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State Counsellor stresses diversity, rule of law

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses 2nd Anniversary, 2nd Hluttaw

A ceremony in commemoration of the Second Anniversary of the Second Hluttaw was held yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, where the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi pointed out the importance of trust in the Hluttaw, which she described as an “essential institution” for democracy.

At the event held in dining hall of the Nay Pyi Taw Hluttaw compound, the State Counsellor said she had confidence that the Hluttaw representatives would enact laws for the betterment of the people.

“Since we entered the Hluttaw after the 2012 by-election, we learnt and studied the value, difficulties, challenges, depth and subtleness of enacting laws. We gain invaluable lessons from this opportunity. That is why I expect all Hluttaw representatives to know the value of the Hluttaw and each representative. People are relying on the Hluttaw as an institution that will enact laws for the good of the people.

“I have put much emphasis on rule of law. A country’s development, strength and power depend much upon peace and stability. Peace and stability is sustainable only when there is rule of law. Rule of law is a good sign for us. It should be laws that are fair. In fact laws are made by people. Laws made by people could not be always be correct,



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the ceremony in commemoration of the Second Anniversary of the Second Hluttaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

precise and good forever.

The anniversary ceremony was attended by First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo, Constitu-

tional Tribunal of Union Chairperson U Myo Nyunt, speakers of the first Hluttaws Thura U Shwe Mann and U Khin Aung Myint, Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat, Amyotha Hluttaw

Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Ministers, Union Attorney General, Union Auditor General, Union Civil Service Board Chairman, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Anti-Corruption Commission of Myanmar Chairman, Pyithu Hluttaw and

Amyotha Hluttaw representatives, heads of departments and invited guests.

“I greet the Hluttaw representatives and guests who are attending this second anniversary event.

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‘BEST BANK IN MYANMAR’

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses sports infrastructure, healthcare

Hmwe Kyu Zin

THE 10th-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw was held in the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

At the meeting, Dr. Salai Rianville of Falam constituency raised a question on the plan to upgrade the Falam Centenary football field into a standard football field. Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe said Falam Town had the Centenary and Hran Thio football fields. The Centenary football field was upgraded in the 2015-2016 fiscal year (FY) with Ks60 million, and a stadium is being built in the 2017-2018 FY with Ks27 million. To upgrade the Centenary football field into a standard football field, the ministry will require an estimated Ks250 million to build a 500-foot-long rock-lined retaining wall and Ks120 million

to build a 400-metre five-track racing strip around the football field, the total requirement being Ks370 million. Therefore, there is no plan to upgrade the football field further, replied the Union Minister.

Responding to a question by U Min Thein of Taungdwingyi constituency on the plan to increase the number of doctors of psychology in district-level hospitals in Myanmar, Dr. Myint Htwe said that of the 74 districts in the country, some 34 townships have more than 200-bed hospitals that had in its setup a specialist doctor of psychology, while 24 townships had appointed a doctor of psychology. Under the department of health, there are 51 hospitals, of which, 39 had appointed a doctor of psychology, which is 76.5 per cent of the hospitals.

The remaining 40 districts only have 100, 50 or 25 beds and did not have a doctor of psychol-

ogy in their organisation's setup. Doctors of psychology were not appointed full-time even in hospitals where the organisation's setup included such a position, and thus, it would not be possible to appoint doctors of psychology in all district-level hospitals, replied the Union Minister.

Questions raised by U Sai Maung Pwint of Tangyan constituency, U Myo Nyunt of Homalin constituency, U Than Aung of Ngaputaw constituency and Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathedaung constituency were also answered by Dr. Myint Htwe.

Next, a motion urging the government to improve the rural community health standards and healthcare coverage to include all nationals by forming regional doctors and township health personnel into a mobile medical team and conducting field visits to villages was tabled by Dr U Aung Khin of Pyin Oo



Pyithu Hluttaw speaker U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

Lwin constituency. The motion was supported by U Hla Tun Aung of Mahlaing constituency.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint then requested the Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the motion to enrol their names.

With regards to the bill to repeal the municipal law, returned without amendment by the Amyotha Hluttaw, the Py-

ithu Hluttaw speaker said both the Hluttaws had agreed on the bill, and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was notified to confirm it. The Pyithu Hluttaw speaker announced that the matter would be followed up according to the Pyithu Hluttaw's rules.

The 11th-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw is scheduled for 2 February. ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses construction of bridges

Aye Aye Thant (Myanmar News Agency)

THE Minthan-Maunglaw Bridge connecting Taninthayi, Myeik and Kyunsu townships is on a road classified as Class (A) priority level (1) and will be given priority to be implemented before the 2020-2021 fiscal year (FY), explained Ministry of Construction Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin.

He was responding to a question raised by U Zaw Hein of Taninthayi constituency (7) on the plan to build the Minthan-Maunglaw Bridge connecting Taninthayi, Myeik and Kyunsu townships during the 10th-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday.

The deputy minister added that the road on which Minthan-Maunglaw Bridge will be built is managed by the Rural Road Development Department, and the 1,800-foot-long bridge will be built to connect Minthan Village in Myeik Township with Maunglaw Village in Kyunsu Township. The Taungpale-Shan-taung-Minthan road in Myeik Township is on the Myeik-Taninthayi-Kawthoung union road said the Union Minister.



Amyotha Hluttaw being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

On the Kyunsu Township side, it will connect to Yataung-Minkote-Pyinwin-Gyotaung-Wayitkayin-Wayitmyanmar-Lethit west road and Maunglaw-Zaykami-Nyaungbi-Anyin-Peya road via Maunglaw Village and will benefit some 30,000 people, noted the Deputy Minister. Next, Ministry of Construction Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin replied to a question raised by U Soe Thain of Kayah State constituency (9) on the plan to build a Ponnagyun-Pauktaw river-crossing bridge for the development of northern Rakhine State, stating that the Kissapa Nadi (Kaladan) Bridge is not like the river-crossing bridges on Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Thanlwin and Sittaung rivers, as it is

near a river mouth where there is high tide, and double-decker vessels from inland water transport pass through the Sittway-Ponnagyun-MraukU-Kyauktaw route daily. The height of the bridge needs to be above 100 metres, but the machinery being used in the construction of bridges in Myanmar are incapable of constructing such a bridge, so, the country will require higher-capability machinery. Therefore, it will be costlier, and there will be limited funds to construct it, he said.

The main entry roads to Rakhine State, Minbu-An-Sittway road and Ngathaingchaung-Gwa road are being upgraded as a priority in the current five-year project period, and foreign aid will be pursued to construct the Kissapa

Nadi (Kaladan) Bridge, while the bridge will be constructed as soon as foreign funds are available for it, replied the Deputy Minister.

Responding to a question posed by U Tin Aung Tun of Magway Region constituency (5) on the action taken against persons responsible for the collapse of the approach road to the newly built Yaypuyochaung Bridge in Minbu Township after the work done and quality control group had reviewed and accepted the work, U Kyaw Lin said the repair work was being conducted by his ministry, and instructions had been sent to take necessary action against the company and persons responsible for constructing the Yaypuyochaung Bridge.

Questions raised by Dr. U

Kywe Kywe of Mandalay Region constituency (6), Dr. Khun Win Thaug of Kachin State constituency (11) and Daw Than Than Aye of Magway Region constituency (7) were also fielded by Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin.

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than informed the Hluttaw about the bill on the registration of deeds being approved and returned with amendments by the Pyithu Hluttaw. He requested the Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the bill to enrol their names. U Min Oo of Bago constituency (6) then tabled a motion of condolences for the demise of Daw Shila Nan Taung @ M Nan Taung of Kachin State constituency (2), which was agreed on by the Hluttaw, and Hluttaw Speaker Mah Win Khaing Than announced the approval of the motion.

The Hluttaw also agreed on providing social assistance with a daily allowance by the Hluttaw whenever a Hluttaw representative passes away, and the Hluttaw speaker announced the approval of the Hluttaw on this matter.

The 11th-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 2 February. ■

State Counsellor attends Mon National Day event

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended a dinner to mark the 71st Mon National Day at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, at which she expressed her happiness over last week's pledge by the New Mon State Party to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

Speaking at the ceremony, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said the move would strengthen the Union spirit of the country.

"We all take great pride in the recent agreement with the Mon ethnic armed group to sign the ceasefire agreement for their participation in the peace process, and I believe that Mon ethnic people are also taking pride in it. This is the first step,

and we must strive to reach our goal of eternal peace," she said.

The State Counsellor stressed the importance of "respect, loving kindness, and values" among the national ethnic races in the country for allowing the Union spirit to flourish, highlighting how Bamar people respect and admire Queen Shinsawpu, King Raja Diraj and King Dhammazedi and the historical heroes of the Mon people.

"Mon ethnic people should take pride in that Burmese people loves the Mon heroes in history, and Burmese people should take pride in those who love and respect heroes of ethnic Mon", said the State Counsellor.

She also said the recent agreement is an important show of unity and positive thinking



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends the dinner to mark the 71st Mon National Day at MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Mon ethnic dance troupe perform traditional dances at the dinner to mark the 71st Mon National Day in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

among ethnic people to reach the goal of a Federal Union.

"How far is our goal? If we walk together joining hands with each other, we will reach it without tiredness," said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also said the government is obliged to support and encourage the languages and culture of ethnic people. "Our cooperation at the national days of ethnic people is an important step for the march to democracy," she said.

Following her address, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin expressed his

pleasure over the freedom to hold the national days of ethnic people in the time of the elected government. At a dinner held later in the evening, Mon ethnic dance troupes performed traditional dances.

Yesterday's event was attended by Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint and wife, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal U Myo Nyunt and wife, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein and wife, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun

Myat and wife, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung and wife, Chairman of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann and wife, Union Ministers, Union Attorney-General, Union Auditor-General, Chairman of Union Civil Service Board, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council and their wives, deputy ministers, members of Anti-Corruption Commission, Hluttaw representatives, departmental heads, Mon ethnic people and invited guests.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Bail denied for Reuters reporters

YANGON Northern District Court rejected yesterday the bail request of two Reuters Journalists accused of violating Official Secrets Act, even though their defence lawyer said information in documents at the centre of the case was publicly available.

