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President U Htin Kyaw (L), is welcomed by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the prime minister's office in Tokyo yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

President U Htin Kyaw, Japanese PM hold talks

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw and Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe held a meeting yesterday in Tokyo, with Japan's support for the efforts of the Myanmar government and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu

Kyi's plans for improvement of Maungtau in Rakhine State discussed.

Before the meeting, President U Htin Kyaw received a ceremonial welcome at the Prime Minister's Office in Tokyo. At the

meeting, the Japanese government affirmed its fresh support of 800 billion yen for Myanmar's infrastructure development.

"With 800 billion yen supported by Japanese government, Myanmar would promote

the development of Yangon, basic infrastructure, transport and electricity sector in the city," said President U Htin Kyaw at the press conference held following the meeting.

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Myanmar soon to be prepared for quakes

A ceremony to introduce the National Level Preparedness and Response to Earthquake Project was held yesterday morning at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Dr. Win Myat Aye delivered an opening

speech, saying that the effect of climate change is seen increasing every day. Myanmar was faced with natural disasters in 2015 and 2016, and incurred much damage and losses. In addition to threats from natural disasters due to its geographical location, the danger of earthquakes and tsunamis should not be forgotten. Myanmar is located on the Alpine fault line, which runs from the extreme northern portion of the country to the Bay of Moattama in the south. Most of the country's regions sit along the earthquake fault lines and, according to seismologists and geologists,

People living in the coastal area of Myanmar also need to be aware of the danger of tsunamis, which could occur, along with an earthquake.

speech, saying that the effect of climate change is seen increasing every day. Myanmar was faced with natural disasters in 2015 and 2016, and incurred much damage and losses. In addition to threats from natural disasters due to its geographical location, the danger of earthquakes and tsunamis should not be forgotten. Myanmar is located on the Alpine fault line, which runs from the extreme northern portion of the country to the Bay of Moattama in the south. Most of the country's regions sit along the earthquake fault lines and, according to seismologists and geologists,

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Vice President U Myint Swe delivers speech at successful completion of nationwide census

VICE President U Myint Swe delivered a speech at a ceremony to mark the completion of the nationwide population and household census, which was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 (MICC-2) yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, Vice President U Myint Swe said the 2014 census was taken after 30 years had passed, and started with a signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Myanmar government and United Nations in 2012.

As expected, the taking of the census faced challenges and unavoidable difficulties. Census work requires much investment in both time and money, and many government departments need to work together at all stages.

More than 120,000 teachers participated, as the government coordinated with relevant departments and persons throughout the country, resulting in the successful completion of the census.

In the 2014 census, many internationally recognized statisticians, population experts and social scientists provided suggestions, which is in accord with international standards. Their

help was very much appreciated, said the Vice President.

In conducting the nation's development work, especially in the socio-economic sector, political reform, establishing democracy and peace processes, census data are very useful. It has been 30 years since the country's projects were conducted, with only an estimated population. The longer the estimates were used, the less accurate were the numbers. Those inaccuracies were corrected in the 2014 census. The census is the leading important work process of all the other national level works. The experience from the census greatly supported the general election and peace process. Particularly, the voices of small ethnic nationals were heard and trust was constructed.

Based on the 2014 census data, union level reports, 15 states and regions level reports, 13 detailed analysis research reports, census result map results, and town and township reports totaling more than 400 reports were made and all reports were posted online.

The 2014 census was a valuable investment for Myanmar and international organisations,



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the ceremony to mark the completion of the nationwide population and household census yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

as well as supporting the establishment of a democratic system and increasing the capacity of organisations and individuals for progress in the development process. As exact and correct data were made available in a timely manner, information obtained from daily work is urged to be used for the best benefits.

The government will continue to work toward publishing the remaining data from ethnicity lists in the census. Furthermore,

as per the suggestion of the United Nations, preparations are being made to conduct the census once every ten years.

Special thanks to United Nations Population Fund for helping in the smooth completion of the census work. Also, thanks on behalf of the nation to donor countries Australia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Britain.

The Vice President then announced the successful com-

pletion of the population and household census work, and proclaimed the availability of reports simultaneously to data users country-wide and throughout the world.

Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe explained about the "Policy Brief" obtained from census data, followed by remarks from United Nations Resident Coordinator Mr. Knut Ostby.

Afterwards the usefulness of census data was discussed by Ministry of Planning and Finance Permanent Secretary U Tun Tun Naing and Dr. Zaw Moe Aung of the Leprosy Mission Myanmar. Discussions on the census works process was then continued, and will be conducted until 15 December.

The ceremony was attended by Constitutional Tribunal of Myanmar Chairperson U Myo Nyunt, Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein, Union Ministers, Pyithu Hluttaw Affairs Committee chairmen, Deputy Ministers, diplomats, representatives from UN and international organisations, representatives of donor countries, officials and invited guests. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Singapore delivers humanitarian aid to Rakhine State people

A ceremony to distribute humanitarian aid from Singapore to the Rakhine State People through the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) was held yesterday noon at the meeting hall of the office of the Yangon Region head, Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) in Kyaikwine Pagoda Road, Mayangone Township, Yangon.

At the ceremony, Indonesia-based AHA Centre Executive Director Adelina Kamal and Singapore Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr. Robert Chua, discussed the aid donation.

The Singapore Ambassador transferred the humanitarian aid donated by Singapore. Relief and Resettlement Department Director-General Dr. Ko Ko Naing accepted the donation and presented a document of honor

to the Ambassador.

With regards to the donation of aid, Singapore Ambassador to Myanmar Robert Chua said, "The items donated today are kitchen wares for the people in Rakhine State. The Singapore government is working together with the Myanmar government as a good neighbor, as well as a fellow country in the region. I pray for the quick implementation of reconstruction and peace sectors, too. (Singapore) will cooperate in Rakhine State reconstruction works. The Singapore government is ready to cooperate with Myanmar in whatever is needed."

The day's donation is 13 types of kitchen wares in 3,800 cartons, worth Singapore dollar 100,000, and RRD will provide the aid to displaced people in Rakhine State who are facing difficulties.



Singaporean Ambassador Mr. Robert Chua hands over humanitarian aid to Relief and Resettlement Department Director-General Dr. Ko Ko Naing. **PHOTO: MNA**

"The aid donated today will be sent immediately to Rakhine State. Once it is there, relevant organisations, including the Rakhine State government, will deliver it to local people who are in

need. Where the earlier donations were being delivered was also being told to the respective donors. The current donations will be sent directly to the people as soon as possible," said

RRD Director General Dr. Ko Ko Naing.

The ceremony was attended by RRD officials, Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials, Ambassadors from ASEAN countries in Myanmar, diplomats and invited guests.

Similar humanitarian assistance for local people facing difficulties in Rakhine State was being provided. On 24 November, India donated India Rupee 4 million in household goods and food. On 21 September, Indonesia donated US\$ 286,049 worth of goods, medicines, food and temporary tents. On 14 October, the AHA Centre donated some US\$ 450,000 worth of kitchen wares, personal hygiene products, tents, power distribution equipment, two generators and related items. China had also made cash donations. —Zaw Gyi ■

President U Htin Kyaw reaffirms Myanmar's commitment to Universal Health Coverage

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw said yesterday that Myanmar is committed to achieving Universal Health Coverage by 2030, expressing his hope that every Myanmar citizen, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity or socio-economic situation, will be able to receive quality healthcare without financial hardship.

The President made his remarks in his opening speech at the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Forum in Tokyo yesterday morning together with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres, and Senegalese President Macky Sall.

"Since our democratically-elected government took office on 30 March 2016, we have been exerting all-out efforts to fulfill the desires of our people for democracy, peace and national reconciliation. Peace and security are essential elements to carry out health care activities efficiently under the overall framework of UHC", U Htin Kyaw said. "To provide better quality health services to our people is the top priority of our government's development agenda".

Underlying the critical role of health sector in our nation-building efforts, key



President U Htin Kyaw delivers the speech at the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Forum in Tokyo yesterday Tokyo, Japan. **PHOTO: MNA**

stakeholders including the government, ethnic nationalities, civil society, private sector, and development partners, jointly formulated the National Health Plan (2017-2021) with an overall aim of achieving the UHC by 2030, he added.

"Given our financial and technical constraints, we have

identified key strategic areas to focus on our first steps towards the UHC, namely: defining the content and delivering an essential package of health services; developing a national health financing strategy; and strengthening functions of the health system to be able to provide quality services," said the

President.

President U Htin Kyaw also urged like-minded partners from within and outside of Myanmar to cooperate closely to overcome the challenges the country is facing.

"Myanmar, being an emerging democratic and developing country, is facing a variety of

challenges from all aspects such as political, economic and social. We consider the challenges as opportunities," said U Htin Kyaw.

