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Diplomats and UN officials check readiness for medical care at the repatriation camp in Ngakhuya Village. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Diplomats, UN officials witness true situation in Rakhine State

An entourage headed by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye visited Maung-taw District in Rakhine State yesterday to provide authentic, reliable news to the international community about repatriation efforts being undertaken there.

The entourage also included foreign ambassadors and

representatives of UN agencies stationed in Yangon.

The foreign ambassadors, UN agency representatives and other organisations arrived in Sittway Airport yesterday morning and were welcomed by Dr. Win Myat Aye, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Rakhine State ministers and other officials.

The guests were seated in the guest hall of the airport, where Dr. Win Myat Aye explained in detail about the operations of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development (UEHRD), and the repatriation and resettlement process for displaced persons mapped out by the Union government. Next, U

Nyi Pu gave details of the completed components in the resettlement process and future processes that are yet to be finished. The guests were then briefed on the day's trip by U Kyaw Moe Tun, Director-General of the International Organisations and Economic Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses Myanmar Police Force, passport services

THE seventh session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw held its 18th-day meeting yesterday morning, where five questions related to the Ministry of Home Affairs were answered by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe and a report on a bill was submitted.

Replying to a question posed by U Bo Gyi of Chauk constituency on the plan to manage the Myanmar Police Force in the matter related to the issuing of court summons and to research (review) the summons method, Maj-Gen Aung Soe said the Myanmar Police Force was cooperating with relevant departments to issue summons to witnesses, so that they show up to court in time, while the Myanmar Police Force was being managed in a manner to ensure witnesses do not fail to appear in court.

Daw Myint Myint Soe @ Daw May Soe of Botahtaung constituency asked about the arrangements being made to ease the process of passport ap-



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

plication. Maj-Gen Aung Soe said that from July 2012, a branch of the passport office was opened in Mandalay, while earlier, the Yangon office was the only place where passport services were available.

For the benefit of passport applicants, some 15 more branch offices were opened in Nay Pyi Taw and major towns in the states/regions from January 2014.

The requirements for education clearance, income tax

Form 19 and recommendation from organisations were also removed, while the requirement for monks and nuns to provide a recommendation letter from the ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture was relaxed, and only a recommendation letter from the township Sangha Nayaka committee was needed.

As the biometric system is being used, individuals need some time to apply for a passport. To reduce the waiting time,

the immigration department had increased its counters from seven to 12, and combined groups, including the Myanmar Police Force, are making sure there are no cases of applicants being cheated of money, replied the deputy minister.

In response to a question put forth by Daw San San Ei of Mohnyin constituency on extending and opening more methadone clinics and rehabilitation centres in Mohnyin Township, Maj-Gen Aung Soe said the Ministry of Health and Sports had opened 15 methadone clinics in Kachin State and Mohnyin District. The Mohnyin People's Hospital and Hopin People's Hospital each have a methadone clinic. The authorities are coordinating to open methadone clinics in Nuntmun and Namma station hospitals for patients taking methadone medication from Mohnyin People's Hospital and Hopin People's Hospital. Arrangements are underway to set up community-based rehabilitation centres in Myitkyi-

na Town and Tanai Town, replied the deputy minister.

The rehabilitation centres in Myitkyina Town will provide community-based rehabilitation training, and thus, there is no plan to open rehabilitation centres in Mohnyin Township yet, added the deputy minister.

A question by U Thein Tun of Kyaunggon constituency on constructing the Myanmar Police Force head of township office, police stations and police posts in Kyaunggon Township and a question by Dr. U Myint Thein of Nyaunglebin constituency on the plan to open a sub fire station in Nyaunglebin Township were also answered by Maj-Gen Aung Soe.

The Hluttaw was then informed of the receipt of the science, technology and innovation bill, confirmed with an amendment and sent by the Amyotha Hluttaw, while the bill committee report was read and explained by committee member U Nay Myo Tun.—Kyaw Thu Htet ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses construction works

THE seventh session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 18th-day meeting yesterday morning at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

Three asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered by Ministry of Border Affairs Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut.

Replying to a question posed by U Whey Tin of Chin constituency (11) on the plan to construct a 320foot-long suspension bridge across Palet creek, between Twikinwa Village and Baungku Village in the 2018-2019 fiscal year (FY), the deputy minister said although the ministry was carrying out border area development works using Ks4.364.114 million in the 2017-2018 FY, which included Chin State and other border areas, the plan for the suspension bridge was not included for the 2018-2019 FY. However, it will be included in the projects earmarked for the 2019-2020 FY period and will be undertaken depending on the availability of funds, explained the deputy minister.

In response to a question by U Lal Min Htan of Chin State



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

constituency (10) regarding the upgrade of a motorcycle road in Chin State, Matupi Township, into an 18foot-wide motor road, the deputy minister said the widening of the 11mile section of the road was being conducted by tender-winning company Gracy Hnin Company in the 2017-2018 FY period, with the Chin State government funding Ks94.05 million. Currently, 60 per cent of the work has been completed, replied the deputy minister.

The deputy minister then replied to a question posed by Daw Khin Swe Lwin of Chin State constituency (9) on the develop-

ment works conducted by the Ministry of Border Affairs in the 2016-2017 FY in Chin State Kanpetlet Township. The deputy minister said some Ks473.836 million was used by the ministry in the 2016-2017 FY period to build the 300foot-long Bailey bridge, which is capable of withstanding load of more than 13 tonnes, between Kyindwe Village and Hoteponkyin Village in Kanpetlet Township. Besides this, a 400foot-long and 12foot-wide road was built for the border area ethnic national youth development school, new electrical wirings were installed in the school buildings and a

500foot-long and 12foot-wide asphalt road was laid for the household vocational training school.

Regarding the plan on who ought to participate in the development works in the 2017-2018 FY, the Ministry of Border Affairs is implementing the regional development project works by coordinating with the ministry's main projects through submissions made by the states, the Hluttaw representatives, promises and pledges made by the Hluttaw, guidelines of the nation's leaders and the funding available. Funds earmarked by the ministry are submitted for assessment and confirmation by the national financial commission and financial assessment committee, according to the rules and regulations. On receiving the approval and confirmation, it is then submitted to the Hluttaw. It is implemented only when there is confirmation (from the Hluttaw). Invitations for tenders are announced in state-owned newspapers and in accordance with the instructions given by the President's office. As per the guidelines and instructions distributed by the ministry of construction to min-

istries conducting works under the contract system, the profile of the tendering companies are inspected, tenders are opened in a transparent manner, agreements are signed with tender-winning companies and works are conducted systematically.

Companies winning the tender also have to set up signboards describing details of the work at work sites to provide information not only to the Hluttaw representatives but also to the people; so there is no plan to provide a separate explanation, said the deputy minister.

Replying to whether the Mone Creek Bailey bridge was constructed according to the set standard, he said the SSR1 type Bailey bridge had a load capacity of 12.5 tonnes, according to the standard set for public construction work for village roads. The Ministry of Border Affairs built a SSR2 type bridge that has a load capacity in excess of 13 tonnes. However, as per the request of Kanpetlet Township construction management committee, it was classified as having a load capacity of only 6 tonnes.

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Fifth coordination meeting of Consumer Protection Central Committee

A fifth coordination meeting of Consumer Protection Central Committee was held yesterday morning in the Ministry of Commerce meeting hall.

Consumer Protection Central Committee Vice Chairman and Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo said consumer protection works are essential in the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), as Myanmar is a member country of ASEAN. The ASEAN Committee on Consumer Protection (ACCP) was formed under AEC and four strategic goals were set and implemented. Therefore, the Ministry of Commerce is conducting consumer protection works as a focal ministry. In conducting consumer protection works "consumer dispute resolution groups" were formed according to the law in states/regions and district levels while consumer information complaint centres were opened where consumer complaints are accepted and resolved. In addition to this, to effectively protect the consumer, a consumer protection bill (draft) has been drawn up and submitted step by step and it had now been submitted to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. In the past, complaints were on products but now there are more on services. Especially on telecom services, television and radio services and assurance services of products sold. By conducting consumer protection works, the public will obtain more consumer protection opportunities on one side while production and sale of goods and provision of services will be done correctly enabling the economic development of the country, said the Deputy Minister.

Consumer Protection Central Committee members and officials then discussed the status of departments and regions in implementing consumer protection works and to conduct consumer protection work processes more widely. —Myanmar News Agency ■



A meeting of Consumer Protection Central Committee is held at the Ministry of Commerce yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint addresses the celebration of 72nd anniversary of MRTV in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Celebrating 72 years of MRTV

Naing Lin Kyi

MYANMA Radio and Television held a ceremony celebrating its 72nd anniversary at the MRTV Auditorium in Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Dr. Pe Myint, the Union Minister for Information, gave the keynote speech, saying MRTV carries the pride of the nation by keeping the people informed of current and important news. He said MRTV has stood with the people throughout all the political transitions of Myanmar and will continue to be present in the nation as long as the world stands. Next, the Union Minister conferred awards for Outstanding Civil Servants of 2017 an ten recipients, and one gold medal for achieving first place in international sporting events. The Deputy Minister, U Aung Hla Tun, then conferred awards on seven individuals who achieved prizes in trainings sent by the ministry and to three individuals who won in literary competitions.