Lawyer Than Zaw Aung said a police witness had accepted during court proceedings that details in documents found in the possession of the reporters when they were arrested had already been published in newspaper reports.

Wa Lone, 31, and Kyaw Soe Oo, 27, were detained on 12 December after they had been invited to meet police officers over dinner in Yangon. They have told relatives they were arrested almost immediately after being handed some documents at a restaurant by two officers they had not met before.

Police Major Min Thant, who

said he led the team of arresting officers, yesterday submitted what he said were secret documents seized from the two reporters to the district court in Yangon.

Police have previously said the documents contained information on the disposition and operations of security forces in Rakhine's Maungtau District.

In response, defence attorney Than Zaw Aung submitted copies of several newspaper articles that he said showed the information in the documents was already in the public domain.

"After August 25, the government explained to the media and diplomats about what happened in Maungtau," Than Zaw Aung said.

He said afterwards that Major Min Thant had acknowledged that when cross-examined.

"The witness admitted that the content of the documents they obtained from them is the

information that the public already knew. He said the contents are same," Than Zaw Aung told Reuters.

At the end of the day's proceedings, the court rejected the defence's application for bail. Reading from the Official Secrets Act, Judge Ye Lwin said the alleged offence was "non-bailable", without elaborating further.

Deputy District Judge Daw Su Sandar Win, in her capacity as information officer, confirmed to reporters that the court rejected the bail request.

The next hearing for the case will be to be on next Tuesday. Out of 25 witnesses, two have so far been presented. The remaining witnesses will testify in court in subsequent hearings, she added.

Relatives of the two reporters were distraught after the decision was announced.

"I cleaned my house with the hope that he might get bail, just

in case," Pan Ei Mon, Wa Lone's wife, said, sobbing. "I knew that he wouldn't get bail but still I cannot handle this."

Kyaw Soe Oo's wife, Chit Su Win, held on to her husband in tears, kissing him as he was being taken back to prison.

In the morning, the two journalists had been smiling and appeared in good spirits as they were brought handcuffed to the court from Insein Prison in Yangon. Wa Lone gave the "thumbs up" sign and Kyaw Soe Oo hugged his young daughter.

The courtroom was packed with reporters and diplomats from the US, British, Canadian, Norwegian, Swedish, French and Danish embassies as well as United Nations and European Union officials.

Under cross-examination, police witness Min Thant also said he had updated the paperwork recording Kyaw Soe Oo's

arrest and search to show he was detained outside the restaurant where the reporters say they had a meal with police officers.

Kyaw Soe Oo had refused to sign a form stating he was arrested at an intersection in northern Yangon where police say they had a checkpoint, the officer said.

The two journalists said afterwards that Min Thant was not among the officers who arrested them.

"We have never seen that police officer before," Wa Lone told reporters outside the courtroom. "We were arrested by plainclothes police."

In his testimony, Min Thant said he led the team that arrested the reporters and that he was in uniform at the time.

The court hearing is to determine whether Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo will face charges under the Official Secrets Act.—GNLM/Reuters contributed to this report

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Patients with coronary artery disease operated on in Zabuthiri Specialist Hospital

Cardiologists performing procedures included a coronary angiogram and other treatments in Zabuthiri Specialist Hospital. **PHOTO: MYANMAR DIGITAL NEWS**

PATIENTS who suffered coronary artery disease were operated on by international cardiologists under the arrangement of the sustainable medical cooperation programme at the Zabuthiri Specialist Hospital this morning.

During the operations,

cardiologists such as Dr. Kinzo Ueda from Rakuwakai Marutamachi Hospital, Dr. Kanji Inoue from Kyoto University, Dr. Thet Hein, Dr. Aung Aung from the Zabuthiri Specialist Hospital and a group led by Dr. Than Htay from the JMMHG, procedures

included a coronary angiogram, a percutaneous coronary intervention operation and the treatment of a cardiovascular support device (Stent).

A member of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Aye Myint and officials

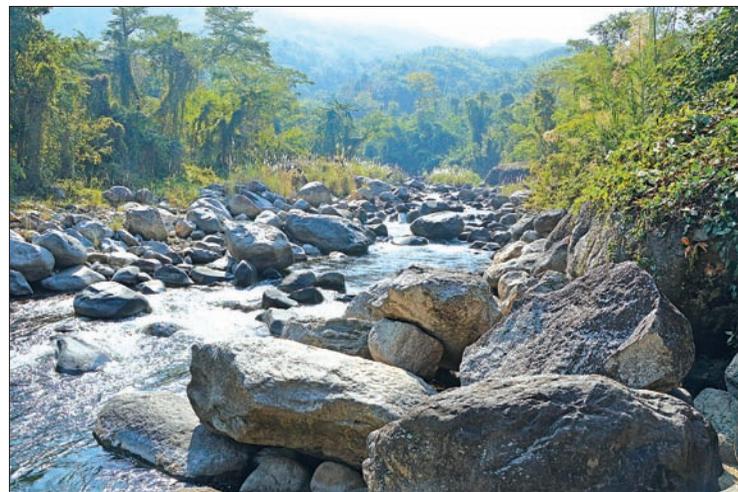
observed the patients and the cardiologists during the operations. It is the seventh time the team of international specialists performed medical procedures for the patients who suffer coronary artery disease. —Myanmar Digital News ■

Stone Village Resort in Momauk draws travellers

STONE Village Resort in Momauk has proven to be a popular destination for travellers this year. The resort is located one mile away from Stone Village, Momauk Township, Bhamo District, Kachin State.

Stone Village is very close to the Momauk forest reserve, where the Hu Kaung company has cultivated some 70 acres of padauk, yamanay and pyinkatoteak while some 100 acres are fallow and virgin land.

"We are planning to cultivate teak, jackfruit and other shady trees on the 100-acre fallow and virgin land," said U Thein Htay, in-charge at Stone Village Resort.

Stone village resort in Momauk. **PHOTO: MAUNG CHIT LIN (INNDAW)**

The resort was named by the local people for its numerous stones on site. "Stone Village Resort is crowded with travellers during the holidays and the

weekend. Entry to the resort is free. However, we collect Ks500 for the entry of motorbikes," he added.—Maung Chit Lin (Inndaw) ■

British tourists visit Myanmar on motorbikes

MYANMAR'S unique natural scenes, eco-tourism sites and archaeological sites, as well as its culture-based tourism, through which tourists can observe the traditions and cultural mores of its ethnic people, have brought in increasing numbers of foreign tourists.

Tourists are visiting Myanmar by air, sea and road. More-

over, they also visit Myanmar through the border gates on their vehicles, motorbikes and bicycles. A British tour group of 12 motorcyclists entered Myanmar through the Myawady border gate on 13 January. They visited Myanmar through an arrangement with the Expeditions Myanmar Travel & Tours Co., Ltd. and under the supervision

of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

The tourists took the Myawady-Hpa-an-Kyaikto-Nyaung Shwe-Mandalay-Bagan-An-Ngapali-Gwa-Yangon-Myawady road trip. They then proceeded to Mae Sot Town, Thailand, via the Myawady border gate on 26 January.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Waste burning plant to be constructed

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) is planning to construct a waste-burning plant after completing the Yangon-Dala bridge project, according to a report in the Myawady Daily.

"Upon completion of the Yangon-Dala bridge project, we have planned to construct a waste-burning plant. We will construct the waste-burning plant using advanced technology, as tons of waste are generated from Dala and Yangon. However, to construct the plant we need land. Currently, we are burning the garbage," said U Maung Maung Soe, Yangon City mayor.

"We are also using a 2,749-acre plot of land in Kyan Sit Thar Ward, Dala Township, to bury the waste. We dispose some 24 tons of waste per day in this area," he added. Earlier, the YCDC decided to bury the waste in an area outside town. However, now, the YCDC is moving the waste-disposal area because people have started living on the outskirts of the town.—GNLM ■

Pigeon pea production drops in Sagaing Region this year

AS a result of unseasonal rainfall, the yield of pigeon peas (red grams) has dropped this year compared with last year.

An acre produced some 15 to 20 baskets last year. A bag of pure pigeon peas fetches only some Ks36,000 in ChaungU and Myinmu townships in the Sagaing Region.

The price of pigeon peas plunged to a 10-year low of some Ks306,000 per ton on 25 October 2017, and then, it bounced back to above Ks400,000 per ton on 29 January 2018.

The growers want the government to purchase the pigeon peas, as the prevailing market price cannot cover even the cultivation costs.

The government can control the price of pigeon peas

by purchasing them with the allocated fund of Ks15 billion, when the price of a ton of pigeon peas drops below Ks300,000, which is less than the cultivation cost, according to the Commerce Ministry

Following India's restriction on pea imports, the prices of domestic pulses plummeted, as Myanmar's pulses market is heavily reliant on the Indian market.

When the news of potential purchase by India came out in December 2017, the prices rose again. Pigeon pea exports earned the country US\$159 million in the 2015-2016 FY. With the demand from India declining, only \$91 million was generated as income from pigeon pea exports in the current FY.—Ko Khant ■



Myanmar pulses are kept on display for sale in a shop at a market. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG

Singapore made largest investment in Myanmar this fiscal year

SINGAPORE made an investment of US\$1.72 billion in 31 projects, as of the end of December, in the current fiscal year (FY), followed by China, with estimated investments worth more than \$1.29 billion in 50 enterprises.

Singapore made the largest investments in the real estate sector. Some European countries also invested in Myanmar through Singapore.

The Myanmar Investment

Commission (MIC) has granted approvals to 176 projects with foreign capital of \$4.78 billion this FY.

Foreign direct investments were pumped into manufacturing, agriculture, livestock and fisheries, and power, as well as transport and communication, hotel and tourism, real estate, industrial estate and other service sectors.