"Everyone has a role to play in overcoming the challenges and achieving UHC in Myanmar, and therefore, people will need to be educated with knowledge of primary health literacy and also empowered to lead a healthy lifestyle", he added.

The President said Myanmar's progress so far could not have been achieved without the help of Japan.

"The Government of Myanmar thanks the Government of Japan for their contribution on our way towards UHC. The Government of Japan's continuous support to the Myanmar health sector has dated back to the seventies. With the support of the Government of Japan, officials from Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports have had the privilege of accessing state-of-the-art knowledge in many Japanese institutions.— Myanmar News Agency ■

(The full text of the President's speech is available at www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com)

State Counsellor receives UNSG's representative

State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Ms. Pramila Patten, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 3:00 pm on 14 December 2017.

During the meeting, they discussed matters pertaining to the possible technical assistance and cooperation extended by the United Nations to Myanmar in promoting and protecting of women rights.— Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Ms. Pramila Patten, UNSG's representative, in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

President U Htin Kyaw, Japanese PM...

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The two leaders also discussed promoting bilateral economic cooperation and matters related with Japan's assistance in development of economy and human resources of Myanmar and in peace making process. President U Htin Kyaw expressed his thanks to Japanese government for its assistance in Myanmar's socio-economic development and for its important role in the democratic transition in Myanmar.

Hailing Mr. Abe's announcement, President U Htin Kyaw said, "Japan is an important friendly country in the history of Myanmar's democratization."

Prime Minister Mr. Abe reaffirmed Japan's stance to support Myanmar's democratic transition, reforms and peace process.

Mr. Abe vowed to cooperate in building infrastructure in the state such as constructing roads and schools and electrification financed by Japanese loans and grant aid which Tokyo already announced it would provide to Myanmar.—MNA ■

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Third day of 2017 Mid-Year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium

THE third day of the 2017 Mid-Year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium continued yesterday morning at Mani Yandana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

Local and foreign gem merchants viewed the Myanmar raw uncut jade and gems displayed inside and outside Mani Yandana Jade Hall, and submitted their tenders.

During the 2017 Mid-Year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium, 190 gem lots will be sold under an open tender system on 15 December. The schedule for the sales of lots includes 16 December jade lot no. 1 to 1150, on 17 December jade lot no. 1151 to 2300, on 18 December jade lot no. 2301 to 3450, on 19 December jade lot no. 3451 to 4600, on 20



Merchants appraise a jade stone at the 2017 Mid-Year Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium. PHOTO: MNA

December jade lot no. 4601 to 5750 and on 20 December jade lot no. 5751 to 6685 will be sold under an open tender system.

"The jade lots displayed are uncut and can be made

into jade ornaments. The prices with which the merchants buy these jade lots could not be the same. The jade lots are bought according to the price expected to be fetched when

it is sold as finished jade products. That is why it is best to use an open tender system", said U Than Zaw Oo, Deputy Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise. —Myanmar News Agency

Rubber latex training to prevent shortage of skilled labours

WITH an increase in rubber production in Kayin state, the Kawkaeik District Agriculture Department has conducted training in producing rubber latex, to prevent a scarcity of skilled labourers.

The opening ceremony for the three-day rubber latex training was held at a rubber plantation in Mya Padine village, Kawkaeik Town, on 13

December.

"Kayin State is a farming state. It has a favorable climate and environment for growing crops, especially rice, rubber and other edible oil crops. Last year, rubber plantations produced 722 pound per acre. To be able to produce more rubber, our department is providing the technical assistance to grow good-quality rubber in suitable

weather conditions, to latex rubber systematically and to produce Ribbed Smoked Sheet (RSS) rubbers," said Daw Naw Thu Lay Htee, the head of the Kawkaeik District Agriculture Department.

At the opening ceremony for the training, U Thin Maung Win, the administrator of Kawkaeik District, delivered the opening speech. Following this,

Daw Naw Thu Lay Htee, the head of the Department, and U Win Zaw, an agricultural expert, explained the techniques used in rubber plantation.

Kawkaeik District has 152,604 acres of rubber plantations. The training is being provided to the rubber plantation owners and labourers, in a bid to systematically produce rubber latex.—Nay Myo Lwin

Chemical-free black sesame seeds passed quality examination to sell in Japan market

BLACK sesame seeds grown using Good Agricultural Practices in Magway Region this year passed the quality examination at a laboratory in Thailand and have been placed on the Japanese market, according to the Minbu Township Agriculture Department.

A project for food security using innovative practices is being carried out by the Magway Region Agriculture Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in

cooperation with the Network Activities Group (NAG). This project covers 50 villages in Minhla, Minbu, Magway and Natmawk townships. A total of 865 farmers from those villages participated in the projects by planting 3,094 acres of black sesame seeds to yield quality sesame seeds that are free from chemical residue.

NAG is an agency of the Food Security Working Group that is financially supported by the European Commission.

Upon passing the quality requirements for of sesame, more than 4,000 baskets of sesame seeds were exported to Japan.

Black sesame seeds are harvested in line with GAP, are then dried hanging down from the roof.

Green grams are also planned to be cultivated under GAP, and 600 acres are slated for this project in Yetwinkon, Chaungphyu, Mhanhtaung, Theekon and Kyunbya villag-

es in Minbu Township. The Agriculture Department will make efforts to export green grams produced from those project farms to European Union countries in cooperation with NGOs and farmers, said an official from the Agriculture Department.

About 73 per cent of agriculture land in Magway Region is used for crop cultivation. Twenty nine per cent of planted areas are set aside for edible oil crops.—Phoe Pyae (Minbu) ■

Domestic gasoline consumption rises by six fold in past five years

GASOLINE consumption increased by six fold, compared to the past five years, said Dr Win Myint, the secretary of the Myanmar Fuel Oil Importers and Distributors Association.

In the past five years, about 200,000 gallons of gasoline were distributed daily. At present, consumer demand has reached some 1 to 1.2 million gallons per day. Diesel consumption this year slightly declined, compared to last year, said Dr. Win Myint.

Ninety per cent of fuel oil consumption depends on the import market, whereas the remaining fuel comes from local production. Fuel oil is primarily imported through Singapore, and it also flows from Malaysia. Fuel oil imports are approxi-

mately 200,000-400,000 tons per month.

“Our fuel oil market is competitive, as it is not in the hands of only two or three companies. The government even gave a nod to foreign investors to control the fuel oil price”, said Dr. Win Myint.

Only low sulphur fuel oil is imported, and distributors sell high quality fuel oil. However, unscrupulous businessmen reportedly mix imported fuel oil with locally produced oil and sell it at bargain prices, he continued.

There are about 70 fuel oil import companies and over 2,000 fuel stations throughout the country. Myanmar fuel transactions are based on prices and quality standards set in Singapore.—Min Thit (MNA) ■



PHOTO: REUTERS

US dollar exchange rate rising on demand from traders

THE US dollar-to-Kyat interbank exchange rate is on the rise, due to high demand from importers and exporters during the open season, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Also, petrol importers are reportedly buying dollars. The US FX rate has been hovering around Ks1,358-9 in recent days. On 14th December, the dollar

selling price was Ks1,359, while the buying price was Ks1,357, according to money exchange counters.

The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) set the exchange rate at Ks1,365 per dollar.

Kyat depreciation results in high prices for imports, such as consumer products and raw industrial goods.—Htet Myat ■



Workers load sacks of rice to a truck in Yangon. PHOTO: GNLM/ PHOE KHWAR

Rice exports this FY exceed target

By May Thet Hnin

RICE export in this current fiscal year exceeded its target of 2 million tons, which had an estimated export value of US\$600 million, according to U Ye Min Aung, general secretary of the Myanmar Rice Federation.

“Myanmar exported over 2 million tons of rice to foreign buyers, so far. Rice exports are likely to hit about 2.5 million tons, as of the end of March, 2018. It is a milestone in Myanmar’s rice market history”, he said.

Officials report that 60 per cent of rice exports went to China’s market, along with 44 countries in Africa, Asia and

Europe.

Myanmar has already signed to export 300,000 tons of rice to Bangladesh under the Government to Government system. The government has also been negotiating with China and Sri Lanka to have rice exports conducted under the G-to-G system.

“Rice plays a vital role for Myanmar, in a bid to pursue export-led growth strategies”, said U Ye Min Aung.

The demand for rice from China is high this year, as well as in countries from Africa and Bangladesh. Rice is much in demand in the market, added U Than Oo, the secretary of Bayintnaung commodity depot.

With foreign demand increasing, 100-baskets of rice this year earned more than Ks500,000, which is up from last year’s price of Ks400,000, said farmers.

“At the new harvest time, 100-baskets of rice was offered at Ks55,000, allowing farmers to increase their earnings”, said U Soe Tint, a farmer from Taikkyi Township.

Rice production this year has not suffered from floods, unlike in previous years. At least 70 to 90 baskets are harvested per acre.

