drill of ADMM-Plus (VIP Program) held at the Fenglin Training Field in Guilin on Wednesday morning.

On arrival at the venue, the Senior General and party were



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends ADMM-Plus (VIP Program) held in the People's Republic of China. PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

welcomed by senior officers of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China and officials. Together with member of Central Military Commission (CMC) and Chief of the Joint Staff Department of the CMC of the PLA General Li Zuocheng and Joint Chairman of the troop drill Chief of Defence Forces of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Pornpipat Benyasri, the Senior General and party met with attending chiefs of armed forces

and cordially greeted each other. The Senior General and party and attendees from the respective countries observed a demonstration of counter-terrorism actual-troop drill including anti-terrorism operations, cooperation in rescuing of hostages and wounded persons, logistics, timely and precision communications carried out in a mockup of an urban area. Afterwards, the Senior General and party visited Counter Terrorism Task

Force Headquarters and Counter-Terrorism Task Group Headquarters and cordially greeted the delegates of the respective countries.

In the evening, the Senior General and party attended a dinner hosted by General Li Zuocheng together with the delegates to the ADMM-Plus (VIP Program).

Co-chaired by the People's Republic of China and Thailand, the drill was jointly conducted by

representatives of 18 countries and the representatives of Myanmar also took part in it.

Furthermore Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met General Li Zuocheng and party at the meeting room of Lijiang Water-fall Hotel in Guilin.

At the meeting cordial discussions focused on further strengthening of the bilateral friendship based on brotherly spirit as Myanmar and China have been good old friends as well as being strategic partner countries, timely exercise of ADMM-Plus (VIP Program) and the need for getting quick information, review of the need for global cooperation as terrorism was a global threat and terrorism was difficult to be countered by a single country, Myanmar taking up joint chairmanship of ADMM-Plus (VIP Program) in 2020-2022, status of PLA cooperating in it and the People's Republic of China cooperating closely and practically for peace and stability in Myanmar's northern region, according to information released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Myoma school organize National Victory Day at Shwedagon Pagoda

THE Myoma Alumni Association in Yangon organized a ceremony to mark 99th anniversary of the National Victory Day at the Saturday Corner—south-west—of Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday morning.

The ceremony was held at the place where the late 11 Rangoon College students vowed to boycott the University of Rangoon Act enacted by the British rulers. The event was taken part by the alumni of Myoma National High School and students of Dagon B.E.H.S 2 and 3.

Secretary of the Myoma Alumni Association U Hla Myint Thein said, "The ceremony was held to commemorate the National Victory Day every year since 2016 and for maintaining national spirit of new generation."

Before the ceremony, the participants gathered in front of No.2 Basic Education High School (Myoma), and marched by holding the names of posters printed with 11 historic stu-



The Myoma Alumni Association in Yangon celebrate a ceremony to mark 99th anniversary of the National Victory Day yesterday.

PHOTO: NAY LINN

dents to the southern stairway of Shwedagon Pagoda.

The participants turned the pagoda in clockwise movements and paid respect to the monument which marked the vow to boycott the University of Rangoon Act before sharing merits for them.

The Myoma Alumni As-

sociation also celebrated the 99th National Victory Day at its office on Sagawa in Dagon Township, with the extended greetings of its chairperson and officials followed by performances of students from Dagon BEHS 2 and 3.— Nay Linn

(Translated by Aung Khin)

7th Bagan Temple Marathon event to be held on 23 November

BAGAN will host the seventh Bagan Temple Marathon on 23 November, under an arrangement with Albatros Denmark Travel Company and Myanmar Voyage Company.

A total of 499 contestants, including 291 local marathon runners and 208 candidates from 35 countries, such as the US, Australia, Denmark, Asian, and African nations, have registered for the event.

The competition will include a full marathon, half marathon, and mini marathon.

The Bagan Temple Marathon is aimed at promoting the tourism sector of Myanmar and strengthening relationships with participating countries, said U Soe Tint, NyaungU District Administrator.

Officials from the concerned organizations will provide purified water, security services, healthcare services, and other necessary services to marathon runners, according to the event's organizers. —Phay Lane (Bagan)

(Translated by La Wonn)

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Union Information Minister visits museums, media companies in Nanning

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint and Myanmar media delegation visited the Guangxi Museum of Nationalities, the Guangxi Planning Museum, the Guangxi Daily and the Guangxi Radio and Television Information Network Corporation Limited in Nanning City of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China yesterday.

At the Guangxi Museum of Nationalities, they viewed the displays of historical documents, traditional ceremonies and costumes and the lives of local communities. Construction of the museum was completed in December 2018 and opened to the public on 1 May this year. It is a specific museum to exhibit ethnic cultures and to cultivate unity of national races and patriotic spirit.

At the Guangxi Planning Museum, they looked around the displays on the emergence of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and booths of the provinces. The museum was established by the Guangxi Tourism Development Company.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister and party arrived at Guangxi Daily newspaper. It was founded on 3 December 1949, and is managed by the Guangxi Daily Media Group Co, Ltd. It is publishing five daily newspapers and four other publications. The number users of its four websites has reached over 25 million.

The Myanmar media delegation then proceeded to the Guangxi Radio and Television



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint holds talks with Information Minister of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region Ms Fan Xiaoli and Deputy Minister Mr Gan Yi at the Guangxi Radio and Television Information Network Corporation Limited in Nanning City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of People's Republic of China yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Information Network Corporation Limited that airs seven radio channels and 10 television channels. It is also operating mobile TVs for news and other programmes. The 5G networks are used for broadcasts of mainstream and modern media platforms in cooperating with ASEAN countries.

The Union Minister and party also made discussions with Ms Fan Xiaoli, the Information Minister of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and its Deputy Minister Mr Gan Yi.

During the meeting, they discussed technology integration of mainstream and modern media, cooperation in news media between the two countries, collaboration in film and music, in addition to media sector, when holding 70th anniversary to mark the establishment of



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint visits Guangxi Daily newspaper in Nanning City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of People's Republic of China yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar-China diplomatic ties in 2020.

The meeting was concluded photo of the attendees.—MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)



Deputy Information Minister receives Thai media delegation

DEPUTY Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun received a delegation of National Press Council of Thailand led by its President Mr Chavarong Lampattamapanee at the min-

istry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed challenges for Myanmar media industry, global media landscape amidst the changing trend and technology development, cooperation in conducting trainings on skills and ethics for the journalists and the prevailing situations in the Thai media industry.— MNA

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun holds talks with Thailand National Press Council President Mr Chavarong Lampattamapanee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

(Translated by Aung Khin)

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Photo contest to be held at Myanmar-Thai alms-offering ceremony

AN alms-offering ceremony, organized by the Mandalay regional government as part of efforts to boost Myanmar-Thailand ties, will be held on 8 December in Mandalay. At the ceremony, alms-offerings will be made to 30,000 members of Sanghas, and the event will also include a photo contest.

A competition is being organized to get a good photo record of the ceremony, according to the Event Media Information Sub-Committee.

The competition will be open for everyone. Photographers will be allowed to submit five 10X15 inch photo entries. The winner of the contest will be awarded K700,000, the second placed winner will get K500,000, the third placed winner will get K300,000, and there will also be a consolation prize of K100,000.