According to statistics pro-

vided by the MIC, Hong Kong, South Korea, the Netherlands and Thailand, as well as Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, France and Germany, in addition to India, Indonesia, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States, Viet Nam, Marshall Island, Norway, Qatar and Taiwan, among others, invested in Myanmar.—Ko Htet ■

Mandalay City to host 2nd Mandalay-Japan Festival & Business Partner Fair 2018

MABA-Alumni Business Association of Upper Myanmar will organize the 2nd Mandalay-Japan Festival & Business Partner Fair 2018 at Mingalar Mandalay Business Promotion Area in Mandalay on 12 February.

The event will include entertainment programs such as Myanmar and Japan cultural shows and Japanese food fair. The occasion is intended to

strengthen amity and cooperation between Japan and Myanmar.

"The purpose of the fair is to cement bilateral collaboration, economic connectivity, technical cooperation and friendship between the two countries," said U Nyan Aung, Vice Chairman of the MABA. The businessmen in Mandalay will have a chance to meet with

Japanese counterparts to talk about water treatment, motorcar repair, motorcar spare parts import, recycle industry and horticulture.

The event is expected to be attended by the Nobeoka mayor and Japanese entrepreneurs. A press conference on the fair was held by the officials from MABA this evening.—Myanmar Digital news ■

Myanmar exports 150,000 sheep, goats to China

MYANMAR has exported some 150,000 sheep and goats to China from April 2017 to January 2018, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Earlier, the Myanmar government prohibited the export of Myanmar sheep and goats because of a decline in reproduction. However, smugglers are still exporting the animals illegally.

To receive tax, the government has permitted the export of the animals from 2016, according to the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organisation.

"The reproduction rate among goats is only 1.5 per

cent per year. Therefore, we prohibited the export of Myanmar's animals.

This fiscal year, we have already exported 150,000 sheep and goats to China, the main importer of such animals," said U Myo Thu, Director of Myanmar Trade Promotion Organisation.

The 150,000 sheep and goats were exported by 19 licensed companies. "To increase the export of these animals, we are planning to include the export of sheep and goats in the national export strategy," the ministry of Commerce stated.—Zwe ■

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VP U Myint Swe wants Myanmar to ease rules for doing business

VICE President U Myint Swe has urged the ministries and private sectors to make laws and policies that can guarantee the development of the private sector, as it plays an important role in creating job opportunities and increasing the income of the country.

He made the statement during the 14th meeting between the government and businessmen at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) in Yangon yesterday.

The government has per-

mitted foreign investments worth more than US\$5 billion and local investments worth Ks3.279 trillion (including \$1 billion) in the country up to mid-January of the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

The foreign trade sector saw an increase of more than \$3.8 billion compared with the same period last year, with the private sector's involvement in the foreign trade being 83 per cent.

Rice exports have increased due to the efforts made by private rice enterprises, said U Myint Swe.

The vice president has also



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers a speech at the 14th meeting between the government and businessmen at the UMFCCI in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

urged the concerned ministries to set priorities when they work to relax the rules indicated in the ease of doing business report.

He also praised the role of women in the economic sector, as women made up 49 per cent of

the entrepreneurs in the country.

He also urged the participants in the meeting to openly discuss the challenges they are facing. Following the opening address of the Vice President, Union Minister for Commerce

Dr. Than Myint, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo discussed the arrangements to ease the rules for doing business. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Gov't wants private-sector participation to improve ease of doing business rank

By May Thet Hnin

TO improve the country's ease of doing business rank, Vice President U Myint Swe has noted that public recognition and participation by businessmen are needed to execute governmental reforms, in line with the efforts made by the concerned officials.

He made the statement during the 14th regular meeting with businessmen at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) yesterday.

"Not just our country, the neighbouring countries and other countries are also trying to climb the ranks. We must keep up with them," said the Vice President.

Additionally, U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister of the Commerce Ministry and the leader of the movement for improving the ease of doing business ranking, has encouraged the participation of the private sector in this effort.

Those who are liable to answer the tricky questions put forth by the World Bank need to understand the government's reform processes, said U Aung Htoo.

"Those working for law firms and accountancy firms usually respond to the ques-



U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister of the Commerce Ministry and the Leader of the Movement for Improving the Ease of Doing Business Ranking.

tions. They require extensive expertise in most aspects. If they lack knowledge about the government's reform processes and performances, they will not be able to answer anything. If so, the country's score will not go up," he added.

The concerned ministries should anticipate the questions to carry out the reforms. They need to inform the public of the questions through the media, he continued.

The World Bank determines the country's ease of doing business rank based on 11 indicators. They are starting a business, dealing with construction per-



U Zaw Min Win, President of UMFCCI. **PHOTO: MNA**

mits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across the border, enforcing a contract, resolving insolvency and labour management. These have been incorporated into the country's existing indicators for 2018. Each indicator has two to 38 pages of associated questions.

While starting a business, questions related to the working process, cost, government's reform process, and smooth or rough reform, among others, are included. They also ask whether the company registration system can cover the whole country and

whether online data access and online registrations are available.

"The ease of doing business index is positively related to foreign investments in developing countries. Myanmar is inviting foreign investments, and more foreign investors will eye Myanmar if this rank goes up," said the Vice President.

U Zaw Min Win, President of UMFCCI, said it was keeping the government reform process data and wanted the related ministries to share data on the changing processes with them. The UMFCCI can then disseminate the information to those who will answer the questions.

U Aung Kyi Soe, Secretary General of UMFCCI, said that although both the government and private sectors still require some modifications to the processes, it was a progressive action that the senior officials and other concerned officials had discussed the difficulties with the businessmen.

Currently, the country is ranked 172 out of 190 countries in the ease of doing business index. It sits in the last spot compared with countries in the ASEAN region. The government is trying to achieve a rank of 99 in 2020, aiming to rise by 24 spots per year on average. ■

Rents rise in Yangon townships

The rents paid by expatriate workers in the central townships of Yangon have risen from early January, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

Latha, Pabedan, Kyauktada, Pazuntaung, Botahtoung and Mingla Taungnyunt are the central townships in Yangon. The rents in these townships are twice those in other places. Most expatriates in Yangon are from Thailand, China and Japan.

Foreigners generally prefer the basement and the first floor (ground floor) to run their businesses and make long-term rental contracts.

They spend Ks1 to Ks4 million per month on apartments and condominium apartments.

The sellers outdo the buyers in the Yangon real property market. Local residents prefer to take apartments at a rent of Ks150,000 or under Ks200,000.

The rent for apartments on Pyay Road and in Mayangon Township is exorbitantly high, because these areas are popular with foreigners.—GNLM ■

State Counsellor stresses diversity, rule of law

FROM PAGE-1

For various reasons, I was unable to attend this event last year and this is the first time I'm attending this. I'm happy to be here. Because, when we took the democracy path, Hluttaw is an essential institution. But law is something that is needed for the stability of a country and to keep the machinery of the government running and thus laws are being enacted. It will be valuable for the people and the country only if these laws are fair. I expect the Hluttaw to be an institution that will lead towards rule of law. Hluttaw consists of Hluttaw representatives from all over the country who came about with union spirit. Representatives meet here and learn about each other and understand each other more. Afterwards, I believe that they will strive for perpetuation and unity of the country and the union.

Hluttaw doesn't include only various ethnic nationals but also various organizations. This is the sign of a democratic Hluttaw. We will have the opportunity to learn how to work together with different organizations in the Hluttaw for the good of the country. Doing things together with like-minded people is actually not a spirit of democracy. Democracy accepts differences. It is a system that came about from the spirit of achieving unity through diversity. Our Hluttaw representatives may have already heard this. A democracy is not without faults. But it is better than other systems. There are no other systems than a democracy that respect and inspire the people. A government in a democracy came from the will and wishes of the people. A government of the people respects the wish of the people. That is why we can say a democracy is not faultless but is better than any other systems. We have this belief.

But for a democracy to thrive and survive, we need to strive towards keeping on the path. Hluttaw representatives stand on the frontline in this endeavor. Our representatives need to understand that they not only represent the people but also the democratic system. We need to establish a country with a system that will provide a firm and peaceful union for our future generations. I repeatedly warn our representatives whenever I have

the opportunity. Those who play politics do so for the next election. Those who work for the country do so for the next generation. Each and every representatives need to have this firmly in their mind. Are we thinking about the next election? We need to as in a political party system the next election has to be thought about. But the main thing is not the next election only. It is the next generation.

Therefore, an election is something that will support our endeavor for our next generation. It is not the ultimate aim. The ultimate aim is the next generation. It is for the next generation to live in a stable, peaceful and developed nation. Our country is a union formed with ethnic nationals. It is very important to set it up as a democratic union and a Democratic Federal Republic that is acceptable to the majority. All will be honored to be part taking in this Hluttaw. All are expected to take this seriously. We have a lot to learn in the Hluttaw. We have been in the Hluttaw for more than three years and what we learnt during that time helped a lot now that we are in the executive branch. For a democratic system to progress and become established, legislative, judicial and administrative sectors need to serve the people in tandem. Some think that this check and balance is a competition or alienation against each other. In fact it is not a competition or being adversaries. It is just to ensure that no one is doing anything that is wrong. It is a check and balance that will prevent from doing things that are detrimental to self, others and the country. It is done like a friend that in the end becomes a comrade. Comrades are a bit different from friends. Friendship is based on personal affiliation. Comradeship is based on belief. It is important for people from the judicial, legislative and administrative sectors to conduct things as comrades for the good of the country. Today's event includes guests from these three sectors. It is important for all in these sectors to be personally friendly with one another. When there are some problems and misunderstanding between one another, we can smooth things up. I want to caution all Hluttaw representatives to treat one another as friends and comrades.

Only then can we effectively work for the country.