MRF is planning to increase its target to more than 2 million in the following fiscal year. ■

Rice exports through border gates in November double against October

RICE export travelling through border gates in November saw an increase of 106,981 tons, compared to that of October, according to news from the Commerce Ministry released yesterday.

Some 216,252 tons of rice, with an estimated value of US\$596 million, was exported through border land crossings,

whereas October witnessed over 109,270 tons of rice exported via border gates. Similarly, broken rice exports in November increased against October, with an export volume of 8,278 tons worth US\$2.5 million.

Nevertheless, sea trade in November showed a decline of 58,807 tons against October. More than 39,280 tons of rice,

worth \$13.9 million, were exported to foreign trade partners, while 98,090 tons of rice were exported in October. Broken rice exports in November were down by 4,265, compared to October’s export volume. Last year, there were only 29 foreign rice buyer countries. Myanmar’s rice, however, is now shipped to 44 countries.—Ko Htet ■

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Rice fields are being harvested by Myanmar Rice Federation in Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung.

MRF provides rice harvesters, dryers to Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung

By Min Thit (MNA)
PHOTO: YE LIN AUNG

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) and Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation (MAPCO) are providing rice harvesters and dryers to Maungtaw and Yathedaung townships in the Maungtaw region of Rakhine State, where many rice paddies were abandoned or unable to operate due to labour shortages after the terrorist attacks in August.

With the help of the government and professional organisations, about 1,500 acres of rice has been harvested using machinery, it is learnt.

“The Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) had formed nine work groups. The agriculture and livestock group is one of the nine work groups. The MRF conducts agriculture-related matters.

There are ownerless rice fields in Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung as well as rice fields with ethnic national owners who are unable to harvest the rice. Both of these rice fields were being harvested by (machine) harvesters” said MRF secretary U Ye Min Aung.

The MRF and MAPCO are using eight harvesters in Oo Daung, Aung Mingala, Ngwe Taung, Aung Zayya, Phawutchung and Mawyawaddy villages in Maungtaw Township and 14 harvesters in Zedipyin, Gwasone, Auk Kyaung Taung, Thane Taung, Thamihla, Kyunpaw,

Kalachaung and Htway Laung Tin villages in Yathedaung Township.

In order to prevent wastage of harvested rice, a rice dryer has been set up in Buthidaung Town. Two rice dryers, one in Alethanyaw Village and another in Kyeinchaung village, were set up in Maungtaw Township.

“There are 30 acres of rice fields. Because of the events in this region, farm workers became scarce, but the MRF came to help harvest with harvesters. That was a great help. Per acre output was about 30 baskets. If the government can provide some technical and financial assistance, it will be very helpful to the rice farmers”, said Farmer U Maung Soe Win of Zedipyin Village, Yathedaung Township.

Another farmer agreed that the assistance has been invaluable. “In this region, we usually hire farm workers when it is time to harvest. Lack of farm workers is an every year occurrence. Due to the recent problems, it became worse. We thought we wouldn’t be able to harvest the rice in time. Thankfully, MRF came to harvest” said farmer U Maung Han Soe of Ngwetaung Village, Maungtaw Township.

It was learnt that the MRF and MAPCO are planning to construct two 15-ton rice mills and two 6-ton rice mills in Kyeinchaung, Alethanyaw and Ngakhuya villages of Buthidaung Township and Maungtaw Township.

“Rice mill machineries have already been sent. They

were not installed yet because we are not ready. The construction will be completed during the open season” said U Ye Lin Aung of MAPCO.

Emergency requirements and important requirements of UEHRD were reviewed and resolved by the private sector through combined efforts and construction and basic infrastructure construction work group, agriculture and livestock work group, economic zones development work group, information and public relations work group, job creation and livelihood training work group, health work group, micro-financing work group, crowd-funding work group and travel development work group were formed on 21 October.

“The State Counsellor formed UEHRD. It is non-government. Private business organisations and private business persons will participate in rebuilding Rakhine State. Mainly, Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung regions will be rebuilt. If the project is successful here, private-public (government) partnership will enter into other states and regions. It is with this aim that we started this” said U Ye Min Aung of MRF. The above mentioned work groups are resolving current issues such as resettlement and providing humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State as well as mid-term and long-term works such as establishing businesses, creating job opportunities, increasing trade and investment. ■

The Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
(14 December 2017)

The Establishment of the Advisory Board for the “Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State”

1. The Committee for implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State was officially formed with Notification 75/2017 dated of 12 September 2017 by the Office of the President of Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
2. The above-mentioned notification provides for the formation of an advisory board with the local, regional and international experts, as well as experienced individuals to provide necessary advice for the effective implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State based on the situation on the ground.
3. Accordingly, the Advisory Board for the “Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State” has been established with the following persons;
 - (1) Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai
Chairman, Asia Peace and Reconciliation Council (APRC), Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand
 - (2) Mr. Urban Ahlin
Speaker, Chair of the Riksdag Board
Member of the Swedish Parliament
 - (3) Governor Bill Richardson
Chairman, Richardson Center for Global Engagement
Former Governor of New Mexico and Former United States Secretary of Energy
 - (4) Professor Lord Derzi of Denham
Former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State of Health, Department of Health
Member of Her Majesty’s Most Honourable Privy Council
 - (5) Mr. Roelof Petrus (Roelf) Meyer
Former Minister of Defence
Former Minister of Constitutional Affairs and Communication
Former Minister of Constitutional Development and Provincial Affairs South Africa
 - (6) U Win Mra
Chairman of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
 - (7) U Tun Myat
Former United Nations Assistant Secretary-General
 - (8) U Khin Maung Lay
Member of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
 - (9) U Hla Myint
Former Ambassador and Myanmar Representative to the ASEAN inter-governmental Commission on Human Rights
 - (10) Dr Daw Khin Nyo
Health and Sport Development Committee
Pyithu Hluttaw
4. The Advisory Board for the “Committee for implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State” will undertake its responsibilities in accordance with its Term of Reference (ToR) in order to provide effective advice.
5. Dr Surakiart Sathirathai will assume the position of Chairman of the Advisory Board.



First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin visits Sogetsu Kaikan Flower Arrangement School in Tokyo, Japan. PHOTO: MNA

First Lady attends flower arrangement ceremony in Japan

FIRST Lady Daw Su Su Lwin visited a temple and attended a flower arrangement ceremony yesterday during her trip to Tokyo.

Daw Su Su Lwin paid homage to the Sensoji temple in Asakusa, Tokyo, the city's oldest Buddhist temple, yesterday morning.

The First Lady then visited Sogetsu Kaikan Flower Arrangement School, where she was welcomed by Executive Director Ms. Kiri Teshigahara, Ms. Suisen Takagi and Deputy Secretary Mr. Ryusuke Yoneda.

Daw Su Su Lwin attended a flower arrangement ceremony in the school and viewed the floral creations that were made for the ceremony.

The First Lady then participated in arrangement of the flowers in the ceremony.

After that, the first lady met with Mrs. Akie Abe, the wife of the Japanese Prime Minister, at the Prime Minister's house. Mrs. Akie Abe, together with non-profit organisations (NPOs) that were conducting socio-development works in Myanmar, Supreme Advisor Dr. Hideo Yoshioka of Japan Heart, Terra People Association Chairman Mr. Hroyuki Ohno, Ms. Etsuko Tsunoazki of Seeds Asia and OISCA Chairman Ms. Etsuko Nakano. During the meeting, socio-development works on various sectors of Myanmar where NPOs are working were explained.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar Scout delegation attends 1st Solar Scout Jamboree Festival in Thailand

MYANMAR Scout delegation participated in the 1st Solar Scouts Jamboree festival which marks the birthday of Thailand King's daughter on 11 December in Thailand.

Supervised by National Scout Organization of Thailand the festival was held at Vajiravudh Camp.

At the ceremony, the national flags of Thailand, Myanmar, Pakistan, Viet Nam, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Indonesia and Bhutan were raised, with national anthems of respective countries and the Scout Oaths.

Attended at the ceremony were Mr. Kongnut Phai Boon, in

charge of Scouts Jamboree festival, Thailand scout organizations and over 15,000 youth scouts.

Mr. Kongnut Phai Boon and Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Committee Director Mr. Kongnut Phai Boon also delivered speeches. Mr. Boon also appreciated Myanmar Scout delegation headed by Dr Tin Nyo for having good disciplines, alertness, communications and teamwork.