Myanmar and Thai Buddhist monks participate in an alms-offering ceremony in Mandalay last year. The similar ceremony will be held on 8 December which will also include a photo contest. **PHOTO: TUN TUN NAING**

Registrations will be open from 2 to 6 December 12 noon. In order to register, applicants will need to submit two photos of license size to the Information and Public Relations Department. The department will issue ID

cards to photographers, who will be required to wear white shirts on the day of the competition.

Photographers will not be allowed to take photos of important dignitaries from up close. Such photos will also not be allowed

in the photo competition. Photographs of the preparation and management of the rice offering ceremony will be allowed in the competition. —Tun Tun Naing

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Smart cards issued to over 7,000 YBS drivers

By Nyein Nyein

OVER 7,000 drivers employed with YBS bus lines have received smart cards, said U Aung Nyi Nyi Maw, Managing Director of the Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

"A total of 7,351 YBS drivers, who applied to the YRTA for smart cards, have been issued the cards, and nine of them are women," he added.

"Following the issuance of smart cards, drivers will be

strictly checked by the YRTA's inspection team on whether they are holding the cards or not, starting from 1 November," said U Aung Nyi Nyi Maw.

According to the YRTA, passengers will be able to send their complaints to the inspection team through two Viber contact numbers — 09448147149, 09448147153-4.

With the adoption of the smart cards, the YRTA will have the personal information of each

driver, so, it will be simpler for the authority to deal with complaints or take action against undisciplined drivers, said the YRTA managing director.

The transport authority will have a centralized database detailing the job history and work experience of YBS drivers. This will make it easy to trace drivers quickly, according to the YRTA.

As per data compiled by the transport authority during the first half of this month, it is

currently dealing with driver indiscipline. It is looking into seven cases of drivers changing routes, 597 cases of fine receipts, 94 complaints against drivers, and seven road mishaps which have left three persons dead and two injured. At present, over 100 bus lines are operating 4,500 buses on 135 routes, along with the Airport Shuttle. The number of daily commuters has been estimated at 1.8 million.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Kitchen fire engulfs 11 houses in Kyaikmaraw Township

AN overheated electric stove started a kitchen fire in a two-storeyed brick house and quickly spread to 11 adjoining houses on 21 November in Kyaikmaraw Township, Mawlamyine District. There were no casualties.

According to reports, around 9:15 am on Thursday, an electric stove overheated and sparked a fire in a home belonging to one U Sein Than, 65. The blaze quickly engulfed six other two-storeyed brick houses and five one-storeyed houses. The fire was extinguished around 10 a.m. by a combined team led by U Win Tin, head of the Township

Fire Services Department, and comprising 40 firefighters, 20 auxiliary firefighters, and 17 fire engines.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Saw Kyaw Win Maung, Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Khin Zaw Oo, Township Administrator U Kyaw Myint, and officials inspected the site and provided the necessary aid to fire victims. The fire damaged property worth an estimated K17.7 million. The Kyaikmaraw Township Police have initiated legal action against U Sein Than. — Cho Myat Myat Htway (Kyaikmaraw)

(Translated by La Wonn)

Over 9,000 tons of illegally logged timber seized in Sagaing Region in 2018-2019FY

OVER 9,000 tons of illegally harvested timber was confiscated in Sagaing Region in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, according to the regional Forest Department.

In 2018-2019FY, a total of 9,791.7711 tons of timber, hardwood, and other timber was seized in Sagaing Region, including 98.4318 tons from Sagaing District, 872.1715 tons from Shwebo District, 2,383.0167 tons from Monywa District, 2,825.0159 tons from Katha District, 1,981.5937 tons from Kalay District, 940.5482 tons from Mawlaik District, 201.2389 tons from Kani Township, and 579.7544 tons from Tamu Dis-

trict.

In the 2017-2018 fiscal, a total of 9,622.5221 tons of timber, hardwood and other timber were seized from Sagaing, Shwebo, Monywa, Katha, Kalay, Mawlaik, Yinmabin, and Tamu districts.

In connection with the illegal logging of timber, officials arrested 774 persons and seized 341 vehicles, 32 tractors, 35 trailers, 206 motorbikes, 40 three-wheeled motorbikes, 115 motor vessels, seven guns, 123 chain saws, and clamped down on 228 mills.—Aye Cho

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Black, white sesame enter Mandalay market, get good price



Merchants evaluate quality of pulses at the Mandalay wholesale market. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**

BLACK sesame from Bhamo, Katha and Htigyaing townships and white sesame from Shwebo and Wetlet townships has started to enter the Mandalay market and is commanding a good price, according to Mandalay bean traders.

Among the winter sesame, the quality of black sesame from Magway region is better than that of monsoon black sesame. Although the price of monsoon black sesame is K250,000 per bag in the local market, the price of winter black sesame entering the market is K258,000 per bag. The price of winter white sesame has also increased slightly this year compared to last year. The price of winter white sesame is K152,000 per bag this year in Mandalay market, said U Soe Win Myint, the owner of Soe Win Myint brokerage.

“Black sesame from Bhamo and Katha townships enters the Mandalay market every year in

the winter season. Last year, the price of black sesame was K230,000 per bag. But this year, the price of black sesame is K258,000 per bag. The sale of other goods is a bit cool in the border areas. But, the sale of sesame is normal because there is demand from the Chinese market. Local farmers and merchants are expecting normal sales of corn and paddy, like black sesame, in 2020 even though there are challenges,” he added.

With local consumption low, black sesame is being cultivated for export. Chinese traders purchase black sesame to produce medicines and cosmetics. Moreover, Japan also purchases black sesame from Myanmar annually.

Black sesame is grown in Mandalay, Sagaing, and Magway regions as a monsoon crop, while it is grown in Kachin State as a winter crop. —Min Htet Aung (Sub-printing house)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Number of traditional potters shrinks in Meiktila as raw materials become scarce

TRADITIONAL earthen pottery businesses which have been passed down from generation to generation in Theetakan Village of Meiktila Township are shutting down as raw materials are getting increasingly difficult to find, said potters from the village.

“The village has 82 households and a population of 400. Most men have been earning their living by making pottery at home, like their ancestors. Earlier, the business involved lower inputs costs and raw materials were easy to find. But now, input costs are rising and raw materials such as farmland, straw, fuel, and wood are becoming scarce,”

said U Kyaw Myaing, 100-household leader.

“The cost of renting farmlands has increased slightly, and the rate for renting a cart has touched K2,500. With the changing climate, it is becoming difficult to cultivate paddy and straw is becoming rare. The scarcity of straws has led to a decline in pottery businesses in our village. Now, there are only 15 potters in our village,” he said.

“Women in the village are still making pottery on a manageable scale. Water pots, flower pots, planters, and earthen pots for palm juices are selling well in Meiktila, Mahlaing, and

Taungtha markets. But, water bottles are being used instead of water pots and bronze pots are also being used as flower pots. Therefore, potters are making fewer water and flower pots due to low demand in the market. Demand is still strong for planters and earthen pots for palm juices. We will continue to hand over our pottery businesses from one generation to the next even if raw materials become scarce, in order to maintain the cultural heritage of our family,” said Daw Tin Mya.—Thein Myint Kyaw (Meiktila)

(Translated by La Wonn)



A worker makes traditional earthen pots in Meiktila. **PHOTO: THEIN MYINT KYAW (MEIKTILA)**

Wooden comb-making businesses dying due to lack of raw materials



Workers make wooden combs at work in Thet Kael Kyin Village, Monywa Township. **PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)**

WOODEN comb-making businesses in Thet Kael Kyin Village, Monywa Township, have almost vanished due to lack of raw materials and substitution products.