Our government is yet to be two years old. Before the government was two years old, the Hluttaw has become two years old. The Hluttaw was called up and then the government came about. This shows the importance of the Hluttaw. In fact it wouldn't be wrong for us to say that democracy starts from the Hluttaw. The government was formed by the Hluttaw. Government need to rely on the Hluttaw. In some countries, when the government and Hluttaw are not in agreement, it became difficult to do things. Sometimes, when the Hluttaw is strong, government had difficulties doing things. We want our Hluttaw to be strong and to have the capability. The main capability is to have good will toward the country. Each Hluttaw representative needs to have goodwill towards the country. If each is loyal towards the country, we have overcome the first challenge. If we have goodwill and loyalty, we need to learn. The next step is to learn what Hluttaw representatives need to know and become skilled. Without goodwill and loyalty, skills can be dangerous. It is the duty of the Hluttaw representative to use their skills properly for the good. I'm saying this as one of the voters too. I'm saying this also as a former representative. Looking from all direction, the value of our representatives is very important. By saying elected representative, I'm not keeping out the Tatmadaw representatives. All need to work together. No group is against another group for the sake of the country. There can't be any occasion where we could not cooperate. We must cooperate with anyone for the sake of the country. As we are from the same country, we all should be able to work together.

I don't like the word opposition. It sounded like either to oppose or become suppressed. That is not what an opposition should be. An opposition sometimes helps for the sake of the country. Sometimes, they cooperated. Sometimes, they point out. Sometimes they criticise when criticism is due. An opposition shouldn't be considered as an enemy. It is not the spirit of democracy to consider the opposition



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends the 2nd Anniversary of the 2nd Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

as an enemy. Democratic spirit accepts differences, and from this acceptance that we use the word opposition party. The party and group that are not the same as us need not be our enemy. Despite different views and differences, we can be united. Establishing unity in diversity is the true spirit of democracy. It is the basis of democracy. It is difficult to meet with each Hluttaw representatives because there is a lot while time is short. But I equally value each representative. Each has a vote that is of equal value. All Hluttaw representatives have an opportunity to vote and a duty to vote correctly. All need to consider one another equally as brothers, sisters and comrades.

I've spoken about the importance of rule of law for our country. Unity, national reconciliation and peace are also the important things that I want to say before concluding my speech. You all know that our country is facing many challenges. We are not a physically strong country so we need to be strong morally and united for our country to survive. By being strong morally and being united, we can overcome any difficulty. We will build our physical strength gradually. As we become strong, we will not be bullied. For our country to stand tall with dignity in the world, each Hluttaw representative needs to stand tall with dignity and loyalty. If each Hluttaw representative is not wrong, our Hluttaw will not be on the wrong path. If our Hluttaw is not on the wrong path, our country will not be on the wrong path. In marching towards a Federal Democracy Republic that we all yearn for, Hluttaw representative should be at the forefront when need to. If need to they should be at the back to cover the rear. If need to, they should be at the side to cover the flanks. With this request, I conclude my speech.

In a speech delivered at the Second Anniversary of the Second Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint said there has been progress in the Hluttaw

representatives doing the check and balance functions. We came to understand that check and balance is not interfering in the work of others and it is important for the three pillars to work together while providing the check and balance function.

All need to understand that the three pillars are not three competitors but colleagues who are working for the establishment of a Democratic Federal Republic. We all need to follow the democratic principles. We need to be open minded, practical, helpful and cooperative and capable of finding solutions through amicable negotiation. They need to be able to discuss with those who don't believe in democracy. Each one of us needs to understand the idea of the others.

In conclusion, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker said, "As long as the Hluttaw formed by people's representative is strong, democracy will thrive."

This was followed by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than addressing the event. In his speech, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker said Amyotha Hluttaw representatives have listened to the wishes and wills of the people and tabled 13 motions, asked 715 asterisk marked questions and 649 questions to which relevant ministries and union level organizations have replied to the Hluttaw. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw had enacted 20 laws, amended 24 laws and repealed 6 laws during the two year period.

Starting with "time to change," we've crossed the rough path towards democracy and have overcome difficulties and challenges by being united with the people. All are urged to strive toward a Democratic Federal Union said the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor met with attendees of the event and had dinner together. After the dinner, the State Counsellor viewed the movie "My Country My Home" shown in the Hluttaw Thabin Hall. - Myanmar News Agency

Unity is strength and a driving force for the country

BEING a sovereign and independent nation, there have been a variety of ethnic races in Myanmar since time immemorial. Geographically, Myanmar is sandwiched between South Asian countries and regional powers like India and China. Bearing this in mind, Myanmar is striving hard to become a strong Democratic Federal Republic so that we can maintain our independence and sovereignty.

Compared to ethnic races of other countries, there remain many similarities among us such as customs, language, dress, culture and creed.

The reasons why our country can stand tall among the super-power countries are merely by dint of our ancestors' unity, great valour and foresight. It was evident that they were respected by their counterparts due to their dauntless courage and indomitable spirit.

Some of the weaknesses which can bring about the failure for our country are disunity and wrong perspectives on world affairs. These factors could throw our country into complete disarray. As a result, we had to surrender to the imperialists after fighting three wars with Britain after which we lost our kingdom. The whole country became a colony of the British imperialist.

It is a great asset to learn the lessons from our past mistakes, and we can transform it into a driving force which can foster the development of the country.

We have all learnt the story about the struggle for independence from our elders and teachers. One of the teachings which we can learn from our struggle for Independence is unity. Our ancestors and freedom fighters were united and they brought victory for our country.

Unity can be regarded as the lifeblood of our country and can bring us success, and that was how we got our Independence on January 4, 1948.

Similarly, in any activity in life when we are relying on a group, we should stand together so that we can be successful. Staying divided inside a group obviously means failure. So it is always wise to remember "Unity is Strength".

That is why we should strive to perpetuate our independence till the end of the world. And it is crucial for us to support the establishment of a Federal Democratic Republic.

All in all, with the strength of union spirit as well as brotherhood, we are on the right path to build a Federal Democratic Republic. ■

Keep Our Pyidaungsu Spirit Awakened

Htun Tin Htun

KNOWLEDGE (Education) is of great importance for all, Compassion is of vital importance together with loving-kindness, appreciative-joy and equanimity (Four Brahma Vihara Practice-peaceful living for all mankind) and Character (Morality/ Discipline) is of crucial importance observing as cardinal virtue for all people to build a healthy, happy, peaceful and prosperous nation in this planet.

Enduring patience is the highest austerity and we, the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar learn, practice and disseminate this value to the people in this planet to build a stable, peaceful and prosperous Universe.

Equity (pro-poor), Empowerment (pro-woman), Environment (pro-nature) and Employment (pro-job) are important and vital element for the human development in this planet.

People play the crucial role in all activities in implementing the programs and projects aiming toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030) and the people's participation will surely decide the attainment of the goals which shape the people's quality of lives.

Our Government announced four objectives of the 71st Anniversary Pyidaungsu (Union) Day which falls on the 12th of February 2018 as follows: (1) To develop the Pyidaungsu Spirit; (2) To make the internal peace process with unity of the ethnic people; (3) To build a Federal Democratic Union through the Union Peace Conference-21st Panglong; and (4) To boost the economy of the Union by encouraging small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Understanding that "United we stand and divided we fall", we all must strive on with diligence and vigilance to defend and protect our sovereignty, territory and identity in this Universe as a united, peaceful, prosperous and happy nation. Right understanding, right thinking, right speech,



right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness and right concentration are Noble Eightfold Path leading to the cessation of all sufferings and sorrows in this life and the next as a unique eight in one practice for attainment of highest bliss.

Panglong spirit is of great importance for all nationalities who fought the imperialist and fascist in unity with great wish-to-do, work-hard, will and wisdom in order to attain our independence. Youth play very much important and crucial role to fight for freedom and to ensure human rights in the nation and the youth are our future leaders who will build up a peaceful, prosperous and happy nation in this planet. Invention and innovation need to be nurtured, built up and strengthened to compete and penetrate the world market in order to make more money to be used for the peace and development of all living beings in this Universe.

Discipline is power and democracy cannot be attained without discipline and no one is above the law and rule of law is one of the most ingredients of

good governance and people in a nation need to follow and abide by the law and order to be peaceful and happy.

Always be knowledgeable, efficient, effective, peaceful, obedient, united, resilient, patient, youthful, innovative, diligent, astute, useful, nice, gentle, strong, understandable, smart, participative, intelligent, right, insightful, thoughtful, active, willing, alert, kind, excellent, noble, energetic and disciplined for the perpetuation and awakening of Pyidaungsu Spirit.

(The) Union Government is striving vigorously and systematically for the achievement of peace, stability and rule of law in the nation.

No one is left behind is our universal motto for the achievement of our sustainable development goals unanimously agreed upon by all the members of the United Nations. Getting the right things done through the right efforts of the right people is the aim and object of management and getting agriculture, livestock and fishery, forestry, energy, mining, industry, electricity, construction,

transport, communication, social and rental services, financial services, trading and cooperative sectors moving with the active, productive and enthusiastic participation of the people, public and private pillars is our great concern.

Strengthening of solidarity for sovereignty is our noble duty and every national citizen must not get involved with the unlawful associations fighting against the government, a person or persons or those who connected with them threatening to harm the sovereignty of the nation and national security, peace and stability are to be punished according to the prevailing law.

Union (Pyidaungsu) spirit is very much important for all of us to keep the independence perpetuated and this kind of true spirit needs to always be awakened and strengthened and the good legacy must be transferred to our future generations of posterity.

Should a person do good, let him do it again and again; let him find pleasure therein, for blissful is the accumulation of good. Speak not harshly to anyone, for

dissipated.

There are those who do not realize that one day we all must die; but those who do realize this settle their quarrels. The entire populace now is taking active and enthusiastic participation in the implementation of the national peace and all round development of the nation hand in hand with the government with loving kindness, loyalty, liberty, solidity and unity. To one ever eager to revere and serve the elders and teachers, these four blessings accrue: long life and beauty, happiness and power.

All tremble at violence; all fear death and life is dear to all, putting oneself in the place of another, one should not kill nor cause another to kill. Well done is that action doing which one repents not later and the fruit of which one reaps with delight and happiness. Associate with good friends; seek the fellowship of noble men.