On 11 December morning, the scout representatives attended the Thailand King's daughter birthday party held at a temple near the Jamboree camp.—Myanmar Scout Association ■

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives NDI Regional Director for Asia

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received the National Democratic Institute (NDI) Regional Director for Asia, Peter M. Manikas, and his party, at the Amyotha Hluttaw guest room in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, matters relating to the Hluttaw development were discussed. The meeting was attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Thar Aung and officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw office.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than welcomes NDI Regional Director for Asia, Peter M. Manikas. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint and the chairperson of the Press Council of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal Mr Kishor Shrestha and party pose for the photo in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister for information hosts dinner for chairperson of Press Council of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal and party

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint hosted a dinner yesterday evening at Tungapuri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw for a delegation led by the chairperson of the Press Council of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal Mr Kishor Shrestha, who arrived in Myanmar at the invitation of the Myanmar Media Council.

Officials of the Ministry

of Information, Myanmar Press Council Vice-Chairman U Aung Hla Tun and invited guests, Ambassador of Nepal to Myanmar Mr. Bhim K Udas, and other officials attended the dinner.

The Press Council of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal will be studying the works of the Myanmar news media.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Water for development

WATER is the most essential element for life on Earth. Without water, we cannot survive. Many of the products that we use every day contain it or are manufactured using it. Only three per cent of the world's water supply is fresh water, and 77 per cent of that is frozen. Of the 23 per cent that is not frozen, only a half per cent is available to supply every plant, animal and person on Earth with all the water they need to survive.

The third Asia-Pacific Water Summit was held in Yangon the other day with an opening speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. In her speech, the State Counsellor said that water demand in Myanmar's cities has increased as populations and urbanization increased, whereas water demand in rural areas has also increased due to expanding cultivation and other rural-based economic activities, adding food security is based on water and the availability of energy. The State Counsellor also focused on the smooth functioning of our hydrological cycle, the water-energy-food-ecosystem nexus, which has been discussed at various forums in the country.

It is our firm belief that water is a fundamental requirement of all human beings, and nothing can be meaningful for a person without it. Water is essential to improve overall well-being of families and communities, and to achieve economic growth and prosperity that are both inclusive and sustainable. With this, we should be mindful that without water the country would not prosper as much as it should.

Everyone has a role to play in building a prosperous society which requires water supply and therefore, people need to be inculcated with the knowledge on water security. Now is the most opportune time for the countries in the region to actively participate in the fight against water-related disasters, while striving for meeting water demand in the country and beyond.

At a time when we are embarking on a new chapter in our history that will help us to realize the long-held aspirations of our people, the holding of the Water Summit with the purpose of bringing about development is a sign of virtue. With this in mind, it is necessary for us to put an end to all the differences ranging from internal conflicts to water-related problems through fulfilling water security.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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 works to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real 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 news office

Shape our future after sculpting figures!

By Maung Muditar

I STILL remember events which took places in 2004. Myanmar saw ubiquities here and there across the nation. It was none other than the campaign for taking census.

Taking census

To be exact, the campaign was launched from 30th March 2014 to 10th April, for 12 days. Under the scorching sun in mid-summer, voluntary groups comprising of teachers, IMPE staff, supporting members of wards and village were door-to-door-data-collection making. Following this, other process of taking census were being done continually—releasing pilot population data, releasing main census report, releasing reports and research papers compiled based on facts and figures of the census collected, and other activities.

Concerning taking census

like episodes of a story, I contributed an article titled, "Triumph of Census," in May 2014 when the census taking had already completed. It was written in honour of the Census Taking successfully implemented by the cooperation of the whole populace, which was neglected for over 3 decades.

Demography

After 1983, census taking was not done in Myanmar. For over 30 years, census taking was done only through the method of demography. Census taking covers the whole country, and it cannot be implemented by the government alone. It will take money, time and effort to initiate the census taking. It needs the participation of the whole populace. For these reasons, even in some developed country, census taking is launched once in every 10 years. Whatever it is, each and

every country is to take census.

Objective of taking census

Census taking helps drawing up national development project, laying down policies and millennium project and analysis of performances for the developments, home and abroad. Its main objective is to strictly acquire the accurate amount of labor forces and figures in laying down policies and drawing projects.

The process of taking census in Myanmar was initiated by 4 steps. As the first step, preparation was commenced in 2011, and it ended in March 2014, lasting for 3 years period. Collecting data took only 12 days. It is not so easy to send statistics collected to the headquarter office in Nay Pyi Taw so that any damages and delays cannot be done. As for the Headquarter, census answers to questions sent from

all the regions were kept through the use of Optical Mark Recognition (OMR-machines) provided by UNFPA and partner countries. Staff from IMPD performed their duties around the clock in two shifts—day and night. Professional Group of International Organisation are also supporting assessments and suggestions to Myanmar.

Cooperation to the full

Present census taking process launched after 30 years is completely different from former ones. In the regions such as Wa special region 2, special region 4 Mailla and Kokant regions and ethnic armed groups' regions where previous regimes could not implement taking census. It was attributed to the cooperation of the national brethren.

Union-level authorities themselves went to those areas to know

situations on the ground. Leaders from both sides were televised to have cooperated actively in the campaign.

International acclaim

Concerning the census taking covering the whole nation, members of the international watchdogs acclaimed, putting it on record. They disclosed that Myanmar's performances concerning census taking launched across the world was marked as the one of the crème de la crème. Though being far from census taking for 30 years, Myanmar managed to show its calibre to the world.

Declaration to make the world known to the campaign's success

On 29 May, 2015 the major report of Census, 2014 was officially publicized. The ceremony was attended by the President himself. According to the statistics, Myanmar's population amounted to 51.49 million [to be exact, 51486253]. The most crowded area was Yangon, whereas the least populated area was Kayah State. Myanmar's population density was 76 per one square kilometer, it was learnt.

70 percent of the national populace are living in rural areas, while the increasing rate of population is 0.89 percent per year from 2013 to 2014. As regards inland migration of females was greater than male's one. 60 percent of the foreign going populace belongs to male, mostly in Thailand. Life expectancy is 66.8 years of age. 4.6 percent of the populace had been disabled ones. 86 percent of the populace owns dwelling places. Only 32 percent can use electricity for lighting. 69 percents of households use charcoal and firewood for cooking. 31 percents of households take drinking water from tube wells with 9 percent taking from pipe line and 18.9 percent from brick wells. 74 percents use standard toilets. 14 percents of the populace have no latrines. 50 percent of the house dwellers have TVs. 39 percents have motor cycles with 36 percent using bicycles and only 3.1 percent owning motor vehicles.

Research papers released

Every nation releases statistics of its population once a year. Myanmar releases its population on October 1 every year, based on the data received by demography. On 1st October 2017, there are 53.39 million [to be exact 53387948 in Myanmar. Nearly 2 million peo-

ple increased in these years.

Important process for the nation

2014 census taking was the important process for the nation, and its report on facts and figures was the invaluable jewels. By studying those figures, regional development works can be implemented. Necessities in respective sectors such as education, health and other affairs can be calculated.

List of national ethnic people

All the process of census taking will come to an end in the end of December, 2017. Nearly all of the facts had been released, including research papers. Only one was left. Every person from home and abroad will be itching to know what it is. According to the previous releases, there are 8 major national races, viz, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan with 135 ethnic races. It was valid until the outcome of 2014 census was released. All the matters collected on races were submitted to the National Level and being negotiated among national ethnic organizations. Only after it was approved by the national level, it will be publicized, it was learnt.

Names which did not include in the previous ethnics are now being found, and some may be no longer in existence. Some may be substituted by neo-names. These have been written based on the inquiries and study. Approved statement will be known exactly only after the national level statement is released.

On December 14, the ceremony for successful implementation of 2014 census will be held in MICC—2, Nay Pyi Taw, with 5 major aims—to assess performances of the process of the census, to share experiences of those who cooperated, to express outcomes of the performances concerning census project, to be able to broadly use as for data users and to be able to prepare for the census to be taken in 2024. Vice-President himself will make an address at the ceremony and it will be held till December 15.

Unity is strength

Whatever it is, we must acknowledge the cooperation of departmental staff and volunteers, being a national cause which must be performed for the national interest. It was really successful because of unity of the populace, managing to depict Myanmar's image.

Translated by
Khin Maung Oo

East and South Asia remain the world's most dynamic regions: UN report

An upturn in the global economy — now growing by about 3 per cent — paves the way to reorient policy towards longer-term issues such as addressing climate change, tackling existing inequalities and removing institutional obstacles to development, according to the United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2018 Report, released yesterday.

According to the report, in 2017, world economic growth has reached 3 per cent—the highest growth since 2011—as crisis-related fragilities and the adverse effects of other recent shocks subside. The improvement is widespread, with roughly two-thirds of countries worldwide experiencing stronger growth in 2017 than in the previous year. Global growth is expected to remain steady at 3.0 per cent in 2018 and 2019.

Against this backdrop, East and South Asia will remain the world's most dynamic and fastest-growing regions.

In 2017, regional GDP expanded by 6 per cent, outpacing the rest of the world. Supported by growth in China, robust private consumption, higher exports and accommodative macroeconomic policies, the economy is projected to remain relatively steady at 5.8 per cent in 2018 and 5.9 per cent in 2019.