“Earlier, the whole village was involved in weaving, making rosary beads, and the comb-making business. Now, the village is almost deprived of wooden-comb making businesses and weaving businesses. There are only four people who are still making wooden combs,” said Ko Myint, a local from Thet Kael Kyin Village.

Thet Kael Kyin Village is located 5 miles from Monywa town. The village has over 960

houses with 3,500 residents and over 800 households.

“Making a wooden comb involves ten steps. To make the combs, we were earlier using teak, Daung Nwe, Tamalan and Padauk wood. When the forests started to deplete over 30 or 40 years ago, we lost the opportunity to bring wood from the forests. Now, we are purchasing good-quality wood from firewood collectors to make the combs. The wooden combs are exported to international markets,” said a local involved in the comb-making business. —Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Elevating Myanmar's sports

THE fact that Myanmar used to be at the top of Southeast Asian and Asian sport competitions might raise a disbelieving eyebrow from the current generation. But whether they believe it not, it is the truth.

There once was a time when Myanmar collected all the gold, silver and bronze medals for running, high jumps, long jumps, vaulting, discus throwing, hammer throwing, javelin throwing, swimming, diving, tennis, badminton, basketball, volleyball, weightlifting, judo, gymnastics and even soccer.

Bahar Duu, Hla Htay, Tin Aung, Khin Maung Tun, Ba Pu, Aung Khin, Shin Bwe Gan, Mi Tone Naw, Jimmy, Jennifer Tin Lay, Ma Khin Pu, Than Than, San San Aye, Ba Wai, Ma Khin Win, Nanda Kyaw Swar, Aung Khaing, Tin Win, Khin Khin Yi, Hla Hla Yi, and Nu Nu Yi were celebrated athletes in Myanmar and across all of Asia.

But these accomplishments were all made more than 40 or 50 years ago. Myanmar has fallen from the pinnacle of sportsmanship to a position where there aren't many teams left below us. The gradual decline of athletic capability is both a sad trek for Myanmar and one filled with lessons.

To flourish in any sector, one needs the drive to succeed, systematic learning and training, and support from the nation. Now, Myanmar is seeing individuals achieving success in badminton, chess, lethwei and even soccer, where international teams are picking the single skilled players to come kick on their team.

The nations who were once left behind by Myanmar in international sporting events are now far ahead in the lead. We cannot get to where we once were if we merely clap when our home team wins and swear loudly or throw water bottles when we lose. This will in no way help Myanmar to reach the top of Asian or global sporting events.

Generally speaking, sports are an important component of a nation. The general wellbeing of every citizen alleviates the healthcare burden of the country. Children and youths will appreciate the value of teamwork when playing sports.

The spirit of sportsmanship is the pinnacle of fair play that translates well into everyday life. The nation and the people would do well to promote our athletes and reclaim our place in the global sports arena.



A Tribute to Sayamagyi Daw Kyan

Dr. Saw Mra Aung



Photos: google image

I WAS stunned by the news of the demise of Sayamagyi Daw Kyan, a native of Rakhine, at the ripe age of 102 years on 16 November, 2019. Her death was an irreplaceable loss not only to Rakhine but also to the whole Myanmar. Although Sayamagyi and I belong to the same ethnic race, I had no close relation with her. I had met only once with her at a meeting held by the Sarpay Beikman about six years ago. Never Had I seen her again in the flesh since then. But I was later much more acquainted with her through her books and my teachers, her colleagues who often talked about her. I pay my tribute to her with this article for two reasons. The first one is that I had a great admiration for her due to her peerless literary contributions. And the second is that my nationalistic pride was conceived in my mind with the thought that I, as a Rakhine national, should proudly enter her name in the list of a brood of learned personalities Rakhine State has ever produced including Sayadaw U Ottama, U Shwe Zan Aung, U May Aung, Daw Mya Sein, U San Shwe Bu, I.C.S. U Shwe Mra, I.C.S.U Kyaw Min, I.C.S. U Shwe Baw, I. C.S. U Kyaw Khaing, I.C.S. U Sein Nyo Tun, Dr. Yee Yee, U San Tha Aung, etc. Though some of the afore-said Rakhine erudite personalities achieved only posthumous fame, Sayamagyi's reputation had spread further afield, while she was still active and alive for her exceptional literary talent and contributions.

Sayamagyi was born to U Kyaw Tun and Daw Ngwe Hnit on July 1, 1918 in Taung-goke in Thandwe district with the world-famous Ngapali Seabeach four miles west of the town, in the southern Rakhine State. She started her primary education at the tender age of five years and passed the High School Final(matriculation) examination with Grade A from the Thandwe Governmental High School in 1935. Soon, she embarked on her life profession as a junior assistant teacher at the Thandwe Governmental High School. Then she was transferred to the post-offices of Thandwe and Sittwe as an upper-division clerk. But, as she had a great thirst for

knowledge, she left the postal service in 1951 to pursue university education.

Therefore, Sayamagyi set forth for Yangon and started to read at Yangon University in the same year and graduated with a B. A degree in March 1954. She was appointed a tutor at the Department of English Language and Literature soon after her graduation and worked there for two years from 1954 to 1956. She entered the Myanmar History Commission (which was subsequently changed into the Department of Historical Research) as a Senior Research Officer in 1956. Thenceforwards, she devoted most of her time to doing research on Myanmar History and writing many articles, research papers, monographs and books on the findings of her research. In 1957 and 1959, she was entrusted with the task of collecting and copying rare documents on Myanmar History from the libraries, archives and other resource centres in England. She accomplished her task well and could bring back some rare, invaluable historical documents like micro-films, etc. from England to Myanmar. In 1959, she secured a M. A degree(History).

was in age, she actively and healthily served until her death in various capacities such as a Full-time Member of the Myanmar Language Commission, a Member of the Selection Board of National Literary Awards, a Member of the Selection Board

In brief, I find that Sayamagyi gradually worked her way from a lower rank up to the top of her profession - from a teacher, a postal staff, a historian, a researcher and a writer up to a scholar.

That year, in recognition of her contributions, she was selected to tour some big towns in Australia under the Cultural Award Scheme. She retired from the Myanmar History Commission in 1984 but continued to serve as a Consultant to it for four years and was then appointed a Part-time Professor at the Department of History in Yangon University. Advanced as she

of Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Awards and a Member of the Committee of Arranging Reference Books of the Sarpay Beikman .

Sayamagyi is such a prolific, committed writer that she has so far compiled a considerable number of books. To the best of my knowledge, she wrote " မြန်မာနိုင်ငံအခြေအနေ" (The Situation of Myanmar

and, "မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ စက်မှုသမိုင်း" (The History of Myanmar Industry) in 1985-1990. Moreover, she also edited two books entitled " ဘင်္ဂလားသွားစာတမ်း", (The Treatise on the Trip to Bangalore) in 1963 and "ရတနာသိမ် မြို့ထွက် ရဲတင်းမော်ကွန်း" (The Epic Poem on Setting forth from Ratanasinkha) in 1968.

The State Government and some private organizations awarded Sayamagyi

Pe Life-long Literary Award in 2004 for her dedicated literary devotion. Moreover, she was also offered the Art Outstanding Prize and the Outstanding Woman Prize.