Knowing that victory begets enmity; the defeated dwell in pain; happily the peaceful live, discarding both victory and defeat; happy indeed we live friendly amidst the hostile; amidst the hostile men we dwell free from hatred. Easy to do are things that are bad and harmful to oneself; but exceedingly difficult to do are things that are good and beneficial.

Neither mother nor father nor any other relative nor friend nor teacher can do one greater good than one's own well-directed mind. Easy is life for the shameless one who is as impudent as a crow, is backbiting and forward, arrogant and corrupt. Do not give way to heedlessness; do not indulge in sensual pleasures; only the heedful and meditative attain great happiness and highest bliss.

May all nationalities of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar be free from all dangers and physical and mental sufferings and sorrows, enmity and aversion!!! May the Pyidaungsu Spirit be awakened and strengthened forever!!! May the peace and development, good health, prosperity, love, joy and happiness be with you!!!

'Big 6' countries of WHO South-East Asia Region meet to close measles' immunity gap, accelerate elimination efforts

NEW DELHI—With nearly 4.8 million children in WHO South-East Asia Region missing measles vaccination every year, the 'big six' countries of the Region today shared their immunization challenges and lessons learnt for accelerating efforts to eliminate measles and control rubella by the year 2020.

"Eliminating measles would avert half a million deaths, while controlling rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome would promote health of pregnant woman and the infants they give life to," said Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia.

Two of the Region's countries – Bhutan and Maldives – eliminated measles in 2017 while the others are carrying out largescale immunisation drives to achieve the same.

Nearly 500 million children in the Region are planned to be reached with measles and rubella containing vaccines through routine immunisation and supplementary immunisation campaigns in the next two years. Sharing challenges and lessons learnt from various recent achievements and initiatives will help member countries address their unique problems to close the immunity gap against measles, rubella and CRS, she said.

In recent years, WHO South-East Asia Region has made unprecedented progress against vaccine preventable diseases. The Region was certified polio-free in 2014 while maternal and neonatal tetanus was eliminated as a public health problem in 2016.

Last year India and Indonesia targeted 70 million and 35 million children respectively in supplementary measles immunization campaigns. Both have further strengthened routine immunization systems. Bangladesh has implemented an urban immunization strategy, with support of networks of volunteers to broaden immunisation coverage. Myanmar has protected around 14 million children against Japanese encephalitis. Nepal has pioneered an incentive scheme to recognize and celebrate villages and districts that are fully immunized. Thailand has demonstrated to the world the impact surveillance can have via its unique 'data for action' model.

Further accelerated and focussed efforts are needed. Nearly 38 million children are born in the Region every year. Of them approximately 87% receive the first dose of measles-containing vaccine. Though this is a marked improvement from previous years, it still means around 4.8 million children are deprived of the most basic protection against measles each year.

With majority of the missed children being accounted for by the 'big six' countries, immunisation programme managers of Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal and Thailand, along with partners WHO, UNICEF, GAVI, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and CDC, are deliberating challenges, experiences and lessons learnt in immunization in the Region that can be harnessed to eliminate measles and control rubella / CRS.

"This dynamism and positive exchange is at the very core of south-south and triangular cooperation," said Dr Khetrpal Singh, who announced measles elimination and rubella / CRS control as one of her flagship programme at the start of her tenure in 2014.

Since then all member countries in South-East Asia region have introduced two doses of measles-containing vaccines in their childhood immunisation programme. Five of them have achieved 95% coverage with both doses.

Measles elimination and rubella /CRS control strategies include ensuring over 95% coverage with two doses of measles and rubella containing vaccine in each district through routine and/or supplementary immunization activities, and developing and sustaining sensitive measles surveillance supported by an accredited measles laboratory network.

Eliminating measles and controlling rubella would also mean extending the benefits of vaccine to all people everywhere, including communities in hard-to-reach or remote areas, the underserved or the neglected or marginalized; and advancing universal health coverage.—WHO ■

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye attends the opening ceremony of Earthquake Response Simulation Exercise

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye attended and addressed the opening ceremony of Earthquake Response Simulation Exercise of the National Disaster Management Committee and its Working Committee at the Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

During the ceremony, Dr. Win Myat Aye said, "Myanmar is an earthquake-prone country due to its geographical location and weather conditions. If we do not ready ourselves to handle an earthquake, it may cause damage and casualties. Efforts are being made to disseminate knowledge on earthquake hazards among the people.

"Media play a vital role in executing this plan, such as through television series, stories and episodes," he added.

"Drills are being conducted to make ourselves effective (in a disaster), and today's simulation exercise is important for ensuring an immediate emergency response, which includes creating a precise and strong system," he stated.



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye addresses the opening ceremony of Earthquake Response Simulation Exercise of the National Disaster Management Committee and its Working Committee in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

"The readiness for action process, administrative management and prevention of earthquake hazards are as important as tackling the aftermath of an earthquake," he added.

He said all these processes were related to protecting human life and property, and if the country suffered a disaster, effective connections and organisation would play a vital role.

"I would like to urge all participants to be aware of the situation. Effective response is needed for the implementation

process, and this must be discussed," he noted.

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Knut Ostby extended his greetings and took a group photograph with Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye and Director Dr. Min Thein. Director Daw Phyu Lei Lei Tun clarified the rules and regulations.

An official of the United Nations office for coordination of humanitarian affairs explained that the coordination process included search and rescue operations in disaster-prone areas.

Next, he explained the purpose of the drills and the need to make arrangements for an immediate response to disasters within seven days. Later, group discussions were held to discuss the preparations and suggestions made by the participants.

Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, committee members, officials from the ministry, Tatmadaw representatives, partnership associations, academicians and other officials also attended the ceremony.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Deputy Attorney General U Win Myint receives DFID advisor

Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint received Joe Rolling, advisor to the department for international development (DFID) of the United Kingdom, at the Union Attorney-General's office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they discussed agendas that are being fulfilled, under the overall title "Towards Improving Justice for all"; procedures of the coordination body of the rule of law department, which is chaired by the Union Attorney-General; and working processes that require cooperation between the Union Attorney-General's office and the DFID to ensure justice is served. Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin and Deputy Permanent Secretary Dr. Thi Thi Myint also attended the meeting.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Molotov cocktail thrown into compound of State Counsellor's residence in Yangon

Public requested to report to Yangon Region Police Force with information

A man reportedly threw a Molotov cocktail (a crude incendiary device) into the compound of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's residence yesterday morning at around 6:30 a.m.

This was reported by an eyewitness to the police post at the entrance to the State Counsellor's residence in No. 54/56 University Avenue Road, Golden Valley Ward (1), Bahan Township, Yangon.

The eyewitness was driving past the Kokkine traffic light along the University Avenue Road towards Kamayut Township when the incident occurred. According to the statement of this eyewitness, the man thought to have thrown the Molotov cocktail was also seen at the bus stop near the South Korean Embassy. Three men showed up at the bus stop: While two men stayed in place, the third threw the Molotov cocktail, the eyewitness re-



Tarpaulin sheet burnt by the fire. **PHOTO: YPF**



Crushed bottle with kerosene. **PHOTO: YPF**

ported. The eyewitness handed over a photograph of the suspect to the police on duty at the entrance to the compound of the State Counsellor's residence.

U Than Tun, 62, who was in the compound heard a small explosion and went to investigate. He found a small fire burning. He doused the fire with water, but the area still smelled of ker-

osene. On searching the compound, he found a bottle that appeared to be filled with kerosene had been thrown into the compound.

Except for part of a tarpaulin sheet that was slightly burnt by the fire, no other damage was reported. The incident is under investigation.

A picture of the suspect was

shown on Yangon Police Facebook and was described as about 40 years old, short black hair, about 5 ft. 5 inches tall, brown skin and fat bodied man wearing a pink T-shirt and a sarong with blue squares.

The public is requested to provide information about the suspects and if the suspect is seen by contacting head of Yangon Region Police Force office at 199, 01-2323199, head of Eastern District Police Force office at 01-8610682, 09-5241449, head of Western District Police Force office at 01-386694, 09-5240122, head of Southern District Police Force office at 056 21042, 09-422523722, head of Northern District Police Force office at 01-645823, 09-25371667, head of Bahan Township Police office at 01-545595, 09-402752735 and Bahan Myoma Police Station at 01-554630 and 09-43182816.—News Team ■

Licence of taxis not registered as city taxis to be revoked

The Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA) will take action against taxis failing to register as city taxis from this month, according to a report in City News yesterday.

"We have urged taxi owners to register their vehicles as city taxis through the state-owned press media. Unregistered taxis will face a penalty later," said an official from YRTA.

Registration was open until yesterday. This action aims to ensure public security. Surprise checks will be carried out from this month, and there is a plan in place to confiscate the licences of unregistered taxis.

More than 70,000 taxis are running on Yangon roads, besides several non-Yangon licensed taxis, of which some 40,000 taxis have been registered as city taxis.—GNLM ■

Romanian president says will stand up for courts' independence

BRUSSELS — Romania's President Klaus Iohannis told the European Union on Wednesday he would fight for the independence of his country's courts, which he and Brussels say is threatened by draft laws prepared by the Social Democrat-led government.

The EU's executive Commission said the laws, if approved, would ensure Romania remained outside the bloc's Schengen zone of free travel, though it said it had no plans to initiate a punitive procedure against Bucharest over that.

The EU is concerned that Bucharest's judicial overhaul will reverse any progress Romania has achieved in fighting high-level graft in one of Europe's most corrupt countries. Romania's judicial system remains under special EU monitoring.

"I am very much preoccupied by the legislative procedure regarding the changing of the laws of justice," Iohannis told a joint news conference with Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker.

"The independence of the Romanian justice is something I will fight for," added Iohannis,



European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker welcomes Romania's President Klaus Werner Iohannis ahead of talks at the EU Commission headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, on 31 January 2018. PHOTO: REUTERS

a centrist and outspoken critic of the ruling leftist coalition in Bucharest.

Under the draft laws, approved by parliament last month, offences involving an abuse of public office that causes financial damage of less than 200,000 euros (\$249,000) would no longer

carry a penalty.