In 2017, China grew at a faster pace of 6.8 per cent, marking its first acceleration in annual growth in six years.

Looking ahead, growth is expected to remain solid, supported by robust domestic demand and accommodative fiscal measures. The pace of growth, however, will moderate gradually to 6.5 per cent in 2018 and 6.3 per cent in 2019, in light of ongoing economic rebalancing efforts.

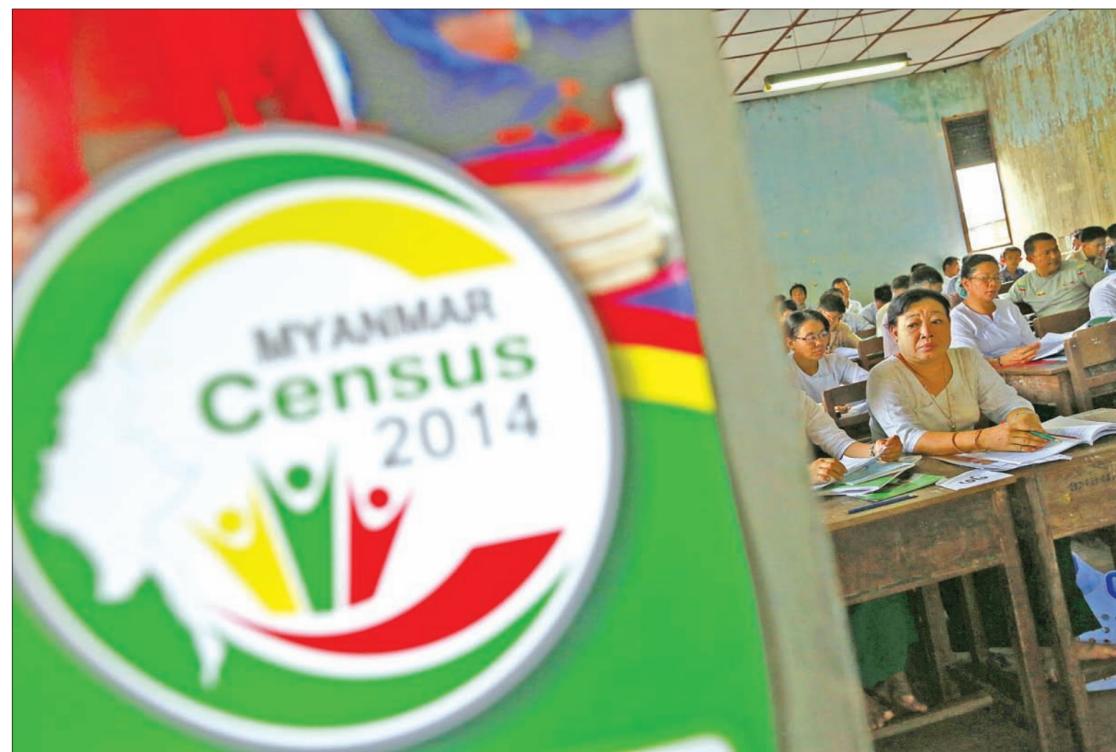
In South Asia, the economic outlook remains steady and favourable, driven by robust private consumption and sound macroeconomic policies. The positive outlook will contribute to further gradual progress in labour market indicators and a reduction in poverty rates. Monetary policy stances are moderately accommodative, while fiscal policies maintain a strong emphasis on infrastructure investment. Regional GDP growth is expected to strengthen to 6.5 per cent in 2018 and 7.0 per cent in 2019, after posting an estimated 6.3 per cent in 2017.

Despite a slowdown observed in early 2017, the outlook for India remains positive, underpinned by strong private consumption, robust public investments and structural reforms. GDP growth is projected to accelerate from 6.7 per cent in 2017 to 7.2 per cent in 2018 and 7.4 per cent in 2019. Yet, the anaemic performance of private investment remains a key macroeconomic concern.

For East and South Asia, potential renewed stress in global financial markets could result in a sharp tightening of liquidity conditions in the region. In East Asia, risks to financial stability are exacerbated by high corporate debt in several countries, including China. Given the high trade openness of the East Asian economies, an escalation in trade protectionism measures would also adversely affect growth prospects. In South Asia, the reform agenda might also experience some setbacks, while political instabilities could dampen investment prospects.

The current macroeconomic environment in the region is conducive for policymakers to address longer-term issues and to achieve greater progress on structural reforms. Policy strategies geared towards raising productivity growth are important to boost the region's dynamism and medium-term growth prospects.

About the report: The World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report is the UN's flagship publication on expected trends in the global economy. WESP is produced annually by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the five UN regional commissions and the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).—UN



Volunteers attend a census training course at a school in Yangon on 23 March, 2014. FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

MOFA and CCPR jointly organize a workshop on International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

THE second workshop on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Centre for Civil and Political Rights based in Geneva, is being held in Nay Pyi Taw from 14 to 15 December 2017. Director-General U Kyaw Moe Tun, International Organizations and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs delivered opening remarks at the workshop.

A total of fifty participants including the members of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry



The second workshop on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights held in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

of the Office of the State Counsellor, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, Union Supreme Court, Union Attorney Gener-

al's Office and Myanmar National Human Rights Commission as well as invited scholars attended the workshop. The first workshop was also held in Nay Pyi Taw in early this year.

Myanmar is promoting and protecting human rights of its people by observing and ratifying International Human

Rights Conventions. The workshop was held with an aim to signing of the ICCPR and to understand more on the ICCPR. The current workshop will help participating institutions for better understanding on the ICCPR in Myanmar's desire to sign the Covenant.—Myanmar News Agency ■

U Myint Swe Presents Credentials to President of Kenya

U Myint Swe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Kenya, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, C.G.H, President of the Republic of Kenya on 8 December 2017, in Nairobi.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Three bombs explode near police station in Hpakant

Three bombs exploded near a police station in Hpakant Town, Kachin State at around 11 pm on 13 December.

No casualties were reported in the incident and the local police force is providing security at the areas where the explosions took place, according to a source from a Kachin State police office.

The explosions coincided with a planned meeting between Kachin State Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U H La Aung, Minister of Bamar Ethnic Affairs U Khin Maung Myint, Minister of Lisu Ethnic Affairs U Ar T Yawhan and local people in Hpakant Region.—Myanmar Digital News ■

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on "18th December 2017" "KAYIN NEW YEAR DAY", under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Monster Energy Company, a company registered under the laws of Delaware, the United States of America, which is located at 1 Monster Way, Corona, California 92879, the United States of America, is the sole owner of the following trademarks:

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Reg. Nos. 15384/2014, 12363/2017 (Class 32)

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For **Monster Energy Company**

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

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 15th December 2017.

Myanmar fishing boat sinks off Andaman Sea

A fishing boat named "Ngwe Yamone-6" with 7 people on board sank in the Andaman Sea at about 22.8 nautical miles northwest of Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Region on 12 December in the morning.

Seven people have been rescued from the boat. The sunken fishing boat was from Asia Nanwai Company and owned by U Nyi Nyi who resides in Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region. A vessel from the Myan-

mar Navy rushed to the scene to carry out rescue operations and provided the survivors with food and medical attention, according to the Commander-in-Chief's Office.—Myanmar Digital News ■

Illegal gun and ammunition seized in Kalay township

AUTHORITIES have arrested Khine Za Khine, 50, for possession of illegal guns in Kalay township, Sagaing region, on 12 December. Acting on

a tip, a combined team of officers and staff searched Khine Za Khine's house at KyoKyar Kwin village, Kalay township, Sagaing region, and

found 29 illegal guns and three magazines in his room. Authorities filed charges for violations of section 19(F) of the Weapon Law.—GNLM ■

Man holding Bangladeshi SIM card and identity card arrested in Maungtaw

Security forces arrested a man identified as Mahabezu Rahman, 22 years of age in Hmow-in Village in Maungtaw Township on 13 December while they were conducting law enforcement patrols along the border fence.

One Bangladeshi SIM Card, Bangladeshi taka 9,230 and one na-



tional identity card were confiscated from him. He has been charged with breaking export and import laws by a local police

station, according to the statement released by the Ministry of Home Affairs.—Myanmar Digital News ■

Accomplishment of process on Census, 2014 and its benefits

By Myo Myint, Mi Mi Phyo
Photo: Aung Thu

A ceremony in commemoration of the accomplishment of the Process of Census, 2014 was held at the MICC-2 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. Here are interviews with responsible officials, concerning the accomplishment of process on census, 2014 and its benefits.