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun presents award to literary competition winner. PHOTO: KO MIN

MRTV was founded in 1946 with the name Bama Athan (Voice of Burma) when the British established Burma Broadcasting Service (BBS) carrying Burmese language for its programmes. The service was renamed Myanmar Athan on 28 November 1958, and with the arrival of colour television on 1 November 1980, it was renamed to Myanmar Radio and Television and went on to become one of the most successful state-owned

media services.

Present at the ceremony were MRTV Director-General U Myint Htwe, Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department U Ye Naing, Director-General of Printing and Publication Department U Aung Myo Myint, Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Kyaw Soe and staff members from MRTV and invited guests. —Myanmar News Agency ■



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

10,000 vehicles yet to register as city taxis

THE Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA) is issuing city taxi registrations to Yangon licensed taxis. However, some 10,000 Yangon licensed taxis are yet to register as city taxis, according to a report in Myawady Daily.

YRTA had officially announced that all taxis must register as city taxis before 31 December 2017. For unregistered vehicles, YRTA had extended the registration deadline to 31 January 2018. Even though YRTA extended the deadline, some 10,000 Yangon licensed taxis have not registered, said Dr. Maung Aung, secretary of YRTA.

"The announcement was made through the state-owned newspaper and television. The Yangon Region government will now take legal action against unregistered



Taxis run in downtown Yangon. The Yangon licensed taxis are yet to register as the City Taxi. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

city taxis running on Yangon roads," he added.

"Earlier, we registered

our taxis at the Road Transport Administration Department.

Now, we have to register our

Yangon licensed taxis again as city taxis at YRTA, said a taxi driver. —GNLM ■

Developmental Projects to be undertaken in Hpa-an

Village development projects (VDP) are being undertaken in forty-five villages in the area of Hpa-an in Kayin State under the management of the Department of Rural Development of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation during the 2017-2018 fiscal years.

The village development projects for 684 villages in twenty townships around the country were earmarked by the Department of Rural De-

velopment during the 2017-2018 fiscal years. The amount of ten million kyats for one village will be allotted in order to carry out village development projects such as constructions of roads, bridges and retaining walls in forty-five villages in Hpa-an.

"During this fiscal year, there was 450 million kyats provided to forty-five villages. The forty-one concrete roads, two concrete bridges, one retaining wall and one trash can

for burning waste are being built by the cash provided by government and other organizations, the funds from the regional Hluttaw and the cash donated by public including the villagers themselves" said an official from the Department of Rural Development.

The village development projects are carried out in order to use natural resources of the villages by the villagers themselves and to get the local villagers opinions,

criticisms and concerns regarding the projects so the projects can run smoothly in the future.

The expected development projects in the villages were financed from the budget of the government, regional government, the budget of representatives of Hluttaw and funds from townships, cash donations from UN, donor organizations and private donors.—Myanmar Digital News ■

35 flyovers to be constructed on Yangon circular railway

THE Yangon Region authority is planning to construct some 35 flyovers, including eight flyovers on the Yangon-Insein route, for the Yangon circular railway in the next fiscal year, according to a report in Myawady Daily.

Currently, the authorities are upgrading the Yangon circular railway area by building a wall for the safety of the passengers.

The authorities will construct the flyovers depending on the budget.

The eight flyovers to be constructed on the Yangon-Insein route are: two flyovers

between Ahlone and Panhlaing train stations, three bridges between Hledan and Kamayut stations, two flyovers between Kamayut and Thiri Myaing stations, and one flyovers between Thamaing Myothit and Gyogon stations.

The 20 flyovers to be constructed on the Yangon-Mingalardon route are: one flyover between Pazundaung and Mahlwagon train stations, two flyovers between Mahlwagon and Myittar Nyunt stations, two flyovers between Myittar Nyunt and Tamway stations, two flyovers between Tam-

way and Bauktaw stations, two flyovers between Bauktaw and Kanbe stations, one flyover between Kanbe and Payami stations, one flyover between Payami and Yegu stations, one flyover between Yegu and Tadagale stations, two flyovers between Tadagale and Kyauk Ye Dwin stations, three flyovers between Kyauk Ye Dwin and Pa Ywet Seik Kon stations, one flyover between Pa Ywet Seik Kon and North Okkalapa stations, one flyover between North Okkalapa and Weibargi stations, and one flyover between Weibargi and Mingalar-

don stations. The three flyovers to be constructed on the Mingalardon-Danyingon route are: two flyovers between Mingalardon and Mingalardon market stations, and one flyover between Mingalardon market and Kyaikkale stations.

The four flyovers to be constructed on the Insein-Danyingon route are: two flyovers between Insein and Ywarma stations, one flyover between Ywarma and Phawkan stations, and one flyover between Phawkan and Aungsan stations. —GNLM ■



Grapes are seen at a farm in Yamethin Township, Mandalay Region. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Grape prices fall due to low demand

THE price of grapes in the Yangon market has declined following unseasonal rainfall in the Mandalay Region last December and the consequent low yield, which has reduced the demand for grapes, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

Torrential rainfall results in

low yield. The prices this year are much lower than that of last year, said a vine grower from Yamethin Township.

Apart from the local varieties, imported grapes from China and Thailand are also gaining market shares.

The black queen and big black grape varieties are pri-

marily grown in Myanmar.

Currently, there are more than 5,000 acres of vineyards across the country. Grapes are mostly grown in Kyaukpadaung, Meiktila, Mandalay, Sagaing, Monywa, Pakokku, Yenangyoung, Yamethin and Pyawbwe townships. — GNLM ■

UMFCCI, JCCM sign MoU to strengthen economic cooperation

May Thet Hnin

THE Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Myanmar (JCCM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on all-round economic cooperation and development at the Park Royal Hotel last Wednesday.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Tateshi Higuchi and his delegation attended the MoU signing ceremony. Katsuji Nakagawa, chair of JCCM, and U Zaw Min Win, president of UMFCCI, signed the MoU to promote bilateral trade and investment, information and technology exchange, as well as human resource and infra-

structural development.

Katsuji Nakagawa noted, “The signing ceremony aims to make the people of the two countries realise Japanese companies have a strong interest in Myanmar, despite the controversial Rakhine issues.”

“Myanmar and Japan have established strong economic ties, in addition to the heavy capital brought into Thilawa Special Economic Zone. Japan has helped Myanmar in its economic development effort. With this MoU, more investments are likely to enter the country from Japan,” stated U Phyo Min Thein.

“Apart from government-to-government cooperation, Japan and Myanmar also have a business-to-business cooperation in the private sector. During its period of dem-

ocratic transition, the investment law and the Myanmar Companies Law were enacted. The Myanmar Investment Commission grants incentives to foreign investors. I believe this MoU will bring significant increases in bilateral trade and promote investments,” said U Zaw Min Win.

From 1995 to 2017, Japan and Myanmar agreed to enter into 15 MoUs. Bilateral trade between Japan and Myanmar grew 2.2 times between 2012 and 2017.

Speaking during the signing event, the Japanese Ambassador said that Japan would continue to extend its assistance to Myanmar, especially in the field of social and economic development. Also, Japanese companies will invest more in Myanmar in the future, he added. ■

Government imports of intermediate goods show slight decline

THE IMPORTS of intermediate goods by the Myanmar government showed a slight decrease in value, of more than US\$1.3 billion in the current financial year, according to official statistics from the Ministry of Commerce.

As of 2 February, the country’s imports of intermediate goods were nearly \$6.250 billion, including \$7.163 million from the government and \$6.086 billion from the private sector.

At this time last year the country bought similar products, valued at \$4.853 billion from overseas customers, including \$171 billion from the

government sector. The total import of goods in the current FY topped over \$15.510 billion, including over \$5.492 billion in capital goods and \$3.768 billion in consumer goods. The current figures increased by \$2 billion, compared to the same period in the last fiscal year.

Myanmar conducts trade with Asian countries, ASEAN member states, island nations, Middle Eastern states, some European and African states, and other western countries. Roughly 80 per cent of the country’s external trade is through sea routes.—Shwe Khine ■

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- Market Place by City Mart (Junction City)
- City Mart (Aung San Stadium)
- City Mart (47th street)
- City Mart (Yankin)
- City Mart (China Town)
- City Mart (Myay Ni Gone)
- City Mart (FMI)
- City Mart (Junction Square)
- City Mart (Junction Maw Tin)
- City Mart (Sule Square)
- City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)
- City Mart (Waizayandar)
- City Mart (Hledan)
- City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
- City Mart (Junction 8)
- City Mart (St. John)
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Diplomats, UN officials witness true situation in Rakhine State

FROM PAGE-1

Dr. Win Myat Aye, U Nyi Pu and the visiting delegation then travelled by helicopter to Ngakhuya Village and inspected the temporary repatriation camp there. The ambassadors interacted with the local residents and asked them questions.