In brief, I find that Sayamagyi gradually worked her way from a lower rank up to the top of her profession - from a teacher, a postal staff, a historian, a researcher and a writer up to a scholar. So rare is a woman of versatility like Sayamagyi in the Myanmar society, where more men than women come to the fore in many aspects due to traditional and cultural conventions and constraints, although the latter are officially permitted to stand on the equal footing with the former there. I also notice that, though Sayamagyi almost confined her research area to Late Konbaung and Early Colonial Periods of Myanmar, she also wrote some research articles on Rakhine History, among which the ones titled, " Doe Wei, a Marama Royal Reader of Rakhine King Abhayamaharaja" and, " Nga-zin-ga and Nga-in-ga ", could, I think, provide clues to some riddles of Rakhine History. Moreover, Sayamagyi wrote an article entitled " The Treatises of Rakhine History". In it, she gave reviews on many ancient Rakhine chronicles and histories

(1885- 86)) in 1978, "ပဒေသရာဇ် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံစာတမ်း" (The End of Feudalist Myanmar) in 1981, " သမိုင်းရှာတော်ပုံစံနိဒါန်းနှင့် တခြားစာတမ်းများ" (In Search of History and Other Articles) in 2002 "မဟာဝန်ရှင်တော်မင်းကြီး အုပ်ချုပ်ရေး" (The High Commissioner Administration(1886-97)) in 2003, " ကုန်းဘောင်ခေတ်၏ နောက်ဆုံးအားဟန် " (The Last Fervent Attempt in Konbaung Period) in 2004, "ကိုလိုနီခေတ်ဦး ကျေးရွာအုပ်ချုပ်ရေး" (The Rural Administration of Early Colonial Period(1886-97)) and " မြန်မာ့သမိုင်းနှင့် ဆက်နွယ်သော အနောက်နိုင်ငံသားများ" (The Westerners Related to Myanmar History) in 2005, The Selected Writings of Daw Kyan , "ကျမ်းသုတေသနပြုခြင်း" (Research Methodology) and "ကုန်းဘောင်ခေတ် မြန်မာ့ရဲမတ်တော်များ" (Myanmar Soldiers of Konbaung Period) in 2006, "ရွှေတိဂုံစေတီတော်ကြီးမှ ကြေးအုတ်များ" (Copper Bricks from the Shwedagon Pagoda) in colleague with Dr Yee Yee in 2007

many prizes in acknowledgement of her constant contributions to the nation. She was accorded the Life-long National Literary Award and five National Literary Awards for the book titled, " မြန်မာနိုင်ငံအခြေအနေ" (The Situation of Myanmar (1885-86)) " in 1978, " သမိုင်းရှာတော်ပုံစံနိဒါန်းနှင့် တခြားစာတမ်းများ" (In Search of History and Other Articles) " in 2002, "မဟာဝန်ရှင်တော်မင်းကြီး အုပ်ချုပ်ရေး" (The High Commissioner Administration(1886-97)) "in 2003 and" ကိုလိုနီခေတ်ဦး ကျေးရွာအုပ်ချုပ်ရေး" (The Rural Administration of Early Colonial Period(1886-97)) " in 2005, etc. . In addition, the Tun Foundation Literary Award was conferred on her in 2006 for the book titled " The Selected Writings of Daw Kyan" and the Pakokku U Ohn



မြန်မာ့နေ့စဉ်ပြည့်သက်သေခံရေးသားသူများ အခြေခံပညာဦးစီးဌာနနှင့် ရန်ကင်းတက္ကသိုလ်တို့ ပူးပေါင်းစီမံကွပ်ကဲသော မဂ္ဂဇင်းစာပေပွဲတော် မဂ္ဂဇင်းစာပေပွဲတော် (ရန်ကင်းတက္ကသိုလ်) စာပေပွဲတော် စာပေပွဲတော် စာပေပွဲတော် စာပေပွဲတော် ၂၀၁၉ ခုနှစ်၊ နိုဝင်ဘာလ(၂၃၊၂၄)ရက်၊ (ဇော၊ တနင်္ဂနွေ)နေ့၊ နံနက် ၉ နာရီမှ ညနေ ၅ နာရီထိ မည်သူမဆို ဝါဝင်ဆင်နွှဲနိုင်ပါသည်။ အမှတ်(၂)အခြေခံပညာအထက်တန်းကျောင်း၊ သယံဇာတကျွန်းမြို့နယ်။



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Thursday 21st November, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is a few cloud over the North Bay and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 22nd November, 2019: Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (2-4) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Generally Fair in the whole country.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd November, 2019: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd November, 2019: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd November, 2019: Generally fair weather.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

Union SWRR Minister attends 10th AMMSWD in Laos



ASEAN ministers pose for a group photo at the 10th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD) in Lao PDR yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye led a delegation to Vientiane, Laos, and attended the 10th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and

Development (AMMSWD) at Don Chan Palace Hotel yesterday.

During the opening ceremony, Laotian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Soudy Douangsdy

delivered a speech where he said this meeting will discuss the necessary framework for providing social protection for vulnerable youths, elderly and people with disabilities. He said

the more important factor is to share assistance and cooperation on these matters between the nations.

The ministerial meeting then commenced and Dr Win Myat Aye said Myanmar strategic plan for social protection accords and protects the rights of embryos to the elderly, through implementing eight sectors, and in coherence with the Myanmar Sustainable Development Programme (MSDP). He said this year marks the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and that they held the World Children's Day commemoration event in Nay Pyi Taw where they invited over a hundred children from across the country and demonstrated the importance of adults listening to children and their participation.

The Union Minister said

they have enacted a new child rights law that will protect children living in conflict areas, in forced labour and those with disabilities. He said they have a strategic plan for 2020-2025 for the development of disabled persons and to be in line with the UNCRPD. He said they provide monthly social pensions to elderly above 85 years of age and youths are providing cooperation and support to raise the capacity of the elderly.

The Union Minister said that just as ASEAN nations assist affiliated countries, Myanmar is cooperating with China, Japan and South Korea on protecting children, elderly and disabled persons. This includes cooperation with KOICA, JICA and China Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Programme, said Dr Win Myat Aye. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

UN SG Special Envoy on Myanmar left Yangon

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms Christine Schraner Burgener left Yangon by air yesterday evening.

The UN SG Special Envoy on Myanmar was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Ministry of Foreign Affairs Strategic Studies and Training Department Director—General U Aung Myo Myint and officials.

This is the UN SG Special

Envoy's ninth trip to Myanmar.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

United Nations Secretary-General Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms Christine Schraner Burgener was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Chinese royal goldware of Ming Dynasty on display in Romania



Photo taken on 20 November, 2019 shows exhibits during an exhibition of Chinese royal goldware of Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) at the National History Museum of Romania in Bucharest, Romania. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

BUCHAREST — An exhibition of Chinese royal goldware of Ming Dynasty opened Wednesday at the National History Museum of Romania, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of China-Romania diplomatic relations.

The exhibition "Royal Gold Wares of Wanli Period, Ming Dynasty — Dong Bo Zhai Collection" is the first collaboration between National History Museum of Romania and a Chinese private museum.

At its opening ceremony, Chinese Ambassador to Romania Jiang Yu said that "culture is colorful because of communica-

tion, and culture is enriched by mutual learning."

"It is hoped that the people of the two countries will share their hearts and minds, and jointly build the friendship through cultural exchanges and mutual understanding," she added.

Irina Cajal, undersecretary of state of the Romanian Culture Ministry, said that cultural exchanges are "the best way" to enhance friendship between the people of the two countries.