U Thein Swe Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population

Statistics on ethnics had been compiled, but it still needs to be negotiated. It is necessary to explain to ethnics to be well convinced of it. For the time being, it cannot be publicised as there are still to be done. We tried our best to publicise as soon as possible. Concerning carrying out the tasks of publicising designation, it needs not to disagree with each other. For unnecessary consequences not to happen, all are scrutinising with great care. We are making arrangements for the nationals to be able to accept in unity. It is not sure yet as to



U Thein Swe .

whether quantity will increase or decrease. Decision will be made just after negotiations. It may decrease with greater possibility. It is under negotiation to explain to the lower level. Mainly, it is incumbent upon nationals living in the regions to decide. It will be carried out after consulting with the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs.

Dr. Khaing Khaing Soe Director of Department of Population

Process of Census, 2014 came to a close. Dissemination workshop will continue to be made for people, planners and policy makers to apply facts and figures taken from the census.



Dr. Khaing Khaing Soe.

People consider these to be mere figures. In fact, these figures can be used for those from townships, villages and wards to make planning. Educating people to be well convinced of uses and usefulness of these facts will be made. In case, provided that we will get international subsidy, we want to collect data census survey in the Census, 2014. That is because we failed to take census for over 30 years. It is necessary to make data census survey prior to take census 2024. We will make effort to make data census survey, may be in 2019.

Had we known how many people in age groups there are



Dr. Zaw Moe Aung .

in the country, how many people live in rural and urban areas, how many old people are in the country, how many educated people and unemployed people there are in the country, planning can be drawn up and implemented for needed places.

Dr. Zaw Moe Aung Country Director, the Leprosy Mission Myanmar

Desire to measure disability is the one of the State as well as the whole populace and the persons in question themselves. It is a great challenge as to how to find the solution. The department of social welfare usually asks the four questions with the

designated definition. From 2013 on, the method of four questions tried to be applied. They have six questions to be used.

Facts achieved from the census gained success to some extent. Presently, there are disabled persons amounting to 2.3 million. According to the census, 2014, there are 24.8 million males and 26.7 million females, it was learnt.

Compared to the 1983 census, youth literacy increased, but in Shan and Kayin States, youth literacy rate still remained low. It was learnt that there are nearly 0.5 million youths who are illiterate. Had compulsory primary education been implemented in Regions and States with large illiteracy rates, youth illiteracy could be reduced.

In Myanmar, acquisition of power is only 32 per cent. There is a great difference between urban and rural areas. As the national development is directly proportional to the availability of the electricity, the acquisition of power in rural areas must be implemented, it was learnt. ■

Myanmar earthquake response



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye delivers his speech. PHOTO: MNA

FROM PAGE-1

the danger of earthquakes exists all along the fault lines.

“People living in the coastal area of Myanmar also need to be aware of the danger of tsunamis, which could occur, along with an earthquake. It is still difficult to predict the magnitude of an earthquake and how much damage it could cause. Physical damages can be seen, but other damage to health, education and cultural heritages need to be included and considered, as well. We

have had experiences in these, and from those experiences we need to discuss in this meeting how to prepare for natural disasters. All are urged to participate in the discussion,” said the Union Minister.

Also, speeches were delivered by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) Technical Expert, Clementia Cantoni, and United Nations Development Programme Deputy Country Director, Dawn Del Rio.

Additionally, the project for

preparedness and response to earthquakes was explained, a video record of the 2010 Haiti earthquake was shown, disaster management law and rules were briefly reviewed and there was an explanation about the work committee on natural disasters.

The responsibilities of each committee following a natural disaster was then discussed in groups, and the outcome of the group discussions were reviewed.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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Literary Conference 2017 held for 2nd Day

THE second day programme at the Literature Conference 2017 was held under the theme “Free Literature, Free Voice,” at the Myanmar Convention Centre of Mindhamma Street, ward 4, Mayangone Township, with representatives from literary organizations discussing the respective titles.

Literary discussions in groups were held separately in six locations at today’s session. In the morning, writer Myanhmonlwin led the discussion under the title, “To organize a semi-gov Art Council for the Myanmar translation website” with Dan Feng and Kate Griffin taking part in discussions; “Ideas and contemporary feelings on short stories” of Upper Myanmar Writer Association” led by writer Nyi Pu Lay, with writers Hsuhngget, Soe



Discussion on scholar translations for education held on the second day of Literary Conference on 14 December.

PHOTO: HLA MOE

Hlaing Tint [Yezagy] and Ko Yoe Kunt taking part; “National solidarity and the role of alien literature by Myanmar writer association,” led by writer Maung Nyein Thu [Gyobingauk] with writers Manotetha Kyaw Win, Myat Wai Toe,

Hmawwin Kyi Myat and Dr Tun Tint; “Patent and related matters of Myanmar publishers and distributors association,” led in discussion by writer U Kyaw Oo [Parami] with writers Myo Aung (botany), Kyi Shoon, Khaing Khaing Oo; “To-

ward Digital literature market, of Pan Myanmar,” led in discussion by writer Han Zaw, with writers Win Hlaing, Zeyathu and Soe Thiha Naung; “Difficulties on Literature encountered by Local Poets of Myanmar Poet Union,” led by poet

Maung Linn Yeik, with poets Nay Pan Oo, Thar Oo, Min Swe Hnit, Nari [Myeik] taking part.

In the afternoon, discussions included titles, development of the online literature association, Myeik traditional litera-

ture and regional dialects, conservation of Myanmar writings, international literature and literary award, the situation of current Myanmar short stories, and scholar translations for education.

Similarly, in the afternoon, the titles discussed included the role of public libraries, the changing situation in publishing, suggestions on the need for the emergence of research literature, conservation of the Myanmar language and literature, the national literary award, and objectivity and the role of translation literature were discussed, followed by replies to questions raised by those present at the conference.

The literary conference will be held from 13 December to 16 December for four days.—Zaw Gyi ■

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M.V EVER ALLY VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EVER ALLY VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-12-2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT 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.

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S 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.

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President U Htin Kyaw sends message on 43rd Anniversary Rakhine State Day

Following is the message sent by the President on the 43rd Anniversary Rakhine State Day.

Dear esteemed ethnic brothers and sisters living in Rakhine State,

On the occasion of the 43rd Anniversary celebrations of Rakhine State Day, I send my greetings and good wishes for good fortune and auspiciousness of all union citizens living in Rakhine State.

After Rakhine State has been designated in the 1974 Constitution, the 15th of December which was the day on which a referendum was process was begun for the purpose of approving the Constitution. This day was designated as Rakhine State Day and beginning from 1975 we have been celebrating Rakhine State Day every year and today we celebrate the 43rd anniversary.

In Rakhine State all, along the west lies the long and beautiful coastal region; in the east lies the Rakhine Yoma mountain range; and in the north lie the wide expanse of fertile agricultural land. Because of this due to being blessed with good geographic location and rich soil, it has a bounteous supply of rice, water, meat, fish and natural minerals. Not only this, Rakhine State has many priceless ancient cultural sites.

After the Union Government took over the responsibilities of government, with view to promoting peace and development in Rakhine State, the Union Government has been striving hard by

establishing the Rakhine State Peace and Development Council and forming four working committees. In the same way we have been working on the Kyauk Phyu Special Economic Zone, which is very important for Rakhine State development, by taking due note of the wishes of the local people, and making careful assessments regarding environmental concerns and socio-economic needs by establishing a Management Committee.

We are also implementing the Kanyin Kyaung Economic Zone in Maungta, which is very important not only for the economic development of Rakhine State but which can also help towards peace in the region and is also very important of internal and external trade of Maungta region.

In addition, for improving transportation in the Rakhine State, we are also working with special emphasis on the Kaladan River Basin Project, as this State is blessed with many rivers.

We had to face and suffer the terrorist attacks beginning from 9 October 2016 and also the ARSA terrorist attacks on 25 August 2017 in Maungta region of Rakhine State. Due to these events, a great deal of people living in villages in those areas had to leave their villages and people of Islamic faith went over to Bangladesh. Because of these people who had to leave their homes we established

the Rakhine State Advisory Commission and the Maungta Region Investigation Commission. Also, to implement the recommendations of these two bodies relating to Rakhine State, a Committee had been formed and this committee is now carrying out its duties by making projects.

Also, the UEHRD – Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Relief and Resettlement in Rakhine Committee of four members was established with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as Chairperson. This committee has begun operations. This UEHRD committee has been doing its work by tapping on the strength of Union citizens, their help and their trust. It is working to provide effective humanitarian assistance, to cooperate in the relief and rehabilitation efforts, to promote regional development and with a view to eradicating conflicts in the long term. Governments from other States/Regions have also joined in to provide as much assistance as they could by bearing in mind that this effort is not only for the Rakhine State but for the whole Union. In addition, youths from all parts of the Union have gone to provide assistance to the best of their ability at the grass-roots level.