Romania's constitutional tribunal has sent some of the draft laws back to parliament for reworking, and Iohannis, whose signature is required for them to take effect, said he was determined that they fully meet EU standards.

"I am worried and I made it clear that I do have concerns," the EU's Juncker said.

The Commission has previously said Romania and its southern neighbour Bulgaria should be allowed to join the Schengen zone of passport-free travel, but many EU states re-

main opposed due to the concerns over corruption and lack of transparency.

Joining Schengen is a key objective for Bucharest, but Juncker cautioned: "If the Romanian legislation was to remain as was foreseen by the parliament, then... the accession of Romania to Schengen would be looked at in completely different terms."

However, Juncker said he had "no intention whatsoever" to launch punitive action against Romania under the EU's Article 7 over the rule of law concerns.

The Commission has invoked Article 7 against Poland over Warsaw's overhaul of the judiciary, though Hungary would be expected to block any attempt to suspend its Polish ally's voting rights in the European Council in consequence.

The EU's ability to rein in member states which pass laws that undermine core democratic principles is a key challenge facing the bloc, amid a growing divergence between its wealthy, liberal western states and newer, more conservatively-minded eastern members.—Reuters ■

EU proposes joint studies to speed acceptance of new medicine

BRUSSELS — The European Commission proposed on Wednesday joint clinical assessments to determine whether approved new drugs and medical devices offer value for money and should be prescribed for patients within national healthcare systems. The joint action, set to take more than three years to enter into force, would replace a largely national approach to health technology assessment (HTA) that duplicates work, limits transparency and impedes market access for innovation.

The Commission's plans aim to make better use of available resources, to have a consistent methodology and to improve business predictability in a healthcare sector accounting for some 10 percent of the EU's economic output.

Monique Goyens, director general of European consumer organization BEUC, welcomed the plans. She said too many new drugs or devices did not make a real difference compared to

those already on the market, wasting taxpayers' money. "The Commission is right to encourage member states to work together so that only health technologies with an added value get the go-ahead," she said in a statement. HTA is used by most European countries. Agencies such as Britain's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), France's Haute Autorité de Santé (HAS) and Germany's Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care (IQWiG) effectively act as gatekeepers to big markets. Their role can be frustrating for drug companies that have already had their medicines cleared as safe and effective by the European Medicines Agency, but then need to submit different evidence to different agencies in different countries to get their products reimbursed.

This has led to growing calls for some degree of harmonization, although there has been voluntary cooperation for years, with an EU-wide network set

up in 2013. The Commission is proposing joint work on clinical assessments, scientific consultations with business, identification of emerging health technologies and voluntary cooperation on, for example, surgical procedures.

A group of representatives from national authorities would be responsible for overseeing joint work. National HTA authorities will still be responsible for determining pricing and reimbursement, albeit using the joint assessments. The rules will apply some three years after approval by the European Parliament and EU members. There will then be a further three-year transition period for EU countries to adapt.

The Commission said it envisaged 10-15 assessments could start in the first year, rising to 65 towards the end of the transition period. The changes will therefore happen after Britain has exited the European Union and will have to be factored into the next EU budget covering the period after 2020.—Reuters ■

Prince William, Kate kick off Nordic visit with bandy shootout

STOCKHOLM — Britain's Prince William and his wife Kate, who is expecting the couple's third child in April, started a four-day visit to Sweden and Norway on Tuesday, hitting the ice in a Stockholm park to try out the sport of bandy.

Bandy, played mainly in the Nordic region and Russia, is similar to ice hockey but played with a small ball instead of a puck and with larger pitches and goals. After a brief tutorial, William scored two goals in a three-shot shootout to Kate's one.

As well as meetings with the royal families of Sweden and Norway and political leaders in the Nordic countries, the royal couple's agenda also includes briefings about the military forces in the region.

William - second-in-line to

the throne - served in Britain's armed forces from 2006 until 2013, and worked as a search and rescue helicopter pilot before he started last year to focus full-time on his royal duties.

Also on the agenda is a visit to the Karolinska Institute where they will be learning about how Sweden is tackling mental health issues among young people.

Kate, William and his brother Harry have made campaigning about mental health a priority, with the brothers speaking about how the death of their mother Diana, Princess of Wales, in a 1997 car crash had left them with deep emotional scars.

Britain's monarchy has ridden a wave of public support in recent years due to the popularity of William, Kate and Harry.—Reuters ■

Xi meets May, calling for better China-Britain ties in new era

BEIJING—Chinese President Xi Jinping met with visiting British Prime Minister Theresa May Thursday, calling on both countries to forge an enhanced version of the “Golden Era” bilateral ties.

During their meeting at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, Xi said peace, development and win-win cooperation have become the mainstream of the times.

The two countries need to conform to the trend of the times, respond to the needs of their respective development stage and bilateral cooperation, and add new meaning into the bilateral ties so as to forge an enhanced version of the “Golden Era,” Xi told May.

China and Britain agreed to embrace a “Golden Era” for bilateral relations during Xi’s



British Prime Minister Theresa May (C) and her husband Philip May (L) visit the Palace Museum, or the Forbidden City, in Beijing, capital of China, on 1 February 2018. Theresa May on Wednesday praised China’s fast-growing economy for helping British businesses, saying, “I want to step up our relationship with China as it opens up its markets, spreads its prosperity and embraces free trade.” **PHOTO: XINHUA**

visit to Britain in October 2015.

Xi said that China is willing to work with Britain to promote the healthy and steady development of bilateral ties in a new era.

He made four proposals for the future development of bilateral ties.

Firstly, the two countries should consider and design the future development of bilateral ties

from a strategic height and in a comprehensive way.

Secondly, both sides should work together to promote bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

Thirdly, China and Britain should enhance exchange and cooperation within multilateral institutions such as the United Nations, G20 and the World Trade Organization to address global challenges.

Fourthly, the two countries should reinforce people-to-people and cultural exchanges.

This is May’s first official visit to China since she took office in 2016.

She kicked off her three-day visit to China in the central city of Wuhan on Wednesday morning and held a China-Britain annual meeting between heads of government with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang in Beijing Wednesday afternoon.

The two countries signed a dozen of deals in areas including trade, finance, health care and smart cities on Wednesday. —Xinhua ■

Turkish airstrikes kill 49 Kurdish militants in northern Iraq – army

ISTANBUL — Turkish warplanes struck 19 Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) targets in northern Iraq on Monday, killing 49 militants, Turkey’s armed forces said on Thursday.

Two airstrikes were carried out in the Asos/Qandil, Zap, Avasin/Basyan and Hakurk regions on Monday, the army said in a written statement.

The Turkish military destroyed shelters, hideouts and weapon positions of the militant group, which was believed to be preparing an attack on Turkish border posts, it said. The PKK, which has been waging an insurgency in southeast Turkey since the 1980s, is designated a terrorist group by Turkey, the United States and the European Union. More than 40,000 people have been killed in the conflict.—Reuters ■

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORT HE CLAIMABLES
Distribution for the following pesticides, registered by Bayer AG is transferring from Bayer Thai Co., Ltd. (Myanmar Branch) to JJ-PUN Trading Co., Ltd. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanma Pesticide Registration Board within 7 days.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg. No.
1.	Ricestar 69 EC	Fenoxaprop-p-ethyl 69g/l	2014-1977
2.	Provado 70 WG	Imidacloprid 70% WG	F2013-852
3.	Decis 2.5 EC	Deltamethrin 25g/l EC	FF2013-032
4.	Curbix 100 SC	Ethiprole 100g/l SC	F2017-1269
5.	Aliette 80 WG	Fosetyl-aluminium 80%	F2015-853
6.	Gaicho 70 WS	Imidacloprid 70% WS	FF2014-125
7.	Flint 50 WG	Trifloxystrobin 50% WG	F2017-1270

Bayer Thai Co., Ltd. (Myanmar Branch)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORT HE CLAIMABLES
Distribution for the following pesticides, registered by Bayer AG is transferring from Bayer Thai Co., Ltd. (Myanmar Branch) to AGT (Agro Tech Co., Ltd.). Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanma Pesticide Registration Board within 7 days.

No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Reg. No.
1.	Invento 66.8 WP	Iprovalicarb 5.5% + Propineb 61.3%	F2011-562
2.	Tiller Gold 90 OD	Fenoxaprop-P-Ethyl 69g/L+ Ehtoxysulfuron 21g/L	F2011-748
3.	Oberon 240 SC	Spiromesifen 24% SC	F2017-940
4.	Antracol 70 WP	Propineb 70%WP	F2010-488
5.	Bulldock 025 EC	Beta-cyfluthrin 2.5 % EC	F2014-248
6.	Ronstar 250 EC	Oxadiazon 250g/L EC	F2014-353

Bayer Thai Co., Ltd. (Myanmar Branch)

Train carrying US Republican lawmakers hits truck in Virginia, one dead

CROZET — A passenger train carrying Republican members of the US Congress to a retreat in West Virginia slammed into a garbage truck on Wednesday at a rural Virginia road crossing, killing one person on the truck, authorities said.

No major injuries were reported among the lawmakers or staff on the train, the US Department of Transportation said. There was one serious injury among those on the truck, in addition to the fatality. Amtrak, the US passenger rail service that operated the chartered train, said two crew members and three passengers were hospitalized with minor injuries after the crash. One Representative Jason Lewis, was examined for a possible concussion.

“I’m fine compared to, tragically, the truck driv-



US Capitol Police officers and state troopers keep watch after an Amtrak passenger train carrying Republican members of the US Congress from Washington to a retreat in West Virginia collided with a garbage truck in Charlottesville, Virginia, US, on 31 January 2018. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

ers, and thankful for the prompt action of our doctors and first responders. My thoughts are with the family of the driver who passed away,” Lewis told Reuters. The train was taking lawmakers to the annual retreat in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, just west of the Virginia state line. Amtrak

said the collision occurred at 11:20 a.m. in Crozet, a tiny town between the college town of Charlottesville, Virginia, and White Sulphur Springs. Lewis later left the hospital and travelled to the retreat, where he intended to participate as much as he was able, a spokeswoman said.—Reuters ■

China, Britain pledge to further lift Golden-Era partnership

BEIJING — China and Britain on Wednesday signed a dozen of deals on areas including trade, finance, health care and smart city, pledging to further promote the Golden-Era strategic partnership.