The exhibition is the second large-scale Chinese exhibition held at the National History Museum after the 2013 "Treasures

of China," which gives the Romanian people a chance to appreciate at close range the exquisite craftsmanship of ancient China, and enhance their understanding of China, said Cajal.

All the 145 pieces of goldware, dating from Wanli period (1573-1620) of Ming Dynasty, are the collections of Xi'an Qujiang Museum of Fine Arts. Zhou Tianyou, director of Qujiang Museum of Fine Arts, said he believes the collections could "play an active role in enhancing the bilateral friendship between China and Romania." —Xinhua ■

Uber may contribute more transport pollution than solution: study



Transport NGOs say Uber is not helping solve urban transport systems, attracting more cars onto the road and increasing pollution as a result. PHOTO: AFP

LONDON — Ride-hailing pioneer Uber, rather than being part of the solution to urban transport may be adding to related problems, especially pollution from diesel cars, a study showed Thursday.

Transport & Environment, which groups NGOs in Europe to promote sustainable transport solutions, said Uber revolutionised the once heavily regulated taxi sector, attracting thousands of new Private Hire Vehicle (PHV) drivers.

But this “stellar increase in Uber drivers has not been offset by a similar reduction in taxi licences... and Uber’s appearance did not accelerate the reduction

of car trips in London and Paris.”

Instead, “the convenience of door-to-door, app-based trip booking makes travelling by (hired) cars in cities more and more popular, risking a reversal of a 15 year trend of reducing car trips in cities,” the Brussels-based TE said in a summary of the study’s findings.

By the same token, “the uptake of ride-hailing services across EU cities also poses a risk to the fight against pollution and climate changing emissions.”

Uber operations in London, Paris and Brussels likely pump out 525,000 tons of CO₂ a year, equivalent to the emissions from 250,000 cars “which runs counter

to the cities’ ambitions to reduce their climate footprint.”

These vehicles are mostly diesel, it said, noting that “only in London, where it is mandatory, is Uber making an effort to shift to cleaner, electric-powered vehicles.”

Uber is currently unprofitable but valued at around \$49 billion on the markets as investors buy into its vision of a transport provider in a new world of electric vehicles and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

“If Uber continues its current business practice of adding more combustion engine cars and fossil-powered kilometres in our cities, it is an obstacle to the transition to green and sustainable cities in Europe,” TE said.

But Uber could also “do the right thing,” as promised in its share offer, and “stop adding fossil-fuelled cars to city roads and to rapidly electrify its existing fleet.” In response Uber said it was committed to moving away from privately owned cars “towards a shared, electric future.”

“To do so, we are actively working with cities across Europe to improve access to clean, safe and affordable modes of transportation.”—AFP ■

US-born panda Bei Bei arrives in new China home

CHENGDU — The US-born giant panda Bei Bei has arrived in southwestern China after a 16-hour flight, with plenty of bamboo for him to munch on as he settled into his new home.

The four-year-old cub, whose name means “precious, treasure” in Mandarin, appeared to be contentedly eating and ambling around his new cage at a research centre in Sichuan province, according to images broadcast Thursday by state broadcaster CGTN.

Bei Bei travelled aboard a specially outfitted Boeing 777F cargo plane called the “Panda Express” — paid for by FedEx — accompanied by his keeper from the National Zoo in Washington

and more than 70 pounds of bamboo and other treats.

China lends pandas to zoos around the world — a programme dubbed “panda diplomacy”.

Once young pandas reach the age of four, they are repatriated to breed with other pandas at sanctuaries in China. The animals are considered “vulnerable” to extinction by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Bei Bei was welcomed “home” on Thursday with a ceremony at the Bifengxia Panda Base in Sichuan, local media reported. Fans had lined up at the National Zoo — the only home Bei Bei had ever known before his return to China — to bid the cub farewell ahead of his departure.—AFP ■



US-born giant panda Bei Bei returned to China on a special cargo plane dubbed the ‘Panda Express’. PHOTO: AFP

Online fundraiser for bushfire-hit koalas tops Aus\$1 mn

SYDNEY — An online fundraiser for koalas injured in devastating bushfires topped Aus\$1 million (\$680,000) on Thursday, making it Australia’s biggest campaign on the GoFundMe platform this year.

Deadly bushfires have ravaged vast swathes of eastern Australia, and wildlife carers estimate the blazes have killed hundreds of koalas this month in New South Wales state alone.

A crowdfunding page set up by the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital to provide automatic water drinking stations for wild koalas soared past Aus\$1 million, with donations from more than 20,000 people from countries including the United States, France and England. The wildlife charity’s “Help Thirsty Koalas Devastated by Recent Fires” drive, which had an initial goal of just Aus\$25,000, got more donations than any

other campaign in Australia this year, GoFundMe said, and is the second-biggest since the platform launched Down Under in 2016.

It is one of 700 bushfire-related fundraisers launched on the platform in the past 10 days, which to date have raised a combined total of Aus\$2 million.

The next-biggest has raised Aus\$60,000 to support firefighters and people impacted by the blazes, which have killed six people, razed hundreds of homes and scorched about 1.5 million hectares (3.7 million acres) of land since October. The koala hospital, some four hours north of Sydney, has rescued 31 koalas from the scorched bush in recent weeks, and said it had been “overwhelmed by the kindness, good wishes and support from the Australian and international community”.—AFP ■

China ‘medicine’ demand threatens world donkey population: report

LONDON — China’s demand for donkey skins to make a traditional medicine could wipe out more than half the world’s donkey population in the next five years, researchers said Thursday.

Nearly five million skins are used every year to make ejiao, a gel believed in China to be a remedy for troubles ranging from colds to ageing, putting enormous strain on donkey populations

around the world, Britain-based animal welfare group Donkey Sanctuary said in a report.

Ejiao was once the preserve of emperors but is now highly sought after by a burgeoning middle class, with production growing 20 per cent each year between 2013 and 2016, Donkey Sanctuary said. China’s domestic donkey population has collapsed by 76 per cent since 1992, and

the country imports most of the donkey skins it uses, mainly from traders in South America, Africa and Asia. There are currently around 45.8 million donkeys in the world, Donkey Sanctuary said.

The donkey skin trade has resulted in “suffering on an enormous and unacceptable scale”, the group’s chief executive Mike Baker said in a statement.

Researchers documented instances of unhygienic and inhumane processing conditions, including donkeys being crudely bludgeoned on the head at one slaughterhouse in Tanzania while still conscious and restrained.

At a holding facility in Brazil, malnourished animals were being kept in the same pens as “hundreds of donkey carcasses” that had contaminated the only available water source, “putting remaining donkeys at risk of either infectious disease or severe dehydration”.—AFP ■



More than half the world’s donkey population could be wiped out in five years due to demand in Chinese medicine for skins to make ejiao, charity Donkey Sanctuary has warned (file picture). PHOTO: AFP

British Airways says flights hit by glitch

LONDON — British Airways flights were facing delays in and out of London's Heathrow and Gatwick airports on Thursday after a technical glitch overnight, the airline said.

"Our teams are working hard to resolve a technical issue which is affecting some of our flights," said a spokeswoman for BA, owned by airlines group IAG.

"We have rebooked customers on to alternative flights and offered hotel accommodation where they have been unable to continue their journeys last night.

"We are very sorry for the disruption to their travel plans.

We plan to operate a full flight schedule today," she added.