The ambassadors, UN agency representatives and other organizations were then given a presentation on the Ngakhuya temporary repatriation centre by Deputy Director for General Administration Department U Zaw Min. He mentioned the different ministries involved in the repatriation process and the departments that were formed to carry out the process. He also pointed out the temporary shelters and basic necessities provided to the repatriates before answering questions posed by the foreign delegates. The group was then shown the repatriation office compound and the houses set up for the repatriates.

The visiting delegation was then taken to the repatriation camp for displaced persons who will return by land in Taung Pyo Letwe Township. The group toured the office compound, the temporary shelters for displaced persons and the bridge connecting Myanmar and Bangladesh borders.

The group then visited Hla Pho Khaung, a transit camp where displaced persons can take up temporary residence. U Ye Htut, Maungtau District Deputy

commissioner later explained the further processes of the camp and answered questions put forth by the visiting delegation, before showing the group around the camp.

By noon, the group arrived in Kanyin Chaung Special Economic Zone and inspected the construction process and the border trade situation there. They then travelled to Border Gate (1) in Maungtau Township and inspected the area. The group then went to the local market in Maungtau to assess the free trade in the area and bought some items from the vendors there.

The Union Minister and his entourage travelled back to Sitway and returned to Yangon in the evening. The group, led by Dr. Win Myat Aye, comprised of ambassadors and officials from the embassies of Egypt, Finland, Germany, Israel, Italy, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, New Zealand, Brazil, Poland and Sri Lanka in Yangon, as well as representatives from United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, United Nations Fund for Population Activities, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, World Health Organisation, International Organisation for Migration, Asian Development Bank and United Nations Office for Project Services.—Myanmar News Agency



Diplomats and UN officials visit the repatriation camp in Ngakhuya Village, Maungtau. **PHOTO: MNA**



Diplomats and UN officials check rice sacks stored at the repatriation camp in Ngakhuya. **PHOTO: MNA**



Diplomats and UN officials visit the Border Gate (1) in Maungtau Township. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**



Diplomats and UN officials visit houses at Taung Pyo Letwe repatriation camp in Maungtau, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**



Diplomats and UN officials meet with local people at Ngakhuya Village. **PHOTO: MNA**



Diplomats and UN officials meeting with immigration officers at Ngakhuya Village. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**



Diplomats and UN officials visit Kanyin Chaung Special Economic Zone. **PHOTO: MNA**



The delegation of diplomats and UN officials headed by Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye visits Maungtaw Market. **PHOTO: MNA**



Diplomats and UN officials visit Maungtaw Market. **PHOTO: MNA**



Diplomats and UN officials visit the friendship bridge at Taung Pyo Letwe. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu brief on repatriation readiness in Sittway. **PHOTO: MNA**

Conservation project comes just in time for Myanmar elephants

WITH yesterday's launching of the 10-year project for conservation of Myanmar elephants, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has taken another important step to protect and conserve wildlife and to prevent conflicts between wild elephants and humans.

The project includes four tasks: to conserve and protect wild elephants and their habitat, to solve the conflicts between humans and elephants, to prevent and crack down on the smuggling of elephant parts, and to manage the keeping of elephants as pets.

This project came about after previous biodiversity conservation projects were reviewed and modernized by experts.

Myanmar has the second-largest number of domesticated elephants in the world after India. Currently, Myanmar has an estimated 2,500 wild elephants in her rainforests.

Myanmar has 4,748 registered elephants that are kept as pets, used for timber extraction and other heavy lifting and at tourism sites for elephant rides.

At least one wild elephant is killed per week by poachers who skin the animals and sell the parts, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. If this were allowed to continue, experts say, Myanmar could lose its wild elephant population in a matter of years.

A high demand for elephant body parts including skin has turned the country into a poaching hotspot.

Elephants are typically shot with poisoned darts or high-velocity rifles, and die a prolonged and painful death before being skinned, environmental officials said. Their skin, teeth, tusks and other parts are sold locally and overseas.

Elephant skin has long been part of the illegal wildlife trade, but never at such high levels, conservation experts said.

In 2016, 18 wild elephants were killed, according to the ministry, but by August, NGOs working in the field put the figure of poached and skinned elephants at least 30, an average of one killing per week. Official estimates put the wild elephant population in Myanmar at 1,400 to 2,000, but the actual figure could be far lower.

Myanmar signed the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to protect Myanmar wild elephants and has passed laws against poaching.

The Myanmar government has also constructed wild elephant reserves to protect the elephants against hunters and has plans for several more in the near future, including Hukaung Valley Elephant Reserve, Alaungdaw Kathapa Elephant Reserve, Shwe U Daung Elephant Reserve, Myauk Zar Mayee Elephant Reserve, Rakhine Wildlife Reserve, and Rakhine Yoma Reserve.

Nationally, Myanmar has set aside 9,205 square miles for elephant sanctuaries. Local and international non-governmental organizations are also planning to expand the amount of land dedicated to wildlife reserves in Myanmar.

Myanmar's wild elephants will be wiped out unless we take action now. We would like to call on individuals and organizations across all sectors to speak up and take urgent action before our wild elephants are silenced forever. ■

Marching towards a peaceful and prosperous democratic federal union



Maung Nyein Chan (Commission)

ALL Myanmar nationals were feeling joyous and happy to know that The New Mon State Party (NMSP) and Lahu Democratic Union (LDU) have signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw on 13 February, 2018.

Formerly, the Union Government and eight ethnic groups including the Karen National Union (KNU), the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS), the Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO), the Chin National Front (CNF), the All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF), the Arakan Liberation Party (ALP), the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) and the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army-Peace Council (KNU/KNLA-PC) signed the NCA. The signing of the NCA by the NMSP and the LDU brought to 10th number of ethnic groups that have signed the agreement, a prerequisite for participating in the peace process.

The NMSP and the LDU are members of the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC), and they have been removed from the list of unlawful associations, according to officials.

NMSP's Executive Committee Member Naing Aung Mangae said at the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA),

"The next step after the NCA is holding a national political dialogue, and we are committed to it. There are advantages, as well as disadvantages, in holding this dialogue. The disadvantage is that not all EAOs are on board yet; however, the advantage is that signing the NCA allows us to participate in political dialogues. The NMSP alone cannot bring about change, so we are ready to work together with everyone to create the Federal Republic."

A journey towards a democratic federal union

Signing the NCA is not giving in to the government and Tatmadaw, officials said. While some have ill feelings about it, all ethnic armed organisations (EAOs) should not have skepticism, distrust or anxiety about the NCA, officials said.

The NCA is a landmark agreement between the government and ethnic armed races, and it was first signed on 15 October 2015. The NCA aims at solving political problems through peaceful political dialogue and achieve success in political discussions.

Advantages of signing the NCA

All the ethnic armed groups can live peacefully in their own places and the children will be able to pursue their studies without any difficulties. Smooth and efficient transportation systems will be possible, making for faster shipping of goods that will make commodity prices fall. All this will result in higher living standards for local residents.

The local people can enjoy the fruitful results of peace and the benefits of earning a peaceful living, especially in these areas, infrastructures such as roads, bridges, schools, hospitals and telecommunications offices have been built and local people can now travel freely from one place to another. Everyone can witness that their ways of life and living standards have increased dramatically.

Within the Federal System, it is essential to establish one's own legislative power that all ethnic groups have been craving for.

It is very crucial for all the nationalities living in the union to equally participate in promoting national unity and keeping the Union in perpetuity.

Moreover to ensure national reconciliation, it is necessary not only to establish clear confidence between the nation and armed ethnic groups, but also to create mutual trust among ethnic groups. As the essential need of peacekeeping process is trust, it is necessary to put strong effort in building clear confidence among national brethren. When we have gained national unity and national reconciliation, it is sure for us to be able to build a peaceful and prosperous Democratic Federal Union.

Peaceful Union

Throughout history, ancient Myanmar kings built a strong union through national spirit. In the late Konbaung dynasty, the country fell under the colonisation of the imperialists. Consequently, national brethren became disunited. Having founded the Myanmar Tatmadaw under the leadership of Bogoyoke Aung San, the national people fought against the invaders with the help of the Japanese. However, all the national people suffered from the bitter treatment of fascism. When the Second World War broke out, fascists were driven out of the country.

However, the British colonists who came back to our country again were hesitant to give independence to Myanmar and they intended to give independence only to the mainland but not the hilly regions. Thanks to the efforts of Bogoyoke Aung San and all ethnic races, Myanmar regained her independence in 1948.

After regaining independence, the social standards of our national people declined due to armed conflicts and lack of peace and stability in the country. Such long-lasting armed conflict only left our country's development behind other countries in the region.

For the development of our country, politics and economics go hand in hand and national reconciliation is one of the most important foundations in setting country's economic policy.

The Essence of NCA

The NCA is regarded as the beginning of peace and the original source of political process in Myanmar. The signing of the NCA by the NMSP and the LDU is leading us the right way. The remaining non-signatories should sign the NCA boldly, with decisive spirit, and leave a good legacy for the benefit of posterity so that the future generations can enjoy the fruitful results of the peace process, thereby they will be able to march towards a peaceful and prosperous Democratic Federal Union. ■

Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung

The NCA is a landmark agreement between the government and ethnic armed races, and it was first signed on 15 October 2015.