The agreement came as British Prime Minister Theresa May arrived in Beijing and held a China-Britain annual meeting between heads of government with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang at the Great Hall of the People in downtown Beijing.

Hailing that China-Britain relationship has been at the forefront among the ties between China and Western countries, Li said China attaches great importance to the ties with Britain. It is both in line with the two



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and visiting British Prime Minister Theresa May, meet the press after a China-Britain annual dialogue between heads of government, in Beijing, capital of China on 31 January 2018. PHOTO: XINHUA

countries' interests and conducive to world peace, stability and prosperity that China-Britain relationship continues to develop in a

steady way, he said. Li said China's relations with Britain will not be changed by the changes in Britain-EU relations. China stands

ready to further promote bilateral ties in the principle of mutual respect, equality, and mutual benefit, he said.—Xinhua ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (047)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (047) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-2-2018 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V EVER ABLE VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V EVER ABLE VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.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 PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HADIAN VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HADIAN VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Kaijo Corporation, a company registered under the laws of Japan, which is located at 3-1-5, Sakae-cho, Hamura-shi, Tokyo, Japan, is the sole owner of the following trademark:

KAIJO

Reg. No. 20586/2014

In respect of **Class 7**: Die bonders for use in semiconductor manufacturing; wire bonders for use in semiconductor manufacturing; chip on film bonders for use in semiconductor manufacturing; flip chip bonders for use in semiconductor manufacturing; bump bonders for use in semiconductor manufacturing; semiconductor manufacturing machines and systems; chemical processing machines and apparatus; metalworking machines and tools; food preparation machines, electromechanical.

In respect of **Class 9**: Ultrasonic cleaning machines for use in semiconductor manufacturing and their parts; ultrasonic cleaning machines for electronic components, ceramics, glass components, plastic moldings and metal worked components and their parts; ultrasonic cleaning machines for industrial purposes and their parts; ultrasonic cleaning machines for household purposes and their parts; ultrasonic cleaning machines for food and their parts; ultrasonic generators for ultrasonic cleaning machines; ultrasonic transducers for ultrasonic cleaning machines.

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

Daw May Thwe Hlaing, LL.B., LL.M., (H.G.P.)

For Kaijo Corporation

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

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 2nd February 2018.

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Shimaya Co., Ltd., a company registered under the laws of Japan, which is located at 8-31, Fukugawa 3-Chome, Shunan-shi, Yamaguchi 746-0038 Japan, is the sole owner of the following trademark:

やまや
シマヤ

シマヤ
だしの素
DASHI

シマヤ
かつおだし
KATSUO DASHI

Reg. Nos. 19302/2014, 12608/2017

In respect of **Class 29**: Bonito flavored soup stock.

In respect of **Class 30**: Fish (bonito) flavored seasonings.

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

Daw May Thwe Hlaing, LL.B., LL.M., (H.G.P.)

For Shimaya Co., Ltd.

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

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

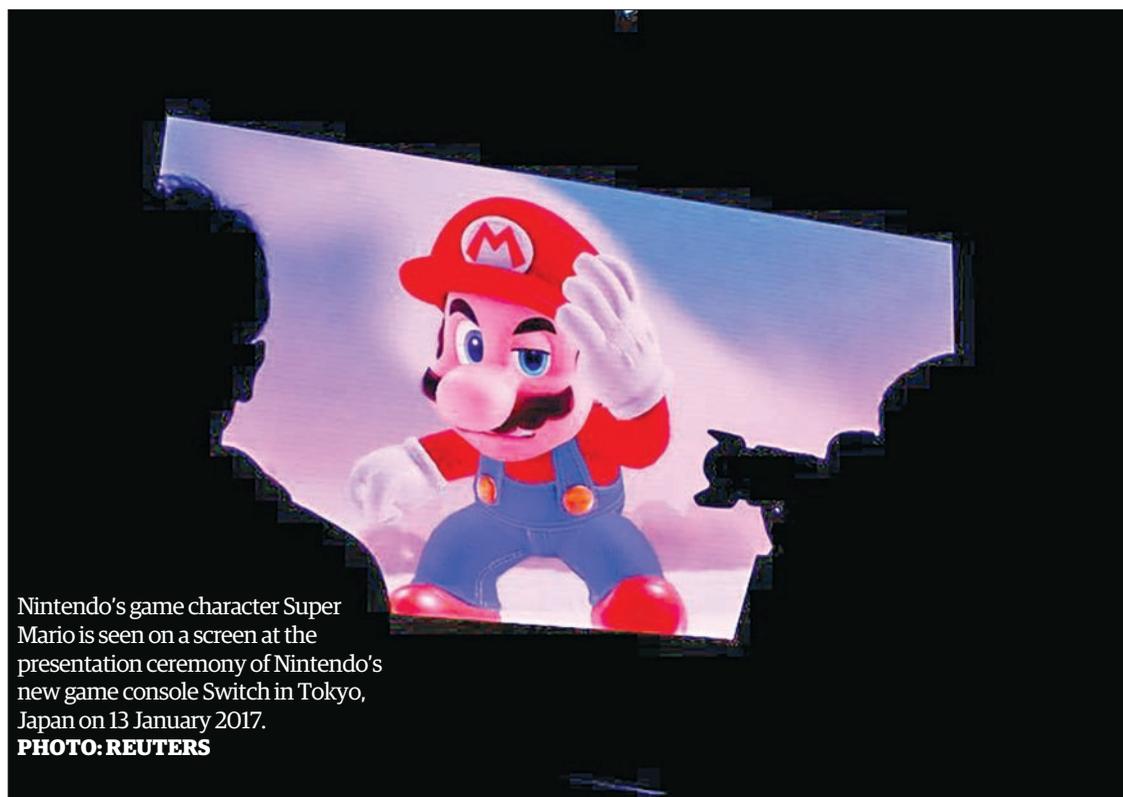
Dated: 2nd February 2018.

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Newspapers & Journal Printing Service. 09-254435478

Contact:



Nintendo's game character Super Mario is seen on a screen at the presentation ceremony of Nintendo's new game console Switch in Tokyo, Japan on 13 January 2017.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Nintendo to produce Super Mario animation film with Illumination

TOKYO — Japanese videogames maker Nintendo Co Ltd said on Thursday it would team with US film studio Illumination Entertainment to produce an animation film using its Super Mario Bros characters. The film would be distributed by Univer-

sal Pictures, President Tatsumi Kimishima said at a meeting with analysts on Thursday. The launch date has not been decided.

It is part of Nintendo's efforts to diversify revenue sources as the firm's earnings are heavily reliant on the gaming console

business. On Wednesday, the company reported its biggest third-quarter operating profit in eight years, driven by smashing demand for its new Switch games console, and said it expected annual earnings to outstrip its previous estimate.—Reuters ■

No malice behind open letter on 'Padmaavat': Swara

MUMBAI — Actor Swara Bhasker says she wrote an open letter criticising "Padmaavat" because she wanted to raise some questions about the film on a public platform. Bhasker's letter, which criticises director Sanjay Leela Bhansali for apparent glorification of the practice of Jauhar (mass sati), has sparked a controversy online. Responding to the

criticism, the actor said, "Everyone has the right to critique and express their opinion. Like me, others also have the right to express their thoughts. I made a point, I said what I felt.

"I think I kept my point across in a very polite and respectful manner. I didn't have any bad intention or malice in my heart," she told reporters at

an event here last evening.

The actor said she thought her questions were valid and needed to be asked.

"If people don't agree with me, it's totally fine. It's a democracy, so it's good if people think there can be a difference of opinion. Debates and discussions should happen. This is the purpose of art."—PTI ■

Priyanka teases whether she'll be Meghan Markle's bridesmaid

Los Angeles — Priyanka Chopra is good friends with Meghan Markle but the actor is keeping it a secret if she will be the bridesmaid at the "Suits" star's wedding to Prince Harry.

Priyanka addressed the question in a new interview for Harper's Bazaar Arabia.

"If you see me there, you'll know," she teased.

The actor said she is excited for Markle to tie the knot and bring change in the world as a member of the royal family.

"I don't think anybody else would be able to do it the way she will. She's just right for it.

She's an icon, truly, that girls can look up to, that women can look up to. She's normal, she's sweet, she's nice, she thinks about the world, wants to change it and this was even before any of this happened," Priyanka told the magazine.

"So I do think Meghan being a part of the royal family is a big step in the direction of so many things; of women, of feminism, of diversity, of race, of the monarchy versus everyone else. It's a beautiful step in the right direction," she added.

Markle and Harry are scheduled to wed on May 19. —PTI ■

Jim Parsons joins Zac Efron in 'Extremely Wicked'

Los Angeles — Actor Jim Parsons has joined the cast of Ted Bundy film "Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil, and Vile", which features Zac Efron in the lead role of the serial killer.

The "Big Bang Theory" star will portray Larry Simpson in the film directed by Joe Berlinger, reported Entertainment Weekly. Simpson was the lead prosecutor during Bundy's highly televised 1979 murder trial, which led to his execution in 1989.

"Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil, and Vile" is told from the perspective of Elizabeth Kloepfer (Lily Collins), Bundy's longtime girlfriend. It was during their relationship that Bundy committed multiple murders, and it was Kloepfer who helped the authorities finally convict him.

Penned by Michael Werwie, the movie shows how one man's routine traffic stop leads to the revelations of his vast amount of crimes. —PTI ■

'Glee' actor Mark Salling, 35, dies before child pornography sentencing

LOS ANGELES — Mark Salling, an actor who played a supporting role in the TV show "Glee," has died at age 35, his attorney said on Tuesday, weeks before his March sentencing on child pornography charges.