BA warned that there would be knock-on delays — but declined to comment on the nature of the problem nor the number of flights affected.

"This is the latest in a long line of British Airways technical glitches causing delays and cancellations," said Rory Boland, editor of consumer magazine Which? Travel.

"Yet again it's thousands of passengers who are paying the price — left tired, frustrated and with a lack of information and assistance from the airline."



BA suffered a computer glitch in 2016 that severely affected its global check-in system. PHOTO: AFP

BA suffered a computer glitch in 2016 that severely affected its global check-in system.

Meanwhile only two months ago, the airline was forced to ground its entire UK fleet for two

days when pilots went on strike in a bitter and long-running pay dispute.—AFP ■

Workers of Samsung unite, new union tells chipmaker staff

SEOUL — Under the watchful gaze of Samsung Electronics security personnel, health and safety staffer Ko Jee-hun stood outside his semiconductor plant, handing out leaflets touting the benefits of joining a trade union.

For almost 50 years the firm avoided unionisation of its employees — sometimes adopting ferocious tactics according to critics — while rising to become the world's largest smartphone and semiconductor manufacturer.

It is the flagship subsidiary of the giant Samsung Group, by far the biggest of the family-controlled conglomerates, known as "chaebol", that dominate the world's 11th-largest economy.

But last week local author-

ity officials in Suwon, where the chipmaker is headquartered, certified the National Samsung Electronics Union.

It is affiliated to the powerful Federation of Korean Trade Unions umbrella group (FKTU), and analysts say the move could spell trouble down the line for the firm.

Ko is the union's deputy general secretary. "What's at stake here is more than wages," he said as he mounted a recruitment drive this week.

"We demand communication and to have our voices heard. Because we are not just components."

The leaflets he handed out showed a series of cartoon characters complaining about issues

from holidays and lunch breaks to forced early retirement and unexplained bonus reductions.

"The real union has arrived," it proclaimed, with a link and QR codes for employees to sign up.

The security guards would not let him stand directly outside the factory gate in Hwaseong, about 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of Seoul, forcing him to take up a position at the next intersection — but almost all passers-by took a copy.

"The fight has just only begun," Ko told AFP.

Ahead of its formal establishment the union registered 400 expressions of interest from Samsung Electronics employees, the FKTU says.—AFP ■



Beekeepers at work producing 'Yemen's gold' in Hajjah province. PHOTO: AFP

Tough times for Yemen honey trade as war drags on

SANAA — Mohammed Manea has tended honey bees northeast of Sanaa for years, but despairs that the production of "Yemen's gold" is under threat as the war engulfing the country drags on.

The conflict has blighted millions of lives and brought the economy to the brink of collapse. Cottage industries such as beekeeping, coffee growing and artisan manufacturing have been hit particularly hard.

Beekeepers say clashes between the Saudi-supported government and Iran-backed rebels, alongside a humanitarian crisis that the United Nations has called the world's worst, have throttled their livelihoods.

"When we recently arrived in this part of Hajjah province on the front line between the aggressors (the Saudi-led coalition) and the Huthis, the trucks were hit by an air strike," Manea told AFP.

"One was carrying the honey, and the other was carrying the bees," he added as he used his

bare hands to remove a honeycomb frame crawling with bees from a hive in the rural region of Aslam. Yemen is renowned for its Sidr honey, named after the tree from which the nectar is gathered. The honey is referred to informally as "Middle Eastern manuka", a bow to its famed market rival from New Zealand.

'Production has dropped'

Sidr honey is said to have medicinal properties and is a bestseller in the souks and bazaars of the Gulf where it retails at a premium.

It is also a natural product that is traditionally recommended to new mothers to augment breast milk production.

Manea's fellow beekeeper, Ali Kabsh, agreed that the business was suffering badly.

"Honey production has dropped," he said pointing to the challenges of exporting during wartime and the logistical difficulties of keeping bees.—AFP ■



Samsung Group is by far the biggest of the family-controlled conglomerates in South Korea. PHOTO: AFP

Saudi king says to use revenues of Aramco's IPO to boost investment

RIYADH — Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud said on Wednesday that the revenues of the Saudi Aramco's initial public offering will be channelled to Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund to boost investment inside and outside the kingdom, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

King Salman made the announcement in his speech during a Shura Council opening session, where he said Aramco's IPO would greatly enhance the size of the Saudi financial market in line with advanced international markets.

He also said Saudi Arabia is determined to carry on with its reform programs to raise its competitiveness to become one of the 10 most business-friendly countries in



Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (c, Front) attends the 7th session of the Shura Council in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 20 November, 2019. PHOTO: XINHUA

the world.

The Saudi king referred to opening of the tourism sector and issuing tourist visas as part of the steps to attract and diversify investments in the sector.

"It provides great job

opportunities and a cultural bridge to connect with the world to share our rich heritage and civilizational landmarks," he said.

On Saudi Arabia's host of the G20 summit in 2020, King Salman said it is another evidence of the

pivotal role of the kingdom in the global economy.

"We hope that the ambitious program ... will contribute to the enhancement of the kingdom's march to serve the interests of all countries," he said. — Xinhua ■

Investors win big in French lottery operator's IPO

PARIS — Investors cheered a strong market debut Thursday for shares in France's state-owned lottery monopoly, an IPO the government hopes will create support for further privatisations and bolster President Emmanuel Macron's ambitious economic reforms.

The government reaped around 2.1 billion euros (\$2.3 billion) from selling a 52-per cent stake in the Francaise des Jeux (FDJ), whose scratchcards and lotteries are played by millions.

Around a third of the shares was reserved for some 500,000 individual investors, who snapped up a chance to own part of a company that will maintain its lottery monopoly for the next 25 years.

The vast majority of French savings is parked in ultra-safe but low-in-

terest savings accounts, reflecting deep suspicion of "speculative" markets which only hardened in the wake of the 2007-08 financial crisis.

But the demand for FDJ shares was buoyant, prompting the government to set the IPO price at 19.90 euros, the high end of the indicative range.

By 11:30 am (1030 GMT) the shares were up 16.7 per cent at 22.75 euros, even as the broader market slumped, with the CAC 40 index down 0.2 per cent.

Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire, who rang the opening bell at the Paris Stock Exchange to mark the occasion, hailed "an immense" success.

The strong trading debut "signals a reconciliation of the French with the economy and the markets" after the 2008 crisis, he said.—AFP ■

India offers ailing telecom firms two-year moratorium on payments

NEW DELHI — India has granted the country's beleaguered telecom giants a moratorium on spectrum payments until the end of March 2022, offering much-needed respite after the Supreme Court slapped a massive \$13-billion bill on the companies.

Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel bore the brunt of last month's court ruling ordering firms to pay a combined 920 billion rupees in past spectrum and licensing fees.

The judgement saw Vodafone Idea record the biggest quarterly loss in Indian corporate history last week after it factored in the \$4 billion levy.

But New Delhi offered a measure of relief to the struggling sector late Wednesday, with the cabinet approving a moratorium on spectrum payments for the next two financial years.

"Deferment of spectrum auction instalments will ease the cash outflow

of the stressed (telecom providers) and facilitate payment of statutory liabilities and interest on bank loans," the cabinet said in a press release.

Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel, which was hit with a \$3-billion bill, have warned that the ruling will exacerbate the telecom sector's financial woes.

The announcement didn't appear to do much to help the share price of either firm, with Bharti Airtel down two percent

and Vodafone Idea losing four percent on Thursday morning in Mumbai.