Furthermore, due to the Mora Cyclone which hit Rakhine State on 29 May 2017, the region suffered great losses. In this instance the Union Government and

the Rakhine State Government joined hands to conduct emergency relief operations, erect emergency shelters, provide relief and rehabilitation, and build capacity and capabilities to face natural disasters, to the best of their abilities. I wish to place on record my special admiration and pride for the indomitable spirit, strong and resolute determination and courage of the Rakhine people who have to suffer many natural disasters due to their geographic location. In spite of all this they have always overcome these challenges with resolute spirit and determination.

We are also cooperating with UNESCO to register MraukU township in Rakhine State as a World Cultural Heritage site. This town is the place where the Buddha's relics have been enshrined and where Buddhism once flourished in all its glory.

In conclusion, just as it is important to work diligently for peace, rule of law and communities to live in harmony, it is also important to have security, peace, modernization, progress and prosperity in the future. I send this Message of Greetings in a spirit of friendship on this auspicious Rakhine State Day and urge all citizens of Rakhine State to work in unity and make concerted efforts.

Sd/- Htin Kyaw
President

(Unofficial Translation)



YETAGUN YOUTH PROGRAM SEASON-II (YANGON REGION) SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTED

The Yetagun Youth Program Season-2, organized by PC Myanmar (Hong Kong) Limited, Myanmar subsidiary of PETRONAS oil and gas multinational, has successfully completed final round of youth competition for Yangon Region on 2nd December 2017 at LOTTE Hotel Yangon.

Judge panel included U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing (Chairman, Smart Group of Companies), Daw Swe Zin Htike (Managing Director, CSG Co., Ltd.), U Lynn Thaik Nyunt (CEO, Myanmar's land Institute) and U Nay Lin Kaing (Head of Corporate Affairs & Administration, PETRONAS Myanmar Operations).

Out of all the enthusiastic youth teams, the top eight teams were selected to advance at final round of Yangon Region and presented their project proposals on making positive impact to community under one of the categories of education, health, environment and social entrepreneurship. After stiff competition between youth teams at the final round for Yangon Region, one champion team and three runner-up teams were selected.

The Yetagun Youth Program Season-2 proudly announced 'Yangon Binarhaus' team from Myanmar Maritime University for their proposed project 'Maker Space and Underwater Research Lab' as champion team for Yangon Region. Winning teams were awarded by Country Chairman, PETRONAS Myanmar Operations and Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) officials.



YETAGUN YOUTH PROGRAM SEASON-II
CHAMPION TEAM



YETAGUN YOUTH PROGRAM SEASON-II
CHAMPION TEAM WITH JUDGES,
PETRONAS TEAM & MOGE OFFICIALS

Bon Jovi, Nina Simone among five Rock Hall of Fame inductees

LOS ANGELES — “Livin’ on a Prayer” rockers Bon Jovi, British bands Dire Straits and the Moody Blues, the late Nina Simone and The Cars will be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, organizers said on Wednesday.

The rock-heavy 2018 list marks a return to the roots of the US Hall of Fame, which for the past two years has broadened its base to welcome rap artists like the late Tupac Shakur and N.W.A. Bon Jovi, led by Jon Bon Jovi, formed in 1983 in New Jersey and remains one of the biggest acts in the US music industry, releasing albums every couple of years. The band toured the

United States in 2017 in support of its “This House is Not for Sale” album.

Dire Straits, led by guitarist Mark Knopfler, burst to fame in 1979 with the single “Sultans of Swing” and enjoyed a succession of hits in the 1980s including “Money for Nothing” and “Brothers in Arms.”

The band broke up in 1995 when Knopfler embarked on a solo career. Progressive 1960s rockers Moody Blues are best known for hits like classical rock fusion “Nights in White Satin” and “Go Now.”

After several changes of lineup, the band is due to embark in



Legendary British rock group “The Moody Blues,” L-R, Ray Thomas, Justin Hayward, John Lodge and Graeme Edge, performs during the first of four shows at Le Theatre des Arts at the Paris Las Vegas hotel-casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, US on 5 April 2001. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

January on a US tour to mark the 50th anniversary of its “Days of Future Passed” album. The Cars, formed in Boston in the

late 1970s, merged rock and synthesizer-oriented pop to produce hits like “Drive” and “Just What I Needed” before breaking up in

1988. The band reunited in 2010, releasing the album “Move Like This,” and toured in the United States in 2011.—Reuters ■



Actor Dwayne Johnson poses on his star after it was unveiled on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles, California, US, on 13 December, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Wrestler turned actor Dwayne ‘The Rock’ Johnson receives star on Walk of Fame

LOS ANGELES — Professional wrestler turned actor Dwayne ‘The Rock’ Johnson paid tribute to his family on Wednesday as he accepted his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

The ‘Jumanji’ actor, one of the highest paid in Hollywood, struggled to get through his speech with fans chanting “Rocky”, a reference to his wrestling moniker.

Johnson, 45, recognised those who helped him in his career, including girlfriend Lauren Hashian, who is pregnant with their second child.

“You don’t have success

alone. You don’t do it alone,” he said. “It takes a team so I’m so grateful right now to recognise a few people in my life and it is just a few and they are here who without them there would be no me.”

After thanking the crowd, he recounted his favourite quote that he first discovered as a 15-year old - “It’s nice to be important but it’s more important to be nice.” Johnson’s star, the 2,624th to be awarded, is next to the stars of World Wrestling Entertainment CEO Vince McMahon and muppet Kermit the Frog.—Reuters ■

SAG nominations focus on indie movies, snubbing Streep and Day-Lewis

LOS ANGELES — Small-town dramedy “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri” led the 2018 Screen Actors Guild (SAG) nominations on Wednesday in a list that shut out veterans Meryl Streep and Daniel Day-Lewis as well as Steven Spielberg’s press freedom movie “The Post.”

Instead, SAG members recognized performers in independent films that focused on women and people of colour, throwing open the race for the Oscars in March.

“There’s not enough stories told by people of colour and with people of colour in the cast,” Kumail Nanjiani, co-writer and star of interracial romance nominee “The Big Sick,” told Reuters.

“We’re learning that audiences want to see those stories,

and it’s not just about seeing themselves on screen, these are financially viable movies as well,” he added.

The SAG awards are indicators of likely Oscar success because actors form the largest group of voters in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. No film in 22 years has won best picture at the Oscars without being nominated for SAG’s top prize of best movie ensemble.

On Wednesday, “Three Billboards” got a leading four nods, including best movie ensemble.

The black comedy about an angry woman, played by best actress nominee Frances McDormand, seeking vengeance for her murdered daughter will compete with “The Big Sick,”

racial thriller “Get Out,” mother-daughter comedy “Lady Bird” and period race drama “Mudbound.”

Wednesday’s list was at odds with the Golden Globe nominations on Monday, where fantasy romance “The Shape of Water” earned a leading seven nods, followed by “The Post,” starring Streep and Tom Hanks, with six. The SAG winners will be announced in Los Angeles on 21 January, two days before Oscar nominations.

British actor Daniel Day-Lewis, a triple Oscar winner who announced his retirement from acting earlier this year, also failed to make the cut with SAG voters, along with his upcoming and final movie “Phantom Thread.”

British World War II movie “Dunkirk”, which had been seen as a big player at the Oscars, was also ignored by SAG voters. Instead, the best actor lineup recognized relative newcomers like Timothee Chalamet, 21, for gay romance “Call Me By Your Name,” and Daniel Kaluuya for “Get Out.” They will compete with James Franco for comedy “The Disaster Artist”, Gary Oldman for his role as British wartime leader Winston Churchill in “Darkest Hour,” and Denzel Washington for “Roman J. Israel, Esq.”—Reuters ■



Director and star James Franco arrives for the gala presentation of “The Disaster Artist” at the AFI Film Festival in Los Angeles, California, US, on 12 November 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Fox's Star to bring Disney cash and cricket in India

NEW YORK — WALT Disney Co's (DIS.N) expected deal with Twenty-First Century Fox Inc (FOXA.O) would give the world's best-known entertainment company new advantages in India, such as cricket rights and local-language TV shows for the fast-growing media market.

Through the \$75 billion (£55.8 billion) deal, which a source said is expected to be announced Thursday morning, Disney would be able to distribute its programming on Star India, operator of 69

TV channels in eight languages, as well as the popular Hotstar streaming service. Disney also would gain global rights to professional cricket.

"It is an amazing opportunity to get into the best developing market in the world," Moffett Nathanson analyst Michael Nathanson said, "but it is highly competitive."

Netflix Inc (NFLX.O) has been offering its streaming service in India for nearly two years, and Amazon.com Inc's (AMZN.O)

Prime Video has been courting customers there for one year.

Global expansion is important to Disney because its largest US network, ESPN, has been losing subscribers as audiences migrate from traditional television to digital viewing.

India represents the second-largest subscription TV market in Asia, with 154 million households in 2016, according to consultancy PricewaterhouseCoopers, which projected that number will grow to 167 million in

2021. Mobile video traffic, meanwhile, is booming. KPMG expects it will grow at a compound annual growth rate of 68 per cent between 2016 and 2021.