Let Us Taste The Health Benefits by Drinking Hot Water

Thin Hlaing Hmwe (Junior)

Almost all people get used to drink the normal (cold) water. Some people who own the refrigerator can have colder water. Those people do not like the taste of normal water as the tastes of the two kinds of water; one is normal and the other is refrigerated; are rather different. We have to admit and accept that the taste of refrigerated water makes ones good. In almost urban houses, people can afford to buy a refrigerator and put water and other foodstuff in it. Therefore, those people have never heard that drinking the hot water offer the uncountable benefits to human beings. As for me, I was amazed when I first knew about it. However, when one of my friends who always drinks the hot water told me about his health status after practicing the habit of drinking hot water for three months, I gradually realized it. The followings are the benefits that my friend has explained me recently.

Having Better Digestion

Water is a natural lubricant that helps the natural process of digestion since it hydrates the digestive organs and helps eliminate the waste by dissolving and dissipating foods you eat. Besides, drinking a hot glass of water every morning has a cleaning effect on your organs, relieving constipation since it supports bowel movements.

Relieving Constipation And Supporting Bowel Movements

As it was said before, hot water is important to your digestive health since it lubricates your organs. When you are constipated the hot water will help the contraction of the intestines helping the trapped waste to leave your body. The regular drinking helps keeping natural bowel movements, being considered a natural remedy for constipation and helping the body get back to its normal functions.

Relieving Achalasia

There is a gastrointestinal condition that occurs in part of the population (especially elderly people or people more sensitive to stress) called achalasia where the food has trouble to move through the oesophagus to the stomach. These people usually have a hard time swallow

ing and have food stuck on the oesophagus. The digestion and the passage of the food get easier with hot water since it lubricates the organs and eases the passage.

Breathing Better

Most people suffer with trouble breathing, colds or sinus during their lifetime. When hot water is drunk, mucous moves faster, easing coughing and nose-blowing, besides stream helps unclog sinuses. Also, since hot water acts like a lubricant it can relieve sore throat.

Making you Calm

Hot water can calm down the central nervous system. This system is the main controller of our reaction and unfortunately it is also the center of the pain for many people who suffer from diseases like arthritis. Drinking hot water helps relieving the pain by calming down the central nervous system.

Reducing Pain

Circulation and blood flow are improved by hot water and it is used by athletes to cure injured muscles. Drinking hot water offers internal pain relief however it is important to take care since heat can also potentiate swelling. Besides, applying hot water directly to a swollen area where you feel, pain can relieve. In women, hot water has benefits reducing cramps and pre-menstrual syndrome symptoms.

Hydrating

As it is said in the beginning of this article, water is important to keep your body working well so it is important to keep a regular consumption through the day. Most people cannot drink the amount of water needed every day, leading to imbalances in their bodies. It is recommended you drink a cup of hot water every morning when you wake up and every night before going to bed. This way you will be closer to drinking a healthier amount of water and get all its benefits.

Helping in Losing Weight

When you drink hot water, you are raising your body temperature. Since our bodies tend to keep a regular temperature, they will try to compensate the raising activating the metabolism (raising the body temperature from 36.6° C to 37° C or 98° F to 98.6° F raises the metabolism by 40% for about 30 to 40 minutes next to the water consumption).

When the metabolism is risen, the body burns more calories and your gastrointestinal and renal systems work better. Also drinking hot water makes you feel full and need to eat less junk food and helps the body absorbing the nutrients you need.

Preventing Premature Aging by Elimination Toxins

Due to the stressful life, that people live nowadays premature aging is getting worse. It is getting harder to remove toxins from their bodies since they are exposed to stress agents every day. Removing these toxins is an important anti-aging weapon. Women are particularly suffering from this, not only because they are more self-conscious but also due to their complex hormone system that leads to constipation and other issues. When drinking hot water, the endocrine system activates, and you start sweating, eliminating all the bad things that are in your body.

Decreasing Stress Levels

Once hot water helps you having a better central nervous system function, drinking can help relieve anxiety symptoms, lowering heart rate, systolic and diastolic blood pressure, integumentary swelling, temperature and cortisol levels.

Be careful!

He recommends you start drinking a cup of hot water every morning in the beginning, when you start to get used to do it and start also drinking one at night also. If you don't like the taste of water, you can also drink with tea and get all the benefits of polyphenols or coffee.

It is true that drinking hot water has benefits for your health, but you must be careful when drinking it. If the water is too hot it can lead to severe damage to the oesophagus and taste buds and scald the tongue. It is important to check the temperature before drinking.

Besides, if you live in a hot country or are going to exercise or go through intense physical effort you should not drink hot water since it makes less thirsty although you need more water, leading to a bigger risk of dehydration.

If you are having any frequent medication talk to your doctor to be sure that drinking hot water will not interfere with the medication effects. ■

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing to accept Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant

TATMADAW Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing left for Thailand by air on the invitation of Chief of Defence Force of the Royal Thai Armed Forces Gen. Tarnchaiyan Srisuwan to attend a ceremony to accept the award of the Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant.

The Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and his delegation were seen off by Deputy Commander-in-Chief Vice Senior General Soe Win, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Mya Tun Oo, high ranking officers from the commander-in-chief's office, the Nay Pyi Taw Command commander, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Royal Thai Embassy in Yangon Narong Boonsatheanwong, Royal Thai Armed Forces military attaché (air) and officials at the Nay Pyi Taw airport.

Accompanying the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief were his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, high ranking officers from the commander-in-chief's (Army) office and the Yangon Command commander. The Tatmadaw commander-in-chief will accept the Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant presented by the King of Thailand and will visit other well-known places in the country.

The Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief, his wife and delegation arrived in Bangkok, Thailand, where they were welcomed by Gen. Tarnchaiyan Srisuwan and his wife high ranking officers from Royal Thai Armed Forces, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint Than, Myanmar military attaché Brig-Gen Khin Zaw and officials at the Don Muang airport (Wing-6).—Myanmar News Agency ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing welcomed by Gen. Tarnchaiyan Srisuwan, of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Delegation led by Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe leaves for Bangladesh

A delegation comprising personnel from the Myanmar Police Force, General Administrative Department and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, left for Bangladesh from Yangon International Airport yesterday morning. They

were seen off at the airport by officials. The Myanmar delegation will discuss matters related to Myanmar-Bangladesh border security, the rule of law, anti-narcotic activities and the opening of a Border Liaison Office during their visit.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and party pose for a documentary photo before departure for Bangladesh. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ministry of Border Affairs, SDC sign MoU

THE Ministry of Border Affairs and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) signed the second amendment to a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at the Ministry of Border Affairs meeting hall yesterday morning.

At the signing ceremony, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung delivered a message and SDC Head of Cooperation Mr Markus Buerli explained the second amendment to the MoU.

Next, Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department Director General U Ye Naing and MF Markus Buerli signed and exchanged the second amendment to the MoU.

The Ministry of Border Affairs, Progress of Border



A signing ceremony of MoU between Ministry of Border Affairs and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation held in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Areas and National Races Department and SDC had cooperated on basic infrastructure works for education and health in Kayin State and Mon State from 2013 to 2017. According to the second amendments

to the MoU, the project fund has been raised from US\$5.5 million to \$6.4 million, and the project period has been extended to be implemented by 27 December 2018. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Ambulance donation ceremony held in Sittway

A ceremony to donate an ambulance to the Rakhine State Government by the People's Republic of Bangladesh was held in front of the Rakhine State Government's office at 9 a.m. yesterday.

The Commercial Counselor of the Bangladesh Embassy in Yangon Mr. Hasan Khaled

Foisal handed over the necessary documents for donation to Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu.

This is the third ambulance donation by the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and the previous ambulances have already been transferred to the Ministry of Social

Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Attendees at the ceremony were the Rakhine State Chief Minister, State Ministers, Advocate General of the State and the Commercial Counselor of the Bangladesh Embassy in Yangon and in Sittway. —Tin Htun (IPRD) ■



Mr. Hasan Khaled Foisal hands over the documents for donation to Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses ...



Maj-Gen Than Htut.
PHOTO: MNA



MP U Whey Tin.
PHOTO: MNA

FROM PAGE-2

The earth removal work in Mulaung Village was not carried out with funds provided by the Ministry of Border Affairs, but with the funds of the state government, said the deputy minister.

Regarding the companies that were responsible for conducting maintenance works in the 2016-2017 FY period but can complete their works only in the 2017-2018 FY and the action to be taken against them if they are unable to complete it in the 2017-2018 FY period, the deputy minister said

companies which were responsible for conducting maintenance works have to make submissions to the development management offices of the relevant states/regions and from there to the ministries. Depending upon the availability of funds, it will be conducted accordingly. However, if a force majeure situation occurs, it should be reported to the ministry within a month, and if the ministry accepts the situation, it will allow a grace period. If the work is not completed in the set FY, the relevant company will have to pay a penalty for delay at the rate of 0.01 per cent a day, explained the deputy minister.

Next, a committee report on the findings and remarks on the industrial copyright design bill, invention copyright bill, trademark copyright bill, and literature and art copyright bill was read by committee member Tatmadaw representative Brig-Gen Tint Lwin.