In addition to seeking the deferral of payments, the British parent company Vodafone had also asked for a reduction in licensing fees.

Vodafone's chief executive Nick Read said last week that the telecom firm was facing a crisis in India and would not invest any more equity in the country since the South Asian market contributed zero to its global share valuations.

Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel have both struggled since India's richest man Mukesh Ambani launched Reliance Jio in 2016. The new mobile operator has offered dirt-cheap internet and free calls. All three companies have announced plans to raise their charges in the next few weeks in a bid to boost their bottomline and help the sector recover after years of cut-price tariffs.—AFP ■



An Indian man walking past a shop with an advertisement for mobile service provider Airtel and Idea in Mumbai. PHOTO: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (028 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V OCEAN PROBE VOY. NO. (028 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-11-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of 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.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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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.

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

Pope meets Thai Buddhist patriarch on visit promoting harmony

BANGKOK — Pope Francis met with Thailand's supreme Buddhist patriarch on Thursday in a gilded Bangkok temple on the first full day of his Asia tour aimed at promoting religious harmony.

This is the pontiff's first visit to Buddhist-majority Thailand — where just over 0.5 percent of the population are Catholics — before he jets off to Japan on Saturday.

He is pushing a message of inter-faith peace on a four-day visit that will see him lead a mass later Thursday for tens of thousands of faithful from across Southeast Asia.

The 82-year-old head of the Catholic church also delivered impassioned remarks about the plight of vulnerable children and women who he said deserved a "dignified" future. In a highly symbolic meeting

Thursday, he sat down with Thailand's supreme Buddhist patriarch Somdej Phra Maha Muneewong at the Ratchabophit temple in Bangkok's historic old quarter.

"Catholics have enjoyed freedom in religious practice, despite their being in a minority, and for many years have lived in harmony with their Buddhist brothers and sisters," the Pope said in a speech at the meeting. The pair sat before a brilliant gold Buddha statue inside the ornate temple, built 150 years ago by the former Thai King — the supreme patriarch barefoot and draped in orange robes as they spoke.

The Pope reciprocated the gesture, removing his shoes for part of the tete-a-tete.

In an earlier speech, the Pope said the meeting was "a sign of the importance and ur-



Pope Francis meets Thailand's Supreme Buddhist Patriarch at Wat Ratchabophit Monastery in Bangkok. **PHOTO: AFP**

gency of promoting friendship and inter-religious dialogue".

It was the same temple visited by John Paul II on the last papal trip to Thailand in 1984.

This visit coincides with the 350th anniversary of the founding of the "Mission de Siam",

marking the first papal mission from Europe in the 17th century.

Though Christianity's first visitors were initially met with scepticism, today Thailand's nearly 400,000 Catholics face little discrimination.

The head of the world's 1.3

billion Catholics met with Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha at a red-carpet welcome ceremony at the government guest house, before addressing medical staff at Bangkok's St. Louis hospital.

—AFP ■



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (2nd from l). (Photo courtesy of Korean Media). **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

N Korean leader Kim not to attend ASEAN summit in S Korea: KCNA

SEOUL — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has declined an invitation to attend an upcoming summit between South Korean and Southeast Asian leaders to be held in the South, Pyongyang's state-run media said on Thursday.

The Korean Central News Agency said that South Korean President Moon Jae In early this month sent a personal letter to Kim, requesting his participation in the special summit between South Korea and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to be

held in the port city of Busan from Monday. It added that "(Pyongyang) does appreciate hopes and sincerity from the South, but would like to ask for understanding that our Chairman failed to find proper reasons to visit Busan in the end."

Inter-Korean ties have been in a stalemate. The two leaders agreed in their last summit to resume an inter-Korean tour project, but Seoul has been unwilling to defy US-international sanctions against the North. —Kyodo News ■

Philippine police say will arrest anyone flouting vaping ban

MANILA — Philippine police were ordered Wednesday to arrest anyone caught vaping in public, just hours after Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte announced he would ban e-cigarettes.

The abrupt prohibition, revealed by Duterte late Tuesday adds to a growing global backlash against a product once promoted as less harmful than tobacco smoking.

Duterte, a former smoker, called the devices "toxic" and said vaping introduced "chemicals" into the user's body.

He ordered the arrest of anyone vaping publicly in a country that already has some of Asia's toughest anti-smoking rules.

No formal, written order has been made public that spells out the scope of the ban or penalties for violations.

Duterte is notorious internationally for his deadly an-



The president told a late-night press conference that the use and import of electronic cigarettes would be banned. **PHOTO: AFP**

ti-narcotics crackdown, but he has also targeted tobacco with a wide-ranging ban on smoking in public. Citing "the order of the president", on Wednesday a statement from the head of the Philippine police ordered "effective today, all police units nationwide to enforce the ban on use of vapes; ensure that all violators will

be arrested".

The ban came days after Philippine health authorities reported the nation's first vaping-related lung injury, which resulted in a 16-year-old girl being hospitalised. Vaping has taken off in the Philippines, with speciality shops and vapers puffing away in public a common sight. —AFP ■

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Three navy ships held by Russia return to Ukraine port

KIEV — Three navy vessels that Moscow seized last year and handed back to Ukraine have arrived at a Ukrainian port, though Kiev said they were stripped of equipment.

The Nikopol, the Berdyansk and the Yany Kapu were seized in November last year in the Kerch Strait, in the most serious confrontation between Russia and Ukraine since the beginning of the conflict in east Ukraine in 2014. The two gunboats and a tugboat were handed back this week after they were held in evidence following what Moscow says was an illegal breach of the Russian border. The ships were welcomed back on Wednesday evening by the Ukrainian navy and President Volodymyr Zelensky, who reviewed them in the Black Sea navy port in Ochakiv.

“I am very happy that our



The two gunboats and a tugboat were handed back this week after they were held in evidence following what Moscow says was an illegal breach of the Russian border. PHOTO: AFP

navy vessels are back where they belong. As promised, we have brought back our sailors and our ships,” Zelensky said.

“Some of the equipment is

missing, as well as some weapons,” he said. “There will be an investigation. We will see all of the details.” The vessels had to be towed to their destination by other

Ukrainian ships and were greeted from the shore by Ukrainians holding national flags.

The Ukrainian defence ministry said that “the Russians have

dismantled some communication and navigation equipment on board,” and the ships will be examined by Ukrainian investigators and military prosecutors.

This will permit Ukraine to use the information “for judicial review of Russia’s actions in Ukrainian and international courts,” Admiral Igor Voronchenko said in a statement.

Sailors from the three ships were held by Moscow for months before being released in October in a high-profile prisoner swap with Ukraine, a long-awaited measure aimed at easing tensions ahead of a Ukraine peace summit next month. The presidents of Ukraine and Russia, with mediation by their counterparts from Germany and France, will meet in Paris on December 9 aiming to end the conflict in eastern Ukraine. —AFP ■

Georgia jails opposition protesters

TBILISI — A court in Georgia on Thursday jailed 10 opposition demonstrators for terms ranging from four to 13 days for “disobeying police orders” during protests which were dispersed with water cannon.

Tens of thousands of anti-government protesters this week demanded snap polls after the ruling party in parliament failed to enact promised reforms.

The 10 defendants had been arrested Monday at a peaceful protest outside parliament.

Twenty-five more await verdicts later Thursday from the Tbilisi city court.