Disney did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Fox declined to comment.

Star India is also flush with cash. Fox projects it will earn \$500 million before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization in fiscal 2018, rising to \$1 billion in 2020.

"Star India alone is by far

the most successful TV network in the fastest-growing country," Macquarie Research analyst Tim Nollen said. Star's TV business could bring in new advertising revenue at a time when US ad spending is growing at a slower pace. In the first fiscal quarter, Fox saw international ad revenue jump 10 percent, fuelled by double-digit increases in growth through Star India, while in the United States the company saw 3 per cent growth in ad revenue.

—Reuters ■



in
Picture

Two-month-old King Penguin chick Maru is seen at the Jurong Bird Park in Singapore, on 13 December 2017. Maru is the first newborn King Penguin at the park in almost 10 years. PHOTO: XINHUA

Paris welcomes cultural initiative Operation Panda

PARIS — The cultural initiative "OPERATION PANDA" was launched on Wednesday in Saint-Germain-des-Pres neighbourhood of Paris by Chengdu International Finance Square (Chengdu IFS) and Saint-Germain-des-Pres Committee.

Chengdu IFS is one of the most sophisticated cosmopolitan city complexes in Chengdu of China, and the Saint-Germain-des-Pres Committee is an association of traders and local residents which aims to maintain the cultural traditions and prestige of the neighbourhood.

The initiative is the first joint operation between the two sides since they estab-

lished an international partnership in May to advance in-depth exchanges in art, culture, commerce, and joint tourism promotion, with the support of Chengdu municipal government and the 6th arrondissement of Paris.

During the opening ceremony held at the traditional Christmas market of Saint-Germain-des-Pres, a panda artwork, specially created for OPERATION PANDA by French contemporary artist Richard Orlinski, was officially unveiled.

The piece of art will be exhibited at the Christmas market for the holiday season before traveling to Beauval Zoo, the

French zoo where pandas are on loan to France from China. In June 2018, the art work will take part in the contemporary art fair Parcours Saint-Germain, before being donated to the Necker children's hospital in central Paris.

As an important element of OPERATION PANDA, a wood cabin with a panda theme was presented at the Christmas market as a gift from Chengdu to Paris. Profits from the sales of plush panda toys at the cabin will be donated to Necker.

Meanwhile, Chengdu is celebrating the event "Romantic Rive Gauche, French Christmas".—Xinhua ■

Italian high school teacher among Global Teacher Prize finalists

ROME — An Italian high school teacher is among the 50 finalists for the Global Teacher Prize 2018, local media reported Wednesday.

Lorella Carimali teaches mathematics and physics at the Scientific State High School (Liceo Scientifico Statale Vittorio Veneto) in Milan.

She was among 40,000 teachers from 173 countries nominated for the annual one-million-US-dollar award. The winner will be announced in Dubai in March 2018.

"I have had a passion for mathematics since I was a little girl, and I have always wanted to be a teacher," Carimali told Italian news agency ANSA.

The teacher, who grew up in a low-income neighborhood and was the first in her family to obtain a university degree, has refused high-paying private-sector jobs in order to keep teaching in the Italian public school system.

"Her learning model uses drama activities and problem-solving exercises," according to the Global Teacher Prize website.

"She calls her method 'cognitive internship' and focuses on being able to think mathematically, developing and applying skills such as intuition and imagination, as well as theorising and evaluation."

The other finalists include teachers from countries in Africa, Asia, South America, Europe, and the Middle East.

China is represented by Dongmei Yang, who teaches Mongolian and Chinese at two rural primary schools in the Inner Mongolia region of China.

Yang has created her own way of teaching Chinese to Inner Mongolian children, naming her method "the philosophical approach," according to the Global Teacher Prize website.

"It is child-led and draws on children's natural curiosity and desire to acquire new knowledge," the website says.

The 2017 winner was Canadian Maggie McDonnell, who teaches in Salluit, a small Inuit village in the Canadian Arctic that is reachable only by air.

Now in its fourth edition, the Global Teacher Prize is sponsored by the Varkey Foundation, a non-profit organization under the patronage of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, United Arab Emirates Vice President, Prime Minister, and Emir of Dubai.

The Varkey Foundation's stated aim is to improve the standards of education for underprivileged children throughout the world.—Xinhua ■



Players from Thailand (Black) and Myanmar (White) vie for the ball in yesterday's match at Can Tho Stadium in Can Tho, Viet Nam. PHOTO: MFF

MFF new referee course concludes

Kyaw Zin Lin

THE course for new professional football referees organised by the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) and Myanmar Referee Committee concluded yesterday at the meeting hall of the MFF.

The ceremony was attended by officials from the MFF, the Myanmar National League, the Myanmar Referee Committee and the trainees.

“Actually, a week is not enough for the whole course. Trainees need sustainable self-study while placing their theory achieved from the course into practical applications. All the trainees need to share Law Of the Game by sharing it with Myanmar’s football fans, including all the families. As a professional referee, all the trainees need ongoing study, all the time. Representing Myanmar, they should also prepare their language skills”, said the MFF General Secretary U Ko Ko Thein in his speech at yesterday’s ceremony.

The course was conducted from 8 to 14 December, with 16 male and 3 female trainees participating. ■

Myanmar beats Thailand in Viet Nam’s Thanh Nien Challenge Cup

Kyaw Zin Lin

THE Myanmar U-21 national football team defeated Thailand’s U-21 team at Can Tho Stadium in Viet Nam last night, needing only one goal for the win.

Myanmar beat Thailand with a single goal scored by Myanmar star Hein Htet Aung.

Thailand, an ASEAN powerhouse, attempted to control the

ball from the start, but Myanmar’s systematic counterattacks frequently rankled Thailand’s defence line.

At the 36-minute mark, Hein Htet Aung scored the icebreaker for Myanmar with the support of his teammate.

The Thai keeper could not block the straight upward shot of Hein Htet Aung into the net.

Thailand was better in the

second half with active attacks, but the Myanmar defenders were good enough to block the ball even in the penalty area.

Myanmar seemingly had another sure goal at the 67-minute mark when Myanmar’s Ai Soe passed over Thailand’s goalie, but the keeper cleared the ball by hand outside the line and was shown the red card by the referee.

The controlling technique taught by Myanmar U-21 Head Coach U Kyi Lwin made it difficult for the Thai attackers up until the final whistle.

Last night’s match is a significant win for Myanmar because it creates a big chance to advance to the next stage of the tourney.

Myanmar played to a draw against the Viet Nam U-19 team in the opening match. ■

Wenger defends Sanchez after Gunners fail to find target

LONDON — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger refused to blame forward Alexis Sanchez’s performance for the goalless draw at relegation-threatened West Ham United on Wednesday, saying the entire team must improve after a lacklustre display.

The Chilean has been one of Arsenal’s most potent weapons in recent seasons but has scored just four Premier League goals this campaign, the latest in last month’s win over Huddersfield Town.

Arsenal’s form has mirrored the Sanchez’s, with the north London side winless in their last three league games and slipping to seventh in the table after managing to keep just three of 22 shots on target at the London Stadium.

“He is (very ambitious) but in situations like that, you do not want to focus on one player. You focus more on the collective attitude of the team to keep them focused on the quality of our game,” Wenger told Standard Sport.

“We create chances. (The goals) will come. It’s difficult to say he’s had a dip. He tried tonight, he did fight. It was difficult because they defended very well as well.”

Wenger also said that the defeat to second-placed Manchester United earlier this month and a lack of preparation time were also factors in Arsenal’s meek display during the stalemate.

Arsenal host 16th-placed Newcastle United, who are winless in eight league games, on Saturday.—Reuters ■

High-flying Inter look to defend Serie A lead against Udinese

MILAN — Inter Milan coach Luciano Spalletti has laughed off any comparisons between himself and Jose Mourinho, yet the Italian has done more than the club’s previous 10 coaches to emulate the Portuguese’s success at San Siro.

For the first time since Mourinho led them to a consecutive league triumph in 2010 before leaving for Real Madrid, Inter are serious Serie A title contenders and can cement their position at the top of the table at home to Udinese on Saturday.

Title rivals Napoli and Juventus face potentially tricky away trips to Torino and Bolo-

gna respectively, with the latter fixture taking place on Sunday.

Inter displayed their resilience under former AS Roma coach Spalletti by holding Juve to a goalless draw last week, mimicking their 0-0 stalemate at Napoli in October and becoming the first team to keep a clean sheet away to the champions since August 2015. Spalletti heavily rotated his side for Tuesday’s Coppa Italia game against Serie C minnows Pordenone which almost backfired as Inter only squeezed through to the quarter-finals by winning a penalty shoot-out following a goalless draw.—Reuters ■