This was followed by Amyotha Hluttaw Speak-

er Mahn Win Khaing Than obtaining the approval of the Hluttaw for the industrial design copyright bill.

Later, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi tabled the bill that was supported by U Ko Ko Naing of Sagaing Region constituency (8).

The decision of the Hluttaw was obtained for the bill and as the Hluttaw agreed, it was announced by the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker to be confirmed as amended.

Mahn Win Khaing Than then obtained the decision of the Hluttaw on the invention copyright bill.

The bill was also tabled by Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, which was supported by U Ko Ko Naing of Sagaing Region constituency (8).

The decision of the Hluttaw was then obtained for the bill and as the Hluttaw agreed, it was announced by the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker to be confirmed as amended.

Similarly, Mahn Win Khaing Than obtained the decision of the Hluttaw on the trademark copyright bill and the literature and art copyright bill.

Both the bills were tabled by Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and supported by Daw Myat Thida Tun of Mon State constituency (5), and both the bills were given the nod by the Hluttaw. Mahn Win Khaing Than announced the confirmation of the two bills as amended.

The 19th-day meeting of the seventh session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 19 February.—Aye Aye Thant (Myanmar News Agency) ■

TRADE MARK CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that Starbucks Corporation, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Washington, USA and having its principal office at 240 Utah Avenue South, Seattle, Washington 98134, United States of America is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademarks:-



(Reg: Nos. IV/14771/2014 & IV/12545/2017)

In respect of: "Electric coffee grinders for domestic or commercial use;" **Class 07**

"Loyalty cards, incentive cards, reward cards, gift cards, and club cards that may be used towards the purchase of coffee, tea, cocoa, packaged and prepared foods, electric appliances, non-electric appliances, house wares, kitchenware, books, musical recordings, toys, including teddy bears, stuffed toys, plush toys, dolls and accessories therefor, ornaments; Computer application software for mobile devices and mobile phones, namely, software for consumers to access, monitor and manage their loyalty program profile and funds in associated stored value accounts, pay for purchases via mobile pay functionality, access menu data and store location information; Computer software for use in authoring, downloading, transmitting, receiving, editing, extracting, encoding, decoding, playing, storing and organizing audio data; audio recordings featuring classical, jazz, contemporary, pop, seasonal, Rhythm and Blues, soul, world, and rock music; digital audio players; downloadable music via a global computer network and wireless devices; covers and cases for cell phones and personal electronic devices; straps for cellphones; decorative ornaments for cell phones; holders for magnetically encoded gift cards; magnetic coded gift cards; mouse pads; vending machines" **Class 09**

"Electrical appliances, namely, espresso makers and coffee makers for domestic and/or commercial use; water filters; water filtration and purification units and replacement cartridges and filters therefor" **Class 11**

"Clocks, alarm clocks, watches and wristwatches, kitchen timers, stop watches; jewelry" **Class 14**

"Wallets, billfolds, tote bags, purses, briefcases, book bags, briefcase-type portfolios, valises and umbrellas, all made of cloth, plastic or leather, key fobs of leather" **Class 18**

"Hand operated coffee grinders and coffee mills, insulated coffee and beverage cups, paper cups, non-paper reusable coffee filters, non-paper coasters, insulated vacuum bottles, coffee cups, tea cups and mugs, glassware, dishes, plates and bowls, trivets, storage canisters, non-electric drip coffee makers, non-electric plunger-style coffee makers, decorative storage containers for food, non-electric tea kettles, tea infusers, tea pots, tea strainers, candle holder (not of precious metal), candlesticks not of precious metal, ceramic figurines, porcelain figurines" **Class 21**

"T-shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts, caps, hats, jackets, shorts, aprons and neckties." **Class 25:**

Toys, namely, teddy bears, stuffed toys, plush toys, dolls and accessories therefor, Christmas ornaments, yo-yos, playing cards" **Class 28**

"Drinking milk; flavored milk; milkshakes; milk-based food beverages, excluding milkshakes; milk-based beverages containing coffee; milk-based beverages containing fruit juice; milk-based beverages containing fruit; milk-based beverages containing chocolate; milk-based beverages containing tea; soy-based food beverage used as a milk substitute; noncarbonated milk-based soft drinks; milk-based energy drinks; soy milk; nut milk; nut juice; fruit jams; compote, jellies, meat-based spread, fish-based spread, poultry-based spread, fruit-based spread, nut-based spread, vegetable-based spread, dairy-based spread; preserved fruit and vegetables, prepared meals consisting primarily of meat, soy, poultry, seafood, vegetables, fruits, tofu, and/or cheese; yogurt, yogurt-based beverages; whipping cream; prepared nuts, seasoned nuts, roasted nuts; edible oils and fats." **Class: 29**

"Fruit juices; fruit and juice based beverages; fruit drinks and soft drinks containing fruit juices; frozen fruit beverages and frozen fruit-based beverages; fruit concentrates and purees used as ingredients of beverages; beverage concentrates and syrups for making frozen blended beverages; sparkling fruit and juice based beverages and soda beverages; vegetable-fruit juices; vegetable-based beverages; beverages containing vegetable juices; liquid and powdered beverage mixes; water, mineral water, sparkling water, drinking water with vitamins, and other nonalcoholic drinks; soft drinks; soda pop beverages; flavoring syrups for making beverages; flavored and unflavored bottled waters; energy drinks; soy-based beverages not being milk substitutes; soy drinks and soy-based beverages; nut milk; nut juice." **Class: 32**

"Financial services, namely, debit, credit and stored-value card services; charitable fund raising services" **Class 36**

"Communication services, namely, transmitting streamed and downloadable audio and video entertainment programming via computer, satellite and communications networks; audio entertainment broadcasting and transmission; subscription audio and video entertainment broadcasting and transmission via computer, satellite and communications networks; electronic and digital transmission of voice, data, information, images, signals and messages; providing online chat rooms, bulletin boards and community forums for the transmission of messages among computer users concerning entertainment, music, concerts, videos, radio, television, film, news, sports, games and cultural events; delivery of messages by electronic transmission; provision of connectivity services and access to electronic communications networks, for transmission or reception of audio, video or multimedia content; Providing multiple user dedicated access to the Internet; Broadcasting and downloading service that allows users to playback, sample, download, store, create playlists and stream music, videos, movies, games and entertainment related programming over computers, wireless devices, personal digital assistants (PDAs), telephones, and digital listening and playback devices; transmission of electronic gift cards and greeting cards." **Class: 38**

"Entertainment services, namely, the organization, production, and presentation of lectures in the fields of news, politics, current events, human interest, comedy shows, concerts, sporting events; conducting of personal appearances by television personalities, movie stars, music celebrities, and sports celebrities for entertainment purposes; Publishing and production of musical and sound recordings; providing information in the fields of news and current events in the fields of health and wellness, music, travel, business, politics, economics, arts and leisure activities, human interest via communications networks; providing information in the fields of sports, and arts and leisure activities via communications networks; providing non-downloadable, pre-recorded music via communications networks; providing articles, non-downloadable movies and non-downloadable television programs in the fields of music, video, radio, television, news current events, sports, games, cultural events, comedy, drama, children's content, documentaries, current, planned, and historical offerings of music, books, television, and movies, celebrities entertainment, and arts and leisure activities via communications networks; music publishing services; publishing of music, articles, movies and television programs via communications networks; broadcasting of movies and television programs via communications networks; music production services; entertainment services, namely, providing reviews of music and commentary and articles about music." **Class 41**



(Reg: Nos. IV/14770/2014 & IV/12546/2017)

In respect of: "Clocks, alarm clocks, watches and wristwatches, kitchen timers, stop watches; jewelry" **Class 14**

"Wallets, billfolds, tote bags, purses, briefcases, book bags, briefcase-type portfolios, valises and umbrellas, all made of cloth, plastic or leather, key fobs of leather" **Class 18**

"T-shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts, caps, hats, jackets, shorts, aprons and neckties" **Class 25**

"Toys, namely, teddy bears, stuffed toys, plush toys, dolls and accessories therefor, Christmas ornaments, yo-yos, playing cards" **Class 28**

"Financial services, namely, debit, credit and stored-value card services; charitable fund raising services" **Class 36**

"Entertainment services, namely, the organization, production, and presentation of lectures in the fields of news, politics, current events, human interest, comedy shows, concerts, sporting events; conducting of personal appearances by television personalities, movie stars, music celebrities, and sports celebrities for entertainment purposes; Publishing and production of musical and sound recordings; providing information in the fields of news and current events in the fields of health and wellness, music, travel, business, politics, economics, arts and leisure activities, human interest via communications networks; providing information in the fields of sports, and arts and leisure activities via communications networks; providing non-downloadable, pre-recorded music via communications networks; providing articles, non-downloadable movies and non-downloadable television programs in the fields of music, video, radio, television, news current events, sports, games, cultural events, comedy, drama, children's content, documentaries, current, planned, and historical offerings of music, books, television, and movies, celebrities entertainment, and arts and leisure activities via communications networks; music publishing services; publishing of music, articles, movies and television programs via communications networks; broadcasting of movies and television programs via communications networks; music production services; entertainment services, namely, providing reviews of music and commentary and articles about music." **Class 41**