In a separate case, the court ordered the pre-trial detention of prominent opposition activist Giorgi Rurua, who is a shareholder of the pro-opposition Mtavari TV channel. Rurua has been

charged with “illegal possession of firearms” which he accused police of planting in his car.

He could face up to seven years in prison if convicted.

Georgia’s opposition said the crackdown was an attempt at frightening the protesters by powerful billionaire Bidzina Ivanishvili, the leader of the majority Georgian Dream party accused of orchestrating the crisis.

“With these arrests, Ivanishvili tries to sow fear to stop the protest movement, but he gets an opposite result,” said MP Nika Melia, a leader of Georgia’s main opposition force United National Movement “Popular anger is growing,” she told AFP. Melia is under house arrest over his role in anti-government protests over the summer.

Groups of protesters on

Thursday symbolically locked the entrances to several government buildings with padlocks — including the prime minister’s office while he was leading a cabinet meeting.

The protests gripped Tbilisi after ruling party MPs last week voted down legislation to hold parliamentary elections next year under a new proportional voting system. Ivanishvili pledged to carry out a “large-scale political reform” following a summer of protests that saw 240 people injured in a police crackdown.

In the biggest anti-government protest in years, more than 20,000 demonstrators rallied Sunday outside the parliament building and some protesters who attempted to block building entrances were dispersed on Monday.—AFP ■



Yellow vest marches took place in several cities across France, including Bordeaux. PHOTO: AFP

French police officer faces judge over ‘yellow vest’ violence

PARIS — A French police officer was to appear in court Thursday on charges he hurled a paving stone at protesters during a “yellow vest” rally, the first member of the security forces to face trial after a wave of claims of police violence during the weekly protests.

The court hearing comes just days after the first anniversary of the anti-government rallies, which were again marked by clashes with police and vandalism in Paris last Saturday.

Demonstrators accuse police of using brutal tactics to suppress the movement, in particular the use of heavy rubber bullets that activists say have cost some two dozen people to lose an eye.

The fierce violence that flared during the protests earlier this year shocked many in France

and made headlines worldwide, as rioters ran amok burning cars while facing off against police firing tear gas, stun grenades and water cannon.

Paris prosecutors have signalled 212 cases of alleged police violence to the IGPN police oversight body, of which 18 are being examined by investigating magistrates to decide if there is enough evidence to press charges.

The officer on trial Thursday was captured on video heaving a paving stone toward a crowd during a May Day rally in Paris, a scene which quickly went viral on social media.

The brigadier, a member of France’s elite CRS riot-control police based in the southwestern city of Toulouse, faces charges of “deliberate violence by a person in a position of public authority.”—AFP ■



Tens of thousands of protesters gathered outside parliament on Monday. PHOTO: AFP

Myanmar U-22 football team prepare for 30th SEA Games

THE Myanmar U-22 football team has been taking intensive training for the upcoming men's football tournament of the 30th Southeast Asian Games from 20 November on the artificial turf in Bahan, Yangon.

Myanmar Football Federation president U Zaw Zaw came to the training session on Wednesday and spoke words of encouragement to the team.

Team Myanmar will be led by head coach Velizar Popov for the Games.

The 40-player squad was selected by Velizar Popov last month.

The subcommittee of the men's football competition of the SEA Games has allowed participating teams to use five players who are over 22 years old this year.

Five players who are above 22 have been selected on team Myanmar by the head coach: Hlaing Bo Bo, Kyaw Ko Ko, Aung Thu, Si Thu Aung, and Zaw Min Tun.

Myanmar has been placed in Group A for the 30th SEA Games competition with host Philippines, Malaysia, Cambodia, and Timor Leste.

Myanmar will play the opening match against Malaysia on 25 November, the Philippines on 27 November, Timor Leste on 29 November, and Cambodia on 2 December.

Team Myanmar matches will take place at Rizal Memorial Stadium in Manila, but the team's match against Cambodia will be played at Binan Football Stadium in Binan.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Myanmar U-22 footballers seen training under the supervision of head coach Velizar Popov on the artificial turf of Bahan in Yangon. PHOTO: MFF



Zlatan Ibrahimovic won Serie A titles with both AC Milan and Inter Milan. PHOTO: AFP

AC Milan offer Ibrahimovic six-month deal - reports

MILAN — Sweden star Zlatan Ibrahimovic has been offered a six-month deal to come to the aid of struggling former Italian giants AC Milan, according to reports in Italy on Thursday.

The 38-year-old striker confirmed his departure from Los Angeles Galaxy last week following the club's elimination from the Major League Soccer playoffs.

Gazzetta dello Sport and Sky Sports Italia reported that the former seven-time European champions have now made contact with the player's agent Mino Raiola.

The US-owned club want the former Swedish international for six months and are prepared to pay him six million euros (\$6.6 million) if he remains

for 18 months in total, Gazzetta claimed.

Milan finished fifth last season, missing out on a return to Champions League football by just a point to city rivals Inter.

They have had a poor start to this campaign and are 14th after 12 games before they host last year's runners-up Napoli on Saturday in the San Siro.

Ibrahimovic played for two seasons between 2010 and 2012 with AC Milan, helping them to their last Serie A title, and scoring 42 goals in 61 league appearances.

He also won three league titles with Inter Milan, and two with Juventus, which were both revoked following the 'Calciopoli' match-fixing scandal.—AFP ■

MFF 100 Plus Cup: Yangon, Mon teams reach quarterfinals

THE Yangon Region and Mon State teams have advanced to the quarterfinals of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) 100 Plus Cup Under-14 tournament, which is being held on the MFF artificial turf in Yangon.

The Mon State team beat Yangon Region team 2-1 in yesterday's Group B match, but both teams have qualified for the quarterfinals as they performed well in previous matches.

Two more matches yesterday ended in a draw result.

The Northern Shan State team played to a 2-2 draw match against the Eastern Shan State team. Meanwhile, the match between the Magwe Region and Mandalay Region teams ended in a 1-1 draw.

The remaining group matches will be played today at the same venue. The Rakhine Region team will play against Sagaing Region team and the Taninthayi Region team will face Kayin State team in Group D. The MFF 100 Plus Cup tournament is being held with the aim of grooming talented youth footballers. The competition started on 16 November.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

'Humble' Mourinho not planning on big changes at Spurs

LONDON — Jose Mourinho is not planning on wholesale changes as he tries to turn Tottenham's season around and believes he is humble enough to have learned lessons from his failed spell in charge of Manchester United.

Mourinho replaced Mauricio Pochettino as Spurs boss on Wednesday after the Argentine's five-and-a-year spell ended in the sack with Tottenham 14th in the

Premier League. The Portuguese has won 25 trophies in a storied managerial career at Porto, Chelsea, Inter Milan, Real Madrid and United.

However, his time in charge at Old Trafford ended in the sack 11 months ago having failed to win the league at a club for the first time since he left Portuguese minnows Leiria to join Porto in 2002.

"I am humble enough to try to analyse my career. Not just the last year, my career, the evolution, the problems, the solutions," said Mourinho in his first press conference as Tottenham boss on Thursday. "I was humble enough to do that. The principle of the analysis was not to blame anyone else."

Pochettino was let go less than six months after reaching

the club's first ever Champions League final, but results domestically have been on the slide for nearly a year.

The Argentine had been keen for a bigger turnover of his squad in recent seasons to prevent his time in charge from growing stale. However, Mourinho insisted he will not demand millions to spend in the transfer market.—AFP ■