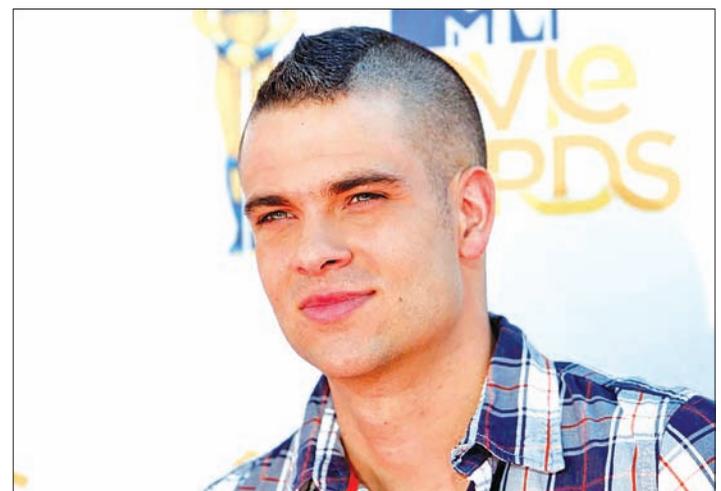
Salling's attorney, Michael Proctor, confirmed the death but would not comment on a report on celebrity website TMZ that said law enforcement sources

called it an apparent suicide in Los Angeles. Proctor also did not immediately provide the cause of death. "I can confirm that Mark Salling passed away early this morning," Proctor said in a statement.

Police and the Los Angeles County coroner's office confirmed that a body had been found in Los Angeles but would not immediately identify it. Salling was

arrested in 2015 after he showed child pornography on his computer to a girlfriend and she reported it to police, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Salling pleaded guilty on Dec. 18 to a federal charge of possessing child pornography, admitting he had downloaded 25,000 sexual images of children onto his computer from the Internet.—Reuters ■



Actor Mark Salling from the television show 'Glee' arrives at the 2010 MTV Movie Awards in Los Angeles, California, U.S. June 6, 2010. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Condolences

Daw Shila Nan Taung alias M Nan Taung,
Age 64
MP of Amyotha Hluttaw

MP Daw Shila Nan Taung, also known as M Nan Taung, a member of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre, a member of the governmental group of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC), MP of Amyotha Hluttaw and a representative of Kachin State Constituency-2, Chairperson of the Amyotha Hluttaw Ethnic Affairs Committee, Retired Professor of the English Department of the University of Myitkyina, fell asleep in Jesus at 7:30 pm on 31-1-2018. My sympathies and thoughts are with her family.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi
State Counsellor
Chairperson, National Reconciliation and Peace Centre-NRPC
Chairperson, Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee-UPDJC

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U Kyaw Tint Swe
Union Minister
Ministry of Office of the State Counsellor
Vice Chairman, National Reconciliation and Peace Centre-NRPC
Vice Chairman, Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee-UPDJC

The Sound of Peace Spreading in Myanmar



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Heavenly Culture World Peace Restoration of Light-HWPL launched its two-day summit in Yangon yesterday,

At the first day event held at the International Business Centre, Chairman of HWPL Mr. Man Hee Lee and religious leaders delivered opening addresses.

Speaking at the summit, Mr. Lee has called on heads of state to sign in support of the 10 articles and 38 clauses of the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War-DPCW to show their truly love their countries

and their citizens.

Rt Revd David Nyi Nyi Nang, Bishop of Mandalay, said finding peace bring the people closer to the ways of God.

Hindu religious leader Sayadaw Rama Sandra said studying each religion makes us understand the belief, tradition and culture. This understanding enables building of harmony among the people.

Ashin Thiha Nanna, Principal of the Thanlyin Thitagu Buddha University, said the flapping of a small butterfly's wing for peace today will certainly have

a big effect in the future.

Haji U Nyunt Maung Shein, Chairman of Islam Religious Council, said peace and stability could not be bring about by religious leaders only but through political leaders, religious leaders, youth and women organizations, civil service organizations and media coming and working together.

The two-day summit includes high-level talks for peace and Conference for Advocacy of the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War.—Kyaw Zeyar Win ■

New Shweayar Beach Resort opened

A new Shweayar beach resort was opened by 528 Trading Co.Ltd at a beach named Ayar beach in Kadone Kanee Village, Bogale Township. The beach resort was opened in late January.

At an opening ceremony, the township administrator began

the auspicious event and singers from Myanmar Idol Season (2) entertained guests.

The beach resort can be reached by car or boat on the route to Gant Gaw Tahtung pagoda in Bogale Township in Ayeawady Region. The trip takes

about half an hour to reach the beach resort.

Now that the Ayar beach resort has been opened, there will be many job opportunities because this area was affected by Cyclone Nargis in 2008.—Myanmar Digital News ■

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Dr. Tin Myo Win
Chairman, Peace Commission
Vice Chairman, National Reconciliation and Peace Centre-NRPC
Vice Chairman, Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee-UPDJC

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Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee-UPDJC

Designer's Collection & Jewelers show in Mandalay

THE Designer's Collection & Jewelers show is to be staged at the Mingala Mandalay Shopping Centre in Mandalay on 3 March.

The event will present unique outfits of famous designers such as Myo Min Soe, Tint Soe Lwin, Sithu Win, Zippy, Arkar, Hsu Myat Theingi, Pyae Phy Min, Jone Jone and Paing Paing.

“Mandalay rarely hosts such kind of fashion show. I'd like to see international fashion standards directly reach people living in Mandalay.

That's why I arranged

this fashion exhibit fashion in Mandalay,” said Ko Thet Zaw Oo, organizer of the show.

In the upcoming show, 18 models including Thandar Bo, Han Lay and La Yate Pyar will walk out wearing specific outfits from local designers.

“The outfits in the show will be from my new designs that I have never created before. I am a designer from Mandalay, so you will get the fashion flavour of Mandalay from my collections,” said designer Myo Min Soe.—Myanmar Digital News ■

Myanmar Futsal hopes the best at today's match

TODAY is a historic day for Myanmar Futsal, as the team competes for the first time in the AFC Futsal Championship tournament.

Myanmar, second-runner up in AFC Futsal qualification, will play against the world-class team of Iran in Group C in Chinese Taipei today.

Both teams expressed their patriotic pride and excellent mindset at a press conference yesterday in Chinese Taipei, according to the AFC.

Iran head coach Mohammad Nazem Alsharie said futsal has developed tremendously in Asia, and all teams who have qualified for the AFC Futsal Championship were worthy and strong opponents.

"There is no doubt that there has been great investment into futsal in Asia, and we have seen



Iran head coach Mohammad Nazem Alsharie (left most) Myanmar Head Coach U Htay Myint (second from the left most) and other officials seen at yesterday's pre-match conference in Chinese Taipei. **PHOTO: AFC**

lots of changes," said Alsharie. "Every year, we see each and every country getting better and better.

"We respect Myanmar, a team who have completely

changed compared to years ago. They have a good team and even some prominent futsal staff who are pushing for development."

Prior to the tournament, Iran claimed wins in their friend-

lies with Belarus and Azerbaijan, and Alsharie said he was happy with the preparation they had.

"We have prepared ourselves well for this tournament, and we are expecting some re-

ally nice games."

Myanmar head coach U Htay Myint said being grouped with Asia's top teams was a source of motivation for his team.

"This is our first time in the tournament, we are a new team and we are playing against world-class teams," said U Htay Myint.

"But we have prepared for over two months, with various friendlies overseas, so we are ready.

"I know it will be difficult to reach the knockout phase, but we will shape our best," he added.

We have to watch top goal scorer of the previous Qualification Pyae Phyo Maung's skills in today's match, said a Myanmar Futsal fan. The group's second match will see Iraq playing China PR today.— KyawZin Lin ■

City's Mangala moves to Everton on loan

LONDON — Everton have signed France centre back Eliaquim Mangala on loan until the end of the season from Manchester City subject to clearance from the Premier League.

Mangala found himself surplus to requirements at the league leaders, who broke their club record to sign Athletic Bilbao defender Aymeric Laporte on Tuesday, for a reported 57 million pounds (\$81 million) fee.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to play for Everton and I cannot wait to pull on the royal blue jersey for the first time and give my all for the supporters," Mangala told Everton's website.

The 26-year-old, who joined City from Porto in 2014 and spent most of last season on loan in Valencia, has made nine league appearances this season, including five from the bench.



Manchester City's Eliaquim Mangala. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

He is Everton's third signing of the January window, following the arrivals of winger Theo Walcott from Arsenal and striker Cenk Tosun from Besiktas.—Reuters ■

Referee course for youths to be offered

A referee training course designed for youths will be conducted at the headquarter of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) in Yangon from 22 to 28 February, according to the federation's website.

Those who want to take the course will need to meet some requirements set up by MFF officials. Interested individuals can be from anywhere in Myanmar, healthy in mind and body, under 30 years of age and not required to wear glasses, officials said. Those who complete the course should be willing to serve their duties in any committee of referees in any State and Region.

Qualified referees will then be selected from the duty serving course finishers for assigning as Myanmar National League referees, or possibly as FIFA-recognised referees after completion of foreign referee courses, said an MFF official.

For further information, contact the MFF Referee Committee at 09-421143684, 09-450007448, 09-420128064 and 09-8623621 and complete the submission process no later than 16 February.— KyawZin Lin ■

Palace sign striker Sorloth on deadline day

LONDON — Crystal Palace have signed striker Alexander Sorloth from Denmark's Midtjylland on a four-and-a-half-year contract on transfer deadline day, increasing competition for their misfiring

Belgium target man Christian Benteke. Sorloth has scored 15 goals in 26 games this season, while Benteke has managed only two so far, including the opener in Palace's 1-1 draw at West

Ham United on Tuesday. "It's a big club with ambition, a good club who takes good care of its players," Sorloth said. "It feels amazing, it's a dream come true to play in the Premier League.

I've dreamt about this since I was six years old." The 22-year-old will don the number nine shirt for Palace, who host Newcastle United in the league on Sunday.—Reuters ■