(Reg: Nos. IV/6294/2011, IV/14769/2014 & IV/12547/2017)

in respect of: "Ground and whole bean coffee, cocoa, tea (herbal and non-herbal), coffee, tea, cocoa and espresso beverages, and beverages made with a base of coffee and/or espresso, beverages

made with a base of tea, powdered chocolate and vanilla; sauces to add to beverages; chocolate syrup, flavoring syrups to add to beverages, baked goods including muffins, scones, biscuits, cookies, pastries and breads, sandwiches, granola, ready-to-drink coffee, ready-to-drink tea, ice cream and frozen confections; chocolate, candy and confections." **Class: 30**

"Business administration; business management; franchising, namely providing technical assistance in the establishment and/or operation of restaurants, cafes, coffee houses and snack bars; retail services in the field of: coffee, tea, cocoa, packaged and prepared foods, electric appliances, non-electric appliances, housewares, kitchenware, clocks, watches, kitchen timers, stop watches, jewelry, books, musical recordings, mouse pads, wallets, billfolds, tote bags, purses, briefcases, book bags, valises and umbrellas, all made of cloth, plastic or leather, key fobs of leather, clothing, caps and hats, toys, including teddy bears, stuffed toys, plush toys, dolls and accessories therefor, Christmas ornaments; wholesale distributorships, wholesale stores and wholesale ordering services all in the field of: coffee, tea, cocoa, packaged and prepared foods, electric appliances, non-electric appliances, housewares, kitchenware, clocks, watches, kitchen timers, stop watches, jewelry, books, musical recordings, mouse pads, wallets, billfolds, tote bags, purses, briefcases, book bags, valises and umbrellas, all made of cloth, plastic or leather, key fobs of leather, clothing, caps and hats, toys, including teddy bears, stuffed toys, dolls and accessories therefor, Christmas ornaments; computerized online gift registry and ordering service." **Class: 35**

"Restaurant, café, cafeteria, snack bar, coffee bar and coffee house, carry out restaurant, and take out restaurant services; catering services; coffee supply services for offices; contract food services; food preparation; preparation and sale of carry out foods and beverages" **Class: 43**

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademark or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

S.S. Rana & Co.

for Starbucks Corporation,

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Fax: 91-11-40123010 Email: trademarks@ssrana.com

Science and Technology Fair- 2018 kicks off at MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi delivers a speech at the Science and Technology Fair- 2018 at MICC-2 in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Science and Technology Fair -2018 was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw at 9 a.m. yesterday.

Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi delivered a keynote speech outlining the purpose of the event. He said the event was held to increase the interest of the students in the fields of science and technology. He hoped that by participating in these competitions, students would become more innovative and competitive, learn about teamwork and cooperation, and develop a sense of responsibility. Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said that the field of education was one of the most heavily invested sectors across the globe, with everyone in a mad dash to develop it. As a result, young people need to be equipped with modern and updated skills to become key players on the global stage.

Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said his ministry supported all research beneficial to the socio-economic development of the nation. His ministry will also participate in

the future to conduct discussions and seminars for research papers from various departments and universities.

Some of the prominent fields showcased during the day's event were biotechnology, biology and botany, and included people from both arts and science universities, as well as technological universities. This gives people a chance to share their experiences and sharpen their skills, while allowing experts and enthusiasts to come together and discuss relevant topics, he added.

The Union Minister concluded his speech by saying he hoped the young participants at the fair would go on to become pioneers in their respective fields of science, engineering, and information and communication technology and become model citizens that contribute to the development of the country.

The Union Minister then took a commemorative photograph with the participants and a tour of the event.

The two-day event is being

held from 15 to 16 February. The event organisers have invited U Htet San Lin, U Thaw Dar Tun and U Htoo Myint Naung from the Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association, who will discuss the challenges and opportunities for technological entrepreneurs. Furthermore, readings of research papers by experts and thesis by postgraduate students will also be held.

Deputy Minister of Education U Win Maw Tun, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Tin Tun, members of the education development committee from the Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws, members of the National Education Policy Commission, permanent secretaries and directors-general of various departments, members of the Myanmar Engineer Council and the Myanmar Engineer Association, members of the Myanmar Computer Professionals Association, members of the Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association and other invited officials also attended the event. —Myanmar News Agency

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives CEO of Westminster Foundation for Democracy



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat holds talks with Mr. Antony Smith, Chief Executive officer of WFD. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat received Mr. Antony Smith, Chief Executive officer of Westminster Foundation For Democracy (WFD) in the office of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to cooperation for the development of Hluttaws, courses for representatives of Hluttaw, law-making sectors, and conducting courses and workshops for the Hluttaw's

Workshop to improve tourism in Bagan held in Nay Pyi Taw

A workshop to discuss plans to improve tourism in the Bagan Region was held in Nay Pyi Taw's Horizon Lake View Resort yesterday morning.

While U Yee Mon, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Hotel and Tourism, explained the finished processes with regard to improving tourism in the region, Go Kimura, leader of JICA's expert team, explained the ongoing processes, and the challenges and strengths faced by the three teams implementing the plans.

Daw Khin Than Win,

Deputy Director-General of the Department of Hotel and Tourism Administration, then explained how JICA will use the results of the Bagan tourism project to guide them in carrying out a similar project in Mrauk-U, Rakhine State. Takayuki Miyoshi from the JICA expert team explained the key components of the strategy used to implement sustainable tourism in Bagan and provided a general summary of the plan, as well as future plans for implementation.—Myanmar News Agency

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V EVER ALLY VOY. NO. (0228-559W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EVER ALLY VOY. NO. (0228-559W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING
LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V GREAT LEGEND VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GREAT LEGEND VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-3 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 WILHELMSSEN SHIPS
AGENCIES PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (048)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (048) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16-2-2018 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.

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Shellfish reefs: Australia's untold environmental disaster

SYDNEY — Virtually all of Australia's shellfish reefs have disappeared, making them the country's most threatened ocean ecosystem, scientists said Thursday, calling for more investment to rescue the important marine habitats.

While recent global focus has been on the destruction of coral reefs, a

study led by the Nature Conservancy found that between 90 and 99 per cent of shellfish reefs have vanished since British colonisation 230 years ago.

The reefs, formed by millions of oysters or mussels clustering together, used to occur in bays, estuaries and nearshore coastal waters in both tropical and temperate

regions across every state in Australia.

They are complex living structures that provide food and shelter for a range of other invertebrate and fish species, while aiding water filtration and shoreline protection.

"We already knew shellfish reefs were in bad shape globally with

85 percent of them lost or severely degraded," said study leader Chris Gillies, marine manager at The Nature Conservancy.

"Our study confirms the situation for these important marine habitats in Australia is even worse, with less than one per cent of flat oyster and 10 per cent of rock oyster habitats remaining."—AFP ■



Virtually all of Australia's shellfish reefs have disappeared, making them the country's most threatened ocean ecosystem, scientists say. **PHOTO: AFP**



Japan's Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry Toshimitsu Motegi said the current expansion was solid. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japan economy grows for 8th straight quarter, longest since 1980s

TOKYO — Japan's economy grew for the eighth straight quarter at the end of 2017, government data showed Wednesday, its longest period of expansion since the "bubble" boom days of the late 1980s. Gross domestic product figures fell short of expectations and represented a slowdown from the previous quarter, but analysts forecast continued growth nonetheless.

GDP expanded just 0.1 per cent in the last quarter of 2017, the Cabinet Office said, a far cry from the 0.6 per cent figure for July-September.

"The growth rate for the last quarter was very low compared with the bubble period but the economy is solid enough," said Takeshi Minami, chief economist at Norinchukin

Research Institute.

"The slowdown was due primarily to inventory adjustments and a decline in the contribution of net exports due to strength in imports," added analysts at Barclays in a report.

"As such, it did not imply a pull-back in the momentum of economic recovery," analysts Tetsufumi Yamakawa, Yuichiro Nagai and Yukito Funakubo wrote.

At an annualised rate, the world's third largest economy grew 0.5 per cent, also missing expectations.

"There are lingering worries over consumption but we can expect the economy to pick up further if 'shunto' wage hikes are better than the previous years," said Minami, referring to collective wage negotiations between la-

bour and management held every spring.

"The current expansion could be extended further," he told AFP.

For the calendar year 2017, the economy grew 1.6 percent, against 0.9 per cent in 2016. Japan's Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry Toshimitsu Motegi said the current expansion was solid compared with the more volatile "bubble" boom in the 1980s, according to Bloomberg News.

Speculative investment in land and stocks on low interest rates, pushed the Nikkei stock index to almost 40,000 in 1989 — nearly double its current level. But the bubble burst at the start of the 1990s, ushering in a period of low or no growth known as the "lost decades".—AFP ■

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS MYANMA RAILWAYS

Announcement of Preferred Bidder for

Yangon Central Railways Station Area Comprehensive Development Project

1. Myanma Railways, Ministry of Transport and Communications has requested submission of Expression of Interest - EOI from (6.8.2015) to (6.1.2016) and subsequently Request for Proposal - RFP from (6.3.2016) to (18.9.2016), from reputable local, international and joint venture developers to undertake Planning/ Design, Build, Finance, Operate including improvement and Transfer (DBFOT) for Yangon Central Railways Station Area Comprehensive Development Project.
2. This is to announce that, the submitted Request for Proposals – RFPs have been evaluated and obtained approval from the Cabinet Meeting (2/2018) of the Union Government to confirm the consortium comprising, Oxley Holdings, Min Dhama Co., Ltd and Sino Great Wall Co., Ltd as Preferred Bidder.
3. Myanma Railways shall continue to conduct negotiation meetings with the Preferred Bidder and subject to the completion of negotiations and legal arrangements, shall make necessary announcement in due course.

Managing Director
Myanma Railways

Myanmar VES Joint Venture Company Limited (Under Members' Voluntary Winding-up) [Notice under Section 208 (E) of the Myanmar Companies Act]

Notice is hereby given that the Final General Meeting of the above Company under Section 208(E) of the Myanmar Companies Act will be held at No. 180, 8th Floor, Taw Win Myanmar Condominium, Botahtaung Pagoda Road, Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region on 16th March, 2018 at 10:00 am for the purpose of laying Liquidator's statements of Accounts of the final winding-up and giving any explanation thereof.

U Moe Kyaw, Liquidator
B.Com, C.P.A, D.B.L, ACCA
Room (2B/2C) 1st Floor, Rose Condominium,
No. 182/194, Botahtaung Pagoda Road,
Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region

MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE EXPORT MARKETING & MILLING DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

1. MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WILL SELL TEAK & HARDWOOD ROUND LOGS AND SAWN TIMBERS BY OPEN TENDERS IN US DOLLARS. PARTICULARS OF THE OPEN TENDER SALES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| (a) DATE & TIME | - (23-1-2018) (9:00) Morning
(26-1-2018) (12:00) Noon |
| (b) COMMODITIES & VOLUME | - TEAK LOGS ABOUT (1050) TONS
- TEAK CONVERSION ABOUT (230) TONS
- HARDWOOD LOGS PADAUK ABOUT (22) TONS
- PYINKADO, INKANYIN, THINWIN, TAUNGTHAYET, THATYA, INGYIN, THAU KYAN, H LAW, SAGAWA ABOUT (7299) TONS AT TO WITH
2017-2018 EXTRACTION YEAR |
| (c) PLACE | - TAW WIN HALL, GYOGONE, INSEIN TOWNSHIP, YANGON. |

2. FOR FURTHER DETAILED INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE HEAD OFFICE AND ALSO VISIT MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WEB-SITE (www.myanmar-timber.com.mm).
Contacts: Office Ph: 01528771,
E-mail: Marketing1ppy@gmail.com

OPEN TENDER COMMITTEE
MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE

Dafoe holds Oscar flag for heart-melting movie about poor kids

PARIS — Willem Dafoe frankly doesn't give a damn if he misses out on a best supporting actor Oscar for a third time next month.

"That is not what I do this for," said the dry, self-deprecating star, who was also nominated for Oliver Stone's "Platoon" in 1987 and for "Shadow of a Vampire" 13 years later.

Yet he will be sore if "The Florida Project", the break-out low-budget film about poor kids growing up in the shadow of Walt Disney World in Orlando, gets nothing.

Dafoe told AFP he was "dis-



Dafoe holds Oscar flag for heart-melting movie about poor kids. **PHOTO: AFP**

appointed when (its director) Sean Baker didn't get some love because this is very much his film and he made a beautiful movie." "I was hoping either the film or him or one

of the other performers would get recognised but it didn't happen." He was not alone. Critics swooned over the performances Baker drew from the three children he cast — one of whom he found in a supermarket — and first-timer Bria Vinaite, who he spotted on Instagram.

The subtly moving story Baker shot in a cheap motel along the Kissimmee Strip leading to the theme park, using some of its homeless residents as extras, was a surprisingly heart-warming hit and topped many best-film-of-the-year lists.—AFP ■

Aleksey German-Jr.'s 'Dovlatov' to be screened in ex-Soviet countries and China

MOSCOW — Aleksey German-Jr.'s new feature 'Dovlatov,' which premieres in competition in Berlin next month, will be shown in a number of post-Soviet states and possibly China, Channel One head Konstantin Ernst has told reporters at a news conference in TASS.

"On March 9, the film will premiere in Estonia, a very important territory in Dovlatov's destiny and life. We have received requests and are now negotiating with Kazakhstan. Full-scale distribution is not being discussed, but a series of screenings will take place," Ernst said. "A number of other post-Soviet states have also demonstrated their interest in the film."

"I'm sure that it will be screened in many countries, maybe even in China, if it is approved by the censor there," he added.

The biopic tells the story of writer and journalist Sergei Dovlatov (1941-1990). It focuses on four days of Dovlatov's life in 1971. In Russia, it will be screened on 1-4 March 2018.

The film would premiere in the Competition of the 68th Berlin International Film Festival, to be held in the German capital on 15-25 February.—Tass ■

Culture minister alarmed at US erotic drama 'stealing the show' in Russian cinemas

MOSCOW — Russian Culture Minister Vladimir Medinsky on Tuesday raised concern over the domination of *Fifty Shades Freed*, an erotic romantic drama starring Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan, in the country's movie theaters. "I don't know what social problems this undoubtedly cinematographic masterpiece is solving but it has stolen 70% of shows in our movie theaters," Medinsky said urging Deputy Prime Minister Olga Golodets, who is in charge of social issues, and the Federal Anti-Monopoly Service to focus on this matter.

The culture minister complained that the ascendancy of *Fifty Shades Freed*, which premiered nationwide on February 8, led to the failure of a number



Russia's culture minister complained that the ascendancy of *Fifty Shades Freed* led to the failure of a number of Russian movies released at the same time. **PHOTO: TASS**

of Russian movies released at the same time.

He recalled that in December Star Wars: The Last Jedi

had a 60% share of Russian film showings.—Tass ■

Wes Anderson premiere 'Isle of Dogs' opens Berlin filmfest

Acclaimed US director Wes Anderson's new animated feature "Isle of Dogs" will on Thursday kick off the Berlin film festival, which is set to be rocked by aftershocks of the #MeToo movement.

With the global cinema industry in turmoil over allegations of rampant sexual misconduct, the 11-day event will be seeking a delicate balance between Hollywood glamour and frank debate in the wake of powerful producer Harvey Weinstein's downfall.

Bryan Cranston, Bill Murray, Oscar-nominee Greta Gerwig, Jeff Goldblum and Liev

Schreiber, who voice the pack of pooches in Anderson's movie, are expected on the Berlinale red carpet for the world premiere, with stars including Robert Pattinson, Rosamund Pike, Joaquin Phoenix and Isabelle Huppert also set to present new movies.

But even before the opening, controversy erupted over the inclusion of award-winning South Korean director Kim Ki-duk, who was fined in December for assaulting an actress on set.

The actress, who has refused to be publicly identified, has accused the festival -- tra-

ditionally a strong champion of Asian cinema — of "hypocrisy" for inviting Kim to present his latest picture, "Human, Space, Time and Human".

Berlinale 'condemns violence'

Festival director Dieter Kosslick said he had excluded a handful of films because of credible sexual abuse allegations against their directors, screenwriters or stars.

But he told AFP he did not bar Kim because sexual harassment allegations by the same actress against him had been dismissed for lack of evidence,

adding that he was seeking more information about an appeal in the case.

"Obviously the Berlinale condemns and opposes any form of violence or sexual misconduct," Kosslick said.

Anderson last opened the Berlinale, which ranks with Cannes and Venice among Europe's top three cinema showcases, in 2014 with the world premiere of "The Grand Budapest Hotel", a box office hit which went on to scoop dozens of awards and an Oscar nomination for best picture.

It will be Anderson's fourth

turn in competition for the Berlinale's Golden and Silver Bear top prizes following "The Royal Tenenbaums" and "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou".

Tom Tykwer, one of the German directors behind the blockbuster miniseries "Babylon Berlin" now appearing on Netflix, will lead a gender-balanced jury including Belgian actress Cecile de France ("The Young Pope"), "Moonlight" producer Adele Romanski, Time magazine critic Stephanie Zacharek, Japanese composer Ryuichi Sakamoto and Spanish film historian Chema Prado.—AFP ■

Chinese New Year, festival of luck and family reunion, gaining popularity in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH — The majority of the Cambodians celebrate Spring Festival, or Chinese New Year, since many of them have Chinese ancestry and others believe that celebrating the festival will bring them good luck in the new year.

The 2018 Chinese Lunar New Year - the Year of the Dog - will fall on 16 February.

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen has said the Spring Festival has been gaining its popularity in the country from year to year.

"In the past, we did not see many people celebrating Chinese New Year, but today there are more and more," he wrote on his Facebook on 30 January. "When the nation has peace, people have full freedom to choose religious beliefs and to celebrate festivals according to their traditions."

The prime minister said Cambodia observes three New Year festivals in a year - the Universal New Year, the Chinese New Year and the Khmer (Cambodian) New Year.

BROAD CELEBRATION

Chinese New Year is not an official holiday in Cambodia, but the festival is broadly celebrated and some schools, private companies and institutions are closed on the occasion.

"It's pretty sure that over 60 percent of the Cambodian people celebrate Chinese New Year," Thai Norak Sathya, secretary of state and spokesman for the Cambodian Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, told Xinhua.—Xinhua ■



The project's organizers say the children living in the tundra are special first of all due to their living conditions. PHOTO: TASS

The art of theater: Oratory and communication skills for Arctic children

KRASNOYARSK — The first ever theater club for children from far-away settlement on the Taimyr Peninsula will open in Dudinka. Children from 7 years of age will learn secrets of theater arts and oratory, they will develop communication skills, as sometimes they face communication problems after living in very isolated environments, the project's organizers told TASS.

Theater lessons

The project was offered by the Mukistur community of the low-numbered indigenous peoples at Dudinka's school 1, the project's head Nadezhda Yeremina told TASS. Under the project, the school will have a class of theater arts and oratory, where professional teachers will be

educating children. This is the first ever experience of a project, aimed at working with children from nomadic families on Taimyr.

"We are making all necessary preparations, so that it begins in September, at beginning of a new academic year," she said. "We shall teach 35 children from seven years of age, who live in the tundra." The project's partner is a White Birds theater club in Dudinka. Its teachers have been working with the youth, and now they will teach Taimyr's indigenous children, who live in the tundra's settlements. "Our work would be aimed at developing performance skills, the teachers will organize lessons in stage speech and actor's skills," the White Birds' head Marina Petrakova said, adding children from

senior classes would make the theater essentials and costumes.

The initiative received support after Nornickel's competition among social projects. "Projects of the kind are very important for that area, as they are aimed at supporting traditional culture of Taimyr's indigenous peoples, at conditions for education of children and teenagers from the nomadic families, living in the tundra," the company's head of charity programs at the Polar branch Svetlana Rubashkina told TASS.

Developing communication skills and learning traditions

The project's organizers say the children living in the tundra are special first of all due to the

living conditions. Until they are seven, when they begin school studies, together with the families they are wandering the tundra and quite often they would not have any other communication than with the relatives.

"They do not have pre-school education, their oral speech is usually under-developed, they are tough to contact, very often they are not easy to make friends," Rubashkina said. "By participating in theater performances, the children will learn how to work in a team, how to perform, how to communicate with other people."

Besides the communication skills, the children will study and then promote their folk arts - many performances would be based on the Northern tales.—Tass ■

Chinese designer debuts new collection inspired by art of Dunhuang

NEW YORK — Chinese fashion designer Vivienne Hu on Tuesday debuted her Fall/Winter 2018 line inspired by the 1,600-year-old Dunhuang Mogao Grottoes in northwest China, at the ongoing New York Fashion Week (NYFW).

"They're beautiful, amazing, and I was so shocked," said Hu in an interview with Xinhua, when recalling her visit to Mogao Grottoes last year, also known as the Thousand Buddha Grottoes,

which has been listed as a world heritage site in 1987.

"Then I think I had to do that, it would be my first time to have Chinese inspiration," she added.

Hu also said the new line is "a collaboration of historical and cultural fashion with modern street style." "We use different elements, for example, the color, most likely, we use red, dark green and golden, and we also use very traditional materials like silk,

velvet, Chinese-fashioned fabrics and fur ... We try to have some mix of Chinese culture with New York street style" she said.

Hu's entire design team travelled from New York City last July, to experience the finest examples of Buddhist art spanning over a period of over 1,500 years within Dunhuang's caves. Hu grew up in China and obtained her bachelor's degree in Finance at the University of Hohenheim, Ger-

many. Prior to studying Fashion Design at Parsons School of Design in New York, she worked as a financier at a leading investment bank on Wall Street.

After graduation, Hu quickly gained a wealth of professional experience while working with Oscar de la Renta and Yigal Azrouel, both fashion designers, before introducing her own Spring/Summer line in 2012.

Hu was first selected to show

at NYFW in September 2014, and has since held seven successful shows on NYFW catwalks.

Her designs combine European elegance with New York street fashion while incorporating exotic Asian elements. At the heart of her design philosophy is the spirit of the independent woman. Her work displays both femininity and individuality in an unique way while creating both comfort and beauty.—Xinhua ■

Royal Thanlwin beats Mawyawady in U20 MNL League

IN one of the Week-2 matches of the MPT Myanmar National League (U-20) 2018, Royal Thanlwin FC defeated Mawyawady FC by a score of 2-1 at Salin football field of Yangon yesterday.

Both teams made brilliant efforts to dominate the match by using speedy play right from the kick-off.

At the 30-minute mark, Mawyawady defenders made a big mistake while blocking the opponent's attack and paid for it with a goal by Royal Thanlwin.

The first half was led by Roy-

al Thanlwin by a score of 1-0.

In the second half, Mawyawady changed tactics and made an equalizing goal at the 53-minute mark by Nyi Nyi Soe.

The winning goal was scored by Royal Thanlwin's Si Thu Htet Aung at the 68-minute mark after a good crossing pass and the support of his teammates.

At the final whistle, the players from Royal Thanlwin celebrated their victory as they made a win at yesterday's match.—

KyawZin Lin ■



Royal Thanlwin's striker attempts to shoot the ball over the keeper of Mawyawady. PHOTO: MNL

Advantage Ronaldo but Neymar warns it's not over yet

MADRID — Paris Saint-Germain face a huge task to reach the Champions League quarter-finals after Cristiano Ronaldo defied predictions his powers are waning with two goals as Real Madrid won 3-1 in the first leg of their last-16 tie.

Billed as a contest between World Player of the Year Ronaldo and his Brazilian heir-in-waiting Neymar, the 33-year-old Portuguese came out emphatically on top as he became the first player to score 100 Champions League goals for the same club.

On a pulsating evening in the Bernabeu, Ronaldo dragged Real level with a penalty after Adrien Rabiot had given PSG the lead, fed by a cheeky Neymar backheel.



Cristiano Ronaldo came out on top in the battle for supremacy with Neymar as he scored twice in Real Madrid's 3-1 win over Paris Saint-Germain in the last-16, first-leg tie of the Champions League. PHOTO: AFP

As PSG seemed to be heading for a draw that would have put the French side in the driving seat for the return leg on March

6, Ronaldo turned the match in Madrid's favour with a scrappy goal that bounced in off his knee.

As Madrid poured forward, Marcelo piled on the pain with an 86th-minute volley to show PSG — who have never won the Champions League — the value of the experience of winning the competition 12 times.

- 'We love the Champions League' -

"Real Madrid love the Champions League and as players we can feel that on the pitch," Ronaldo said after being named man of the match.

"Today things worked out for me, scoring two goals and helping the team win, but we know the tie is not finished yet." Neymar, who cut a dejected figure at the end, said his side "committed errors at certain moments".—AFP ■

Myanmar U-15 team formed for the first time

WITH hopes of competing in the 2018 AFF U-15 Championship in August, a Myanmar U-15 boys' football team has been formed for the first time, according to an official from Myanmar Football Federation.

There are currently 73 players, from which a final team will be selected in a step-by-step process, said an MFF official. Among the 73 players, 35 are from the Football Academy of Myanmar Football Federation and 38 players are from the respective States and Region football teams which participated in the MFF 100 Plus U-15 Cup 2017 Competition. The squad will be coached and school in a camp system, said an official from the MFF. The selected U-15 players will be headed by Mr. Taku Ma from Japan and the camping programme will be starting on 18 February.

The Myanmar U-15 boys' team will also compete in the Jockey Club football tournament in Hong Kong in March in order to gain international experience, according to the MFF.—KyawZin Lin ■

Shiffrin wins giant slalom gold, Japan's Ishikawa 33rd

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea — Mikaela Shiffrin of the United States took gold in the women's giant slalom Thursday at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, where the sole Japanese entrant, Haruna Ishikawa, finished 33rd.

Shiffrin posted the second-fastest time on the first run and was fourth fastest the second time down the slope, finishing with

a combined total of 2 minutes, 20.02 seconds. She is the undisputed queen of the slalom, as the defending Olympic champion, a three-time world champ, and on her way to a fifth World Cup overall slalom title. Silver medalist Ragnhild Mowinckel of Norway finished 0.39 second off the pace, while Italy's Federica Brignone took bronze after completing the two

runs 0.46 second slower than the winner. The 22-year-old Shiffrin, who became the youngest-ever Olympic slalom winner at Sochi in 2014, said that despite a rush of emotions, she felt confident of victory ahead of her second run at the Yongpyong Alpine Centre.

"I don't know how to explain it. It's crazy. There's so much emotion," Shiffrin said. "I don't know

when it was, at some point today after the first run I thought...I can really win this." Shiffrin will have just 24 hours before hitting the slopes again to defend her Olympic slalom title. Initially scheduled for Wednesday, the event was moved to Friday due to bad weather. In her first Olympic competition, Ishikawa, 23, finished in 2:28.99.—Kyodo News ■